



**British Columbia Primary Teachers' Association**  
of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation

Create

Imagine

Explore

Play

Wonder



Volume 51 No. 1

**BCPTA NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING 2013**



THE BCPTA IS A PROVINCIAL SPECIALIST ASSOCIATION OF THE BC TEACHER'S FEDERATION



British Columbia  
Teachers' Federation

# Editor's Corner



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As we begin Spring, we see flowers blooming, baby animals emerging, and we feel the warmth of the world. We see our students enjoying their time outside and soon "spring fever" emerges. We work hard to keep them on track until the end of the school year. At this time of year, teachers need new ideas to try, and that is what we aim to do at the BCPTA. This newsletter aims to support you with new ideas and you will also see some work we have been doing to have your voice heard about the direction of primary learning in BC . We at the BCPTA hope our ideas inspire you, and in turn you aim to inspire us with your ideas. We thank those who contributed to this issue. We'd love to see more, so please send them to us at [janine.fraser@sd51.bc.ca](mailto:janine.fraser@sd51.bc.ca) or [w5adams@telus.net](mailto:w5adams@telus.net). **For every newsletter, we will draw the name of a contributor out of the hat for a \$25 gift card, so please send us an idea and enter a draw for a cool prize.** Have a wonderful Spring!

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Janine Fraser

The Power of Story...

“Joseph was a young boy who had an amazing Grandfather who could make special things out of nothing. An old blanket transformed into a coat, then into other objects, until finally, it was so small it was a button. One day that button disappeared, but all was not lost because what was left was the story, and there was great value in that. Thus goes the well-known story of “Something from Nothing” by Phoebe Gilman. ”

This is how my speech at the 2013 BCTF AGM began. I was running to be a Member-At-Large for the BCTF and Something from Nothing was the story and idea I wove into my speech about my values and beliefs in education.

I am thrilled to report that my story telling speech went well and I was elected to be a Member-At-Large for the BCTF next year. It will be a pleasure being involved at the BCTF and continuing to be involved in our PSA. I know I am going to continue to learn so much, and I will continue to bring that knowledge to you.

Storytelling is an important part of what we do. When I want to teach a math concept, I find a good story. When I want to teach a social skill, I find a good story. This issue is dedicated to the important role of story telling in our job. May you be inspired to use these stories in your classrooms.



# self-regulation

## Oh No, GEORGE! CHRIS HAUGHTON



### Oh No, GEORGE!

Sometimes when I chose a story to share with a purpose in mind, I think the outcome will be quite obvious... then things take an unexpected turn. When this happens I often learn a lesson along with my students. In this story George's owner goes out and George promises to be good, until he spies the chocolate cake... he loves chocolate cake! You guessed it, he eats it along with giving into a few other

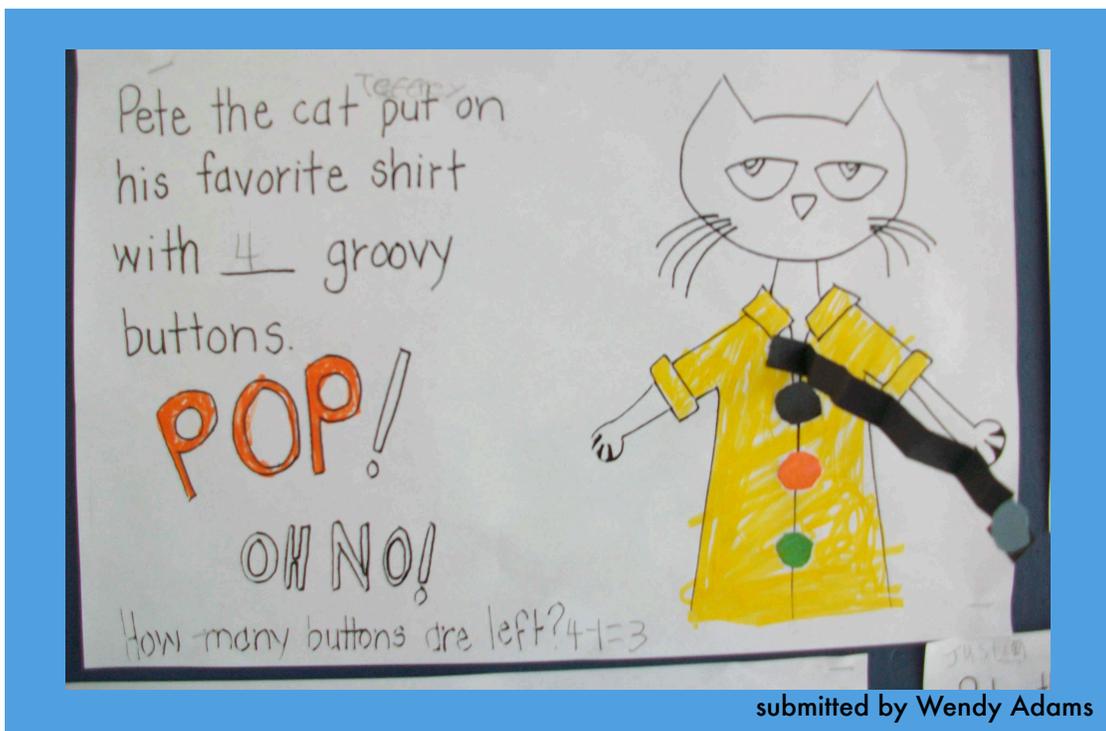
temptations. At this point I asked the children if it was ok for George to eat the cake. The children predictably answered, "No!" Then I asked, "Why?" and they all said because he would get into trouble. I had expected someone to say that eating it was the wrong thing to do because it wasn't his to eat. I asked myself, "How can I get the children to understand the intrinsic importance of behaving in a kind and thoughtful way?"

