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DPAC News

Message from the Executive

VSB Families,

We hope you've enjoyed the summer and that you and yours are rested and ready for another school year. (And ready or not, it's here!)

Every year, there are major undertakings that impact education in Vancouver. Some of the undertakings this year are:

- At the provincial level, a mediator is now involved in the collective agreement negotiations between the BCPSEA, which represents the employers, and BCTF, the teachers, whose contract expired on June 30th. Negotiations are on hold until later in September and at this time no job action is anticipated. DPAC hopes for a timely, fair agreement that puts the needs of children first, but will keep you advised if job action will impact our students.
- At the Vancouver level, a draft plan was created last year to guide facility usage in Vancouver (Long Range Facilities Plan, LRFP). After

feedback from DPAC, parents and other stakeholders, trustees voted on numerous staff and trustee recommendations, one of which was to conduct an additional year of consultation before creating LRFP 2020.

- The VSB will also be updating the renaming schools administrative procedure. We will have a seat on the working group.

Stay tuned for opportunities to provide your input on local initiatives.

About DPAC

The Vancouver DPAC represents the parent voice at the district level. Our members are the Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) in the district (every parent is a member of the PAC of the school their child attends). We can advise the school board on any matter relating to education in the school district and are a recognized stakeholder within VSB with seats on all standing and administrative committees. We work to foster a strong community of school PACs by providing current information about processes, bylaws, and best practices to PACs. We also create opportunities for discussion of educational issues. All VSB parents are welcome to attend DPAC meetings. All 104 PACs have been assigned a DPAC liaison (<http://vancouverdpac.org/executive>) but you can contact any one of us.

If individual parents at your school need some help understanding the school system or becoming better advocates for their child, DPAC has started training DPAC parent advocates who can help figure out policies, procedures, etc. and support them at meetings. (parentadvocate@vancouverdpac.org).

As the DPAC represents parents all over Vancouver, we strongly believe in the importance of diversity, both in our schools and on our executive. In our schools, students should feel safe and welcome, regardless of their colour, creed, religion, gender or sexual orientation. On our executive, in addition to representing all parents, we are looking to improve our geographic diversity as well as fill the newly created role of Indigenous representative. Our website has the [application form](#).

Please keep on reading through this newsletter. We have included multiple resources and local events that we hope you may find useful including some on diverse learners, Indigenous knowledges, mental health, and a couple ways to volunteer in schools. There are also updates on the VSB, BCCPAC, and the Ministry of Education. If you are reading this newsletter from a social media post or our website and want to get future issues delivered straight to your email, sign up on our website.

Our first meetings this year are listed below. Our PAC 101 session on Thursday September 19th is especially encouraged for new PAC executives. If your PAC doesn't have a DPAC representative, ask them to add voting someone to that role at your next PAC meeting.

Best wishes for the new school year
Your Vancouver DPAC Executive

Upcoming DPAC Events

- **Thursday, Sept 12, 7pm** – [DPAC Executive Meeting](#) Rm 180, Vancouver Education Centre 1580 W. Broadway
- **Thursday, Sept 19, 6:30pm** – [PAC 101](#) John Oliver Secondary auditorium
- **Thursday, Sept 26, 7pm** – [DPAC General - Student Success](#) Rm 180, Vancouver Education Centre 1580 W. Broadway

2019/20 DPAC Executive

- Shaun Kalley, Chair chair@vancouverdpac.org or shaun.kalley@vancouverdpac.org
- Amanda Hillis, Vice-Chair, vicechair@vancouverdpac.org or amanda.hillis@vancouverdpac.org
- Gord Lau, Secretary, secretary@vancouverdpac.org or gord.lau@vancouverdpac.org
- Peter Couch, Treasurer, treasurer@vancouverdpac.org or peter.couch@vancouverdpac.org
- Alan Patola Moosmann, alan.patola.moosmann@vancouverdpac.org
- Karen Tsang, karen.tsang@vancouverdpac.org
- Paula Temrick, paula.temrick@vancouverdpac.org
- Sandra Bell, sandra.bell@vancouverdpac.org
- Skye Richards, skye.richards@vancouverdpac.org

Resources

- [Vancouver DPAC Constitution and Bylaws](#) revised June 2019
- [Vancouver DPAC's 2019/20 Budget](#)
- [2019/20 Meeting Calendar](#)
- [PAC Liaisons](#)

DPAC Parent Advocates

- Training began in June for DPAC Parent Advocates and we welcome the

initial group of trainees.

- If you are a parent of a VSB student and need some support advocating for your child or just want to know what your options are, please connect with us at parentadvocate@vancouverdpac.org.
- The website should be updated later this month to include more information.
- If you are the a parent of a VSB student and are interested in becoming a DPAC parent advocate, please email parentadvocate@vancouverdpac.org and we'll let you know when we schedule the next training sessions.

