
BRTA MATTERS

Volume 72 • Newsletter of the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association • April 2025

• President's Message •

Rennie Maierle

Luncheon Invitation

We are pleased to announce that our next luncheon for 2025 will be held at the Burnaby Golf Course Restaurant on Thursday, April 24th. Doors will open at 11 and buffet lunch will be served at 12:00. The luncheon buffet promises to be a spectacular feast. You're invited to come early and visit with friends. The price for this luncheon will be \$50. The price for non- members is \$60.

It's really important to know if you will be joining us for lunch. We would appreciate getting an email as soon as possible. Please email Jim Reid at jreid03@telus.net, Ilse Armanini at ilse_armanini@telus.net or Rennie Maierle at rmaierle@telus.net. We look forward to seeing you!

Please take the opportunity to invite some friends to join you for the luncheon. The more the merrier!

Annual General Meetings

We are mandated, each year, to hold an annual general meeting for the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association and for the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship Association. The AGM's are held at the April luncheon. Members at the luncheon are provided with a brief report on past year events, the associations financial status, and the opportunity to be elected to an executive position.

This year we will be asking our members to vote for a \$10 increase to the membership fee. Current funding, in the very near future, will make it impossible to carry out our programs (ie. newsletters, birthday celebration for those turning 85, Christmas poinsettias for those over 85, guest speakers, etc.). A report and time for questions will be provided at the luncheon. Your input would be much appreciated.

I am also happy to report that Jim Reid has put his name forward for the position of President. Let us know if you or someone you know might be interested in joining the executive.



Yes, the sign did say, "kids stay free", but we expected them to be all yours!



EXECUTIVE MEETINGS - September 18, November 13.

LUNCHEONS - April 24, October 9, December 4

Rennie Maierle	President	294-3570	rmaierle@telus.net
Jim Reid	Vice President	294-8049	jreid03@telus.net
Marion Hartley	Well-Being Committee	434-0486	mdhartley@telus.net
Marilyn Bullock	Director	929-1919	stumare@telus.net
Dave Carter	Director	469-0263	goodguys1@shaw.ca
Janet White	Director	433-4373	jwhite@telus.net
Ruth Nicholson	Director	526-9222	rdtoffee@gmail.com
Ilse Armanini	Phone Coordinator	762-2756	zoepoodle3878@gmail.com
Elizabeth Beer	Sunshine, Condolences	524-1507	ebeer@hotmail.com
Marguerite Henderson	Treasurer and Scholarship Treasurer	544-2611	marguerite henderson23@gmail.com
Gail MacDonald	Secretary	524-8716	hgmacc@telus.net
Barb Stoliker	Christmas Outreach	319-2690	barbstoliker@gmail.com
Leslie Lennox	Director	298-3776	lesliejlennox@gmail.com
Jennifer Murn	Chair-Scholarship	754-4755	j.murn@cloud.com
Elizabeth Wilson	Director	522-2384	helliwily@gmail.com
Merv Magus	Newsletter and Cartoon	436-1672	exit33@shaw.ca



Treasurer's Report

Income;		Expenses;	
As of January 31, 2025	\$8,288.17	Bby Mountain Golf Club	\$3,299.94
Luncheon	\$1,860.00	Newsletter Printing	\$67.85
		Flowers for Members over 85	\$447.82
Total	\$1,860.00	Total	\$3,815.61
March 20, 2025 Balance	\$6,332.56		

Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship and Bursary Foundation

c/o Burnaby School District, 4054 Norfolk St, Burnaby, B.C, V5G OC3

Yes, I would like to support the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship and Bursary Foundation. I understand the money will be used to support graduating students in their future studies.

Enclosed is my cheque for ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ other (A tax receipt will be issued)

Signature

Address

Name (Please Print)

City Province Postal Code

R.R. Smith

R. R. Smith Memorial Foundation has a record number of applicants for the funds to support their charitable groups operating in BC and in developing countries. The Board meets soon to discuss these applications to fund literacy projects (not structures). We receive heart-warming reports of lifting recipients out of poverty into trades, educational placements for further education and materials to be used such as libraries and sewing machines. If you wish to donate funds you receive a charitable receipt promptly contact www.rrsmith.ca or speak to Jim Reid our treasurer. Jreid03@telus.net

A conversation with his brother

I recently had a call from a deceased member's brother to tell me that his brother was still getting mail from BRTA and BCRTA. He had died nearly 3 years ago.

