

DECEMBER 2023

# NOSTA NEWS

## NEW TEACHER MEET AND GREET

Come support our new teachers and meet the NOSTA Executive. We are excited to announce that we are hosting a New Teacher Open House and Meet & Greet event on Monday, Dec. 11 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the NOSTA Office at 364 Ross Street NE, Salmon Arm.

This is a wonderful chance to welcome and support new members who have joined NOSTA since the pandemic. You will also be able to meet and chat with our NOSTA Executive and other NOSTA members.

This open house will be an opportunity to find out more about your local association and the various roles open to members in your union.

We will have delicious appetizers and drinks, as well as some exciting door prizes and gifts. This is a drop-in event, so you can decide if you want to stay a couple of minutes or a couple of hours. However, we would appreciate it if you could fill out this quick survey ASAP to let us know if you are coming and if you have any special dietary needs or preferences. This will help us to order enough food and beverages for everyone.

<https://bit.ly/NOSTA2023>

Please invite your fellow NOSTA members to join us as well. Let's show our new teachers how much we appreciate them and celebrate our profession together.



## AGREEMENT FOR REMAINING 21-23 REMEDY FUNDS

The NOSTA and School District 83 (SD83) have reached an agreement on how to use the leftover remedy funds from the 2022-2023 school year. Remedy funds are money that the district has to pay to teachers who had larger or more complex classes than the collective agreement allows.

The agreement states that:

- Teachers who teach applied skills and arts education will be able to use up to \$3000 of their leftover remedy amount to buy consumable supplies for their classrooms, until May 31, 2024. This fund is administered by SD83.
- Additionally, other teachers who have remedy left over from the 2022-2023 school year will be able to use up to \$1000 to buy consumables, that will stay within the School District. They can buy things like books, learning materials, and manipulatives, **BUT** not technology or electrical appliances. They must use their remedy amount by May 31, 2024. Any of this amount that is not used by May 31, 2024 will go to a fund that NOSTA will manage. Teachers can apply to use that fund to buy consumables in the 2024-2025 school year. NOSTA will give priority to teachers who got little or no remedy in 2022-2023. Information on claiming these consumable will come out to school staffs shortly.
- Any remedy amount that is left over after the above options are used will be given back to the individual teachers to use as extra remedy time in the 2023-2024 school year.

**Teachers should attempt to use any remaining 22/23 remedy funds by the end of this school year.**

Leftover remedy funds from the 2021-2022 school year will be used for primary helping teacher staffing and remedy time for teacher librarians. These teachers did not generally generate remedy. However, we know that they deal with the same class size and composition issues that other teachers do.

More information will be coming out this year regarding remedy options moving forward.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to NOSTA.

## A MUSICAL ADVENTURE FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS



NOSTA was proud to participate in a musical adventure for more than 250 students and teachers from three elementary schools in the local on Thursday, November 16, 2023. The field trip was part of the CBC Music Class Challenge, a nationwide contest that invites students to perform Canadian songs.

The students from Bastion Elementary School, Hillcrest Elementary School, and North Shuswap Elementary School, along with their teachers and chaperones, travelled by bus to Shuswap Lake Provincial Park, where they met with firefighters and Indigenous leaders. They came together to sing “Turning the Tide” by BC composer Luke Wallace, a song that celebrates the power of community and the beauty of nature.

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NOSTA was proud to support the event by providing coffee for adult volunteers and Timbits for all the participants. NOSTA believes that music is an important part of education, as it fosters creativity, expression, self-regulation and collaboration among students and teachers. This was also a great opportunity to connect the students with the local environment and culture, and to learn from the firefighters and the Indigenous leaders who shared their knowledge and experiences with them.

NOSTA congratulates the students and the teachers for their excellent performance, which was recorded and submitted to the [CBC Music Class Challenge](#) and hopes that their performance will be recognized by the CBC Music judges, who will announce the winners in December. The winners will receive a visit from a CBC Music journalist and a recording kit.

## ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT DAY FOR AFFECTED TEACHERS

School District 83 and NOSTA have reached a local agreement on how to reimburse affected K-4 teachers for the assessment days that they were not able to access during the 2021-2022 school year due to the pandemic and staffing shortages.

- Teachers who were eligible for two assessment days in the 2021-2022 school year but were only able to access one will be allowed to retain one more assessment day, or up to three assessment days in total, and use them before July 1, 2024
- Teachers who qualify for the extra assessment day should have already been contacted by both the district and NOSTA with instructions on using these days before July 1, 2024.

If you feel like you were an affected teacher but have not been contacted by the School District, please get in touch with Leah-Ann Cochrane, HR Specialist, to confirm your eligibility.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

School District 83 and the North Okanagan-Shuswap Teachers' Association have reached a local agreement on how to compensate teachers for the personal professional development day(s) that they were not able to access during the 2021-2022 school year due to the pandemic.

Professional development days are days that teachers can use to enhance their professional skills and knowledge. According to the collective agreement, teachers are awarded (up to) one personal professional development day per year and are entitled to accumulate up to three personal professional development days total.

However, because of the pandemic, many teachers were not able to use their personal professional development days in the 2021-2022 school year. To compensate for this, the School District and the Teachers' Association have agreed that:

- Teachers currently employed by School District 83, including those on leave, will be allowed to retain up to four personal professional development days in total and use all or part of them before July 1, 2024.
- On July 1, 2024, any teacher still retaining more than three personal professional development days will have their maximum number of days be reverted to three as per the collective agreement.

Teachers can check their most recent pay stub to determine how many personal professional development days they have. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to NOSTA.

## JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

Did you know that the North Okanagan Shuswap Teachers Association has an internal facebook page?

This is our only 'closed' method of communication with membership outside of home e-mails and will have current information about NOSTA issues and concerns.

Apply to join by searching for "North Okanagan Shuswap Teachers Association" on Facebook and we'll happily add you to the site.

This is a great way to connect with fellow NOSTA members and ask important questions about your profession and union.