



WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

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Notes from your WVTA President – *Spencer Capier*

Dear Colleagues,

We've made it to the Holidays - congratulations! Whatever this time of year means to you, I encourage you to make it a time away from work, away from *thinking* about work. Enjoy the break, you've earned it.

Last month's newsletter was long, so I'll make this one brief. Below are some important items.

On behalf of **Stephen Price** (VP) and **Karen Straith** (Business Manager), we wish you the very best of the Holiday Season!

Sincerely, Spencer

➤ **Preliminary Survey Results for Semester vs Linear Systems:**

- 141 Secondary teachers responded (an excellent turnout).
- 48.2% preferred Linear.
- 39.7% preferred Semester.
- 12.1% had no preference.
- 70% felt "strongly" or "very strongly" about their preference.

A more detailed presentation of the results will be given to the next Representative Assembly and General Meeting.

➤ **Unvaccinated Students returning from out of country vacations:**

If students leave the country over the break and are not double vaccinated, they may not return to school for 14 days after their return to BC. Teachers are not expected to give extra instruction and can direct parents to Google Classroom for students to catch up. Most administrators are on board, but if your principal directs you to create homework packages, please let me know.

➤ **Office Renovation**

We have begun exploring the costs of a renovation of the WVTA office, as we currently lack a working HVAC system and a private meeting room. We will present possible plans to a General Meeting next year.

➤ **In-person General Meeting**

Our next General Meeting will be at Kay Meek Theatre on January 27th at 3:45. There will be sufficient space in the theatre to spread out, but we are exploring technical options for remote participation. Attendance in person will require a Vaccine Passport.

<https://survey.givingopinions.ca/c238o>

Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey for residents and workers in West Vancouver. Giving our opinion here will help show the municipal government what supports are needed for workers.

You can be a delegate!
BCTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
March 19-22, 2022

Attend the AGM and learn about your BCTF, discuss and debate issues that matter to you and your colleagues, hear guest speakers discuss education and labour issues locally and worldwide, elect Executive Committee members, and connect with over 670 teachers from around the province. If attendance at the AGM is in-person, you will be compensated for accommodation and meal expenses. High quality childcare at no cost to delegates will also be available throughout an in-person AGM.

We will elect our WVTA Delegates at our next WVTA GENERAL MEETING, Thursday, January 27th. Any BCTF member, regardless of union experience, can let their name stand to attend their BCTF AGM as a delegate.

**Student Supports
for Behavioural Intervention:**

While many elementary teachers are aware of these supports, many Secondary teachers aren't. There are three tiers of support for students with behavioural issues that could escalate from disruptive to dangerous. Here are the supports available in our district:

Tier 1 – universal supports for success for all students (which results in helping certain individual students within the group)

Tier 2 – specific strategic support of individual students using referrals to School Based Team, district specialists, testing, learning support, etc.

Tier 3 – intensive, individual supports such as the use of a Behaviour Intervention Plan, Safety Plans, (in elementary, behaviour plans are more common; in high school, an option could be Inglewood Secondary)

Tracy Smith,
Health & Safety Representative

STARLING MINDS
Mental Fitness Training Session

Starling Minds is hosting live, weekly drop-in sessions to help you build mindfulness. Sessions will focus on three topics: [pattern recognition](#) (Mondays), [wellness](#) (Wednesdays), and [assertiveness](#) (Thursdays). Click each topic for registration information and session dates.

ProD Opportunities

alternate **AEA Challenge and Change**
Feb 16 to 18, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre
The 33rd Annual BC Alternate Education Association's Change Conference is back after a COVID hiatus! An in-person conference is in the planning but will pivot to a virtual format if necessary. Featuring **Patrick Thomas** as keynote speaker, along with many other sessions on a wide variety of topics of interest to teachers, administrators, youth care workers, and others engaged with at-risk youth in an alternate education setting. Visit [their website](#) for conference registration and more details.

**New Teachers' Conference 2022 -
Creating Connections. Two ways to attend:**
Saturday May 7th, 2022 (Richmond, BC)
Saturday May 14th, 2022 (Online)

The NTC 2022 is a place to connect with teachers across British Columbia and further your own teaching practice. This conference is designed for those in their first five years of teaching, student teachers, TTOCs, and those who are coming back to teaching after moving or being away from the classroom.

[Learn more](#) or [join the notification list](#) to find out when registration opens.

Go to the [BCTF Events Calendar](#) to keep current on upcoming professional development opportunities.

