



A message from your teacher

Dear parents and guardians,

Welcome to the new school year. Teachers are eagerly looking forward to an exciting and productive year with students. We are also looking forward to working with you to ensure that your children have the best possible experience in school this year. As teachers, we value our relationship with parents and firmly believe that the bond between parents and teachers is critical to helping each child succeed in school.

As you know, teachers are very committed to improving the learning conditions for their students. We are very concerned about funding cuts, increasing class sizes, dwindling resources, reduced support for students with special needs, and the loss of many learning specialist teachers. We speak out, lobby, advocate, and bargain for improvements.

As you may know, teachers are currently engaged in bargaining, trying to achieve improvements to conditions in our schools along with a fair and reasonable salary and benefits package. We had hoped to have improved conditions in place for students this fall, but despite many months of discussion, there has been very little progress. As a result, teachers voted to take job action. However, we want to assure you that we'll be in our classrooms to welcome students back and will be focused on teaching, rather than on the growing number of administrative tasks that have been increasingly taking time away from teaching and learning. Teachers will be teaching, preparing lessons, planning and assessing, and evaluating our students. We will also be taking attendance, helping students who need assistance before and after class, and dealing with emergencies. In addition, teachers will contact parents to set up a meeting if there is any concern with a student and, likewise, parents can contact teachers to set up a meeting at a mutually agreeable time.

Our hope is that a settlement will be reached and that there will be no need for any further steps. We will continue at the bargaining table, working hard to achieve a collective agreement that provides the guarantees that our students need.

If you have any questions or concerns please talk to your child's teacher and go to bctf.ca for additional information.



British Columbia Teachers' Federation

Kids matter Teachers care