

DPAC Mini-Newsletter April 2017

Greetings and welcome back from spring break! April is a busy month, so we thought we'd get right on it.

Please forward this far and wide. PAC chairs and secretaries – please distribute to your parent list.

If you would like your event promoted via the DPAC mailing list or on the DPAC website, please contact sd8dpac@gmail.com.

Important Dates in April (so far):

Tuesday, April 4

- David Hatfield presentation, Nelson (LVR, 7pm)
- BCCPAC All Party Forum on Public Education (livestreamed)

Wednesday, April 5

- Deadline to submit request to attend BCCPAC conference

Thursday, April 6

- David Hatfield presentation, Creston (PCSS, 7pm)

Friday, April 7 & Saturday, April 8

- Community First Health Fair: Inspiring Mental Health & Wellness, Nelson

Sunday, April 9

- Nelson Overture Concert, 2pm

Monday, April 10

- District Pro-D Day

Wednesday April 12 & Thursday April 13

- Early Dismissal (1 hour early)

Thursday, April 13

- Facilities Plan Update Meeting, 6pm, Jewett Elementary

Friday, April 14

- Good Friday

Monday, April 17

- Easter Monday

Wednesday, April 19

- “The Mask You Live In” facilitated screening, Trafalgar, 7pm

Tuesday, April 25

- Facilities Plan Update Meeting, Creston

Thursday, April 27

- DPAC Meeting

Parent Night Out #1 (Nelson)

Fostering Healthy & Amazing Relationships Among Youth: The Secret Powers of Parents!!

with

David Hatfield

Tuesday, April 4, 7pm, LVR

DPAC and the LVR PAC are excited to present master facilitator and educator David Hatfield!

David describes himself as a leadership consultant, based in Vancouver, who has worked with boys and men exploring healthy masculinity, rites of passage and with facilitation, design and delivery of transformative experiential education. He will be working with students and staff at LVR, Trafalgar and other schools during the day, with a free evening presentation on April 4 in Nelson and April 6 in Creston.

“Raising kids through adolescence has never been easy! Age-old tensions around watching our kids explore attraction, sexuality and relationships brings up our concerns and often our own unfinished business. Parents can feel deeply challenged by shifts in youth culture, like expanded gender identities, the influence of social media and the internet, powerful and available drugs, and seemingly unceasing stories of serious violations between genders. We want great, fun, respectful and healthy relationships for our children, and as it turns out, we have a deep repository of useful information that they actually want to access. The magic is all in our delivery!! Learn about the gifts you already carry and leave with concrete ideas on how to share and deliver them to your kids and youth in general. Moms, Dads, step-parents, grandparents, soon to be parents, guardians, caregivers...all are welcome to an evening talk with an interactive participatory model!”

As always, travel and childcare subsidies are available from DPAC. Details and expense claims are available [here](#).

Read about David Hatfield [here](#) and watch his TED talk [here](#).

All Party Forum on Education in BC
April 4, 7:00-8:30, to be recorded and posted

If you can't attend David Hatfield's presentation in Nelson, check out BCCPACs All Party Forum on Education in BC. It will be held in Burnaby, but livestreamed everywhere.

Representatives of the Green, New Democratic and Liberal Parties will answer questions submitted by DPACs.

Registration is now closed, but the forum will be recorded and posted on the BCCPAC website.

BCCPAC Spring Conference and AGM May 5-7, Surrey

Apply to DPAC by April 5 to Attend

The 2017 BCCPAC Spring Conference and AGM will be held in Surrey on **May 5, 6 & 7**. Find out more about the BCCPAC spring conference and AGM [here](#).

Because this event enlightens and inspires parents, **DPAC will financially support up to four SD8 parents to attend**. If the opportunity to join with parents from all over BC to discuss public education interests you, tell DPAC why you would like to attend and how your attendance will benefit your PAC.

Send your (2 paragraphs or less) response to sd8dpac@gmail.com by Wednesday, April 5.

PAC Chairs and Secretaries – your AGM book with resolutions and a proxy vote form should now be in your mailboxes. Expect instructions and contact from a DPAC executive member in early April. Completing your proxy vote form allows your AGM representatives to vote on resolutions and the BCCPAC Board of Directors on behalf of your PAC.

Every SD8 PAC is a member of BCCPAC. Check out the services that BCCPAC membership provides your PAC and what BCCPAC does to improve public education in BC at <http://bccpac.bc.ca/>.

Find out what your BCCPAC has accomplished since last May – download and read the mid-term membership update [here](#).

Parent Night Out #2 (Creston)
Rites of Passage: Supporting Teens on Their Path to Adulthood
with
David Hatfield
Thursday, April 6, 7pm, PCSS

DPAC and the PCSS PAC are excited to present master facilitator and educator David Hatfield!

David describes himself as a leadership consultant, based in Vancouver, who has worked with boys and men exploring healthy masculinity, rites of passage and with facilitation, design and delivery of transformative experiential education.

