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August 31, 2011

Dear Parents,

The union representing the teaching staff in our school district has held a legal strike vote and has served 72 hours strike notice. The BCTF (BC Teachers' Federation) has indicated that the initial phase of job action will begin on Tuesday, September 6, 2011, the first day of school. Under the provisions of the Labour Relations Code, teachers may now commence job action involving the withdrawal of certain duties.

A press release from the BCTF stated:

"Teachers will continue teaching, fulfilling all their classroom duties and communicating with parents. However, they will stop doing administrative work."

Schools will be open on Tuesday, September 6th and instruction will proceed as usual for students. The District and local Teacher's Association remain committed to ensuring student safety.

It is our belief that the "administrative work" includes supervision of students on the playground particularly at recess/nutrition break. The District has put in place a roster of management employees who will assist elementary school principals in providing supervision to ensure safety of students. We will continue to review our plans as the job action plans unfold.

We will provide more information to parents as necessary to keep all informed. We continue to hope that the issues at the provincial bargaining table will be resolved in a timely fashion without impacting students, however we will also continue to monitor and plan accordingly.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your principal.

Yours truly,

Thomas Grant
Superintendent of Schools
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)