

FISA Appoints an Assistant Executive Director

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Janet Dhanani as the Assistant Executive Director for FISA. Janet comes to us with administrative experience in the K-12 independent school sector, as well as in the post-secondary system. She is currently the Director of Education and Secondary School Principal at Khalsa School in Surrey, the largest brick-and-mortar independent school in BC. Janet's position with FISA begins on September 1, 2017 and we are excited to have her join our team in supporting the five FISA member associations of independent schools.



FISA Website Has Been Upgraded

The FISA website has been upgraded to an updated content management system called WordPress. This system gives staff complete control over the content of the website and allows us to make changes in-house when needed. Several new features include:

- A media link that features videos and a blog on independent school issues.
- An employment link connects readers to the employment opportunities of the five associations of FISA.
- The images of member schools have been updated; thank-you to all the schools that sent us a picture that featured their school.
- FISA will be activating the private members site for items that are reserved for member schools only.
- The website is now SSL certified which means data is secured to minimize the risk of hacking.



Some school information may be out-of-date when naming the principal, school address, etc. and our staff will be correcting these errors during the summer, based on each school's 2016-2017 Fact Sheet. If changes occurred since that time, please let Gina know at gina@fisabc.ca.

What's Happening in Provincial Politics

The May 9, 2017 election resulted in the Liberals being reduced from a majority position to just 43 MLAs, one riding short of a majority government. The citizens of BC also elected 41 NDP MLAs and 3 Green Party MLAs. After negotiations with both the Liberal and the NDP Parties, the Green Party decided to support the NDP with plans to form government by voting in favour of any NDP supply and confidence motions. However, before that can happen, the Liberal government will need to be defeated in the Legislature, since they are the party with the largest number of MLAs (43).

The Liberal government will table a Throne Speech on Thursday, June 22, after which there could be up to four days of debate on the Throne Speech. Current expectations are that the Liberal government will be defeated, in which case the Lieutenant Governor will likely ask the NDP/Green Coalition to form government by June 29, 2017.

Should this occur, a very unstable situation will be created as the 44-member NDP/Green coalition will need to appoint a Speaker from among the parties, resulting in the government having 43 members to vote on issues, the same number as the Liberal opposition. This will compel the Speaker to cast a deciding vote in favor of the NDP/Green coalition on all motions to sustain the NDP/Green coalition. Time will tell just how long this government can be sustained before another election will be called.

FISA will monitor all legislation and policies tabled by the new government, just as it has for all previous governments. The appointment of a new Minister of Education and possibly several new senior bureaucrats within the Ministry of Education will undoubtedly result in many meetings between FISA and government representatives to gain a sense of the educational agenda of the new government. FISA looks forward to establishing positive relationships with the new Minister of Education and with senior Ministry of Education officials under whatever political party(s) is eventually confirmed to govern this Province.

Priority Measures Funding

FISA is pleased to confirm that independent schools will be recipients of the Priority Measures Funding that is being allocated to the public sector. The first installment of the Priority Measures Funding is being provided to independent schools as a Special Purpose Grant and will be provided directly to independent schools by June 30, 2017. The average allocation will be \$47/FTE for Group 1 schools and \$33/FTE for Group 2 schools. Additional Priority Measures Funding is being negotiated for the 2017-2018 school year and will be announced to independent schools when the amount has been confirmed.

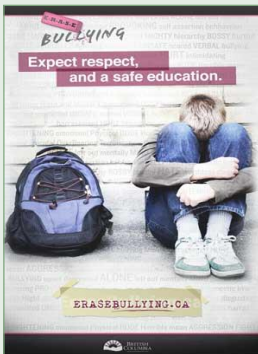
Teacher Recruitment Continues to be a Challenge

In January 2017, 1,100 teacher vacancies were created when the government provided \$50 million in an interim agreement funding to partially satisfy the Supreme Court ruling on class size and composition restoration. Many independent schools were impacted, as many teachers elected to accept positions in the public sector. While we believe that teachers have a right to choose where they wish to teach, we expect them to respect the employment contracts that they signed with independent school authorities. It is a breach of professional standards to break an employment contract that was signed in good faith.

