

Issue 2

January 2005



SURREY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

TOC NEWS

Dear Teachers,

We have a full TOC committee again this year thanks to Chrystal, Elise, Dagan, Monica, Sue, Helen and A.J, who have volunteered their time to work on TOC issues, help organize events, voice TOC concerns and vote on various issues.

Sincerely,

Béla Kovach



Bela Kovach,
TOC Rep

TOC STARA Reps

Chrystal Tagmann This is my second year as an elementary TOC in the Surrey School District. I decided to become a S.T.A.R.A rep because I am concerned about the future of education in B.C. and wanted to be involved in the shaping of our profession. I look forward to representing you as one of your T.O.C reps. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Hi, my name is **Elise Rozander**. I teach Intermediate. Actually, I teach pretty much anything subfinder calls me for. I look forward to working with you again this year. If you have any questions please email me at em_rozander@canada.com

A.J. Dhaliwal - Hi, the name is A.J. and I'm new to the profession although I've been working with kids for years. This is my first year TOCing, ever, and I'm looking to get involved and to learn as much as I can. Feel free to come up to me and say hi. I'm really a very sociable person. Seriously.

Dagan Lowe, Specialty: Music I am excited to be a part of the TOC committee where I can help speak out for beginning teachers and work to better the teaching environment for TOCs in the district.

Sue Heuman - I've been a TOC for 2 years in Adult and Continuing Education. I go to UCFV full time so TOC'ing is perfect for me right now. My email address is sjheuman@hotmail.com



My name is **Monica Adam**. I am a new Toc and your new TOC rep. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to email me I will do my best to help you.
madamd00@hotmail.com

Helen - I've been an elementary Teacher On Call with Surrey for almost a year. Currently, I work for two school districts and my primary focus is teaching early intermediate grades. This is my first year on the TOC Committee. I can be reached at helenkristina@hotmail.com.

Upcoming Events:

STA General Meeting

TOC Resumé & Interview Tips

BCTF New Teacher's Conference

<http://www.bctf.bc.ca/NewTeachers/Conference/>

STA/BCTF Induction Ceremony

Wednesday, January 19

Monday, January 24

Friday & Saturday, January 28 -29

Wednesday, February 16

TOC Resumé & Interview Tips

When: Monday, January 24, 2004
4-6:30 pm

Where: 9260 - 140 Street, Surrey
(District Conference Centre Room #1)

Come to the TOC meetings and talk about TOCing and your day.

What:

You may find you aren't as alone as you think in the district.

4:00 **Welcome / Food / Prizes**

4:15 **Union Update – Patti Turner**

5:00 **Career Development –**
Interview Questions and Resume hints from Surrey principals
Chris Baldry - Walnut Grove Elementary
Margaux Molson – Tamanawis Secondary

6:00 **Adjournment**

Are you a new TOC in Surrey?

Are you experiencing the joys and difficulties of TOCing? Here are some questions and answers from Monica who is a new teacher on call in Surrey and a volunteer on the TOC committee.. You might find out you are not alone in your feelings.

What makes your job difficult?

When teachers don't provide a clear day plan or directions as to where the materials can be found.

What is the atmosphere in the schools that you have been to?

Some members of the staff have been very helpful and friendly, however, I have been to some schools where I felt excluded and isolated.

What do you find rewarding about TOC'ing?

The knowledge that you gain by interacting with so many students of different ages and backgrounds.

What was your first day like?

I had been called to one school. Upon arrival I found out that I was double-booked. The vice principal was very nice and immediately put my fears to rest by telling me that I had nothing to worry about and that they would find me a place, which she did.

Tell me about an experience you had?

I went to a second grade class and introduced myself to the students. Later on a little girl came up to me and asked, "Are you married?" I said no, but that I would be soon. She turned, with innocent eyes, and said, "So you're looking for a man?" "Kids say the darnedest things".

BCTF AGM—Delegates

Every year for four days at Spring Break, teacher delegates from around the province come together to debate education issues, set BCTF policy, set goals for the coming year, and elect BCTF executive members at the BCTF Annual General Meeting. This year the BCTF AGM will be held in Victoria at

the Empress Hotel.

Delegates from Surrey will be elected at the January 19 General Meeting. Be there!

If you want to run for election as a delegate, you should submit a statement of no more than 50 words. Statements

will be pruned mercilessly for length. Statements must be submitted to the STA office, c/o Lynda Toews, no later than January 17, 2005. They can be submitted by courier (#000), by fax (604-594-5176) or by email (ltoews@surreyteachers.org).



The STA / BCTF Induction Ceremony and Social



The Surrey Teachers' Association is pleased to welcome our new teaching colleagues into the STA and the BCTF. We are proud of our organization and understand the value of members understanding the services available to them, as well as the rights and responsibilities of membership.

At this time we would like to formally recognize all of you have joined our Union, but have not yet been officially welcomed. To that end we have planned an after school Social Event and Induction Ceremony.