The following day we read the story again (don't worry, children love to hear good stories over and over!) and I asked, "What if George wasn't going to get into trouble for eating the cake, is it still ok?" Several of the children said, "No." Then I asked why? Here are their answers: "Because it might be someone else's cake." "It might be his owner's birthday cake." "He would have to ask first."



This is an awesome story for teaching children self-control, that everyone makes mistakes and is capable of fixing them: even if you are a playful dog just looking to have some fun!

submitted by Wendy Adams



## Pete the Cat and His four Groovy Buttons

James Dean (Creator & Illustrator) and Eric Litwin (Author) have another hit, especially for the primary math teacher!

Pete begins with 4 'groovy' buttons and loses one.

"Does he cry? "Goodness NO!

Buttons come and buttons go, he kept on singing his song."

If your looking for the rhythm of the story you can find a brief introductory video (1:18) on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

We created our own Pete the Cat posters, added our buttons and accordion folded the "POP!" Then we wrote a subtraction equation to go with our picture. Next week we are going to sew real buttons onto fabric cut out in the shape of a shirt... we may even make a Pete the Cat shirt pillow.

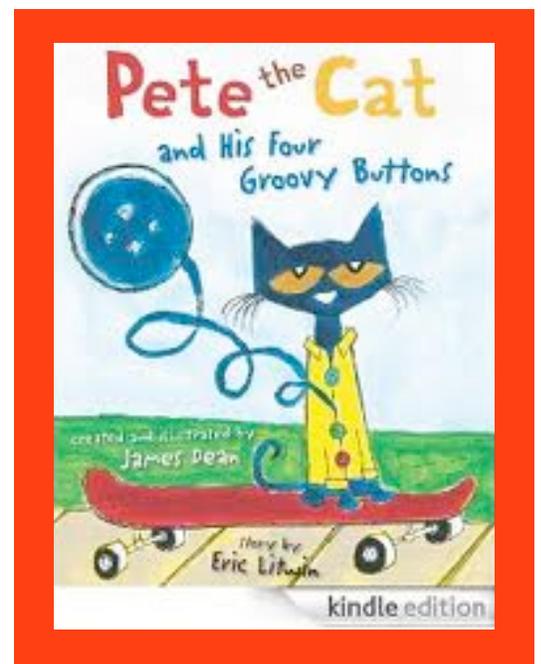
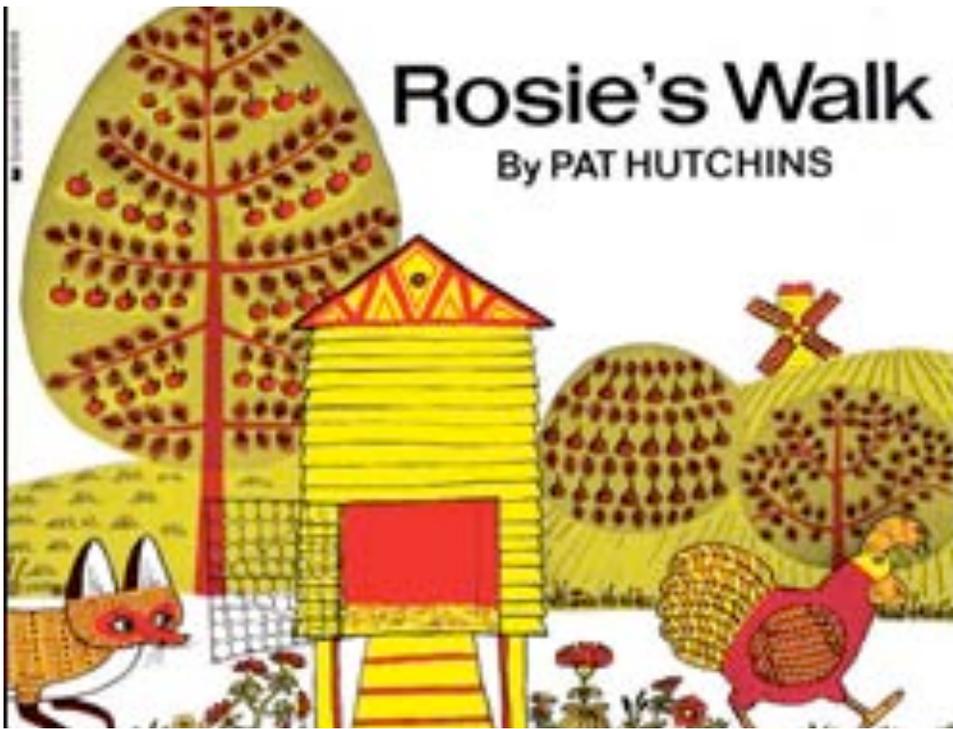


photo [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)



## *Rosie's Walk*

by Pat Hutchins

Can you believe this story was first published in 1968! It has been read to children for nearly half a century and if you Google "Rosie's Walk" there are 27.5 million results. Here is how one of our long time executive members, Grace Sinnema, 'played around' with Rosie's Walk in her grade one classroom

