

The Apple Core

Sept 2021

Upcoming Events

- September 28- Conversations with David Scott Part 1: Historical Look at Canada's Indian Policy
- September 29- Dental Benefits Change Information Meeting
- September 30- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
- October 1-2 – Provincial Bargaining Seminar One
- October 5 – GVTA Executive Meeting
- October 6 – ESJ Book Club
- October 11- Thanksgiving Monday
- October 14- Collective Bargaining Committee Meeting
- October 19- PD Committee Meeting
- October 26- Conversations with David Scott Part 2: Treaties and the Indian Act

Hello GVTA members,

Welcome to a new school year in GVSD. I hope that this school year is treating you well and that you are starting to find a rhythm to your days. Already this year there have been a couple of issues resolved around pay and retroactivity of our most recent collective agreement. I believe that most folks are aware of the tax situation on backpay. I am glad to inform you that the division has committed to changing their practice on taxing backpay so that there will no longer be any surprises for individual tax situations. Further, if you started a mat leave in Spring/Summer and received top-up through the Fall in 2018, 2019, or 2020, you will also be seeing some backpay before the end of the calendar year that will be issued under the new taxation rules.

There will be a vote to changes in benefits on Oct. 29. Please join us for an information session on Sept. 29 at 4:30pm to ensure you have a chance to hear about what you will be asked to vote on. There is also a summary of the information further on in this Apple Core (with the zoom link to the information session).

This Thursday will mark the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This is time we have been given to come together as a community and honour residential school survivors and those who never came home. In preparation for this day, I have looked within the pages of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#). 94 Calls to Action put forward in the report help create what some have called a roadmap to the country that we should have been. In going through these 94 Calls to Action, one can quickly get lost in the task of just trying to read all of them. However, to meaningfully interact with these calls, I invite you to learn the stories behind them. To learn why this Call is being asked of us.

To illustrate the importance of learning the “why” of these Calls to Action, I want to share with you the story of Call #3: to fully implement Jordan's Principle. This is a story that comes from Manitoba and has been championed for years by advocate Cindy Blackstock. She tells Jordan's story in this [linked video](#).

This tragic story of a child being unable to go home because of government bureaucracy and buck-passing is frustrating to say the least. What is

more frustrating is that our government officials have chosen to accept Jordan's Principle in word but not in deed. Using [Beyond 94](#), a site that tracks the progress on these 94 Calls to Action, we can read that the government accepted the principle in 2007 but has failed to abide by it. The government fails to abide by their own commitment to Jordan's Principle to such an extent that they remain actively involved in litigation to challenge the decisions of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal that ruled for the federal government to make services equitable between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children.

On September 30, I invite you to write to your government official asking for Jordan's Principle to be fully implemented and to stop challenging the decisions of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. Inside these 94 Calls to Action there are many other stories like Jordan's. I encourage you not simply to read the 94 Calls to Action on September 30-- learn the truth behind the Calls and share them.

Wishing you all the best in this historic week ahead,
Mike Urichuk
GVTA President
204-573-6214

CLG Library (PD Committee)

Author: Jonathan Cullen

With all of the CLGs over the years, we have many books that teachers can take out. At the end of the Apple Core there is a list of all the books we have.

Talk to your school Professional Development Committee Rep to borrow a book. If there is a book you want to read and we don't have it, talk to your rep about starting your very own CLG.

Dealing With Aggressive Parents

Author: Mary Eberling-Penner Workplace Safety & Health rep

Dealing with parents can be challenging at times. [Here](#) is a good article that talks about dealing with angry, aggressive or unreasonable parents

Social & Teacher Wellness

Author: Brenda Richer & Brandy Springer

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

~Nelson Mandela

Welcome back to an exciting year! I am happy to announce Brandy Springer to the committee this year.



Hi! I'm Brandy Springer and this year I'll be joining Brenda on the Social and Teacher Wellness Committee! This is my fifth year in Garden Valley, and I teach Grade 1 at J.R. Walkof School. I'm looking forward to meeting people at upcoming events (in person or virtual depending on the current public health orders) and focusing on wellness during this school year. If you have any questions or have suggestions on events you'd like to see in the future, feel free to reach out. I hope everyone has an amazing start to the 2021/22 year!

Brandy and I are meeting to discuss the years events, we would love to hear your thoughts. Feel free to send either of us fresh ideas!

Garden Valley Teachers' Association members work on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, and the homeland of the Métis nation. GVTA respects the Treaties that were made on this territory.

