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November 18, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: Additional Non-Instructional Days for 2015-2016

The Richmond School District is beginning the process of implementing a new curriculum mandated by the Ministry of Education for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. These new directions in curriculum are intended to give our students the knowledge, skills and attitudes they'll need to succeed in a world that is dramatically different from the one we know today.

To support this change, the Ministry of Education has given each school district in British Columbia two additional non-instructional days during the 2015-2016 school year. A non-instructional day means that students will not be attending school, but our staff will be involved in professional learning that day.

The school district has chosen **January 29, 2016 and May 2, 2016** as our additional non-instructional days provided by the Ministry. This time will be used to give Richmond staff the chance to become more familiar with the new curriculum. Each non-instructional day will offer an overview of various aspects of the curriculum changes and a chance for educators to discuss and share ideas and various teaching strategies that support them.

Our staff is very eager to take advantage of this time to expand their professional knowledge and provide your children with the best possible learning opportunities. Because these days were added by the Ministry after school started in September, you did not have the usual lengthy advance notice about them. It's our hope that the positive benefits of the curricular changes on your children's learning will help compensate for this late notice about these additional non-instructional days. You can also expect that your school will be providing you with more information about what these changes mean for your child's classroom.

Thank you for your ongoing support for your children and their education.

Sincerely,



Monica Pamer, EdD  
Superintendent of Schools