“Despite our best parenting efforts, the average teen seems to be drawn to precisely the kinds of ‘risky’ behaviour and experiences that worry parents the most. However, seen through the lens of rites of passage, young people’s attraction to risk and intensity highlight the natural adolescent desire for wider experiences, construction of a young adult identity and the search for one’s unique gifts and purpose. In other words, a transition into the world of adults. This transitional stage also asks parents to change their relationship with their children in renegotiating power, authority and boundaries. This session explains the elements that create a rites of passage process. We’ll learn to see challenging youth behaviours as requests for rites of passage and focus on

relevant, useful responses that parents and caregivers can offer. We will explore ways of developing the mentorship and eldership that rites of passage require and that young people are longing for. We'll also look at practical ways of incorporating such practices into our current relationships and rhythms with adolescents."

Guiding questions will include: How are youth initiating themselves in the absence of intentional rites of passage? What do contemporary, community-based rites of passage look like? What information and skills are adolescents interested in receiving from adults and how can we best offer it?

For: Parents, educators, youth workers, caregivers, and people working with youth.

As always, travel and childcare subsidies are available from DPAC. Details and expense claims are available [here](#).

Read about David Hatfield [here](#) and watch his TED talk [here](#).

Community First Health Fair: Inspiring Mental Health & Wellness
Friday, April 7 & Saturday, April 8, Nelson

Listen to presentations and panels on mental health and wellness by experts in their fields. Check out the information booths from local health organizations and practitioners.

Friday evening, 7:00 – 9:30pm, Best Western Baker St Inn
Saturday 10am – 4pm, Community First Health Co-op, 518 Baker St.

More information at www.healthco-op.ca and on the DPAC website at <http://dpacsd8.weebly.com/>.

Free Concert!
Sunday, April 9, 2pm, Capitol Theatre

Students attending the following schools are granted free admission to the **Trio Accord** concert on **Sunday, April 9**, at 2pm at Nelson's Capitol Theatre:

- Blewett
- Homelinks
- Hume
- LVR
- Redfish (?)
- Rosemont
- South Nelson
- Trafalgar
- Wildflower

Trio Accord includes Mary Sokol Brown (violin), Andrew Brown (viola), Rebecca Wenham (cello) with Arnold Draper (piano). *"These musicians are ardent and*

enthusiastic proponents of chamber music, offering unique insights in the music they play.”

Call 250-352-6363 to reserve a free student ticket. More information and non-student ticket purchase is available .

This is the last presentation of the Nelson Overture Concert Society this season. If your school does not participate in the Nelson Overture Concert Society Outreach Program, be sure to sign up for next year!

Parent Night Out #3: “The Mask You Live In”

Wednesday, April 19, Trafalgar, 7pm

AND

In Your Family of Schools on the Date you Choose

Come to Trafalgar on Wednesday, April 19 at 7pm (Fine Arts Centre, 3rd floor, Hall St catwalk) or host a facilitated screening of this powerful documentary examining contemporary media representations of “masculinity” in your school with DPAC support. The film is deeply valuable for parents of children of all ages as well as students over 15 and is a companion to David Hatfield’s presentations.

Find more information about the film and view the trailer [here](#).

Film screenings will be facilitated by Nelson-based facilitator, counselor, art therapist and outdoor educator Gabriel Keczan. DPAC has allocated funds to support PACs with facilitated screenings.

Contact sd8dpac@gmail.com to arrange a screening in your family of schools.

Facilities Plan Update Community Meetings

Want to know what’s happening with the SD8 facilities plan? Attend a meeting in your community. All meetings begin at 6pm.

Meadow Creek:	Thursday, April 13, Jewett Elementary
Creston:	Tuesday, April 25, Creston Ed Centre
Nelson:	Tuesday, June 6, Blewett Elementary
Slocan:	Tuesday, June 20, Winlaw Elementary

The final approved facilities plan is [here](#).

Advocacy Works!

Parents and Teachers Together for Public Education

This BCTF-sponsored provincial conference recently brought together teachers and parents from throughout BC along with academics and activists who shared advocacy experiences and gained new knowledge and skills to build awareness and momentum to bring about positive change to public education in BC.

Presentations are available [here](#) and include:

- The Internet of Me: Connecting in an Age of (Hyper) Connectivity by Dr. Phil McRae
- Education Underfunding: How Does It Add Up? by Alex Hemingway and Dr. Sherri Brown
- Hungry to Learn: Why BC Needs a Poverty Reduction Plan
- Opening remarks by Glen Hansman
- Parents Advocating for Public Education: Creative and inspiring examples of public education advocacy. Panel with Sarah Miller, Kim Nowitsky, Andrea Sinclair and Sheri Walsh.

