



*Serving members by supporting effective leadership in education through representation, advocacy and leadership development.*



**D**oes your school honour Remembrance Day with a school-wide ceremony? Would you consider the possibility of taking your students out for a more experiential learning event and ceremony in the community for Remembrance?

No Stone Left Alone (NSLA) is a Canada-wide educational endeavour where students visit local cemeteries to recognize veterans by placing poppies on headstones and grave markers. By performing this simple act of remembrance at a nearby cemetery where veterans are buried, students begin to gain an increased awareness of the sacrifices made by so many. The reflections and testimonials from students, teachers, parents and veterans have been extraordinarily moving and positive.

The first NSLA ceremony in BC was held in 2013 in the township of Esquimalt with Rockheights Middle School. By 2017, 12 communities in BC held NSLA ceremonies and nation-wide there were 8800 students who recognized the contributions of almost 50000 Canadian veterans at 101 cemeteries.

Information and details: <https://www.nostoneleftalone.ca/>

To register for 2018, email Maryanne Trofimuk, Principal of Rockheights Middle School and BC Coordinator for NSLA: [mtrofimuk@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:mtrofimuk@sd61.bc.ca)

**Leadership Opportunities** **Vancouver Island North** invites applications for Vice-Principal, Sunset Elementary in Port McNeill, effective August 1. Apply by 12 pm, June 23. <http://bit.ly/2MF2CkA>

**Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows** invites applications for Principals and Vice-Principals in anticipation of vacancies. Apply by noon, August 10. Interviews will be held during the week of August 27. <http://bit.ly/2M5P9Rs>

**Kootenay Lake** invites applications for Vice-Principal, LV Rogers Secondary (including REACH), effective August 1. <http://bit.ly/2y2CM6N>

Leadership opportunities are posted to our website regularly  
<https://bcpvpa.bc.ca/leadership-opportunities/>



## From the Deputy Minister's Bulletin (June 18)

**Investing in leadership development** Research shows that effective educational leadership is second only to classroom instruction in its ability to change student outcomes. Recognizing this, the Ministry announced this week that it will provide a further \$600,000 this year for educational leadership development programs to be provided by the BCPVPA, BCSTA, BCSSA, BCASBO, and FISABC. <http://bit.ly/2KaEJTI>

### Graduation program updates

The August 2018 session of the **Graduation Numeracy Assessment** will be cancelled and moved to November 5-7. There is no change to the existing Provincial Assessment/Exam Schedule for the Language Arts 12 Provincial Exams. Questions: [student.certification@gov.bc.ca](mailto:student.certification@gov.bc.ca)

- **Graduation Literacy Assessment Specifications** are now available <http://bit.ly/2yzbeGp> for the English program. Specifications for the Francophone and French Immersion programs will be available shortly. Sample assessments will be available in late fall, following field testing.
- **Graduation Transitions** is available in 2018/2019 for Grades 11-12: Schools may trial components of Career Life Connections in 2018/19 and report using the Graduation Transitions course code. Board/ Authority Authorized courses must not significantly overlap with Ministry Authorized courses. Career Life Connections is a Ministry-authorized course and will be available for July 1, 2019. Questions: [student.certification@gov.bc.ca](mailto:student.certification@gov.bc.ca)
- Students who have not met current **2004 Graduation Program** requirements by June 30 will move onto the new Graduation Program. <http://bit.ly/2MS63UO>

**June TRAX submission of grades:** Schools should submit their final June marks to TRAX between June 25 and July 13. <http://bit.ly/2K0EwD2>

**Redesign of the ERASE website** The Ministry is redesigning the 'ERASE Bullying' website to address a broader range of issues including safe schools, mental health, and wellness, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), cyberbullying and online safety. To help inform the new look, please share this voluntary card sorting activity with staff, teachers, parents and students <https://educ.optimalworkshop.com/optimalsort/erase> The deadline for participation is June 30. Contact David Cusack [david.cusack@gov.bc.ca](mailto:david.cusack@gov.bc.ca) if you have any questions.

