



ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE
HANDSWORTH
SECONDARY SCHOOL



October 24, 2011

Dear parents,

As we near the time of year where parent-teacher interviews typically occur, I thought it would be helpful to provide an update on the strike and how it impacts this event.

The Labour Relations Board essential services order provides that teachers **need not**:

- Participate in meetings or interviews with parents/guardians outside of instructional time, or
- Participate in meet the teacher activities outside of instructional time, or
- Prepare or distribute report cards, or
- Provide any student assessment data to Principals or school office staff, except grade 12 marks required for graduation, post-secondary applications and scholarship purposes.

The NVTAs has indicated that teachers will continue to focus on instruction and will continue to assess student progress. They have also confirmed that teachers will continue to communicate with parents in informal meetings, phone calls and emails to discuss student progress.

Therefore, on November 3rd and 4th we will continue with an altered timetable and early dismissal to allow teachers the opportunity to contact parents within school hours (prior to 3 pm). It is my understanding that if a teacher has a concern about your student's progress the teacher will make every effort to contact you. Should they not get ahold of you before or on those days, they will be in touch on another day. If you wish to arrange a meeting at any time or have questions regarding your son's/daughter's progress, please contact the appropriate teacher directly. At this time the best option is to contact the teacher through email. Teacher email addresses are available on our school website:

<http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/SchoolSites/Handsworth/School%20Information/Staff%20Email.aspx>

We understand 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 NVTAs office for clarification, or contact the school principal or vice-principal.

I will continue to provide regular updates to you during this strike and encourage you to go to websites listed on the school page for up-to-date information. Again, I thank you for your ongoing support to the school and for your patience at this time.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T. Mark James'.

Mark James
Principal