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My grade one class dramatized Rosie's Walk in a School Spring Concert. It was a real hit with the parents and the students of Dr. Thomas A. Swift Elementary.

A creative group of parents were most keen and helpful in designing and making the costumes. They designed and made slip on legs, the wings

and red bonnets for the Rosie's. For the foxes they made balaclava head covers with with big ears and hats for the two bees.

We made props out of large cardboard sheets, painted them to represent the barn, pond, haystack, beehives, mill, wagon and fence. A hole the size of a child's face allowed students to look through as they walked onto the stage carrying the prop they represented.

A boy and girl played the farmer and his wife. Four girls were dressed as Rosie and four boys were foxes (one set for each scene). Two children were bees and the other children represented the fence, beehives, haystack, pond, etc.

As a grand finale the whole cast joined in a rhythm band performance.

## Ideas...

When introducing the story, bring in hay, a toy stuffed fox, a rake and honey

Have children invent a sound affect for each disaster that happens to the fox.

Do a directed drawing of the various parts of the story to create a story board and make popsicle stick puppets to retell the events. Create a bulletin board with students to retell the story.

Change the setting (sea), the characters (shark/ fish) and the events, but keep the plot. Start with the title "The Grade 1 Walk" Make a class book.

## Websites

[www.kizclub.com](http://www.kizclub.com)

[www.sparklebox.co.uk](http://www.sparklebox.co.uk)

[www.makinglearningfun.com](http://www.makinglearningfun.com)

