



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

Create

Imagine

Explore

Play

Wonder



WINTER 2015

Volume 53 No. 1



The BCPTA is A Provincial Specialist Association of the BC Teacher's Federation



British Columbia
Teachers' Federation

Table of Contents

President's Message	3
Hanging Out Our Resolutions	5
Snowmen at Night	6
Poetry! Poetry!	7
What Makes Us Happy	8
A Forest Study	9
A Recipe!	10
Groundhog Day	11
FREE Book for Contributors	12
Chapter's Draw!	13
BCPTA Spring Event Information	14
BCPTA Fall Conference Announcement	15
BCPTA Membership Benefits	16
Starting a Local Primary Teachers Chapter	17
BCPTA Chapter Registration Form	18
BCPTA 2014 Executive Contact List	19
In the Next Issue	20

We hope you are enjoying lots of Winter fun with your students. Whether your corner of the province has lots of snow or just a little, we hope you find some Winter activities/ideas in our newsletter that might work with your class. Sorry for this arriving later than usual - maybe save a few ideas for next Winter? We thank the many Primary Teachers who contributed articles to this issue and look forward to hearing more about the fantastic learning that is occurring in your classrooms. As always, here at the BCPTA we are interested in publishing more of our Primary Teacher's ideas. Please send any article idea, suggestion, or comment to us at mcavin@sd52.bc.ca.

President's Message

by Janine Fraser



Every Winter, we reflectively look back at the year that has passed and look forward to the year ahead.

These continue to be exciting times for your BCPTA Executive, which consists only of volunteers. This past year we have taken on many projects for two purposes. The first is to bring professional growth opportunities to our members and the second is to advocate for best possible primary education in British Columbia. To bring pro-d to primary teachers as well as to promote best practice we provided a Fall Leadership Conference in October. We held this event in Victoria, and were glad to bring Pro-D to a different region in British Columbia. We made several changes to our 2014 Fall Conference in Victoria based on the reality teachers faced after such a long and uncertain job action. It was time to give back to our members so our conference fee was hugely reduced to honour teachers. We were honoured to have the support of the Local Teacher's Associations and school boards, as they sponsored many teachers to be at our event with extra Pro-D funds. We also hosted a spring Chapter Assembly in Richmond with Faye Brownlie as our guest. Throughout the year, three members on the BCPTA executive served as BCTF representatives and the entire BCPTA executive was invited to attend the Ministry of Education's Changing Results for Young Readers meetings. To reach as many members as possible, we published newsletters and kept an updated website as well as being on Facebook and Twitter. In 2014, we feel proud of our accomplishments on your behalf.



At our AGM in October the BCPTA set as its goals for 2015

1. To Maintain and enhance services to members
2. To enhance communications with members
3. To engage and retain new members

This year it is our plan to work hard again to meet these goals.

Your executive is determined to listen to your voice to make their efforts meet your needs to the greatest degree possible. Plans for our conference In 2015 are under way. We will be back in Vancouver for the conference. Watch our website in the spring for information on our conference. We will be using your suggestions for speakers and topics and we think you will be as excited as we are about our offerings.

To work closely with our local chapters we will be holding a Chapter Assembly in the spring. We are excited to have Peter Johnston there to inspire us. Watch for information on our website about this event.

We will continue to provide you with news and ideas in our newsletters and on our website.

Working for you, your 2015 Executive:

President: Janine Fraser

Vice President: Jennifer Barker

Past President: Carol Johns

Treasurer: Jennifer Martin

Conference Coordinator: Grace Sinnema

Professional Development Coordinator: Carol Johns

Conference Registrar: Joy Silver

Secretary: Leanne Gahan

Newsletter Editor: Margaret Cavin

Web manager: Sarah Soltau-Heller

Chapter and membership Coordinator: Trish Hands

Members at Large: Marie Fanshaw, Tina Anderson, Bonnie Davison, and Laurie Andrews

We are committed to serving you and we wish you the best in 2015.

Janine Fraser (janine.fraser@sd51.bc.ca)



New Year's Resolutions!!

January is a great time for all of us to set goals. As it coincides with the beginning of second term, it is also a good time to do this with your students. This year, I had students think of things they do well and even say what makes others in our class shine as well. Each student then chose one thing they would like to work on at school and one thing to work on at home. Each goal had to be fairly specific, realistic and include a plan for what they would do to achieve the goal. Finally, we wrote our goals on mittens and hung them up!



