



Island Public / Natural Science School

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Principal: Lorraine Methven

Site Supervisor (Natural Science Program): Cheryl Shannon

June 18, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Most of you will know that the City of Toronto and two of its bargaining units, Toronto Civic Employees' Union Local 416 (CUPE) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 79, have been negotiating a new contract. While talks continue, a settlement has not yet been reached and both union locals are in a legal strike position at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, June 22, 2009. We are hopeful that a deal can be reached before school begins on Monday, but are prepared should we be faced with a strike when school resumes next week.

Many City services will be affected by a strike, including ferry service to the Island School. Should a labour disruption occur, our school will be open and operating as usual. We have arranged for the following to be in place for Island School students and parents in the event of a strike:

- The Mariposa Belle will be used for shuttle service Monday June 22-Thursday June 25.
- On the Thursday afternoon return trip to the City, we will be using The Oriole as The Mariposa Belle has been pre-booked for another event.
- City-side boarding and disembarking would take place on the east side of 207 Queens Quay West (Queens Quay Terminal Building – foot of York Street). Island-side boarding and disembarking would be at the Grand Stand, end of Long Pond, just before the bridge.
- City-side boarding is scheduled for 8:30 am for 8:45 am departure. Students will be greeted by school staff and disembark at Grand Stand at 9:15
- Grand Stand Boarding is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. with departure to the city at 4:15 pm. Students will disembark at Queens Quay Terminal Building at approximately 4:45 pm (foot of York Street) End of day return trip to the city is approximately 20 minutes later than usual.
- If your child has an appointment during the day or will be late, there will be no ferry service available throughout the day.
- Because the Mariposa Belle is a private charter, the TDSB requires parents to complete a field trip release form. This is a legal formality for any "over water" trips. This release MUST be signed by parents before their child can board The Mariposa Belle. Please complete and return the attached to the school by Friday, June 19th.
- The last week of June is a special time that includes Kindergarten and Grade 6 graduation. Our hope is to ensure that these events go ahead. There will be further information communicated to the Kindergarten and Grade 6 families about transportation to the Island in anticipation of those events. We look forward to our students and teachers having the opportunity to celebrate this year's accomplishments and say farewell on the last day of school, Thursday, June 25th

For information on the status of negotiations before school resumes on Monday morning, please listen to radio and television news or visit the City's web site at www.toronto.ca. As always, you can also call the school if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Methven
Principal, Island PS