

Kamloops-Thompson Retired Teachers Association

Monthly Bulletin: OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

NOV 10th 2024

Kamloops-Thompson Retired Teachers' Association

Invites you to

October's Lunch & Learn

October 25, 2024 @ 12 - 2pm (Doors open @11:30)

'Chapters' Salad, Sopapilla bread, Stir-fry vegetables, Herb roasted chicken, & dessert

RSVP: onlineoffice.ktrta@gmail.com Lunch cost: \$25

Location: The Cottonwood Center 730 Cottonwood Avenue, Kamloops BC



Photo Credit: Dana-Leigh Tomada

View is from Riverside Park area looking East to the newly 'gone' Red Bridge.

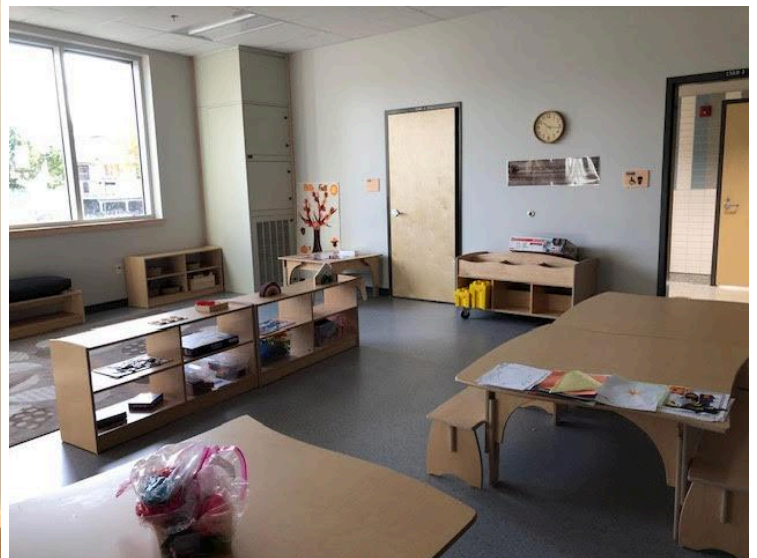
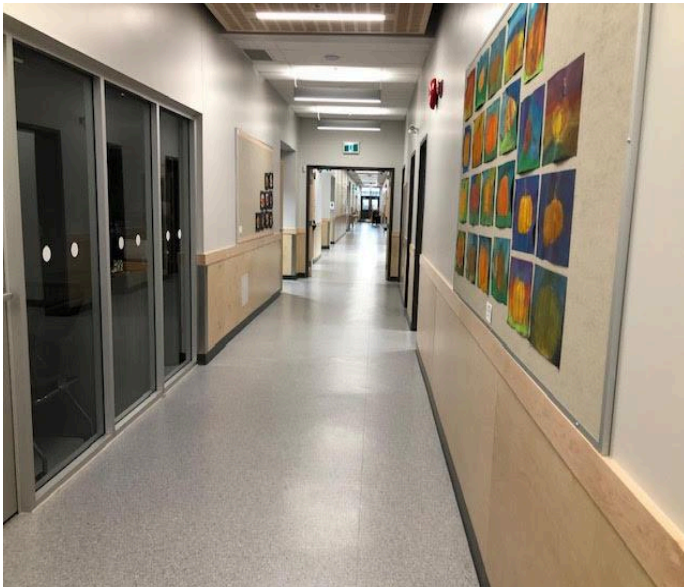
Welcome to our monthly KTRTA Bulletin Newsletter!

Welcome to our members to another year of gatherings where we socialize, learn, and eat lunch with former colleagues. Our first Lunch & Learn this year, in September was filled with food, free harvest items to take, and lots of time to socialize with others. Last month, our Halloween Luncheon invited our members to dress in **black and orange** colors, if they so choose. The venue is now, thankfully, back to our regular spot at the Cottonwood Center where the set up, food delivery, and overall general ease of location

has been missed. November Christmas 🎄 Luncheon invite will be emailed November 20th.

NEW SCHOOL FOR SD73

Earlier in the day, before the Oct 25th Luncheon, several Parkcrest Alumni teachers toured the new Parkcrest school with Principal Gorman which was a Professional Development Day for their staff. We are thankful for this special and highly sought after tour of the school.



News:

BCRTA AGM: September 26-28 2024

Marney Bethell, Rose-Marie Stolze, and Troylana Manson attended the BC Retired Teachers Association's AGM Conference in Vancouver. These events give members across the province to interact, share concerns, and advocate for local, provincial and national issues affecting our members. As well as a new executive and committee members being selected/voted in for the coming year, keynotes speakers are carefully selected to share important information about 'common' or 'hot button' issues.

Gale Pirie presented about the complicated issues surrounding 'Estate Appraisals', David Falconer presented a powerful 'Classrooms Without Walls' session, which included a live feed of his students from Ukraine, China, and Afghanistan, and lastly, Hilde Deprez presented a very informative session on Notary Public's role for seniors planning.

Please check the [BCRTA Website](#) for more information about the AGM conference and recording.

Summary of David Falconer's Work and Story: Submitted by Rosemarie Stoltz


Background

- David Falconer grew up in Chile, where a coup disrupted his life in 1973. His mother helped him and his brother escape to Peru.
- He lived in the Amazon jungle, experiencing isolation but finding comfort in a supportive school community, which influenced his future as a teacher.