Many independent schools are unable to hire certified teachers because of the current teacher availability crisis. FISA has worked with the Teacher Regulation Branch to secure flexibility in hiring teachers under a Letter of Permission (LOP). This process is taking longer than expected, but schools are still encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to hire teachers under an LOP when insufficient certified teachers are available. Currently, school authorities are not required to demonstrate that the teaching position has been posted, and FISA is asking the Director of Certification to extend that flexibility until December 2017. FISA expects that teacher recruitment will continue to be a challenge into 2017-2018 as an additional 1,500 teaching positions are expected to be posted in the public sector during the Summer and Fall seasons.

FISA Fees Are Maintained at the Present Level

FISA will be maintaining its membership fees at \$5.25/FTE in 2017-2018 for our member schools. The fees have remained unchanged since 2012. There are currently 300 FISA member independent schools and 6 new schools that have requested membership for 2017-2018. Following the FISA Board confirmation of the new schools at the June 28, 2017 board meeting, FISA will provide a list of the new schools in the September newsletter.



ERASE Training

FISA is very grateful for the support provided by the Ministry of Education in training independent school professionals in Level 1, Level 2, and Admin VTRA training sessions. The following sessions were provided this year:

February 3, 2017, **Level 1:** *Aberdeen Hall Preparatory School, Kelowna*

February 17, 2017, **Level 1:** *Queen Margaret School, Duncan*

May 8-9, 2017, **Level 2:** *Kelowna Christian School, Kelowna*

May 17-18, 2017, **Level 2:** *Hope Community Church, Surrey*

May 30-31, 2017, **Level 2:** *John Paul II Pastoral Centre, Vancouver*

June 13, 2017, **Admin VTRA:** *Queen of All Saints Parish, Coquitlam*

FISA, together with the Ministry of Education, is planning to offer several Level 3 sessions in the Fall of 2017; the dates and locations have yet to be confirmed. We are also expecting to announce the date and location of a Digital Threat Assessment Session soon, tentatively scheduled for September 2017. FISA will communicate the date and locations for these sessions once venue details are confirmed.

Our Deepest Gratitude to Our Educators in Independent Schools

Interest in independent schools continues to grow as families make the financial sacrifice of enrolling their children in an independent school in British Columbia. It is the excellent work of the teachers, teacher assistants, support staff and administrators that enables independent schools to remain strong. Our students are getting a great education, equipping them with the skills and competencies needed to excel in their next grade, post-secondary education, or career. FISA and its Board of Directors would like to thank the staff in all our schools for their dedicated work on behalf of the students enrolled in independent schools. We trust that the summer will provide many opportunities for rest, relaxation and recreation as educators take a break from the important work they do on behalf of the students enrolled in independent schools in British Columbia.

BC Regional Spelling Bee Championship



Khalsa School would like to share the 2017 BC Regional Spelling Bee Championship results. This year, BC was divided into two regions and the competitions were held on April 2 and April 9 (for BC Region 1 and Region 2) at Khalsa School's auditorium. The winners received cash awards, trophies, medals, and certificates plus the appreciation from the audience. There were 163 contestants from 27 schools. The winners are:

BC Region 1

Primary Category: **Simran Kaur Sandhu**
Khalsa School Newton Campus

Junior Category: **Kaden Phi**
Sir Matthew Begbie Elementary

Intermediate Category: **Praneet Singh Arora**
Khalsa School Newton Campus

BC Region 2

Veerpartap Singh Grewal
Khalsa School Old Yale Campus

Maanyia Dinesh Sadarangani
Khalsa School Old Yale Campus

Mehar Kaur Sahota
Khalsa School Old Yale Campus

The BC Champions competed in the Spelling Bee of Canada Championship on May 7 in Toronto.



