



Friday, September 9, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am pleased to report that our school start up went well. The district and its stakeholder groups have made the priority a safe, welcoming environment for students, and we have succeeded in achieving that. We are also focused on our core mandate of delivering the K-12 curriculum.

As you know, teachers in BC are engaged in contract negotiations and have taken Phase 1 job action in BC schools. The BC Teachers' Federation, which represents teachers at the provincial level, and the BC Public School Employers' Association, which represents BC's 60 school districts, are negotiating a new collective agreement.

Those negotiations take place at the provincial level and all major issues will be dealt with at the provincial table. Our job here in Langley is to ensure the best educational opportunities for our students and to maintain respectful relationships with all stakeholder groups. If you want to know more please go to the Langley School District website at [www.sd35.bc.ca](http://www.sd35.bc.ca) and click on the Teacher Contract Negotiations QuickLink.

One issue parents and students want to know more about is field trips. There are two different types of field trips to consider: extra-curricular which support student learning but are not an essential part of the course material; and curricular, which form a part of BC's K-12 curriculum. The Board of Education has policies and procedures (#5064) for the provision of field trips. It is our expectation that in order to ensure student safety those are followed.

Extra-curricular field trips can still be offered, but will need to be planned, organized and implemented by teachers, should they choose to do so. These are voluntary activities and as such, will be at the teachers' discretion. The district completely respects the decision of individual teachers in this regard.

The safety of students will remain the top priority and adequate supervision of students will have to be assured at all times. The focus of additional administrative support during this time must be directed primarily to the supervision and safety of students.

Curricular field trips will go ahead as planned by the teacher, and teachers will undertake the planning, preparation and implementation of these events.

Langley School District regrets the inconvenience to students and parents due to job action in our schools. The district and its stakeholders are committed to doing our best to meet the learning needs of students and will continue to work through situations as they arise. If you have questions with regard to your child's school, please contact the principal. For questions of a more general nature, please check the Teacher Contract Negotiation QuickLink at [www.sd35.bc.ca](http://www.sd35.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cheryle Beaumont'.

Cheryle Beaumont  
Superintendent of Schools