Snowmen at Night

Submitted by Leanne Gahan



Snowmen at Night is always a class favourite! After reading this story in my Grade 1/2 class, we brainstormed more activities snowmen could do at night. Students created ripped paper snowmen using 12 by 18 inch black construction paper, orange and black construction paper, white paper, glue, and a silver pen. This project took three 30-45 minute art classes, because ripping and gluing is hard work when you're 6 or 7 years old! Next up in Language Arts, each student will be writing and illustrating about their snowman's nightly shenanigans!

Poetry!! Poetry!!

If Snowflakes Fell in Flavours by Sandy Offenheim

Wouldn't it be super if snowflakes fell in flavours
Of chocolate, peppermint, cinnamon and lime?
And, if it were really true that snowflakes fell in flavours
I'd walk along in Winter with my tongue out all the time.
Think of how delicious it would be to build a snowman
Or, glide your toboggan over lemon-flavoured snow.
And, if it were really true that snowflakes fell in flavours,
I'd stick my tongue out everywhere I'd go.

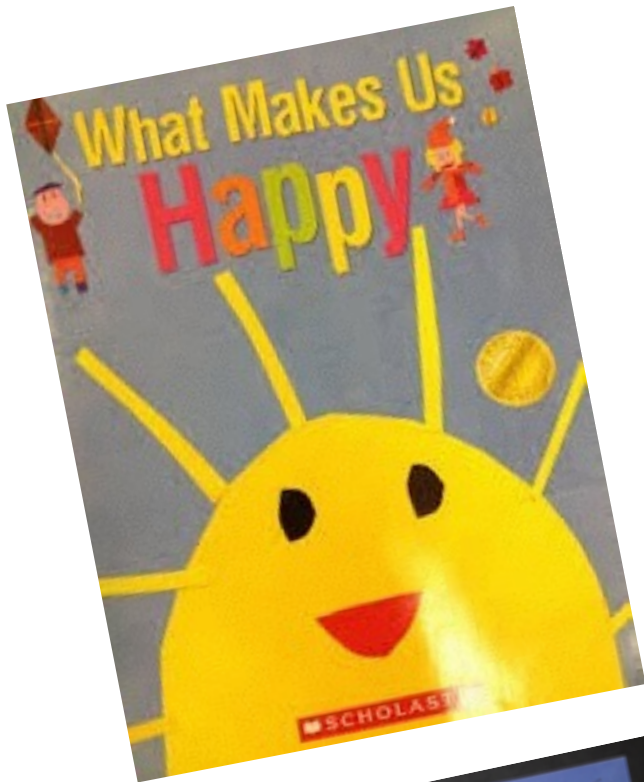


The Snowman poet unknown

One day we built a snowman,
We built him out of snow,
You should have seen how fine he was,
All white from head to toe.
But, in the night a warmer kind
Of wind began to blow,
And Jack Frost cried and ran away
And with him went the snow.
When we went out next morning
To bid our friend "Good Day",
There wasn't any snowman there...
He'd melted right away!



What Makes Us Happy.....In the Winter



"What Makes Us Happy" is a book published by Scholastic Canada in 2005 as part of a program to encourage kids to write, illustrate and publish their own books. It was written by a group of Gr. 2 students! The wonderful illustrations were made by cutting and gluing construction paper to create scenes. No drawing allowed! We modelled our Art project after this to create our own Winter scenes. Students were asked to think of an activity they do in the Winter that would be part of the picture. We also talked about the size of objects in relation to foreground, middle ground and back ground. We started with a dark blue sheet of paper and then added light blue, brown, white, dark green, red, black and yellow. We limited the use of the last three colours for small highlights only - buttons on a snowman, boots, eyes, etc.