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BULLETIN

The following information is provided to you as a service of your membership in FISA BC
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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
2017 PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS

Focus on **TECHNOLOGY & THE RENEWED CURRICULUM**
<http://pdce.educ.ubc.ca/Summer2017>

Faculty of Education

Curriculum Design & Evaluation in Home Economics

Practical & Theoretical Issues

July 4-7 | Kelowna

Ecology of Food Studies

Using Imaginative Ecological Education as a framework

July 10-14 | Victoria

Critical Visual Literacy

The production of visuals as a means to develop critical analytical skills

July 5-6 | UBC Vancouver

Make Learning Fun: Integrating Digital Technologies in your Classroom

July 6-7 | UBC Vancouver

Agriculture in the Classroom

Integrating agricultural literacy & sustainability into classrooms

July 17-21 | Abbotsford

Critical Inquiry in Health Education

Health education in the context of physical education

July 24, August 11 | UBC Vancouver

Production to Creative Coding

Coding for Creative and Artistic Expression

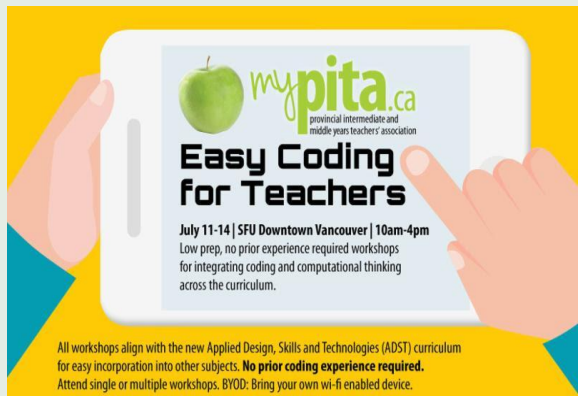
July 4-7 | UBC Okanagan

M.ED GRADUATE COHORT

MED in Media & Technology Studies Education (DLC4)

Using devices, along with social media, in Digital Learning & Curriculum

Begins September 2017 | Apply by May 1



For registration:
<http://mypita.ca>

EASY CODING FOR TEACHERS

Workshops for integrating coding, computational thinking, and design across the curriculum.

No prior experience required.

July 11-14 | SFU Downtown Vancouver | 10am-4pm

- **July 11 – Ditch the Devices**
Computer Science & coding concepts through fun unplugged activities
- **July 12 – Coding with Scratch is Easy**
Easily teach elementary through high school students how to create interactive stories, animations, music and games with Scratch
- **July 13 – Adventures in Design Thinking Across the Curriculum**
Fire up your students' thinking and creative problem solving skills with cross-curricular strategies that help students analyze and solve real world inquiry questions
- **July 14 – Maker Day: Apps & Websites for Beginners**
Make a real app and a webpage in one day with no prior experience and learn how to teach your students to do it, too.

An Invitation from EdTechTeam Summits

Featuring
Google for Education

For teachers who are interested in using Google Apps for education

There will be a DELTA GOOGLE SUMMIT on August 28 & 29, 2017. It will be held at Delta Secondary School, 4615 51 St., Delta. This will be a two full days of Learning with Google for Education Innovators and Certified Trainers.

To register and for more information, click: [DELTA SUMMIT](#)

THE 5TH YOUTH WORLD CUP LIVE PAINTING COMPETITION (UNICEF)

Charity event for young artists from the ages 4 to 25 that benefits UNICEF Canada in Richmond, BC this coming August 6th.

This is a global charity event that is hosted by The Canada Youth Arts Development Foundation and strongly supported by UNICEF Canada. This year, the theme is "*Friendship, Dream and Environment Protection*". The main objectives of this event are to promote the cultural and artistic exchange among youth and children from different walks of life, raise awareness for underprivileged children, and provide a platform to help and give them a better future.

For registration and more information: [PAINTING WORLD CUP](#)



Complete Champion Coaching Symposium

What: A coaching symposium featuring 2 keynote speakers (Marion Jones & Trevor Regan - *TrainUgly.com*) and 30+ breakout sessions by USPORTS Champion Coaches, provincial team coaches and leading club coaches in Canada. The breakouts will cater to elementary, middle, secondary and club coaches.

Why: To bring together the best minds of coaches who combine coaching for athletic excellence and character.

When: October 20, 2017 (Friday)

Where : Langley Event Center

Cost: \$150 | early bird, \$180

Contact: **JEFF GAMACHE** | TWU Athletic Director | **604.513.2055** | jeff.gamache@twu.ca

HCS has a number of math texts from Grade 9 to 12 which they no longer use and would like to give them to any school that can use them. Please contact Patrick Hayden: phayden@heritagechristian.ca

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
"Quality Education with Christian Values"