I mentioned that I had worked with his brother, Henry, and remembered that he had played hockey with some Burnaby teachers. I know that he eventually refereed. I'm not sure about the quality of the players or the refereeing. His brother laughed at my memory and told me that Henry had amassed a very large collection of over 100 hockey sticks and even more pucks. Some of the sticks went to someone who was going to use them to build a table. The pucks are being gifted to any kids he knows that play hockey. I wonder if Henry had a favourite team? Marion Hartley

Changing of the Guard-The time has come...This writer's "shelf life" is long over and his "best before date" expired with the dinosaurs. I have enjoyed being the Editor of the Newsletter and hope I haven't offended too many of you. I am handing the torch to Merv Magus who has been assisting me with the Newsletter for many editions already. I would like to particularly thank the members of the BRTA Executive who put up with my peccadillos no matter how bizarre. Special thanks to Rennie Maierle who survived being my wingman for six years at Forest Grove and then as President of the BRTA and the new President, Jim Reid. Dave (Methuselah) Carter

We often hear that students had it easy “back in the day” because life was “much simpler then”. Look at some samples of questions faced by Grade 8 students in Kansas in 1895. How would you have fared?

Grammar-(Time 1 hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of capital letters.
2. Name the parts of speech and define those that have no modifications.
3. Define verse, stanza and paragraph.
4. What are the principal parts of the verbs, “lie”, “play” and “run”?
5. What is punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of punctuation.

7-10 Write a composition of about 150 words to show you understand the rules of grammar.

Arithmetic (Time 1 hour and 15 minutes)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2 ft. long and 3 ft wide. How many bushels of wheat would it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 3,942 lbs., what is it worth at 50cts/bushel, deducting 1,050 lbs. for tare?
4. District No 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school for seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?
5. Find the cost of 6,720 lbs. of coal at \$6.00 per ton.
6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.
7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft. long at \$20 per metre?
8. Find the bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
9. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance of which is 640 rods?
10. Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note and a Receipt.

Some of my other favorites:

1. (Orthography) What are the following, and give examples of each: trigraph, subvocals, diphthong, cognate letters and linguals.
2. (Geography) Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall and Orinoco.
3. Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate punctuation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.
4. Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.
5. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, 1865.

Your medical problems translated.

Thank you for all your submissions with the medical terminology you have received from doctors that you couldn't translate or understand. Ignoring the exorbitant cost, the BRTA Executive hired three prominent doctors, Slapp, Tickell and Grope to clear up any misunderstandings.

Borborygmi: stomach growling

Bradykinesia: having slow movement or reflexes

Bruxism: teeth grinding

Cardialgia: heartburn

Cerumen: earwax

Crepitus: Cracking of joints

Dyspnea: shortness of breath

Epistaxis: nosebleed

Fasciculation: muscle twitch

Formication: the feeling that small insects are crawling under or on the skin

Gossypiboma: an object accidentally left inside a patient after an operation

Gustatory Rhinitis: runny nose from spicy food

Horripilation: goosebumps

Hyperhidrosis: excessive exercise

Levator Labii Superioris Alaeque Nasi: a muscle in your face that allows you to "snarl"

Morsicato Buccarum: cheek biting

Muscae Volitantes: eye floaters

Obdormition: when a "limb" falls asleep

Onychocryptosis: ingrown toenail

Rhinorrhea: runny nose

Sphenopalatine Ganglioneuralgia: brain freeze

Sternutate: sneeze

Synchronous Diaphragmatic Flutter: hiccup

Trichotillomania: hair pulling

Veisalgia: hangover

Xerosis: dry skin

Spring Events at Confederation Seniors' Center 55+

4585 Albert St, North Burnaby – 604 294 1936 to register

Spring brings our Friday morning walking group who meet in the Lobby at 10 am. Two groups will form, one of whom walks the track while the other ventures out onto some of the beautiful trails in North Burnaby.

Our coffee bar is open on Saturdays from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. Monday to Friday it's open 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Drop in for a hot or a cold beverage and a snack.

Three Lifestyle Lectures will be held on these Thursdays from 10:00 am to 11:30 am:

April 11 -- Indoor and Balcony Gardening (Part 2)

May 8 -- Osteoarthritis

June 12 – Parkinson's 101

Call 604 294 1936 for more information and to register.

The Flea Market will return on April 5th with the doors opening at 9:00 am. There will be good deals, and you may find that special item you have been looking for.



