



ENews

Friday September 7, 2018

## **A Message from BCPVPA President David DeRosa**

I am hopeful that this issue of eNews finds you still excited and energized after the first week **back to school**. My experience has been that social media can present new challenges and opportunities to those of us in educational leadership roles, but this week it truly shines a positive light on the excitement of back to school! My [Twitter](#) feed is full of images and messages sharing the smiling faces of staffs, students, parents and our colleagues as they work together to ensure #backtoschoolBC or #back2schoolBC is a super positive experience for new and returning students and their families. The shiny gym floors, well-groomed grounds and brightly coloured backpacks all play a part in the sense of optimism that prevails this week.

Although the majority of us are focussed on our schools and back to school tasks, my thoughts are also with our colleagues that are engaged in the challenges related to the **forest fires** in our province, especially for the evacuated areas such as Vanderhoof and the potential for evacuations and challenges to transportation that continue in the Kamloops-Okanagan, Cariboo, Southeast-Kootenays and the Prince George Fire Centres among others. I have a family connection to these challenging circumstances: my son is currently on the front lines fighting the fires and is being re-positioned from the Quesnel area to Kimberley with his crew. Despite the enjoyment related to some September sunshine, we are all hoping for some sustained rain.

As we return to familiar routines and responsibilities requiring our time, I encourage you to be strategic with your time and your own personal health and well-being. The experts and gurus of health and wellness consistently remind us that we must **take care of ourselves** if we are to have the sustained energy to support our students, staffs and our own families. I have found that 'tweaking the wheel' is a more efficient practice than 're-inventing the wheel'. I encourage you to reach out or network with colleagues who are happy to share expertise and experience and when you have time, please share your own techniques! As a recent example, Principal Brett Johnson recently posted a simple back to school '[principal's checklist](#)' on BetterEducate: it has since had well over 400 views and more than a dozen *thank you* comments. Although the list is contextual to his experiences, hundreds of PVP's have now tweaked it to align with their needs.

Speaking of tweaking, we are well into the process of re-structuring our suite of **communication tools** and look forward to your feedback as we start to roll out the new look. I know in the context of your daily roles 'busy' typically does not quite suffice as the description for your days, but I am hopeful that you will be able to periodically let us know how we are doing through brief surveys — did I say 'brief'? I meant *really really* brief!

In closing, if you need a few tips and reminders about **work-life balance**, Principal Heidi Grant's recent post, '[Ten tips for a better work-life balance](#)' provides us with some practical reminders that the choices we make are, well, our choices. Over 190 of us have viewed the list and I'm sure we appreciated the reminders.

Please take some **time for you and family and friends** this weekend. I know that the successes of this week happened because you were in your schools well in advance, preparing for success rather than hoping for it. Remember: **you** are the BCPVPA and...

Take Care, David

## EVENTS

### Leading the Way

**Women in Educational Leadership – Saturday, October 13, 2018**

Due to popular demand, we have **re-opened registration** for this event and encourage you to register today.

The event features Jenni Donohoo, *Collective Efficacy: How Educators' Beliefs Impact Student Learning* and Suzanne Hoffman, *Superintendent, Vancouver School District*

Sage Bistro on the grounds of UBC

11:00 am – 2:00 pm (Lunch included)

**Register:** <https://events.eply.com/LeadingtheWayWomeninEducationalLeadership2554521>

### Visible Learning Foundation Day Institute - November 5 and 6, 2018

With keynote speakers Ainsley Rose, Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey

Executive Airport Plaza Hotel, Richmond

**Register:** <http://bit.ly/VancouverVLBCPVPA>

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Mentor Applications

The BCPVPA is continuing its **mentorship program** for the 2018-2019 school year, recognizing the unique work and challenges encountered by new school-based principals and vice-principals throughout British Columbia.

The Program aims to cultivate a network of support and collaborative partnership engaging retired principals as mentors, matching mentors with newly appointed colleagues in districts different to their own.

Some comments from last year's inaugural program:

- *"Taking the time to reflect on goals, strategies, next steps with an interested conversation partner has helped me to gain more objectivity regarding my job and my learning. The mentors' role is supportive but also geared to expanding my own perspective so there is always room for growth."* 2017-2018 mentee
- *"This is exactly what I was looking for as an educational pursuit since retirement. I was awakened to the whole process of mentorship and its positive implications to sustain principal leadership."* 2017-2018 mentor

Participants commit to a weekly confidential coaching conversation, with follow-up emails and/or texts. Mentor/mentee pairs will be matched during the first week of October and mentors only will participate in training/coaching sessions at the BCPVPA office beginning in October.