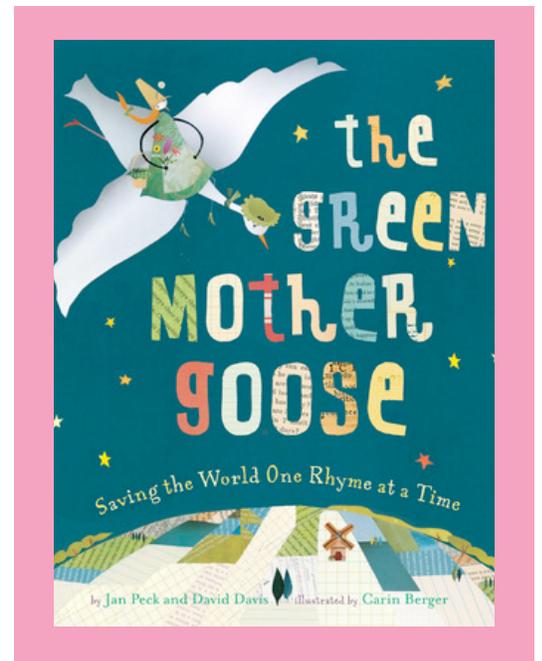
submitted by Grace Sinnema

# Earth Day

submitted by Janine Fraser

## We'll Save the Earth, One Rhyme at a Time...

Mother Goose has gone green and her rhymes have been recycled! Your students will delight in comparing the original rhymes with these modern, earth-friendly renditions. Did you know that Old Mother Hubbard shops with cloth grocery bags now? Did you know that Old King Coal is a better old soul, and Hickety, Pickety is now a cage-free hen! This eco-friendly book is printed on recycled paper and the artwork was made from creatively recycled materials.



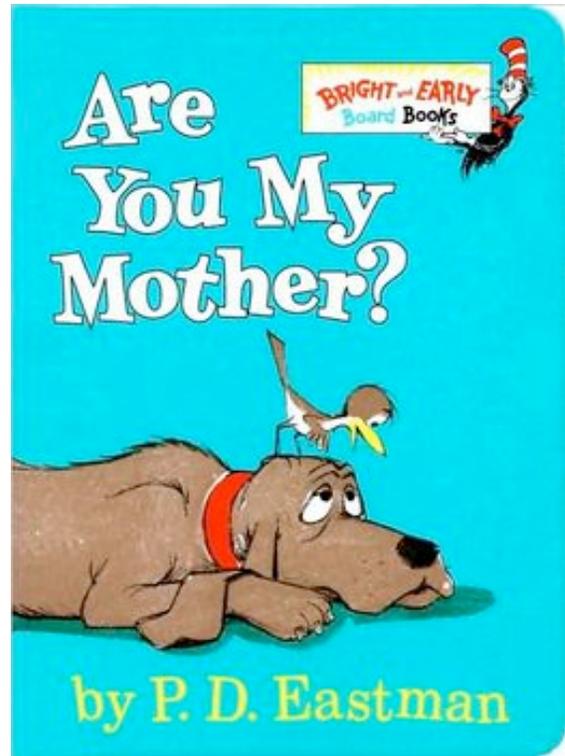
## Ideas to try...

- go on a walk to collect garbage in your school yard. Keep and wash usable materials you find. Then make them into a picture of a rhyme from the story.
- make venn diagrams to compare old rhymes to new rhymes

Written by Jack Peck  
and David Davis  
Illustrated by Carin Berger

# A Classic Story for Mother's Day...

submitted by Janine Fraser



## An Idea...

Create a class made book of each child drawing and writing a page about a silly animal or object the baby bird encounters on his journey to find his Mother.

***Are You My Mother?*** by P. D. Eastman was first published in 1960 as part of a beginner book series. It was one of the "Top 100 Picture Books" of all time in a 2012 poll. It is a classic that is worth the read with your class to celebrate Mother's Day.

Thinking her egg will stay in her nest, the mother leaves to fly off to find food. Meanwhile, the baby chick hatches and does not understand where his mother is so he goes to look for her. In his search, he asks some animals if they are his mother. They say no and he continues on until he finds silly things such as an old car, a boat, a plane and finally a power shovel. A loud "SNORT" comes out of the machine as it begins to move. This makes the baby bird

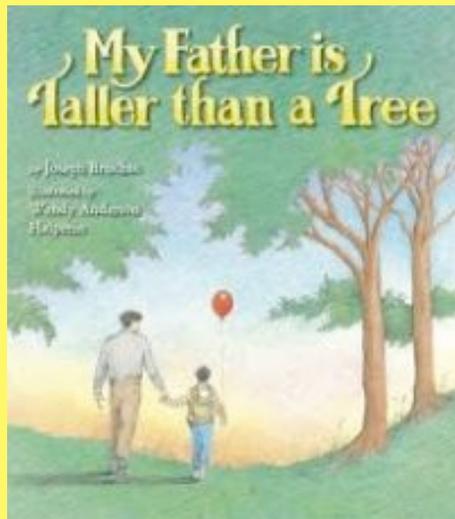
realize this object could not be his mother. But although he realizes his mistake, he can't escape as the machine as it grinds into motion. "I want my mother!" the baby bird shouts.

