



**Chilliwack
School District**

Partners in Learning!

August 23, 2014

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the provincial labour dispute. As you are aware, the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) reached an impasse with regard to negotiating a new contract and public schools were subjected to closure in June 2014 as a result of strike/lockout. Unfortunately, the two parties have not made significant progress over the summer months and so the possibility of schools opening following Labour Day is uncertain.

We remain hopeful that the two parties will reach a negotiated settlement before schools are due to open. In the meantime, a decision on school opening will likely not be made until Friday, August 29th. Parents are encouraged to consult our website (www.sd33.bc.ca) and follow the local media for any changes over the long weekend. Parents can also check the BC government website information for parents regarding Teacher bargaining updates and information: <http://bcparentinfo.ca/latest-news/>

We have an outstanding public school system in British Columbia, and we are proud of the hard work and support provided by all staff in our school district. It is our hope that the labour impasse is resolved quickly at the bargaining table, and that our school district can soon return to normal operations.

Thank you for your understanding during this challenging and uncertain time.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Novak
Superintendent of Schools