In addition, the Ministry is conducting a short survey to better understand the needs of students and parents on these topics. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete.

- For students: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/erase-student-survey>
- For parents: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/erase-parent-survey>



### Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education

The Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education recognize 'BC's talented teachers, administrators and support workers.' Winners will receive a \$3000 personal bursary for professional learning, and a \$2000 contribution to their school community for professional learning.

Applications are due by June 30.

<http://bit.ly/2HvSpb8>



**Changes?**  
Address, position, or school  
Let us know at  
<http://bit.ly/1O2vhMq>



**A personal story: a Principal's passion for the Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock**

**A**s a high school administrator for 22 years, I had to call upon emergency services from time to time. With the number of schools and kids that I dealt with, a few incidents and accidents were inevitable. I have always been impressed with the work they do and how they handled our kids. I could never do what they do and I am honoured to have been selected to the team to ride with them.

**How did a non-cop/firefighter/paramedic get asked to apply for Cops for Cancer?** While I was VP at Mount Doug, I was thrilled to learn that the 2009 tour would stop at our school. On the day the riders came, the gym was filled with our kids, and many from Campus View and Arbutus. I remember how electric it was and I was thrilled to witness this event and hear the

stories. Later that year, the principal and my good friend, John Fawcett, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Come September, John went on leave for what he thought would be a semester, but no, he would never be able to work in a school again. I became Acting Principal. The riders came again that fall and John came to the assembly to pay tribute to his students. When I was transferred to Spectrum, I missed not having the riders come to my school, but a student whose mother was dying of cancer tried to make it happen. As I recall, the idea came up too late, so the riders didn't come. Still, I was hopeful that one day we could get Spectrum on the tour. Then Mena Westhaver (valedictorian in 1989 at Spectrum when I was a teacher there) came along in the Spring of 2016 and let me know that she was a guest rider that year. The tour was coming to Spectrum since her oldest boy was attending the school. I was thrilled. She is mother to a cancer survivor and junior rider; that boy is currently in Grade 9 at Spectrum and is cancer free.

In the meantime, John had passed away in July 2014. Our PVPA did two blood drives in John's honour in the following two years. I desperately wanted to donate, but let's just say that I don't do well with most things medically related, especially blood, wounds, needles, etc (thus one of the reasons I could never do what first responders do). I was determined, though, and on the appointed day I arrived at the clinic ready to give blood. As I sat waiting to be hooked up, I psyched myself out and nearly passed out. Still, I was able to semi-compose myself, hoping nobody had noticed. Not so lucky! A kind nurse came over and said, "You are probably not the best candidate to give blood." Then she added, "*Maybe there is something else you can do to help the cause.*"

That was the genesis of my own "mini tour de rock." I decided to kick off Spectrum's fundraising efforts in the summer of 2016 by riding down Vancouver Island. My support team was my wife and our old, ailing dog, who were always no more than an hour's drive away. I sent an email out twice to a bunch of people I knew and raised \$7700. I did the 525-km ride from Port Hardy to Victoria in 4.5 days. (I didn't do the Alberni/Tofino legs, nor Port Alice, Cowichan Lake, the Malahat, etc.) I did that ride for my mother, a survivor, and John, who wasn't so lucky. I did it for other people in my life, too - my mothers' husband, my father's wife, both of my in-laws, and several friends and colleagues. Many are survivors ... because that is what these fundraisers have accomplished. Survivor rates improve every year because of the money raised for cancer research. Mena knows that. So does my mother. And that's why I, we, ride for cancer.

I ride for my mother and John. And everyone who has to battle this disease. I have been blessed to have had a career working with so many kids over the years. This is one way for me to give back. We all do this for the kids! No child should ever have to go through this. I was asked in December to apply to the team, but was told I had to keep it secret for five months as they wanted to announce me as the surprise guest rider at Spectrum. That was a tough secret to keep. This happened at an assembly/media event on May 25 and the Spectrum students' reaction made my career! I am honoured to be riding with Tour de Rock 2018.

