

Our Vision: To improve public education for all students by including and supporting parents

There's Still Time to Register for the Spring Conference

This is the last edition of *NewsBytes* before the BCCPAC Spring Conference, April 30 – May 3. There is still time to register. Don't miss out on the opportunity to learn from speakers such as Betty Boulton, author of *176 Ways to Involve Parents*; Max Wyman, author of *The Defiant Imagination: Why Culture Matters*; John Hawkins, author of *The Complete Guide to Speaking with Passion, Power and Persuasion* and Eli Mina, author of *Mina's Guide to Minute Taking Principles, Standards & Practical Tools* and *The Guide to Better Meetings for Directors of Non-Profit Organizations*.

To register see the form at the hyperlink below where you can also review the speakers and workshops.

http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/event_calendar.aspx?cid=85

Spring Conference and AGM Delegates have Free Parking and Airport Shuttle

If you're flying to the BCCPAC Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting a free shuttle service is available courtesy of the Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport. If you are driving there is plenty of free parking available. The complete details are in the documents below and can be found on the Spring Conference page on the BCCPAC web site.

[Free parking map](#)

[Free shuttle service](#)

Members take advantage of new Proxy Form Registration Process for AGM

Sixty members decided to take advantage of the new process for fast pickup of voting cards for the annual general meeting, by sending their proxy form to the BCCPAC office by the deadline. Delegates voting on behalf of these members will need proof of identity to pick up their voting card and can pick these up from Friday morning on. Delegates with proxy forms not received by deadline are required to follow the usual procedure of getting registered at the Credentials Desk before receiving a voting card to participate in the AGM. To confirm that the office has received your proxy form see hyperlink below.

Panelists Chosen to Discuss Criminal Record Review Agency for Teachers

On Friday morning, May 1st at the BCCPAC Spring Conference, a panel will discuss the possibility of a Criminal Record Review Agency for teachers. Richard Walker, Chair of the BC College of Teachers Council, and Marie Crowther, Registrar, will host the discussion. Joining him will be Ron Broda, BCCPAC President; Carmela Allevato who is a staff lawyer with the BC Teachers' Federation; Fred Herfst the Executive Director of the Federation of Independent Schools Association in British Columbia; Melissa Hyndes, BCSTA Director,; and Marilyn Merler who is president of the B.C. Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association.

For more information on this subject see the proposal from the BC College of Teachers (BCCT) that was sent to members in March and can be accessed from the Member Communications page in the Members' Only section.

New Delegate Orientation at AGM

Member delegates who have never attended a BCCPAC AGM are invited to attend the new delegate orientation sessions that will be held on Thursday, April 30, from 6:15 pm – 6:45 pm, and on Saturday, May 2, from 7:45 to 8:15 am.

VSS Provides Free Webcasts of Presentations for BC Parents

Each year, the Virtual School Society (VSS) produces the annual Learning: Anyone, Anytime, Anywhere Conference that brings 500 BC teachers and administrators together with leading specialists in the field of online education. The two-day event, scheduled for April 22 & 23, 2009, permits exchanges of ideas and techniques, increases educators' awareness of activity outside British Columbia, and enables attendees to share their knowledge with one another. This year, VSS would like to make the live and archived webcasts of some keynote presentations available to BC parents at no charge. These cover new developments in online education and related fields. Information on the how to access the webcasts will be posted on the site below on April 22, 2009. For complete details see below.

www.learnnowbc.ca/educators/conference/keynotespeakers.aspx.

Report of the Early Childhood Learning Agency Available Online

At last the BCCPAC Fall Conference last October Susan Kennedy, Executive Director, Early Childhood Learning Agency (ECLA) and Diversity, Equity and Early Learning Branch south input from BCCPAC delegates regarding a feasibility study on full-day kindergarten for five-year-olds and pre-kindergarten for children aged four or three. Since then, the government has announced that it will not be going ahead with the program as originally scheduled. Although the program is not going ahead, the research report of the ECLA was posted on April 9 and can be found at the hyperlink below.

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/ecla/

Canadian Space Agency Provides Contest for Students 9 -16 years

Students aged 9 to 16 are being asked to design a menu for astronaut Dr. Robert (Bob) Thirsk, who will be living and working aboard the International Space Station. The Canadian Space Agency is providing a grand prize of a 60 mm telescope, a secondary prize of a "cosmic" apron and 100 participant prizes of promotional items created to commemorate Bob Thirsk's historic involvement in the Expedition 20/21 mission. The deadline for contest entries is May 29, 2009. See below for details.

<http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/youth/astromenu/contest.asp>

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.