Jim Reid showing his fine handling Renault

In case you've ever wondered what potential Presidents of the BRTA must do to qualify for that position, this purloined photo of Jim Reid competing in the mini-Stock Car Races at the Agridome in his Renault Dauphine is a good example. He is number 23 and this was his way of showing that as President, he could outmaneuver, zig zag, drop the hammer, tweak, back out, bend, absorb shock, qualify, block, downforce, rebound and burn off. These are all necessary requirements to be a successful BRTA President. Good luck! You have a large pair of shoes to fill!

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

January 28, 2025



CELEBRATING BLACK EXCELLENCE

Thousands of students from seventeen school districts joined an online **Black Excellence Day** event planned and hosted by the District. The fourth annual celebration was broadcast from **Byrne Creek Community School** with sponsorship from the **Ninandotoo Society** – the founder of the day. Student voices were at the centre, including youth from **Cariboo Hill Secondary**. The celebration for children and youth from Grades 5 to 12 also included speakers, such as track and field icon and writer **Valerie Jerome**. BC Provincial Court Judge **David St. Pierre** is another example of the many presenters accomplished in their fields. Professional violinist **Lord Nation**'s performance was a highlight for many students. The event was emceed by actor and singer **Sam Darkoh** in front of a live audience, with opening greetings provided by the Burnaby Board of Education Chair. As **Black History Month** approaches, Grade 1/2 students at **Buckingham Elementary** created these works inspired by **Alma Thomas**. The African American artist is recognized as a major American painter of the 20th century.

MORE THAN WORDS: CONNECTION AND STORY

Storytelling is a powerful way to engage students in learning. This is **Family Literacy Week** in BC. For many schools – including **Westridge** and **Kitchener Elementary** – it's an opportunity for joyful and community-building activities. Seniors from a nearby residence visited classrooms to share stories at **Kitchener**. Literacy is a priority all year in the District. The other month, **Kitchener** students were treated to a visit by award-winning Canadian author **Kenneth Oppel**. Best-selling author **Jason Reynolds** made a thought-provoking online visit last month at **Twelfth Avenue Elementary**. After listening to the book *Rock Your Mocs*, Grade 1 students at **Brentwood Park Elementary** designed their own moccasins. Earlier at **Brentwood**, little and big buddies came together to analyse story. Past and present staff and families at **Nelson Elementary** gathered to share stories with an **Indigenous Coast Salish** artist, as part of the development of a new school logo. For **Literacy Week** at **Stoney Creek Community School**, staff did a **Readers Theatre** performance for students. Additionally, athletes from **Simon Fraser University**'s sports teams were guest readers in many classrooms at **Stoney Creek**.

GROWING GREEN: STUDENTS DIG CONNECTION WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

With the call out this month, groups of students across the District are considering entering the upcoming **Climate Project Challenge**. Each year, the competition empowers teams to come up with projects that support the environment in their schools and communities. As in previous years, selected projects receive a funding award. A Grade 5/6 class at **University Highlands Elementary** has been learning about plants and local food while caring for microgreens in their vertical garden. Before the break, they turned their harvest into a salad feast. A Grade 7 class at **Chaffey-Burke Elementary** dug into their learning about climate change with an inquiry project. Primary students at **Chaffey-Burke** created reptile habitats after learning about their environment. Children in Kindergarten at **Brentwood Park** joined the time-honoured tradition of generations past and connected with the environment through immersion. Their explorations included making mud soup, mud bridges and mud volcanoes.

Paraprosdokians-Winston Churchill loved paraprosdokians, figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence is unexpected. Here are some of his (1-11) and some more recent ones (12-23).

1. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
2. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
3. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
4. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
5. There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. I didn't say it was your fault. I said I was blaming you.
8. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
9. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
10. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
11. You can always count on Americans to do the right thing, after they have exhausted all other possibilities.
12. On the other hand, you have different fingers. Jack Hendey
13. I have the heart of a small boy, in a jar on my desk. Stephen King
14. Standing in the park today, I was wondering why a frisbee looks larger the closer it gets...and then it hit me. Stewart Francis
15. He taught me housekeeping; when I divorce, I keep the house. Zsa Zsa Gabor
16. I'm a very tolerant man except when it comes to holding a grudge. Robin Williams
17. You can lead a herring to water but you have to walk fast or he'll die. Golden Girls
18. Her lips said "no" but her eyes said, "read my lips". Frasier
19. Gravity is a contributing factor in 73 % of all accidents involving falling objects.
Dave Berry
20. He is a writer for the ages...for the ages four to eight. Dorothy Parker
21. When I was a kid, my parents moved a lot, but I always found them. Rodney Dangerfield
22. I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it. Groucho Marx.
23. All I ask is the chance to prove that money can't make me happy. Spike Milligan