Just as we worry it'll be the end of this baby bird, the shovel luckily drops him back in his nest just as his mother is returning home. The two are united, and the baby bird delights in telling his mother his adventurous story of finding her.



# Honouring Indigenous Voices in Your Classroom on Father's Day

submitted by Janine Fraser



*"My father is taller than a tree, but sometimes he looks up at me. Mi papá likes to hear me sing. He's very good at listening. Pop doesn't need to buy me stuff. Just being with him is enough."*

In this story, different father-and-son duos show us an important truth: the simplest things become special when dads and kids do them together.

In this story, a father and children are going to the beach. What will the children like doing with Father at the beach?

What would the children in your class say are their favourite activities to do with their fathers? Use this book as a springboard to help children write about special times with their fathers.



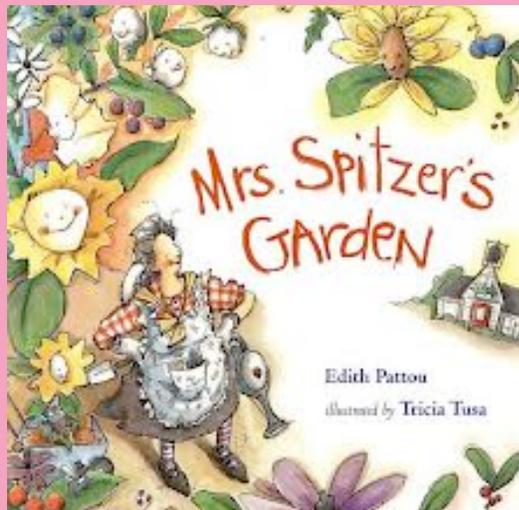
# End of the Year

## Mrs. Spitzer's Garden

By Edith Patou

Mrs. Spitzer knows many things: she knows about gardens and she knows about children. Wisely, she knows how similar they are. This book celebrates teachers like Mrs. Spitzer, who help children grow and blossom...

In Mrs. Spitzer's Garden, children are like plants with different patterns of growth and different growing requirements. Classrooms are like gardens and teachers are careful gardeners, with the tools and skills to encourage and support growth.



submitted by Janine Fraser

When I read this story to my second and third graders at the end of last year, I mistakingly thought they would understand the book as I did. It took some time, thoughtful discussion, and careful examination of the art work in order to discover the real story in this story!

Once we discovered it, my students took delight in creating art work to show me who they were as plants in my classroom garden. Your students will love showing you who they are and what type of care they need in order to flourish.

### End of Year Gift Idea

a package of seeds to  
remind them of you and  
this fantastic story



## Websites to See



### **For Teachers**

Check out some new apps and ideas at:

[http://www.21stcenturyschoolteacher.com/  
cool-websites.html](http://www.21stcenturyschoolteacher.com/cool-websites.html)

## Upcoming Events



**Our Executive is getting together on:**

**April 13, 2013**

**We are looking at proposed curriculum changes and the primary program.**

### **PRIMARY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

## **“Teaching from the Heart”**

**October 25, 2013 - Provincial ProD Day**

**Keynote Speaker: Mary Gordan**

**Renaissance Vancouver Harbourside Hotel**

**1133 West Hastings Street, Vancouver BC**

**• A One Day Conference • Keynote Address • Sessions - A choice of Presentations**

Check our website for updates

**BCPTA Website: [www.bcpta.ca](http://www.bcpta.ca)**



**ANNOUNCING...**

***The 2013 Primary Leadership Conference***

at the Renaissance Vancouver Harbourside Hotel  
1133 West Hastings Street, Vancouver BC

October 25, 2013 The Provincial Professional Development Day

***Keynote Speaker Mary Gordon***

Founder, president and inspiration behind the 'Roots of Empathy Program' ROE focuses on raising levels of empathy resulting in more respectful and caring relationships and reduced levels of bullying and aggression Visit the website at [www.rootsofempathy.org](http://www.rootsofempathy.org) for more information

***Breakout Sessions***

\* Some of our Popular Presenters have been confirmed \* New and Highly Recommended Presenters are being included

***More Details are Coming Soon***

\* A list of Presenters and their Topics \* Registration Fees for the 2013 Primary Leadership Conference