Rob House retired from SD61 in January. His Cops for Cancer page is here <http://bit.ly/RobHouseTourdeRock>  
He can be reached at [robhouse1@shaw.ca](mailto:robhouse1@shaw.ca)



**Changes?**  
Address, position, or school  
Let us know at  
<http://bit.ly/1O2vhMq>

**President Kevin Reimer  
on a world of gratitude**

Follow on Twitter  
<https://twitter.com/bcpvpapresident>

Read the President's blog  
<http://bcpvpa.bc.ca/president/>



As this is the second last week of the school year, this will be my final column of both this school year and my term as President. As I leave this role and make way for **David DeRosa**, the next BCPVPA President, I felt it important to express my tremendous appreciation for this remarkable opportunity and to express my deep gratitude to all of those in the system that I have had the great pleasure of working alongside and learning from. Connecting with our members, speaking on your behalf, and visiting your districts and your homes, has been the greatest gift of my professional life. I also hope that I have adequately expressed my appreciation to the remarkable staff at the BCPVPA. Each day, I have learned something of importance and I have continued to marvel at the support and leadership that our staff delivers to our members daily.

However, there are several groups of people that I have worked with, and been supported by, as a principal that I have not thanked appropriately. As school leaders we spend extensive amounts of time outside of the bookends of the school day doing the seemingly never-ending work that being a school leader requires. I have spent countless evenings and weekends supervising, coaching, and working with someone else's kids when I should have been at home with my own. I want to thank my wife and my family for their remarkable support, patience, and understanding. As school leaders we are only able to do this work with the understanding and patience of our family.

I want to thank the remarkable, inspiring assistants that I have had the great pleasure of working with as a vice-principal and principal. I continue to be amazed by the dedication of many of the administrative assistants that I worked with. Their work requires endless plate-spinning as they balance multiple tasks at the same time. I relied greatly on their ability to deal with emergent issues with patience and professionalism.

I would like to thank our custodial and maintenance staff who ensure that our schools are clean and safe places of learning. What is not well understood outside of schools is how important their work is to the culture and learning conditions of a school. Ensuring that our buildings are clean, hygienic, and well-equipped contribute greatly to the pride that staff, children, and parents have in their school.

I want to express my gratitude to the remarkable educational assistants who on a daily basis perform some of the most difficult tasks in the system. I have had the great pleasure to work with educational assistants who have had as much influence on the trajectory of a child's life as anyone else in the system.

I would like to share my gratitude to the remarkably talented and committed teachers that I have had the great pleasure of working alongside. As an ele-

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2017 — 2018  
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mentary principal a few years ago, a needy and complex intermediate child moved into our catchment area and started school a few weeks after the year had started. His previous school had great difficulty making a meaningful connection with him. Despite redeploying our resources and providing as much support as we were able to, he continued to struggle and consume an inordinate amount of time. One day, a few months into his time at our school, his teacher was collecting some class work that he had hidden in his desk and was reluctant to hand in. His teacher knew that he had completed the work quite well and wanted to provide an opportunity to reinforce a positive choice on his part. She approached him good naturedly, reached into his desk to collect his work, and when she leaned in he struck her across the face with his fist.

When the dust settled, it was clear through this example and numerous others, that his behaviour posed an emergent risk to himself and others. Despite our gentle, supportive approach I was prepared to deal with him in a much more formal way. After school that day I went to talk to the teacher to let her know what I was thinking. While she appreciated the lengths that I was willing to go to support both her students and herself, she requested that I reconsider a formal discipline approach. She only asked that I meet with his father to discuss the issue. Despite the highly aggressive nature of the incident, she told me that he needed to remain in her class. She was beginning to make a connection with him and she told me that she may be the only person in his young life at that point with whom he had ever developed a connection and she did not want to take that away from him.

I could share similar stories with you about support staff, maintenance staff, counselors, coaches, school leaders, teachers, and many others that I have worked with in the system who have provided support to students that goes well beyond their job description. I am certain that you have many stories of your own. Traveling the province visiting districts and schools I have seen countless examples of a thriving public education system. There are innumerable reasons why our system thrives, but the reason that does not seem to be readily discussed is the impact of the commitment, selflessness, and professionalism of the adults in the system to ensure that the diverse needs of students in their care are met every day.

