



RTA Newsletter

December, 2017

A Message from the Old Guy in the Office

Three more weeks before Christmas Holidays, and I know that all of you are extremely busy. The first reporting period has passed, Christmas Concert preparations are well underway at our elementary schools and many of you are or have been involved with the Follies and Medieval Feast and numerous other activities at RSS. On behalf of the RTA I want to once again thank you for all you do to support kids and each other in our schools, and to thank the members of the RTA Executive and our Staff Reps for all they do. I hope you all are making sure that you are taking the time to stay healthy in body and in mind, and I wish you all the very best for the holiday season and the new year. In the next couple of weeks please keep your eyes open for your Save-On Foods gift cards from the RTA. I will be putting them in your mailboxes, and TTOCs can either come by the RTA office to pick theirs up or have them mailed.



From the Collective Agreement **Staff Meetings**

Article D.25 of our Collective agreement has language around staff meetings, and I would like to draw your attention to the clause regarding scheduling, particularly with regards to the length of the meetings.

The language states that *“Staff meetings shall not: a. commence prior to fifteen (15) minutes before classes begin or conclude later than ninety (90) minutes after dismissal of pupils, unless employees and administrators mutually agree to extend these times”*.

That means staff meetings at elementary schools should conclude by 4:00, and at RSS by 4:40 unless both teachers and administration agree to extend the meeting. In addition, teachers will not be required to attend staff meeting beyond 90 minutes after dismissal of student, although they are free to do so should they choose.

**Wondering where all the
other teachers are....**



**Then realizing it's
staff meeting day**

Interested in an All Expenses Paid Trip to Vancouver?

Each year we are able to send three delegates to the BCTF AGM in Vancouver in March. Two of the delegates are the president (Bob Rogers) and the local rep (Jason Stevens), with a third delegate and an alternate being elected at a general meeting in January. This year's AGM takes place at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Vancouver from March 17 – 20th. Delegates deal with a variety of motions regarding the policies of the BCTF, as well as elections for BCTF executive committee positions. All travel, accommodations and expenses are covered by the BCTF. If you are interested in learning more and becoming involved in the BCTF this is a great opportunity to experience it first hand. If you are interested putting your name forward as a delegate this year, or if you would just like more information, please contact me ☺

Cybertips for Teachers

I received an email from BCTF with a link on “Cybertips for Teachers” that I thought was quite good and worth sharing. I have copied some of the info below, and you can find the full link [here](#).

Do's and Don'ts for Using Email

- *Do maintain exemplary professional standards when sending email messages to students, parents, colleagues and administrators.
- *Don't use your personal email accounts to contact students or parents.
- *Do keep copies of all your email messages.
- *Don't share your user name and password with colleagues or students.
- *Do use a teacher voice when communicating with students via email.
- *Don't leave your computer on and unattended when students are around.
- *Do use a signature that includes your name, assignment title and school name.
- *Don't send unnecessary attachments with your emails.

Considerations Regarding Social Media

- *Familiarize yourself with the networking site's privacy policy and activate your own privacy settings.
- *Never “friend” a student on your personal Facebook or Google+ account. You can set up a separate profile to be used only for school, based on the professional teacher-student relationship. This will require using a different email from that which you've signed up for your personal account.
- *Do not permit images of yourself to be taken and posted on any site without appropriate privacy safeguards; learn how to “untag” photos.
- *Never post criticism of—or share confidential information about—colleagues, students or administrators.
- *Never post confidential images or information about yourself.

*Do not post anything on a social media site that you would not post on the bulletin board outside of your classroom.

*Establish professional boundaries. Do not share any of your personal information with students (.eg. photos), and do not succumb to doing so if students ask

*Only communicate with students online in media where a record or transcript of each conversation is automatically made, to have as evidence if any concerns arise down the line. Please note that you must download special apps in both Facebook and Firefox to be able to log Facebook chats.

*If you're going to "chat" with students online, ensure you set up "office hours" so that you are free to end the conversation when the time is up. You may also want to set time limits on how long you speak with each student.

*Interacting with colleagues online can be a great way to stay connected. However, you should avoid using online conversations to vent frustrations arising either from your professional or personal lives.

When you find your teacher's facebook



omg 😂😂😂

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, December 6th 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, **"Our collective agreement states that there shall be a maximum of one staff meeting per month, with two exceptions. What are these exceptions?"** Email your answer to 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.