

October 25, 2011

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Community Members:

I wrote to you earlier in the school year to brief you on the province-wide teacher strike that began in September. As you know, teachers across British Columbia are engaged in a Phase 1 strike action while their union, the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF), is in contract negotiations with the British Columbia School Employers' Association (BCPSEA), the provincial bargaining agent for local boards of education. Unfortunately, the parties have not yet been able to negotiate a collective agreement.

As we near the time of the year when parent-teacher interviews typically occur and report cards come home, I thought it may be helpful to provide an update on how the strike will impact student reporting. During this initial phase, teachers are carrying out their normal classroom work, but are not preparing and distributing report cards. As it is a requirement of the School Act, all districts must issue formal report cards for each student in the province. Consequently, for this coming term these report cards will be incomplete as they will only display your child's division/homeroom, subjects, names of teachers, and attendance.

Please note that students who attend classes taught by vice-principals or principals will receive a report card that provides marks for those classes. Further, marks for Grade 12 students will be provided, given their significance for graduation, post-secondary applications and scholarship purposes.

Parents should rest assured that teachers have continued to focus on instruction and assessment as per usual. The Abbotsford District Teachers Association (ADTA) has confirmed that teachers will communicate with parents in informal meetings, phone calls and emails to discuss student progress. Accordingly, parents should feel free to contact your child's teacher to set up a meeting to discuss their achievement. To do so, you may either email the teacher directly, or contact the school office and request an appointment. Staying in contact with your child's teachers will allow you to secure updated information so as to gauge his/her performance prior to the date when complete reports cards are ultimately issued.

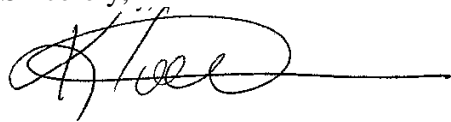
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Superintendent's Office

We understand that students and parents traditionally rely on the valuable information contained in report cards. If a concern arises regarding communications between teachers and parents, parents may wish to contact the ADTA office for clarification, or contact the school principal or vice-principal. We will continue to do our best to keep you informed of any changes to this situation via our district website at www.sd34.bc.ca, (click on the red “Teachers' Job Action - Information and Updates” link.)

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Godden", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Godden
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

KG:lh