

2013-14 SD63 PROPOSED CALENDAR SURVEY - DO NOT SUPPORT COMMENTS

Timestamp	Please select which level(s) of school that your children currently attend.	Does anyone in your immediate family work for the Saanich School District?	How many children would need supervision during the school closure?	How do you feel about the two week Spring Break proposed in 2013/14 calendar?	Comments regarding the impact (positive or negative) of the current 2012/13 calendar or the proposed 2013/14 calendar on your family that you would like to share with the Saanich School Board.	Please provide your email address (if available) or your surname.
2/6/2013 17:54:34	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support	Finding childcare is not easy.	Not given
2/8/2013 9:31:09	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Do Not Support	I don't want families with small children to be impacted negatively with the extra child care/camp costs. I also don't believe that the extra minutes per day equal in academic value to the extra week of school instruction time.	marfouper@gmail.com
2/9/2013 14:10:56	Elementary, Middle, Secondary	No	2	Do Not Support	Two week spring break isn't fair to families whose parents cannot take this time off. I worry about the loss of days for secondary students - which I do not believe they can make up with extra minutes during a day.	barb-ian@shaw.ca
2/9/2013 14:45:24	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Do Not Support	I'm concerned regarding length of the school day for second semester kids with challenging courses. Eight extra minutes per day don't support the same as an extra week of teacher time. It would be much simpler if the day to day hours were the same or flowed more smoothly for the busing also. There seems to be more and more challenges in having the buses available when the kids are getting out of school. I think families would support the bus program more if it worked with the school schedule more efficiently (i.e. no 45 minute waits for the bus to come after school). Thanks for listening to our opinions.	neborden@shaw.ca

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2/9/2013 15:03:50	Middle, Secondary	No	1	Do Not Support	<p>My husband and I will both be working during the school break so we will need to find some camp or activities for our child in middle school for at least one of these two weeks. Although this will not result in financial hardship for us, we are very aware that the same cannot be said for all families, especially those with several elementary school-aged children.</p> <p>For our family, I am more concerned about the impact of the lost week of instructional time, as I do not think that a few extra minutes of instructional time each day adequately compensates for it.</p> <p>The school closure has already impacted our family in the following ways: My child at Stelly's is taking several challenging courses this term and the pace of learning is accelerated to make up for the closure later in the term, and this is resulting in additional stress. There are also effects on school bus transportation: the day has been extended for the second term at Stelly's but for the entire year at Bayside. My children take bus 22 to come back home. My child at Bayside has to wait an extra 15 minutes for his bus every day after school, which makes his day longer. My daughter has missed her bus at Stelly's a few times because it comes too early for them. She is also no longer able to get to her dance lessons at Allegro on time. We rely on school bus transportation as both parents are at work and unable to drive them around.</p> <p>I would like the School Board to fully assess the multiple impacts of the school closures on families and on schools at the end of the year, including those on the accelerated pace of learning and transportation from school, and to find strategies to compensate for these effects. I would also like to see a full accounting of the savings achieved because of the school closure, if any. At this point, I do not see what is achieved by closing the schools, especially since the staff salaries remain the same, but the cost to our most vulnerable families is significant.</p>	martinelunke@shaw.ca
2/9/2013 15:29:48	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	<p>Apart from the financial hardship a two week spring break imposes on a typical family, it is my belief that a two week disruption in a child's learning has much more significant consequences than just the two weeks of missed instruction time. Children strive on consistency and interrupting the flow of their learning process sets them back, putting them in a position of having to re-learn what they had supposedly learned already (this notion is supported by plenty of credible and peer-reviewed research). Would the Saanich district ever consider a change in the schedule toward shorter days and fewer non-instructional days? This would seem to make much sense especially at the elementary level.</p>	veronikapasovska@gmail.com

