

Saanich Schools

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September 6, 2011

Message to Parents Regarding Teacher Job Action

As parents are likely aware, negotiations between the BC Teachers Federation (BCTF) and the BC Public School Employers Association (BCPSEA) are ongoing. Unfortunately the parties have not yet been able to negotiate an agreement and the BCTF has served notice of "phase one" legal strike action that will commence on Tuesday, September 6, 2011. It is important for you to know that teachers will be working and that schools will be open for all of the usual high quality educational programs and services that you are used to in Saanich. However, the Labour Relations Board has ruled that teachers need not perform many duties including:

- Participating in certain meetings with administrators including IEP meetings unless the administrator provides direct service to the child
- Receiving from or providing information to an administrator unless it relates to class organization early in the year or safety or emergencies at any time
- Distributing district or school letters, newsletters or announcements to students unless related to health and safety
- Doing before and after school and recess/break supervision (this will be done by school and district administrators)
- Preparing or distributing report cards
- Collecting money from students or doing any fund-raising
- Participating in school photo organization
- Attending staff meetings
- Participating in meet the teacher activities that are outside of instructional time

During this job action teachers will be doing all of the work of instruction and assessment including, as directed by the Labour Relations Board, doing all of the preparation and marking outside of school time as is the norm. They will do curricular field trips as normal and will have the option to continue participating in voluntary extracurricular activities.

Our goal as a district during this job action will be to ensure that high quality education continues in our schools and that safety remains paramount. We are well aware that this is a provincial labour dispute so we will do what we can to maintain positive relationships in Saanich and hope that a resolution to the labour dispute can be reached at the provincial level in a timely manner.

BCPSEA is keeping its website current in relation to progress or noteworthy items, so for updates please feel free to visit www.bcpsea.bc.ca.

Wishing you all the best,



Dr. Keven Elder
Superintendent of Schools