

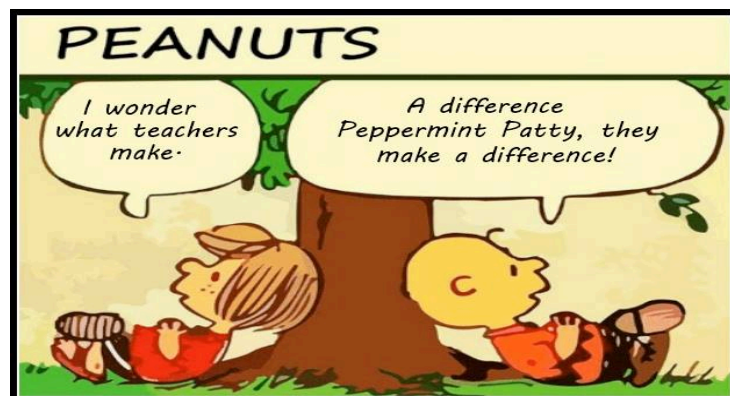


# RTA Newsletter

September, 2017

## A Message from the Old Guy in the Office

On behalf of the RTA I would like to welcome you all back after what I hope was an enjoyable summer break. I trust that you were all able to find some time to relax and reinvigorate yourselves in between course work, professional development, summer jobs and family obligations. There are many reasons to be optimistic this year. The return of our class size and composition language has resulted in new divisions at each of our elementary schools and additional blocks at RSS. The new provincial government appears thus far to be working hard to improve working and learning conditions for teachers and students. There will of course be challenges as there are every year. Secondary teachers will be delivering new curriculum and we will all be working through changes in the way we communicate student learning. As we work through these and other changes, remember that they we are not mandated to make full scale changes immediately. Take time to experiment, find what works for you and your students and remember that we are the professionals on the front lines and know best what will work for our students.

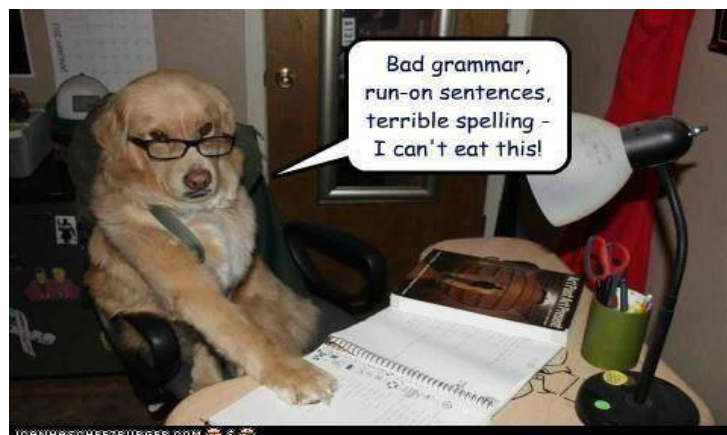


## **From the Collective Agreement** **Class Size and Composition - It's Back!**

As you all know, our class size and composition language has been reinstated into our collective agreement as is in effect as of the beginning of this school year. You can find the language her <http://www.revelstoketeachers.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/SD-19-Schedule-A.pdf> Thus far our district has been working hard to make sure that class sizes conform to this language, but it is possible that there may be instances where they will need to exceed them. Any agreement to exceed the limits needs to be agreed to by the RTA and the district, so if teachers find themselves with a class that exceeds the limit I urge you to contact me immediately. If the district can prove that they have no alternative but to exceed the maximum number of students, teachers will receive remedy, and can choose what form that remedy will take. The district does have until the end of September to conform to the language and remedy would only begin to apply after Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions about class size or related issues, please don't hesitate to contact me.

## **RTA / CUPE Relations**

Conflict is inevitable in any workplace where people are working together, and within our schools we have people who are represented by both the RTA and CUPE. As teachers, we recognize the importance of the work our CUPE colleagues perform, and in the vast majority of instances, relationships between these two employee groups are positive, respectful and appreciative. If, however, a conflict should arise between an RTA member and a CUPE member, members of both unions agree that it is in the best interests of both parties to discuss criticisms related to the work of members from other unions in private with the member concerned. If this does not resolve the situation, members should contact their local union for advice as to how to best move forward. Referral of the matter to school or district administration should be regarded only as a last resort.



## RTA General Meeting

We will be having an RTA General Meeting on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 in the RSS library. With the meeting falling on a pro-d day I hope many (or all) of you will be able to attend. Fabulous snacks will be provided and we will be dealing with the following important issues:

- \*electing a new treasurer and bargaining chair to our executive. If you are interested in or have questions about either of these positions please contact me. It would be great to have some new faces on our executive so please think about getting involved in your RTA and putting your name forward.
- \*voting to adopt our amended RTA Constitution. This was presented to members at our AGM last spring and is available on our website [here](#). Amendments have been made to update our constitution to more accurately reflect our association's current practices.
- \*review and discuss the reinstated class size and composition language.

## RTA Website Challenge

Here's another challenge to motivate you to check out the information on the RTA website. Email me the correct answer to the following question by the end of the day on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and I will draw a name from the correct answers on Thursday morning. Someone will win some sweet recess/morning break snacks delivered by Bob on a day of their choice. Find the answer somewhere on <http://www.revelstoketeachers.ca> The question is, **"In the amended Constitution and Bylaws, what will the quorum be for a general meeting of the RTA?"** Email your answer to [rtapresident19@gmail.com](mailto:rtapresident19@gmail.com) for a chance to win the prize. If the prize is won by a TTOC they can pick the school and the day of delivery. If you have any suggestions as to any other useful links or info that could be accessed on the website, please let me know.

I don't know why teachers are complaining that we're not giving them enough time to align the curriculum to the new standards, grade assessments, input the data, generate item analyses, sift through the results, and differentiate instruction. What could they possibly be doing all day?



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