Homemade Zesty Keto Zucchini Chips

Author: Bree - KetoPots.com



Ingredients

2 medium zucchini, washed and trimmed
2 tablespoons olive oil
sea salt

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 1 hour

Total Time: 1 hour, 10 minutes

Yield: 4

Instructions

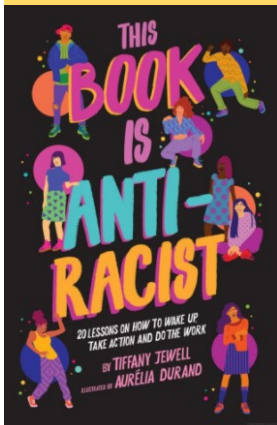
1. Preheat oven to 250°F.
2. Line large baking sheet with parchment paper. Set aside.
3. Using a mandoline slicer, slice the zucchinis into thin slices.
4. Place the zucchini slices on paper towels and sprinkle with salt.
5. Let sit for 10 minutes.
6. Remove excess liquid with paper towels.
7. Spread the zucchini slices in a single layer on the prepared baking sheet.
8. Brush with olive oil.
9. Bake in preheated oven for 45-65 minutes or until golden and crisp. Cool completely before serving.

Hello From New Treasurer Anny Froese

Hello GVTA members. My name is Anny Froese and I just wanted to let you know that I am replacing Rhonda Peters as the Treasurer for the GVTA Executive. If you have receipts to submit for reimbursement, please tape small receipts to the back of a blue Request for Fund form, which can be found under the Forms section at gvteach.org. Large receipts can be stapled to the blue form. Please submit the forms through Divisional Mail addressed to me at Prairie Dale School. If you have questions, feel free to email me at anny.froese@gvgsd.ca or at afroe1121@gmail.com.

Equity & Social Justice Book Club

Author: Val Harder



Here is a taste of the book:

https://www.google.ca/books/edition/This_Book_Is_Anti_Racist/7S7EDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover

Our tentative (very flexible) plan breaks this book up into smaller chunks – and allows our group the opportunity to discuss these ideas deeply and hopefully provoke action in our classrooms/schools/division.

We need to know if you would like to join us for the 2021-2022 school year! Please email Donna McCausland (ESJ Chair) donna.mccausland@gvgsd.ca or Val Harder (ESJ Co-Chair) Valerie.harder@gvgsd.ca to join! We need to know by **Friday, Oct. 1** if you

are in!

Collaborative Learning Groups Library

With all of the CLGs over the years, we have acquired a sizable collection of books. Here is a list of all the books we currently have. If you would like to borrow a book, talk to your school Professional Development Committee Rep. If there is a book you would like to read and it is not on the list, talk to your rep about starting your very own CLG.

Book Title	Author(s)
A Fearful Freedom	Kamier
A Place for Wonder	Heard, McDonough
Becoming A Learning School	Killion, Roy
Book Love	Kittle
Counselling Children and Adolescence	
Crazy Busy: Strategies for Handling Your Fast Pace Life	Hallowell
Creative Conflict Resolution	Kreidler
180 Days	Gallagher, Kittle
Don't Sweat the Small Stuff About Money	Carson
Dr. Susan Love's Menopause and Hormone Book	Love
Essential Questions	Mctighe, Wiggins
Fat is a Feminist Issue	Orback
Finding Balance: 101 Concepts for Taking Better Care of Self	Rosin
Fostering Resilient Learners	Soucers, Hall
From Demonized to Organized: Building the New Union Movement	Loreto
From Staff Room to Classroom	Pete, Forarty
From Staff Room To Classroom II	Pete, Forarty
Growing up Gay/ Growing Up Lesbian: A Literacy Anthology	Singer

Book Title	Author(s)
Guiding Readers and Writers	Fountas, Pinnell, Heinemann
How To Sleep Like A Bear	Boland
In the Best Interest of Students	Gallagher
Just a Bunch of Girls	Weiner
Kissing Sleeping Beauty Goodbye	Kolbenschlag
Learning Doing: A Handbook for PLC at Work	Dufour, Eaker, Many
Living the Change	Turner
Make the Day Mater	Walker, Rogan
Making the thinking Visible	Ritchhart, Church, Morrison
Mankiller	
Math Expressions	Krpan
Mathematical Mind	Boaler
10 Mindful Minutes	Hawn
Mindful Teaching and Teaching Mindfulness	David
Neurodiversity in the Classroom	Amstrong
No More HRT: Menopause Treat the Cause	Jensen, Vanderhaeghe
Professional Development: What Works	Zepeda
Rasism Canada	McKague
Reach the Highest Standard in PLC	Liberman, Miller, Roy, Hard, Von Frank
Resource Teachers	Katz

