

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 22 (VERNON)

October 25, 2011

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
1401 - 15th STREET
VERNON, BRITISH COLUMBIA
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TELEPHONE 250-542-3331
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Dear Parents,

I last wrote to you in September regarding the current strike action taken by members of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF). Teachers throughout the province are engaged in Phase 1 of teacher strike action. Details of this withdrawal of service are available on our website www.sd22.bc.ca under "Teacher Strike Action" or at www.bcpsea.bc.ca

Phase 1 of the teachers' strike action focuses on the withdrawal of many services normally provided by teachers which have been deemed as "non essential" by the Labour Relations Board. This includes preparation and distribution of report cards and participation in parent teacher interviews organized by the school administration.

At this time of the year, parents are normally expecting some kind of informal reporting regarding each student's progress. This year you may not receive these normal forms or attend meetings in the normal manner for parent teacher interviews. The BCTF has encouraged teachers to communicate with parents regarding student achievement. While we recognize that there may be some inconsistencies regarding the manner in which parents receive this feedback, we are confident that our teachers will ensure that parents receive this vital information. The BCTF has asked its members not to communicate with Principals and Vice Principals on any issues other than those related to student safety, so the school administration will not be able to ensure consistency in the format for communicating with parents about student progress.

Schools will be dismissed one hour early on October 27, and October 28 to allow teachers some time during their work day to meet with parents about student progress.

I do not know how long the teacher strike action will continue. At this point, both the employers bargaining agent, BCPSEA and the BCTF are engaged in the process of collective bargaining. We hope that these negotiations will come to a mutually beneficial conclusion.

Our teachers continue to offer excellent educational programs for our students and will continue to provide information to parents about individual student progress.

We will strive to keep you informed of any developments via our district website at www.sd22.bc.ca. Should you have any questions regarding emerging strike action, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,



B. Rundell
Superintendent of Schools



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