Revised 2017-2018 Calendar Approved

On Tuesday, March 7, the Board of Education approved the 2017-2018 calendar with two changes from the previously approved calendar:

- This year (2016-2017) the district received significant feedback regarding placement of the Christmas celebration in the middle of the winter break rather than at the beginning. After consultation with the Calendar Committee, the board approved moving the previously scheduled 2017-2018 winter break to a later start time. The first day of winter break will now be December 22, and the first day of school in 2018 will be January 8.
- There is now a Non-Instructional Day on Friday, March 9, 2018 as per Ministry guidelines in order to support staff with implementation of the new curriculum.

The Calendar Committee is comprised of representation from KLTF, CUPE, DPAC, KLPVPA and senior district leadership.

Find the new calendar on the DPAC website [here](#).

Review of Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in British Columbia

The British Columbia Teachers' Council is currently reviewing the Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in British Columbia. The Standards serve to guide the practice of BC educators and to communicate to the public the conduct and competence expected of educators as they carry out their work.

The Council has recently drafted a set of proposed revised Standards. These revisions build on the strengths of the current Professional Standards. In addition, in recognition of the role that educators play in contributing towards truth, reconciliation and healing, the Council has drafted a proposed new Standard that speaks to the history of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples in Canada. While it is the Council's role to develop Professional Standards, the actualization of the Standards requires a commitment

across the education system to ensure that the necessary resources and supports are available to BC educators.

The Teacher Regulation Branch, on behalf of the Council, is now asking for your response to questions on each proposed Standard to inform the Council's review.

Submit your comments [here](#).

Junior Dragon's Den Nelson, April 20

West Kootenay students from grades 7 to university will have the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a group of potential investors in Nelson on April 20. The Kootenay finals will be held in Trail on May 6. More information [here](#).

State of the Basin 2016 Education, Poverty, Workforce Trends & Much, Much More

What are the trends in student enrollment, class sizes, class composition and high school completion?

Are Columbia Basin-Boundary communities growing or shrinking?

What sectors are people working in? How do our wages compare to other places?

What is the rate of low birth weights in our communities?

How does housing affordability compare?

Find the answers to these questions and many more in the Rural Development Institute's State of the Basin 2016 report. Find all ten Trend Analysis briefs [here](#).

The complete report will be released in the near future. In the meantime, subscribe to be alerted to upcoming releases [here](#).

Advocacy - Parents Helping Parents

Sometimes families need assistance dealing with problems or situations at school. Parents may find these issues challenging to deal with or not be sure where or how or with whom to begin.

The Kootenay Lake DPAC has resources to help parents and students be heard and problem solve in a positive way. Find parent advocacy resources on the DPAC website [here](#).

Kootenay Lake school district parents can also contact DPAC for information and support. **Contact our volunteer parent advocates via email at sd8advocate@gmail.com. All correspondence is completely confidential.**

SD8 Directory of Community Services

SD8 has produced a Directory of Community Services available throughout the district. Find it along with other helpful information on the SD8 Healthy Schools website [here](#).

Mental Health & Substance Use Resources

If you or your child are dealing with mild anxiety, depression, eating disorders, substance use, or suicidal thoughts, help is available. Check out [KB Searchlight](#) for great self-help and other resources as well as to find the appropriate services in communities west of Kootenay Lake.

Live Streaming Mobile App “Live.me” Concern

The [Canadian Centre for Child Protection](#) would like parents to be aware of youth using the popular **live streaming mobile app *Live.me***. The app allows its users to post live broadcasts and receive “tips” from other users for completing specific tasks during live broadcasts. These “tips” are in the form of “gold coins” and can be exchanged for money. Users then have the ability to either delete the recording of the live broadcast or post it on their profile. There is no minimum required age to have an account.

CBT Programs & Grants for Schools, PACs and Students

The Columbia Basin Trust has many programs and grants available to school districts, schools, PACs and students. Find out more by downloading the brochure from the DPAC website [here](#).

(Thanks to SD8 Innovative Learning Director Lorri Fehr for tracking this down!)

BCTF Free Presentations for Parents

Did you know that the BCTF offers presentations to parents? These presentations provide “opportunities to learn strategies, gain knowledge and explore concerns” on a variety of topics from professional development days, advocacy and social media to racism and anti-bullying. All presentations are offered free by qualified teachers after school and in the evening. Presentations can be booked now for May 2017.

Find out more at <http://bctf.ca/parentpresentations/>.

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**The world is run by those who show up – get involved!**

**Did you know that SD#8 parents have their own facebook page?**

It’s “A place for parents of SD8 students to share news, ideas, information, plan events and work together for our children’s education.” Check it out!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/273417826188629/>

**The DPAC Website is updated frequently**

Please visit <http://dpacsd8.weebly.com> often to get updates from DPAC on a variety of district and provincial issues as well as many useful resources for parents. Please drop by and don’t forget to send us a comment!

**DPAC Executive Members are available for PAC Meetings.**

Have questions about DPAC or PACs or public education, but can't attend DPAC meetings? Does your PAC need some mentoring? Contact [sd8dpac@gmail.com](mailto:sd8dpac@gmail.com) to request that a DPAC member attend your PAC meeting.

Thanks for reading!  
Sheri Walsh, Chair  
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