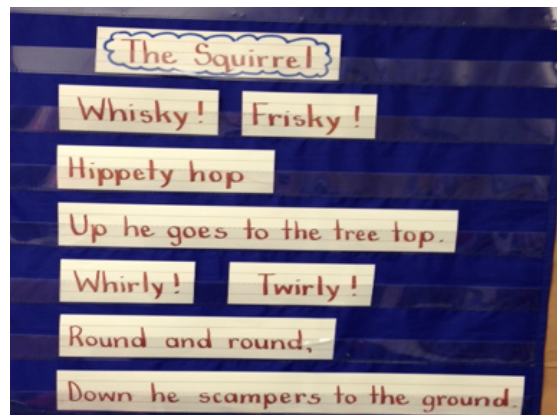


Language Arts Extension: Earlier in the week we wrote instructions for how to do a variety of Winter activities. Example: build a snowman, make hot chocolate, get dressed for Winter etc. This was good practise in using sequencing vocabulary.

A Forest Study!

Submitted by Lisa Scherr and Penny Hasell

- Collaboration and co-teaching between LUCID helping teacher and Kindergarten and grade 1 teacher
- Topics: Forest (one sub-topic was moss), Animals (one sub-topic was Squirrels), Plants, Seasons
- Science focus – living things and changes in the seasons , First Peoples Principles of Learning
- Integrating literature, writing , art and poetry



A Recipe: Winter Ice Cream

This is a great way to celebrate the first snowfall! You can even make it a mystery for your students and not tell them what they are making!

Step 1:

Fill a sandwich size zip lock back with:
125 mL (1/2 cup) of homogenized milk
15 mL (1 Tbsp) sweetened condensed milk
flavouring (vanilla, chocolate, lemon, almond, etc.)

Step 2:

Close the bag securely.

Step 3:

Place the sandwich bag in a bigger zip lock bag.

Step 4:

Surround the small bag with layers of snow and salt.

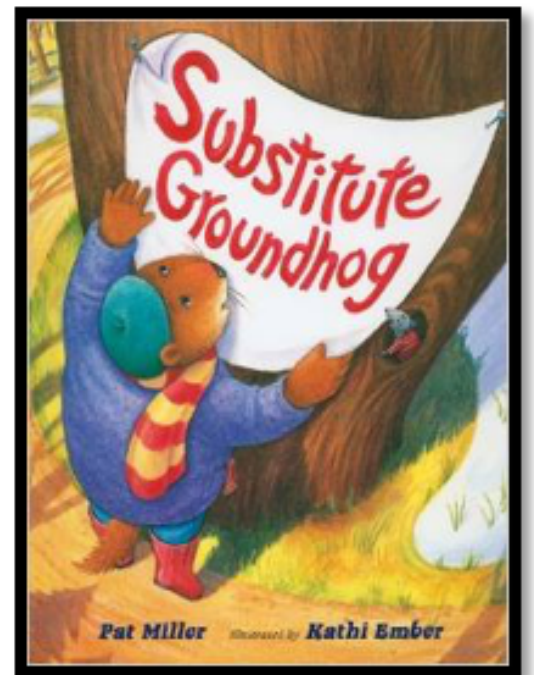
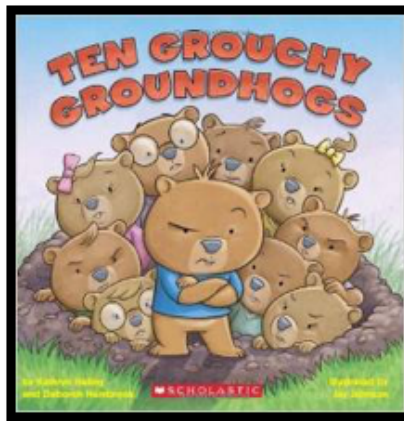
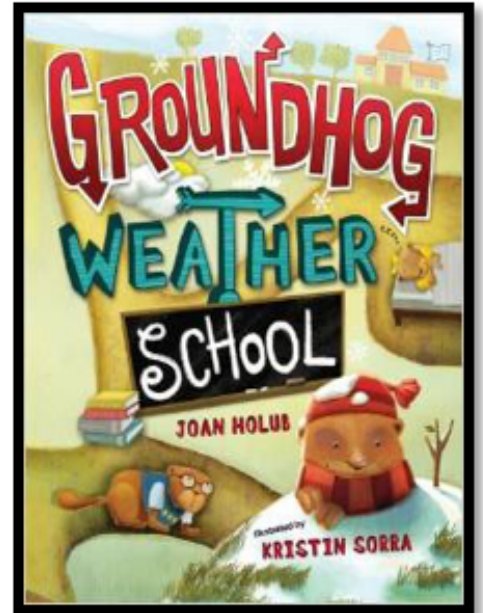
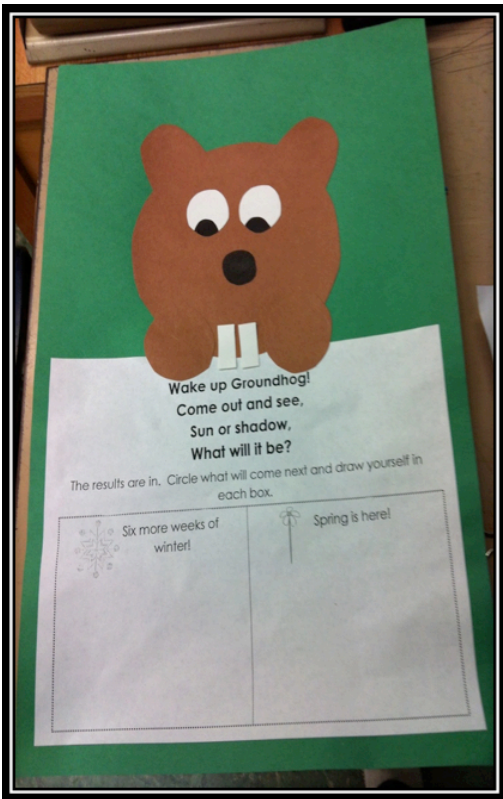
Step 5:

Gently knead the package. Add more snow and salt as needed. Check the small bag after five minutes to see if the mixture is firm. Ta Da! You have made ice cream!



Groundhog Day

My Grade 1 class did this activity throughout a few lessons integrating visual art, language arts, science, and math. First, we read and discussed books about groundhogs and Groundhog Day. Next, we reviewed the different activities, clothes, weather, and outside changes that occur between Winter and Spring. The students drew themselves in both seasons on the provided template. We made the groundhog out of construction paper, practiced reading the Groundhog poem and made a class graph documenting the students' predictions of whether or not the groundhog would see his shadow. Finally, each student circled what happened on February 2nd. Some of my favourite groundhog books are pictured below!



Submitted by Leanne Gahan



WOULD YOU LIKE A FREE BOOK?

The BCPTA would like to offer to purchase you any Teacher's Resource book or Children's Literature book in return for a written book review and/or lesson ideas and photos of something you tried inspired by the book you ordered.

Book purchased are limited to \$40 If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please email Margaret Cavin at mcavin@sd52.bc.ca with:

- The book you would like to have ordered
- A brief description of your intent
- The grade(s) you teach and your school
- Your name and address



What are we looking for?

book ideas
a story you love a story your
students love a book
you are reading in a
professional book club
or on your own

curriculum ideas
math * science* language
arts * fine arts
technology physical
education * social
responsibility * health
and career * social
studies

strategies
reading * writing * math
*oral language *
beginning of the year *
end of the year

technology
favorite website * favorite
programs * Smart
Board * Mimio * Ipads
*

classroom management
organizational ideas *
classroom set up *
math stations * literacy
centers* strategies *
beginning of the year *



A \$25 Gift to You!



A \$25 Gift to You!

How would you like to win a \$25 Chapters/Indigo gift card?
All you have to do is send us an idea for an article for the next
newsletter and your name will be entered into a random draw to
win an \$25 gift card.

What do we need?

It is very simple, just send us a written description of a lesson,
favorite book/author, strategy, professional reading, website ...
something you are excited about! Pictures help too!

What will we do? We'll format it for you (so don't worry
about making it fancy, unless you want to!). Then we'll send the
page back to you for your approval.

What do you get? A chance to win a \$25 gift card from
Chapters/Indigo and your idea published in our next newsletter.

Where do you send it?

mcavin@sd52.bc.ca

We look forward to hearing from you!



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

Create Play Imagine Wonder Explore



BCPTA SPRING EVENT

April 25, 2015

Pacific Gateway Hotel

3500 Cessna Dr. – Richmond BC

DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL BCPTA EVENT

- BCPTA Chapter Presidents
- Interested Primary Educators
- New Teachers & Student Teachers
- District Delegates

Featuring Peter Johnston

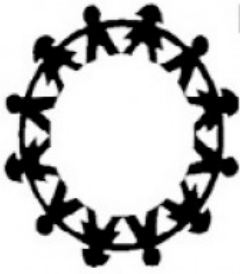
Author of 'Opening Minds & Choice Words'

"Words have the Power to Open Minds – or close them!"

