

October 18, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The BC Public School Employers' Association and the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) continue to negotiate a new collective agreement for teachers throughout the province.

As you are aware, the BCTF commenced Phase One of job action on September 6, 2011 creating certain challenges for schools this fall but not affecting day-to-day student learning.

Mission teachers continue to:

- Provide classroom instruction for students
- Prepare lessons and carry out planning, assessment, marking and evaluation of students
- Keep attendance records and transmit them as normal
- Organize and manage education programs for children, including Individual Education Plan meetings for students with special needs
- Be available for parent-teacher meetings upon request of the parent

Management staff continues to provide playground and bus supervision duties normally carried out by teachers.

Teachers continue to assess student work and collect marks in a way that would permit teachers to produce report cards in a timely manner once the job action has ended; therefore, the District will retain the November 10th non-instructional half-day as it was planned to support teachers in becoming "report card ready."

However, at its October 11th public meeting the Mission Board of Education voted to postpone a non-instructional day that was scheduled for November 25th and replace it with a regular day of classroom instruction. The non-instructional day was originally scheduled for conducting Parent-Teacher conferences; however, teachers are not reporting to parents through the usual channels during the job action. It is anticipated that the non-instructional day will be rescheduled at some point in time following the conclusion of Job Action when teachers will be required to formally report on student progress.

Mission Public Schools remains committed to maintaining respectful and highly professional relationships with its teachers. We will also continue to provide information about teacher job action on the school district website, www.mpsd.ca, and will send new information home with students and to Parent Advisory Council members as it becomes available. If you require clarification or further information, please phone your child's school or my office at 604-826-6286.

Thank you for your understanding and attention.

Yours truly,



Frank Dunham,
Superintendent of Schools