

September 19, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Subject: Return to School

I am delighted to report that the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) has now ratified the tentative agreement with the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA). While we await ratification of the Agreement by Boards of Education later this afternoon, we will proceed with the start to the 2014/15 school year with school opening on Monday.

All schools in North Vancouver will open on Monday, September 22nd, for students in Grades 1 through 12, with a shortened first-day schedule. This will enable our schools to confirm student enrolment, review classroom organization, update student timetables, where necessary, and prepare for full days of instruction on Tuesday through Friday. Parents should check school websites and posted notices for school-specific schedules and operating hours.

Kindergarten students will be welcomed to our elementary schools starting on Tuesday, September 23rd with the Gradual Entry process established within the *School Act*. The first week of Kindergarten is an important transition for our youngest children. During the Gradual Entry period, Kindergarten teachers are able to work with smaller groups of children for shorter periods of time to help them develop independence in classroom and school routines. The details of the schedule for attendance of Kindergarten students will be provided by each elementary school.

Our main priority for the coming week is to welcome back our students and staff and to re-establish normal operations as quickly as possible. We appreciate your continued patience and understanding as we strive to achieve a smooth start to this school year.

I will be providing a further update next week as additional clarification is provided by the Ministry of Education regarding instructional time and decisions related to report cards from last June. There are numerous other details to be communicated in the coming weeks ahead.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school and a productive week ahead.

Sincerely,



John Lewis
Superintendent of Schools

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