**Why does our system thrive?** Our system thrives because the adults in the system *will* it to thrive. Leadership, capacity, and competency are crucial. However, it is often the passion behind those characteristics that ultimately determine the level of impact the adults have on their students. Passionate professionalism at all levels leads to rich and productive learning environments that positively impact the life trajectory of all students in the system.

It is with mixed emotions that I announce Richard Williams' retirement from the BCPVPA. With more than 25 years of dedicated service to the BCPVPA, Richard will be retiring this August. As this is one of our final editions of



eNews, I would like to recognize and thank him for his dedication, support, and service during his tenure as our Manager of Communications.

Our office staff, the Association, and our members have benefitted greatly from Richard's talents and service. Managing the website, crafting our messaging, writing eNews, and working with our partners and publishers, he has single-handedly done the work of an entire communications team. Richard has been the unofficial historian of the BCPVPA having kept close ties to many of the Association's former staff, Directors, and members. We will miss his guidance, experience, and the sense of humour that he brought to his work. It has been a pleasure to work with him and we wish Richard well on this exciting new chapter of his life.

*Have a great summer, Kevin*

#### *Richard adds ...*

As my retirement date dances gaily on the horizon, it is impossible not to draw on clichés. *That* (the blink of an eye, in a heartbeat) was 25 years! I began my career here in June 1993, a month or so after reading a small ad in the *Vancouver Sun*, for a "communications coordinator" at the BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association. **Gordon Moffat** was Executive Director, **Nick-Parker Jervis** was President. **Carol Powell** and **Kim Benjamin-Maxwell** were among those to welcome me on day 1. Over the years, you have given me the opportunity to grow and to learn, to be open, to have fun, and to develop many friendships. I have been fortunate beyond expectations. Thank you.

*Richard*

**Click on.**

**Updates from our Professional Learning and Development team  
are on the next page ...**



**BCPVPA professional learning**

events are highlighted in  
Planning Ahead (published monthly)

Previous issue: <http://bit.ly/BCPVPAeNews060118>

# eNews from the BCPVPA

June 22, 2018

## Professional Learning & Development updates

### Leading a Culture of Learning **confirmed** and **tentative** dates for 2018-2019

Level One **confirmed** in Terrace

August 28, 29, November 3, February TBD, April 12

Level Two **confirmed** on the Sunshine Coast

October 28, 29, November 27, February 9, May 1

Level Two **tentative** in Comox (pending registration)

November 14, 15, December 4, February 11, April 26

Level Two **tentative** in Metro (pending registration)

October 14, 15, December 6, February 13, May 7

### **BCPVPA UBC Short Course I** – Thriving in a Time of Change

July 3 to 7 • UBC Vancouver Campus

*We are excited to have reached capacity with 200 participants, facilitators and presenters. The week promises to be one of vast learning for eager new and nearly-new principals and vice principals.*

### **BCPVPA UBCO Short Course II** – Leading Learning and Innovation Summit

July 10 to 13 • UBC Okanagan Campus

*The inaugural Short Course II has drawn 50 participants, facilitators, and presenters. The Summit will create conditions for deep learning and begin a year-long collaborative inquiry into innovative learning.*

### **BCPVPA Offshore Leadership Development Program**

for Principals and Vice-Principals in BC Offshore Schools

July 18 to 20 • Vancouver

We welcome 22 offshore leaders to Vancouver for three days of leadership development based on the *Leadership Standards*. This is part of a year-long leadership program, which is delivered primarily on-line.

**Save the Date:** Saturday, October 13 (11 am – 2 pm)

Leading the Way: Women in Educational Leadership

BCPVPA learning luncheon with Jenni Donohoo and Suzanne Hoffman

Download a flyer <http://bit.ly/2MPLRDo>

Registration opens next week.

For information about

**Professional Learning & Development** programs

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