Book Title	Author(s)
Responding to Anger: A Workbook	Bilodeau
Secret Survivors	Blume
Sexual Harassment: High School Girls Speak Out	Larkin
Sexual harassment: Woment Speak Out	Sumrall. Taylor
Stiffed	Faludi
Teaching For Comprehension and Fluency	Fountas, Pinnell,
Teaching To Diversity: The Three Block Model of UDL	Katz
The Bully, The Bullied, The Bystander, The Brave	Booth, Swartz
The Curious Classroom	Daniels
The Eldercare Handbook: Difficult Choices,	Henry, Convery
The Fall of Freddie The Leaf	Buscaglia
The Gay and Lesbian Self-Esteem Book	Hardin
The Incovenient Indian	King
The Last Watch of the Night	Monette
The Mindup Curriculum Grades 6 -8	
The Mindup Curriculum Grades Pre-3 - 5	
The Mindup Curriculum Grades Pre-K - 2	
The Secret	Burne
The Will To Lead, The Skill To Teach	Muhammad, Hollie
The Wisdom of Menopause	Northrup
The Women of Science	Kass-Simon, Farnes
Transforming School Culture: How to Overcome Staff Divisions	Muhammand
What's Math Got To Do With It?	Boaler
Who's Calling the Shots?	Carlsson-Paige, Levin
Wild Geese	Ostenso
Women Teachers	De Lyo, Widdowson Migniuolo
Write Beside Them	Kittle
Write Like This	Gallagher

ESJ – Equity and Social Justice

Chair & Co-chair: Donna McCausland & Val Harder

*****Contact Donna or Val to join the group on the journey towards a more equitable and just world.**

Invitation

Join us for our summer sharing session.

Come and hear about some great resources that members read in the summer.

When: Oct. 6th from 4:00 – 5:00

Where: Contact Donna or V

This group meets ...

ONCE a month for a ONE hour discussion

Share ideas based the books we read.

Bonus: You keep the books!

New for 2021 - 2022

All committee members will receive a copy of the highly acclaimed book,

This Book is Anti-Racist – Tiffany Jewell

<https://www.cbcbooks.org/2020/03/25/tiffany-jewel-this-book-is-anti-racist/>

I have read this book twice and will reread parts again ... and again.

Short, but powerful book. – Donna McCausland

Truth & Action
Working Group
Presents

CONVERSATIONS WITH KNOWLEDGE KEEPER DAVID SCOTT

A 3 part series.

**Part 1: Historical Look at
Canada's Indian Policy**

**Part 2: Treaties & The
Indian Act**

**Part 3: The Condition of
the Indian Today**

**September 28th, October 26th &
November 30th 2021**

Morden Mennonite Church
363 Gilmour Street
7-9:30PM

All COVID Restrictions will be followed





GVTA CHANGE IN DENTAL BENEFITS VOTE

**AN ELECTRONIC VOTE WILL
BE TAKING PLACE ON
OCTOBER 29, 2021**

WHY ARE WE VOTING?

Two reasons:

1. We have a surplus in our Dental Plan that allows for a reduction of premiums.
2. With the legislation to move to Provincial Bargaining, we ought to consider the future (and the interim) of the Dental Plan in this circumstance.



What do I need to know? Some Background...

Surplus:

We have a healthy surplus of funds in the Dental Plan that will allow us to reduce premiums for members. The size of the reduction depends on whether we want to keep the current benefits or look to increase a segment of the benefits in the plan.

Provincial Bargaining:

All Employee Benefits are enshrined in collective agreements. The current system of one Gross Grid and one Net Grid for each Association will likely cease under Provincial Bargaining. This means Garden Valley will no longer have its own agreements and will not be able to retain its assets under the present Manitoba Provincial School Employees (MPSE) Dental plan. The good news? Being part of a larger group (Provincial) is advantageous: more participants in the plan will mitigate claims experience and thus increase the potential for lower and more stable premiums over the long term.

Our Options

Accounting for the claims experience, assumed COLA of 2% retroactive to September 2021, our choices will be as follows:

OPTION A - Remain with the present coverage until amalgamated into the Provincial plan (either through Provincial Bargaining or future amalgamations).

- 80% level one - Basic category - (majority of services)
- 50% level two - Major and Restorative - major dental services like implants/inlays/onlays/crowns/ Bridges
- 50% level three - Orthodontics - for eligible dependent children
- All to a combined maximum of **\$1500/person/year**
- 13% decrease in premiums effective January 2022 (**reduction of \$15.50/month per family**)

OPTION B - Amend coverage and join a "new group" with claims experience based on the total group (Essentially the 'Provincial plan' that will result from Provincial Bargaining and/or amalgamation).

- 80% level one - Basic category - (majority of services)
- 50% level two - Major and Restorative - major dental services like implants/inlays/onlays/crowns/ Bridges
- 50% level three - Orthodontics - for eligible dependent children
- All to a combined maximum of **\$1750/person/year**
- 10% decrease in premiums effective January 2022 (**reduction of \$12.00/month per family**)

Glen Anderson, Department Head of Benefits at the Manitoba Teachers' Society will be providing more detailed information at an **online Zoom event on September 29, 2021 @4:30pm**. Use the link below:

Also, please feel free to send any inquiries to the Employee Benefits Chair (kirsten.carman@gvsd.ca).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82225868039?pwd=WncySHNlTK3MzMGlhV0hNcjc1bHM2YzUT09>