



*Office of the Director of Education
Office of the Chair of the Board*

January 29, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you may have heard through recent news reports, two unions representing teachers in Ontario have made announcements regarding further job action next week if agreements are not reached with the Provincial Government.

For parents whose children are in Kindergarten

ETFO (Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario) which represents Designated Early Childhood Educators in TCDSB schools (Early Learning/Kindergarten classrooms) has indicated their members will engage in a strike on Thursday, February 6th and Friday, February 7th. ***Schools will remain open for both dates.*** For parents whose children are in junior and senior kindergarten this means that the DECE will not be in the classroom on February 6th or February 7th. For parents whose children are in a SK/Grade 1 combined classroom, there will be no change.

We appreciate the important role that DECE's play in our Kindergarten classrooms, providing children with instruction, assessment and care. The decision to keep kindergarten classes open was not taken lightly. We have considered balancing the needs of families while also ensuring the appropriate supervision is in place to keep students safe.

ETFO has further announced that starting Monday, February 3, 2020, its members which includes DECE's will no longer participate in any extra-curricular activities. We do not believe this will impact children in Kindergarten.

For all parents (elementary and secondary)

OECTA (Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association) which represents all Catholic teachers in the province including TCDSB teachers, has announced that their members will be engaged in a province-wide strike on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 if no agreement is reached with the Provincial Government. This means that ***schools will be closed*** since no teachers will be in TCDSB schools on that day, which leaves the Board with no other option but to close all elementary and secondary schools on Tuesday, February 4th.

The Board understands that the proposed job action for next week may present students and their families with some challenges, however we remain hopeful that a fair and reasonable agreement can be reached among the parties at the bargaining table.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rory McGuckin".

Rory McGuckin
Director of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Martino".

Joe Martino
Chair of the Board