Important Dates

September is: [Big Brothers Big Sisters Month](#); [Childhood Cancer Awareness Month](#); [Literacy is Life Month](#)

- Monday, Sept 2 – Labour Day
- Tuesday, Sept 3 – First Day of School
- Saturday, Sept 7 – **Bike the Night**. (see next section for more information) bikethenight.ca
- Sunday, Sept 8 – [International Literacy Day](#)
- Tuesday, Sept 10 – [Suicide Prevention Day](#)
- Wednesday, Sept 11 – [National Day of Service](#)
- Wednesday, Sept 11, 5pm – [VSB Student Learning & Wellbeing Committee](#) 1580 West Broadway
- Wednesday, Sept 11, 6:30pm – [VSB Facilities Planning Committee](#) 1580 West Broadway
- Thursday, Sept 12, 7-9:30pm – [DPAC Executive Meeting](#) Rm 180, Vancouver Education Centre 1580 W. Broadway.
- Friday, Sept 13, 11:30am - 1:30pm – Lunchtime dialogue with Hon. Minister Fleming regarding what urban education means today in BC. [Registration required](#)
- Sunday, Sept 15 – [Terry Fox Run](#)
- Wednesday, Sept 18, 6:30pm – [VSB Finance Committee](#) 1580 West Broadway
- Thursday, Sept 19, 6:30-9pm – [PAC 101](#) John Oliver Secondary School. [Help us plan by registering your attendance](#)
- Friday, Sept 20, 1pm – **Global Climate Strike - Vancouver** - Student-led climate strike around the world. In Vancouver meeting at City Hall at 1pm and marching across the Cambie Street Bridge.([event page](#) | [poster](#))
- Saturday, Sept 21 – [International Day Of Peace](#)
- Monday, Sept 23 – Autumnal Equinox
- Monday, Sept 23 – Pro-D Day (Flexible, check your school calendar)
- Monday, Sept 23, 7pm – [VSB Board Meeting](#) 1580 West Broadway

- **Thursday, Sept 26, 7-9pm** – [DPAC General - Student Success](#) Rm 180, 1580 W. Broadway. [Help us plan by registering your attendance.](#)
- **Monday, Sept 30** – [Orange Shirt Day](#)

Useful Information & Resources

- Check out our [resource page](#) for presentation slide decks.

Active Transportation

- **Saturday, Sept 7 – Bike the Night.** Join 5000 other people on bikes to form a luminous parade through Vancouver's city streets. At this family-friendly event, pedal on car-free roads, explore some of the city's most iconic roads, and take in the sights after dusk. Starts and ends at the one and only Sunset Beach. Youth under 16 ride for free, but need to register online to get a wristband and win prizes. To register and for more information, please visit bikethenight.ca

Diverse Learners

- [High School and ADHD](#): Facing the Academic & Social Challenges
- **Fri/Sat Oct 18/19** – BCEd Access Fall Advocacy Conference: Connecting to Strengthen Advocacy in Education. [Registration](#) is now open, Surrey.
- Gifted Children's Association of BC (GCABC) have new and valuable tools on their [website](#) to help families with gifted children with finding the right support. [GCABC AGM is November 2nd.](#)
- **The Confident Parents: Thriving Kids** – Anxiety program launched April 29, 2019. The program is available at no cost to BC families, with children 3 to 12 years of age, who experience mild to moderate anxiety. The program is web-based and supported by 4-8 telephone coaching sessions. More information at confidentparentsbc.ca.

Expand/Embrace Your Indigenous Knowledge

- On August 15, 2019, the Government of Canada removed the 1951 cut-off from the Indian Act. This was the last remaining provision of Bill S-3 to come into force. As a result, all known sex-based inequities in the Indian Act have been eliminated. [Removal of the 1951 Cut-off](#)
- From [@sfu_library](#): Are you citing Indigenous Elders & Knowledge Keepers in your assignments & research? Formal citation styles don't include them, so [@NorQuestLibrary](#) has developed examples for APA & MLA in the spirit of wahkôhtowin & reconciliation. [Information here](#)
- **Saturday, Sept 21, 11am-5pm** – [DTES Culture Saves Lives Pow Wow!](#) at

Mental Health

- A Pathway to Hope: A roadmap for making mental health and addictions care better for people in British Columbia was announced last week. This lays out the government's 10-year vision for mental health and addictions care - [news release & plan](#) by Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions.
- Bounce Back: Promoting Resiliency in Children & Youth - Kelty Mental Health [podcast](#) with Lynne Godfrey and Dr. Linda Uyeda
- [The Foundry](#) – provides young people from ages 12 to 24 with easy access to primary care, mental health and substance use services, psychosocial rehab supports, peer support, supported employment and recreational activities all housed under one roof (1260 Granville St)
- ERASE – [resources and information](#) specific to supporting student's mental health
- First Nations Educator creates suicide prevent curriculum - [news article - available for download](#)
- Calling all youth! CMHA is recruiting for its national youth advisory council. Mental health problems are on the rise for youth, with adolescents and young adults at higher risk of mental illnesses than any other age group - [link](#)
- [Facing the Academic and Social Challenges in High School for Teens with A](#) Certain ADHD symptoms may improve as your child grows into a teenager, but they will need your help during these formative years. Read more on how to help your teen.