***Check the BCPTA Website for Updates***

[www.bcpta.ca](http://www.bcpta.ca)

# It Pays to Be a Member of the British Columbia Primary Teachers' Association

## **What are the benefits of being a member of the BCPTA?**

- \* 3 informative newsletters per year and an updated website
- \* the opportunity to attend catered BCPTA conferences with exhibitors, promotional giveaways, and door prizes. This year our conferences so far are:

**Primary Spring Chapter Event - March 2013 - in Richmond**  
**Primary Leadership Conference - October 2013 in Vancouver**

## **How much does it cost to become a member?**

- \* the fee is \$45.00

## **What else does my fee support?**

- \* advocacy work the BCPTA does on your behalf for issues that matter to primary teachers in order to support best practices for kids. We communicate with the Ministry of Education and the BCTF and have been actively involved in creating policies and workshops to support Primary teachers in BC. We are currently looking at new curriculum changes in relation to the Primary Program.
- \* Informational support for Chapters plus support to put on mini-conferences. There was an event in the Spring that registered chapters had support for. We also passed a motion that for this year, registered chapters get a mini-grant to help them with their work.

## **How do I become a member?**

- \* register for one of our conferences or go online to sign up for a PSA at: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information about the BCPTA  
go to [www.bcpta.ca](http://www.bcpta.ca) or email [info@bcpta.ca](mailto:info@bcpta.ca)

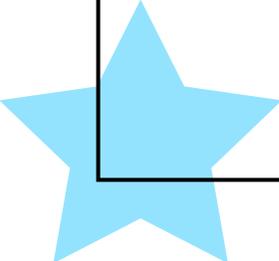


## PSA Memberships Are Now Online

Looking to join one of the BCTF's 33 Provincial Specialist Associations? For the first time, you can now register or renew your membership online. Our PSAs engage teachers in valuable professional development and serve as channels for members to exchange ideas on research, teaching strategies, curriculum development, and other shared interests.

To join, please go to:

<https://bctf.ca/psa/join.aspx>





# THINKING OF STARTING A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE BC PRIMARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION?

**Are you interested in  
belonging to a local  
chapter of the BCPTA?**

**Have you considered  
the benefits of belonging  
to a local BCPTA chapter?**

**If you are interested in  
forming a local chapter in  
your district, the following  
information will be useful.**

## **This is all it takes:**

- A start up committee of five to six teachers
- A meeting time and place to elect an executive
- A membership open to all interested primary educators
- Contact with the BCPTA Membership and Chapter Coordinator

## **Local Chapters are provided with:**

- Financial support for two of your local's delegates to attend our Annual Chapter Assembly
- The ability to apply for a support grant
- Communication and support with the members of the BCPTA Executive Newsletter

### **Let us help you start a local Chapter!**

If you require further information please contact one of us below, or visit our website  
Chapter Information area at:

<http://www.bcpta.ca/bcpta-events-info.php>

**Contact:**

Trish Hands  
Chapter Coordinator  
[trish-hands@hotmail.com](mailto:trish-hands@hotmail.com)

# Annual BCPTA Chapter Registration Form

**District Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Local Primary Association** \_\_\_\_\_

**President or contact person** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Election** \_\_\_\_\_ **for the term/year 2012 - 2013**

**President/Contact Person:**



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

HOME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return annually and  
correct any  
changes to  
contacts' names  
and addresses

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (SCHOOL)

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (SCHOOL)

E-MAIL ADDRESS  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer or Second Contact**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

HOME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (SCHOOL)

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (SCHOOL)

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please send  
this information  
sheet to:  
Trish Hands  
[trish-hands@hotmail.com](mailto:trish-hands@hotmail.com)





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# IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

coming to you in the  
Fall of 2013



Our next issue will be coming to you in September and it will contain some great ideas for the Fall. Look for it online at [www.bcpta.ca](http://www.bcpta.ca) and in your mailbox. There will also be more information about upcoming BCPTA events. Please send us your ideas to share and suggestions and comments to make this newsletter bigger, better and more meaningful for primary teachers in BC. Email ideas to [janine.fraser@sd51.bc.ca](mailto:janine.fraser@sd51.bc.ca) or [w5adams@telus.net](mailto:w5adams@telus.net) Have a wonderful Spring and see you when the leaves drop and school is back in the Fall!