

January 16, 2012

Dear Parents, Guardians of Students in Grades 9-12:

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 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 approach the end of the first semester, and your child prepares for provincial and local exams, we recognize the importance of providing parents with up to date and accurate information about how the exams will proceed and how you may access your child's marks. Provincial and school based exams will be written between January 23 and January 27. While students in grades nine through eleven will not receive a district-issued report card, the Abbotsford District Teachers Association (ADTA) has confirmed that teachers will communicate with parents in informal meetings, phone calls and emails to share student progress. Accordingly, parents should feel free to contact your child's teachers to set up a meeting to discuss their achievement.

Students who are in grade 12, or who are transferring to another school will be able to access a district-issued report card. To do so, please have your child contact their teachers directly, so that arrangements can be made to provide the marks to produce the report card.

As the second semester begins, I strongly encourage all parents to stay in contact with your child's teachers so as to remain apprised of your child's progress. If a concern arises regarding communications between teachers and parents, parents should 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,



Kevin Godden
Superintendent of Schools

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Superintendent's Office
