

January 4, 2010

Dear Parents:

School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) is requesting your input to an alternate Local School Calendar for the 2010/2011 school year. This local calendar would once again create a two week spring break for students from Kindergarten to grade 12. As this is a variation from the B.C. Standard School Calendar (see page 2), we are providing parents with the opportunity to respond to, or to ask questions about, the proposal before it is discussed by our Board of Education at a public meeting in the near future.

The variation from the B.C. Standard School Calendar proposed for next year includes the repositioning of three teacher professional development days from within the school year to the late summer. This movement, along with a small lengthening of the school day [3 to 4 minutes depending on grade level] would provide students with a two week spring break without the loss of any instructional time. Three individual teacher professional days normally held on Fridays through the school year would now be held in the summer, and the three Fridays would become student instructional days to help compensate for the longer spring break.

This variation from the B.C. Standard School Calendar is being proposed for the following reasons:

- it allows the District to save money with minimal impact on students;
- the popularity of the two week spring break with parents and staff over the past several years; and
- single day interruptions to the school year are significantly reduced.

I invite you to provide comments about this proposal by Friday, January 15, 2010 (either positive or negative). If you have questions about the proposal, please feel free to contact us via:

- email calendarsurvey@sd23.bc.ca
- your school Principal
- or call Ross Dumontet Chair – School District No. 23 School Calendar Committee
Phone (250) 860-8888 or Fax (250) 870-5088

Thank you for your time in reviewing our proposal.

Yours truly,

Ross Dumontet
Director of Instruction - Human Resources

RD/ci

| DESIGNATION | B.C. Standard School Calendar 2010/2011 | Proposed SD No. 23 Local Calendar 2010/2011 |
|---|---|---|
| Days in session | 192 | 192 (3 summer Pro Days Aug. 31 – Sept. 2) |
| Number of days of instruction | 185 | 185* |
| Number of non-instructional days | 6 | 3 |
| Schools open | September 7 | September 7 |
| Administrative Implementation Day | September 24 | September 24 |
| Thanksgiving Day (schools closed) | October 11 | October 11 |
| Teacher Professional Day | October 22 | October 22 |
| Remembrance Day (schools closed) | November 11 | November 11 |
| Schools close for Winter vacation | Friday December 17 | Friday December 17 |
| Winter vacation period (schools closed) | December 20- January 3 | December 20- January 3 |
| Schools reopen after Winter vacation | Tuesday January 4 | Tuesday January 4 |
| Teacher Professional Day (Support Staff In-Service Day) | February 18 | February 18 |
| Schools close for Spring vacation | Friday March 18 | Friday March 18 |
| Spring vacation period (schools closed) | March 21-25 | March 21-25 + March 28-April 1 |
| Schools reopen after Spring vacation | Monday March 28 | Monday April 4 |
| Good Friday (schools closed) | April 22 | April 22 |
| Easter Monday (schools closed) | April 25 | April 25 |
| Victoria Day (schools closed) | May 23 | May 23 |
| Administrative Day (students do not attend) | Thursday June 30 | Thursday June 30 |
| Schools close | Thursday June 30 | Thursday June 30 |

Additional locally determined District-wide dates

3 teacher professional development days during the summer (students not in session).

August 31, 2010 – September 2, 2010

3 non-instructional days during the school year (students not in session).

September – Administrative Implementation Day

October – Teacher Professional Day

February – Teacher Professional Day

Variations from B.C. Standard School Calendar 2010/2011

The B.C. Standard School Calendar provides for students to be in session from Monday, March 28 to Friday, April 1, 2011. Our proposed Local School Calendar would provide for a full two week spring break with these 5 days becoming part of the spring vacation period. *By withdrawing three non-instructional days from the standard school calendar and adding a small number of minutes per school day (3 minutes for Elementary and 4 minutes for Middle/Secondary), the required total hours of instruction for students would be maintained and the required number of days of instruction would be made up by adding time to each school day (as in the B.C. Standard School Calendar).

Final Calendar Determination

We anticipate that the finalized 2010/2011 school calendar will be approved and provided to parents early this Spring. A copy will be provided directly to you through your child's school.