Using Language to Change Lives

THE PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE:

- A Professional Component
- Sharing District Activity Reports
- Food and Beverage
- Exhibitors



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



ANNOUNCING the October 23, 2015

Primary Leadership Conference

Pinnacle Vancouver Harbourside Hotel
113 West Hastings Street in Vancouver BC

“Empowering Learners”

Program Details Coming Soon / Check The BCPTA Website

Cross Curricular Presentations
Presenters • Bios • Titles • Descriptions

www.bcpta.ca

Registration Fee

Includes a One Year BCPTA Membership or Subscription
Current Members receive a One Year BCPTA Membership or Subscription Extension
Catering: Breakfast / AM Beverages & Snack / Lunch / PM Cold Beverages

Membership Type

Conference Fee

BCTF Member	\$165
Education Student / TTOC / Retiree	\$135
Subscriber	\$195

BCPTA Conference Hotel – Pinnacle Vancouver Harbourside

BCPTA Rates: \$149 plus taxes – Single / Double Occupancy

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. Next year our conferences so far are:

Primary Leadership Conference - October 2014 - location TBA
Primary Spring Chapter Event - April 2015 - location TBA

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 will be looking at curriculum changes in relation to the Primary Program when new curriculums are introduced.

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:

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

For more information about the BCPTA
go to www.bcpta.ca or email info@bcpta.ca

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 or 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
- All committee members must be BCPTA members

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
- Opportunity to communicate with other BCPTA chapters in the province as well as other PSA's, the BCTF and government ministries

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



Annual BCPTA Chapter Registration Form

District Name _____

Name of Local Primary Association _____

President or contact person _____

Date of Election _____ for the term/year 2014 - 2015

President/Contact Person:

NAME _____

POSITION _____

HOME MAILING ADDRESS

_____ P. C. _____

TELEPHONE _____ (HOME) _____ (SCHOOL)

FAX _____ (HOME) _____ (SCHOOL)

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

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

Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer or Second Contact

NAME _____

POSITION _____

HOME _____

HOME MAILING ADDRESS

_____ P.C. _____

TELEPHONE _____ (HOME) _____ (SCHOOL)

FAX _____ (HOME) _____ (SCHOOL)

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Please send this information sheet to:
Trish Hands
trish-hands@hotmail.com



BCPTA Executive 2015 Contact List

President

Janine Fraser
Rock Creek, BC
janine.fraser@sd51.bc.ca

Web Manager

Sarah Soltau-Heller
Port Hardy, BC
sheller@sd85.bc.ca

Vice President

Jennifer Barker
Delta, BC
jbarker@sd38.bc.ca

Newsletter Editor

Margaret Cavin
Prince Rupert, BC
mcavin@sd52.bc.ca

Past President & Pro-D Coordinator

Carol Johns
Cranbrook, BC
cjohns@bctf.ca

Member-at-large

Laurie Andrews
Powell River, BC
landrews@sd47.bc.ca

Conference Coordinator

Grace Sinnema
Abbotsford, BC
bcptaconference@telus.net

Treasurer

Jennifer Martin
Cache Creek, BC
martinjennifer@hotmail.com

Chapter and Membership Coordinator

Trish Hands
Chilliwack, BC
trish-hands@hotmail.com

Member-at-large

Marie Fanshaw
Prince George, BC
mfanshaw@sd57.bc.ca

Conference Registrar

Joy Silver
Coquitlam, BC
odetojoy@telus.net

Member-at-large

Tina Anderson
Vancouver, BC
peacechild1962@yahoo.com

Secretary

Leanne Gahan
Powell River, BC
lgahan2@gmail.com

Member-at-large

Bonnie Davison
bonnie@singingenglish.com



IN THE NEXT

Coming to you in the
SPRING 2015 issue!

Our next issue will be coming to you in May and it will contain some great ideas for the Spring. Look for it online at www.bcpta.ca and in your mailbox. There will also be more information about the 2015 Fall Conference.

We encourage you to send us your ideas, suggestions, or articles you wish to share. Email ideas to mcavin@sd52.bc.ca.

*Math
ideas!*

ART!!

Technology