

NewsBytes

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Enjoy the Holiday Season with Your Children

December is a great month for parents to attend school festivities and see their children participating in pageants and choirs. From the Board and staff at BCCPAC we wish you and your family the best of the holidays. The office will be closed December 24 through January 2.

New Board of BCCPAC

With the by-elections complete BCCPAC now has a full Board of Directors, including the new First Vice-President Ann Whiteaker, Secretary Fiona Delcourt and Director Ida Middleton. To review all the Board members see:

[Board of Directors](#)

Annual General Meeting Resolutions

The BCCPAC Annual General Meeting and Spring Conference will take place from April 30th through May 3rd at the Radisson President Hotel and Suites Vancouver Airport in Richmond, BC. Resolutions forms must be received at the BCCPAC office by midnight January 31, 2009. To gain a better understanding of BCCPAC Resolutions see the Statement of Policy on the website (below) which lists approved resolutions from 1992 to the present. For more information on how to put forward a resolution see Member Resolutions Policy (also below)

[Statement of Policy](#)

 [Member Resolutions Policy \(Interim\)](#)

 [Member Resolutions form](#)

Learn, Enjoy, Volunteer!

Volunteers are a key to the success of the Annual General Meeting. Currently we need volunteers for the Nominations Committee, the AGM Resolutions Acceptance Committee, the AGM Resolutions Appeals Committee and the 2009 AGM Minutes Approval Committee. If you think you can help us please fill in the volunteer form below. For more information see the [web site](#).

 [Internal Committee Volunteer Form](#)

Renew Membership Now to Vote in AGM

If your PAC has not yet renewed its membership it should do so by December 15. Members whose membership forms are not received in the office by that date will not be able to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

 [Membership Form](#)

Nominations for 2009-2011 Board of Directors

Four positions on the Board of Directors will be open for election at the Annual General Meeting in May. These are: First Vice-President; Treasurer and two Directors. Please give careful thought to the parents you know who would make good representatives in these positions. Approach them and see if they would be interested in running for office. Don't forget to consider running yourself. Nominations are due in the BCCPAC office by February 28, 2009. Candidates must be a parent of a child in the K – 12 Public School System in the Province of British Columbia at the time of nomination and election. They must not be an employee or an elected official of any school district or of the Ministry of Education.

 [Board of Directors 2009 - 2011 Nomination Form](#)

Latest Copy of *Our Voice* on BCCPAC Web Site

BCCPAC's magazine, *Our Voice*, was sent to all member PACs and DPACs at the end of November. It includes articles on "Tackling PAC Topics before they "Supersize." It also covered key highlights of the Fall Conference, including an article on how the delegates rated the Conference and its workshops. For a change of pace there are articles on refugee students in BC schools and on how high school students combat discrimination. If you find it hard to read the magazine at your PAC/DPAC meeting, you can read it online.

[December issue of *Our Voice*](#)

What is an Associate Member?

Parents or guardians of children in public schools can become Associate Members of BCCPAC. These members are kept up-to-date on the business of BCCPAC and the trends in education between PAC/DPAC meetings. They receive *NewsBytes* and other e-mail bulletins on their home computer and get their own personal copy of *Our Voice* delivered to their home. They also have personal access to the members' only section of the website and the members' listserve. Associate members cannot vote at an AGM, as the right to vote is granted only to PACs and DPACs by the BCCPAC Constitution & Bylaws. The cost for Associate Membership is \$25. See application form below.

 [Associate member form](#)

Student's Art Needed for *Our Voice*

Do you have a son or daughter who loves to draw or paint? Her or his art could be featured on the cover of *Our Voice*. Pictures must be full-colour and produced by students from kindergarten to grade 12. Send PDF or jpeg files only to the [Editor of *Our Voice*](#). Please include details on the child's name, age when they produced the artwork, current age, and school(s). You will receive complimentary copies of the *Our Voice* edition which features the artwork. An acknowledgment of the artist will be printed on the inside cover of the magazine.

Provincial Exam Item-Level Reports and Foundation Skills Assessment

The 2008 Item-Level Response Reports for the following course exams are now available online: Science 10; Principles of Mathematics 10; English 10; English 12; and Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). With the exception of English 12, which is a new course, the reports have data going back to previous years. The FSA goes back to 2001. Parents can look up school, district and provincial results.

http://edudata.educ.ubc.ca/parents/parents_service.htm

National Arts Contest for Middle to Secondary School Students

Born of African ancestry in the Azores, Mathieu Da Costa was the first black person on record to have set foot in Canada. Canadian Heritage and Parks Canada is inviting students aged nine to 18 to submit an original piece of artwork or writing celebrating the contributions made by Canadians of Aboriginal, African or other backgrounds to the building of Canada. Prizes include an all-expenses paid trip to the awards ceremony in Winnipeg, Manitoba in April 2009. For more information, phone 1-888-776-8584.

 [Mathieu Da Costa Challenge](#)

Video Contest for Grade 12 Students

Grade 12 students in BC have the opportunity to win one of five prizes of \$2,500 if they submit a three-minute video to the provincial government on the theme of, "What BC Means to me." In addition, all participating schools will be entered in a draw for a chance to win one of five \$1,500 prizes. The contest is being held to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the province. Submissions must be postmarked January 9, 2009 to be eligible.

A poster for the contest can also be printed from the web site.

http://www.bc150.ca/bc150.aspx?page=programs_arts_culture

Non –Profit Foundation Offers Research Opportunity to Science Students

The Canadian Gene Cure Foundation selects motivated and ambitious students in grades 11 and 12 who have an innate curiosity for science, human genetics, and human genetics research. These students are placed in labs of influential scientists for one week over Spring Break. Students gain insight into the world of genetic diseases by conducting real, hands-on science experiments, such as profiling their own DNA. Participants also learn how genes cause human genetic disorders and how top scientists translate these findings into treatments and cures for genetic diseases. The deadline for applications is January 5th. See web site below for details.

<http://www.genecure.ca/en/programs/gene-researcher-for-a-week/program-description/>

NewsBytes is a regular e-mail communication sent to BCCPAC members to highlight items of interest. Others may also subscribe to NewsBytes. Contact BCCPAC at 604-687-4433, e-mail info@bccpac.bc.ca. Feel free to share this communication with others.