November 29, 2012

LABOUR SITUATION UPDATE – ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

Many of you will be aware that the education sector in Ontario is currently experiencing challenges in its workforce. While local negotiations continue with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), beginning Monday, December 3, elementary school permanent and occasional teachers and Designated Early Childhood Educators (DECEs) are in a legal strike position within the Simcoe County District School Board.

Starting Monday, December 3, elementary permanent and occasional teachers and DECEs will be beginning sanctions in our schools. These will include not participating in field trips, class excursions, extra-curricular activities, staff meetings, professional development, parent interviews or other activities beyond the school day. As a result of these sanctions, extra-curricular events and field trips have had to be cancelled for the time being.

Students, parents and guardians should be aware that there is also the potential for full strike action to occur. In the media, the Provincial Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) has indicated that they will give 72 hours' notice of strikes planned in December in school boards by public elementary permanent and occasional teachers and DECEs. If this occurs in the Simcoe County District School Board, this information and the school board plan will be communicated through the media and posted on the SCDSB website.

As Director of Education, with my senior team, I will be monitoring this situation very closely. As always, our priority is the safety and security of our students. I sincerely hope that this situation will be resolved as soon as possible.

We will provide updates as required through the following communications avenues:

SCDSB Website: www.scdsb.on.ca
SCDSB Facebook: www.facebook.com/SCDSB
SCDSB Twitter: @SCDSB_Schools
SCDSB Recorded Announcement: 1-877-728-1187

Information about related Ontario legislation is available at: www.edu.gov.on.ca.
Information about provincial ETFO job action is available at: www.etfo.ca.

I thank you for your patience during this labour situation in Ontario’s education sector.

Yours truly,

Kathryn Wallace
Director of Education