



**Coast Mountains Board of Education
School District 82**

3211 Kenney Street, Terrace, B.C. V8G 3E9

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September 29, 2011

Dear CMSD82 Parents, Guardians and Care Givers,

I am writing to explain the student supervision situation we are currently dealing with in the school district as a result of the strike action by our teachers, as directed by the B.C. Teachers' Federation.

During phase one of this provincial job action teachers in B.C. are not supervising students before school, at recess or after school. Districts around the province have taken various approaches to covering these duties, including cancelling recess altogether before school started in September.

In our district we started the school year committed to "business as usual" in order to allow schools to focus on their learning goals without disruption, and supervision duties are being performed by non-union district staff, as well as by school principals and vice principals, and some teachers in more rural areas where there is no district staff available.

Although exempt employees, including myself, are enjoying the time in schools interacting with students and staff, it is proving to be an impossible workload to maintain as the job action continues with no end in sight.

Therefore, the decision has been made that beginning Monday, October 3, 2011 we will start school 15 minutes later and go straight through to lunch hour without recess. This eliminates 125 supervision shifts per week and makes the situation manageable for us. The attached revised bell schedules and bus schedules outline the time changes for you.

This decision has not been taken lightly, and it is the solution that we researched to be the least disruptive to families and to student learning.

Your school principal is your best contact for questions that relate to the new schedules, and could also clarify for you what time your children should now arrive at school.

In general, schools have supervision in place 15 minutes before the first bell in the morning and after school. Please help us to ensure the safety of your children by making sure they do not arrive at school until supervision is in place for them.

My apologies for the adjustments that I know you will have to make in your morning routines and my thanks for working with us as we plan and focus on the care of children during this strike by B.C. teachers.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wells
Superintendent of Schools

NW/cg

Attachments:

- Revised Bell Schedules & Revised Bus Schedules