All Surrey teachers who have not been through a BCTF Induction Ceremony are welcome and encouraged to attend—this most certainly includes Teachers on Call!

Jinny Sims, president of the BCTF will be the special guest speaker.

(we hope to have some musical entertainment for your enjoyment as well)

STARA reps are welcome and encouraged to accompany the inductees from their school.

Where: Eagle Quest Golf Course (7778-152nd St.)

When: Wednesday February 16th, 2005

Wine & Cheese starts at 3:45

Induction Ceremony to follow

*Please call the STA office (604-594-5353) to register.
(Childcare will be provided, starting at 4:00 P.M.)*

Indicate if you will require childcare services for the evening.



How far have you gone to get a request?

Well, here is a true story by Dagan

I don't know about you, but I have figured out the perfect way to meet many teachers and make sure they, as well as the rest of the school, will remember me for a long time!

After teaching for the day I went to my car, thinking about how well the classes went that day and what I was going to do with them for the rest of the week. I stepped into my Honda Civic, inserted my key in the ignition and put the car in drive. Looking forward, I was pleased to see that there was no car in the parking spot in front of me so I proceeded to drive forward through that parking spot rather than tediously backing out of my spot. There was only one problem, between my parking spot and the one in front of me was a curb which I did not see. Well, like an athlete my car lunged over that curb but landed on its poor frame behind the front tires. Feeling rather annoyed and somewhat embarrassed, I attempted to back my little Civic back over the curb, but to no avail; my car was a beached whale.

Being a not so wealthy TOC, I didn't want to call a tow truck, so I went running back into the school, and found four teachers to help me with my predicament. They kindly dropped what they were doing and came out to the parking lot to push my car off the curb. We even had an audience. It was so wonderful to see the school's entire track and field team sitting on a school bus right in front of my car with a perfect view. With me in the driver's seat, putting the car in reverse, the teachers pushing and lifting the front of my car and of course the support of the track and field audience, my car was soon off the curb and ready to drive again.

By the next day, the little music TOC was a celebrity in the staff room and all the classes of the school. So if you are ever finding it difficult to get to know the staff and students at the schools that you are teaching in, consider driving your car up on a curb. It worked for me!

Helpful Hints for TOCs

- ◆ Sub-finder evening call-outs start at 4:30 pm instead of 5:00 pm. All other times are the same.
- ◆ Call Debbie Anderson (604- 599-7446) if you aren't getting work so she can check your records and make sure there are no mistakes.
- ◆ Inform Sub Finder when you are **and** are not available for work.
- ◆ TOC's have full access to the Teacher Centre to obtain teaching materials (1 free resource per visit), to laminate and to use computers. Pam Warne (592-4211) and Susan Evans (592-4210), who run the centre, are excellent resources (604-590-2255). The Teachers' Centre is located in the Curriculum and Instructional Services Centre (CISC). The address is 7532—134A Street.
- ◆ Secondly, TOCs are welcome to attend any in-services which range from math seminars to computer program seminars like Kids Pix. (more information can be found on the district website - click on education programs and services and look under in service)
- ◆ Stay informed about what is going on in the district and union (contact Béla, STA website, Listserv, TOC Bulletin boards at schools).
- ◆ Visit staffrooms while on assignment.
- ◆ Be punctual (the earlier the better).
- ◆ Dress professionally.
- ◆ Network by leaving business cards with your request number on the teacher's desk, neighbouring teachers, with secretaries and in staffrooms. (You can get free business cards at www.vistaprint.ca)
- ◆ Visit different schools to introduce yourself and hand out your business cards.
- ◆ Leave your phone on, even if you have a job, in case Sub Finder needs to get in touch about changes to your assignment.
- ◆ Attend a conference/workshop. T.O.Cs are eligible for professional development funding, up to \$150.00 per T.O.C. per year based on first come first serve.
- ◆ Listserv - Signing up is easy. All you need to do is send an email to Bela at Belajoyk@hotmail.com with your request and your full name and she will sign you up.
- ◆ Access the BCTF website for information on the New Teachers Conference in January at <http://www.bctf.ca/NewTeachers/>
- ◆ Remember job opportunities are on the SD 36 website at <http://www.sd36.bc.ca>

Remember that there are many ways TOCs can stay informed

TOC Hotline :604-592-8396

TOC Monthly Newsletter

TOC Website: www.surreyteachers.org

TOC Bulletin Boards in staffrooms

TOC Listserv –virtual staffroom for TOCs

Bargaining

Yes, we are in bargaining. Our collective agreement expired on June 30 last summer.

Our last round of bargaining ended when the Liberal government rammed through Bills 27 and 28, ordered us to stop our limited job action, and ripped

the heart, class size and class composition, out of our contract.

Are you interested in hearing about bargaining? Members of the STA Bargaining committee, the Political Action Public Relations Committee, and the Executive Committee will be visiting schools, starting in January. Feel free to attend the Bargaining meetings at the schools. We will also be holding a

Bargaining Forum in conjunction with the January 26 STA General Meeting.

It is time to reclaim what was taken from us.