Mentee applications can be found on our website at the following link. Please scan and email your completed application to [Kevin Reimer](mailto:Kevin.Reimer@bcvpva.bc.ca). Space is limited.

[bcvpva.bc.ca/mentorship](http://bcvpva.bc.ca/mentorship)

## **Contract Advisory Committee Representation**

There is an opening in the Northwest Region on the **Contract Advisory Committee** which includes

Central Coast SD#49  
Haida Gwaii SD#50  
Prince Rupert SD#52  
Bulkley Valley SD#54  
Coast Mountain SD#82  
Stikine SD#87  
Nisga'a SD#92

The Contract Advisory Committee advises the BCPVPA Board of Directors on matters related to contract negotiations, total compensation and support for members in their employment relationships with school districts and serves in a liaison role to ensure that BCPVPA economic security policy and programs reflect member needs and perspectives. The successful candidate will be part of a committee comprised of 15 representatives from the seven BCPSEA geographic zones, two BCPVPA Board Members, and the President. Committee members are appointed for two-year terms and may serve up to three consecutive terms. The Committee meets two or three times per year in Vancouver.

**Application form is attached: please complete and return to [emily@bcvpva.bc.ca](mailto:emily@bcvpva.bc.ca)**

## **IGNITE Sessions**

Connecting Leaders 2018 – Changing Tides: Charting our Course Together  
With Simon Breakspear, Roy Henry Vickers and more  
October 18-20, 2018 in Nanaimo, BC

BCPVPA and Vancouver Island (Central Coast) will host 270 BC Educators at **Connecting Leaders** this October.

With an exciting lineup of keynote speakers and breakout session leaders, this is an ideal time to share local and provincial leadership stories.

**IGNITE Sessions** are an opportunity to do just that: this is your open invitation!

Fun, fast presentations

20 slides at 15 seconds each

5-minute maximum presentation

Challenge yourself and share your thoughts

The focus of the presentation is yours to determine: the strands of the Connecting Leaders are Inclusion, Resilience, Leadership, Change, Wellness

If you would like to present an IGNITE Session to your colleagues at Connecting Leaders, **please contact Jane Reynolds** [jreynolds@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:jreynolds@sd69.bc.ca)

## **BCPVPA Professional Learning and Development Opportunity**

The BCPVPA PLD team is looking for two BCPVPA members who would be interested in being on the **Short Course I Planning Committee**. Short Course I is designed for new and nearly-new vice-principals and principals. The program has been attended by new school leaders for more than 40 years. Based on the BCPVPA Leadership Standards, Short Course I is a five-day, intensive program designed to ensure that new school leaders are equipped to begin their new school leadership careers.

Short Course I Planning Committee members are asked to participate in 2-3 video conferences throughout the year to provide feedback to the BCPVPA Professional Learning and Development team regarding the development and content of the program.

**Application form is attached: please complete and return to** [kim@bcpvpa.bc.ca](mailto:kim@bcpvpa.bc.ca)

## **BCPVPA and BCRPVPA Scholarship Opportunities**

The BCPVPA annually awards up to **20 scholarships** in the amount of \$1000 each to students who are graduating from the BC public school system and who will proceed to a post-secondary institution.

**Completed applications are due by Friday, September 21.**

<http://bcpvpa.bc.ca/student-scholarships/>

The BC Retired PVPA annually awards up to **five scholarships** in the amount of \$1000 each to students who are graduating from the BC public school system and who will proceed to an accredited post-secondary institution in Canada.

**Completed applications are due by Friday, September 28.**

<http://bcrvpa.ca/>

 ONLINE

## **BCPVPA/Ministry of Education Webinar Series**

Our thanks to the Ministry personnel who recently provided very informative **webinars** for our members and leadership partners. Access the webinars on our BCPVPA YouTube channel:

### **Foundation Skills Assessment webinar**

<https://bit.ly/2NQOvbM>

### **Graduation Numeracy Assessment webinar**

<https://bit.ly/2PD3Qxq>

### **Career Education 10-12 Webinar**

<https://bit.ly/2NeuNtJ>

## **Follow the BCPVPA on Twitter**

We're gearing up for Fall and we'll be sharing news, stories, photos and more on our Twitter feed. Please follow us at [@bcqvpa](https://twitter.com/bcqvpa)