Music

- [Music students do better in school than non-musical peers](#). UBC article

Parenting

- Back to School Anxiety: Pinwheel Education Series Recording. BC Children's Hospital [audio recording](#)
- VSB's Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) Program presents a **Cross-Cultural Parenting series – My Tween & Me** (家长教育讲座) 如何在加国培养下一代 - 子女教育家长研讨会 on Fridays from 9:30-11am at Kerrisdale Community Center. For inquiry & registration: please contact Elisabeth Chan, VSB SWIS 查询或登记: 伊丽莎白陈 778-227-5452 或 echan@vsb.bc.ca (Chinese/English/French-中/英/法语-anglais/chinois/français) ([poster](#))
 - October 11, 2019 – Life at School 学校生活
 - November 15, 2019 – Healthy Development 健康成长
 - January 10, 2020 – Family Relationships 家庭关系
 - February 21, 2020 – Peer Relationships 朋辈关系

- April 17, 2020 – Today's World 今天孩子所处的资讯世界
- May 22, 2020 – Building Community 善用家庭所属的社区

Substance Abuse

- Interested in learning more about the risks of vaping? Check out the online [Consider the Consequences activities](#)
- [‘A balanced view’: How to talk to kids about B.C.’s overdose crisis](#) (Victoria News)

Vaccination

- [Parents of unvaccinated B.C. children must speak to health staff under new reporting program](#) and are also required to stay home 21 days in event of a measles outbreak (CBC article)

Volunteer

- **Share the joy of reading in your community by becoming a ONE TO ONE volunteer tutor.** ONE TO ONE matches emerging readers with volunteer tutors across Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. Volunteers are provided with training and ongoing support to read with children for two to three hours once a week during school hours. You will develop a connection with the students that will help them bloom into successful readers. It's easy to get started on your volunteer journey – fill out an application form online, complete a free criminal record check and then have a chat with ONE TO ONE on the phone to make sure you're a good fit. Initial training sessions for new volunteers will be held in September and October 2019. **Find out more and apply now at <http://www.one-to-one.ca>.**
- **VSB volunteer interpreters** - If you are a parent or someone who is fluent [who can speak, read, and write] in another language and as well as in English and, who wish to be one of our volunteer interpreters or helpers for any of VSB needs throughout the year, please contact Chansokhy Anhaouy at [604-713-5836](tel:604-713-5836) or [canhaouy@vsb.bc.ca] for further information. <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/drpc/community/Volunteers/Pages/about.aspx>

BCCPAC

Updates



BC Confederation of
Parent Advisory Councils

- [Gaming Grants Information](#) Gaming has new presentation re the basics, complex questions, & features an expanded list of eligible/ineligible use of funds.
- [Funding Model Progress Report](#) Funding Model Review Progress Report released with information on Working Group discussions &

next steps.

VSB News



- [Blog: Trustees learn from students and staff on school visits](#)
- [Welcoming Newcomers to Vancouver Schools](#)
- [Blog: Trustees role in public education](#)

Resources

- [Back to School Resources](#)
- [School Fees](#)
- [Trustees](#) - includes committee and school liaison assignments
- [Long Range Facilities Plan](#)
- [Seismic Mitigation Program](#) (comprehensive seismic upgrading program to make schools safer in the event of an earthquake)
 - new graphic "[Road to Seismic Mitigation](#)"
 - new graphic "[Who's who](#)"
 - graphic "[Current Seismic Projects](#): April 2019)

Ministry of Education

In the News

- [New grades 11-12 curriculum helps students reach their potential](#)
- [Education by the numbers](#)
- [Minister's statement on student transcript issue](#)
- Ministry for Children & Families (MCFD) [Children and Youth with Special Needs Service Framework Development: Summary of Engagement and Research Findings](#)



Ministry of
Education

Public School Employer Collective Bargaining

- Please note that collective bargaining is between the BC Public School Employers Association (BCPSEA), which represents the provincial government and school boards, and unions. DPAC does not have a position but hopes for timely, fair agreements that put the needs of children first.
- Teacher and support staff agreements expired on June 30, 2019
- Teacher recent updates:

- BCPSEA applied to the Labour Relations Board to appoint a mediator and the BCTF agreed to participate in mediation. The two parties met in July and in late August. On August 30, the mediator instructed the two sides to recess until the fourth week of September. Mediation will continue then.
- Support Staff:
 - Individual boards of education or groups of boards negotiate collective agreements with support staff unions which then must be ratified by the BCPSEA Board of Directors.



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