



# *News and Information*

March 23, 2012

## **ATTENTION: ALL PARENTS, STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 23 (CENTRAL OKANAGAN)**

### **Update - Back to School – Monday, March 26, 2012**

A number of important events have taken place during Spring Break:

- The B.C. Legislature passed Bill 22, the Education Improvement Act, on Thursday, March 15. The Ministry of Education indicated in their press release of the same date, that “The new legislation suspends teachers’ strike action, establishes a ‘cooling off’ period and appoints a mediator to work with the parties toward a negotiated agreement”. Additionally, the Ministry clarified that “The new legislation does not impose a new contract. Rather, it extends the existing contract to cover the mediation period. If a new agreement cannot be reached by the beginning of the summer, the mediator will make non-binding recommendations to government by June 30, 2012”.
- The B.C. Teachers’ Federation held its Annual General Meeting in Vancouver from March 17-20. In their News Release of March 21, they indicated that they developed an action plan at their AGM to resist Bill 22. Having said this, they also indicated that “Under the action plan, teachers will of course continue teaching and will prepare year-end report cards”. They also state that their plan “will be put to a province-wide vote of teachers on April 17 and 18, 2012”.

Based on the available information, we can expect that schools will be open again starting on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, and teachers will be returning to the work that was legally being withheld. Obviously, further information may be forthcoming after the BCTF vote on April 17/18, and this will be communicated through the media and our website.

**Please note that we will remain on the existing adjusted bell schedule for the week of March 26-30.**

**Starting on Monday, April 2, recess will be reintroduced, and schools will dismiss 15 minutes later than their current schedule. Hopefully this will give everyone time to make the necessary adjustments for later pick-up times at the end of the school day. Our school bus schedules will be adjusted to reflect this change starting on April 2.**

Within the Central Okanagan School District, we are committed to working closely with our partner groups to use the resources at our disposal to create the best possible learning environments for our students.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.