Current Work in War Zones

- Since 2022, David has been teaching students in war-torn regions, starting in Ukraine.
- He teaches GED prep, math, and science via Zoom, offering care and stability to children in difficult circumstances.

Expansion of Online Teaching



- David now reaches students in multiple countries facing war or gender restrictions, showing them that people care.

Colleague Contributions

- **Carol: Former math teacher from Chicago, now teaching math and GED prep to students in Ukraine and Myanmar.

- **Susan: Former teacher in Canada, now teaches Canadian history to Ukrainian students with interpreter assistance.

Student Experiences

- **Cat (Myanmar): Overcame fear and depression, now working towards her GED and co-authoring a book titled *Amazing Resilience*.

- **Sophie (Ukraine): Struggles with fear from violence and displacement, finds comfort in talking to teachers from stable regions.

- **Adela (Afghanistan): Lost her right to formal education but uses a friend's computer to attend Zoom classes, encouraging more teachers to volunteer.

This summary highlights the profound impact of David and his colleagues, who provide education, care, and emotional support to students in crisis regions.

Summary of BCRTA AGM & Speaker Gail Pirie on Estate Appraisals: Submitted by Marney Bethal

Key Highlights:

- The event offered valuable updates on topics like pensions, insurance, estate planning, and organizational resources.
- Johnson Insurance rebranded to Belaire Direct, with new options for stand-alone travel insurance.
- Attendees were reminded to share information on BCRTA's Golden Star Awards and to consider "warm hands" donations to minimize potential estate conflicts.
- Advice was given to review wills every seven years and to note the shift from living wills to Advance Directives.
- BCRTA resources are accessible via their Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube channels.

Gail Pirie, an appraiser and CBC's Antique Road Show contributor, spoke on handling collections, emphasizing the value factors of demand over age, rarity, or condition. Popular collectibles included Art Deco items, textiles, vinyl records, and jewelry, whereas dining room furniture and traditional dish sets have diminished in value. Pirie offered insights into appraisals and collectible market trends.

Summary of Hilde Duprez's Notary Public role for seniors: Submitted by Troylana Manson

Power of Attorney (POA)

- Grants legal authority to an agent to make decisions on behalf of a principal.
- Types:
 - *General: Broad financial and personal authority.
 - *Limited: Restricted to specific tasks or time frames.
 - *Durable: Remains valid if principal becomes incapacitated.
 - *Medical: Authorizes healthcare decisions.
- Requirements: Principal must be of sound mind; the document must be signed and often notarized. POA can be revoked or modified at any time.

Healthcare Directive or Representative Agreement

- Appoints someone to make healthcare decisions if you're incapacitated.
 - ***Section 7:** Basic healthcare powers; includes advance directives with limited authority (e.g., non-life-ending decisions)
 - ***Section 9:** Enhanced powers; allows specific health care instructions, but does not mandate life-ending choices
 - *A **Living Will** serves as your voice for healthcare wishes, especially if you cannot make decisions due to disability or addiction. It does not authorize life-ending actions.

Wills

- Legal document specifying asset distribution and care for dependents after death.
- Executor: Manages distribution, communication with beneficiaries, and settling debts.
Executors are usually compensated.

Considerations

- Age Requirement: Typically 19 or older.
- Blended Families: Important to clarify inheritance to avoid conflicts.
- Updates: Review every 7-10 years or after major life events.

"We have the freedom: Use it, as many countries including Europe do not have this!"

-Quote by Hilda Duprez

BCRTA Communication Committee appointed Troylana Manson as a representative from outside the lower mainland. This committee meets 5 times

in the year, two in-person and 3 via Zoom virtual. The first meeting was Oct 21 & 22nd. The Communication Committee has general oversight of the communication processes and initiatives of the BCRTA, including both publications Connections newsletter, Postscript magazine, and social media and website accounts.

More Information

Our Kamloops-Thompson Retired Teachers Association publishes an online magazine with all things to do with our members near and far. It is called **The Bridge**, and the current issue is found on our branch webpage on the BC Retired Teachers Association (BCRTA). Both the BCRTA website and The Bridge magazine are very informative to all retired teachers from our local as well as BC. [Read more on our website](#)

CSI-Kamloops: The Center For Seniors Information

The Cottonwood center has a new look. Although the grand opening occurred earlier in September, the new seniors health and wellness center is now open for use. Please click on the link below to see all the many different programs that are available, or drop in to the Cottonwood Center to have a peek. Beginning in October, our KTRTA will be resuming our monthly luncheons at the Cottonwood Center now that the renovations have been completed.

Link: [The Center For Seniors Information](#)

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The Boys and Girls Club are looking for volunteers to mentor children and youth for 1 hour per week to foster connection. Please contact Hayley Waring, mentor coordinator, at

Halley.Waring@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca for more information about how to be a mentor. Their website is www.bigs.bc.ca for much more information about their organization.

Thanks for reading this and contributing to our many activities the Kamloops-Thompson Retired Teachers Association organizes. Together we are better!

Please contact the Troylana (Membership KTRTA) at onlineoffice.ktrta@gmail.com or Donna Sharpe at Sharpe2d@gmail.com if you have stories, pictures or poetry to add to our magazine, The Bridge, or the monthly bulletin which is distributed by email to our members.