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2/9/2013 15:43:48	Secondary	No	2	Do Not Support	For secondary students 6 minutes added to each day does not make up for one full week of instruction. For students that find the semester system a struggle - those with learning issues, IEP's etc it becomes one additional stress and lost time	Martin
2/9/2013 16:02:28	Middle, Secondary	Yes	0	Do Not Support	We never plan vacation at Spring Break and never will. We do not find a 2 week break positive in any respects.	thebabcooks@shaw.ca
2/9/2013 16:13:52	Middle, Secondary	Yes	1	Do Not Support		mcraedobbs@shaw.ca
2/9/2013 19:02:40	Secondary	No	2	Do Not Support	In my opinion, this proposed closure is not in the best interest of the students. I do not support it!	angiewalters@shaw.ca
2/9/2013 19:56:35	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Do Not Support	We do not support the two week closure as it is a long time for the kids to be out when the weather isn't particularly nice and in middle and secondary school there are not a lot of options for things for them to do during the day. Unfortunately, we are not one of the families that can afford to go away to Hawaii or skiing for two weeks thus the kids are left on their own. We do not choose to pick our holidays at that time as we only have a limited amount of time off (unlike the teachers) that we keep for the warmer summer months rather than when its rainy and cool. Please consider changing the holiday time back to one week. It would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Our other suggestion would be to combine the spring break with the four days at Easter as it makes so much more sense than to have two weeks off, come back for 4 days (one used for getting back into routine, one used for winding up for a long weekend) and then the kids have another four days off. Surely we can make better use of our children's time at school. Thanks again.	lanabrad@shaw.ca
2/9/2013 21:07:31	Middle, Secondary	No	2	Do Not Support	It is not an ideal time for us since one of us (that being the parent cannot get time off work at this time of year). Making it a 2 week break just increases the strain on our family. We do not like the 2 week break. Pat and Bruce Watt (Bayside & Stelly's)	light_bulb@telus.net
2/9/2013 21:23:06	Middle	No	1	Do Not Support	It's a long time for a middle school student not to have anything to do.	Bluebird75@gmail.com
2/9/2013 21:53:06	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Do Not Support	Our family can make it work interns of child care, but I am aware of many that will find it challenging-- both cost, and just trying to secure adequate care. It is my understanding that support staff will lose wages. I do not support this. The BC gov't should adequately fund the public school system.	Adriane@shaw.ca

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2/10/2013 0:39:44	Elementary, Middle	No	2	Do Not Support	We are a two-parent family who both work and cannot take off more than a day or two during this time of year. This extra week carries a financial and emotional toll for us. We find ourselves pressured to be home due to our children being uncomfortable in a new and strange environments of spring break camps, as they are slow to warm to new situations and the new routine is too difficult for them) - this negatively affects our work day/weeks during this time, and the cost can be overwhelming. I have found the week leading up to spring break already is quite unproductive in the schools, as they are all 'preparing' for the break (much like the week prior to Christmas break), and the week back is a rough and slow week of review, riddled with emotional anxiety and difficult adjustments getting back into routine. I was so disappointed in the Saanich School Board for making this decision last year, and I hope you look out for all the students, and families, and realize it is the upper-middle class families, or families with a stay-at-home parent, and families with children who are strong and competent students who seem to be either ambivalent to or are supportive of the two week spring break. Please look out for the families with children with support needs, families whose jobs do not revolve around school schedules, and single parent or low income families. Do be bullied by the desire for less work days for teachers at the expense of support staff, and of families and of children. thank you.	jeannp@telus.net
2/10/2013 1:06:55	Elementary, Middle	No	2	Do Not Support	It's a terrible idea. A few minutes a day for a week off insults my intelligence. This concept clearly has nothing to do with education. It's about money. just say it, the teachers are unhappy with their wages and since they can't get more money, they are trying for more days off. Do they not know that many professionals are unemployed? Educators have good, secure jobs. Maybe when the economy is performing well we can increase wages. Right now, this group has a huge advantage to the average worker in BC and should not pursue what essentially is job action.	apuritch@hotmail.com
2/10/2013 8:22:11	Elementary, Middle, Secondary	No	1	Do Not Support	Our family has been forced to take vacation days without taking a vacation. Totally unacceptable...When the PAC has to purchase pizza's for teacher appreciation lunch day, you have a huge problem. When speaking with friends and co-workers, parents are fed-up with teachers (administration) and not the government. You need to follow Sooke school board and have one week spring break, please adjust your calendar accordingly.....	Scott
2/10/2013 9:04:50	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Do Not Support		tdhilder@shaw.ca

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2/10/2013 12:11:38	Elementary, Middle	No	1	Do Not Support	The educational value the students receive for the additional few minutes per day that they are in school is ineffective compared to the five full school days that they are losing due to an extra week of spring break. Why do we always sacrifice the consumer's (the students) right to education first????	Fidyk
2/10/2013 12:27:12	Elementary, Middle	No	2	Do Not Support	It is too difficult for those families who have children that still need supervision & both parents working. The cost of camps over the summer holidays is enough of an economic impact, this just increases that impact.	ngscluick@shaw.ca
2/11/2013 12:03:08	Elementary, Secondary	No	1	Do Not Support	There are too many interruptions in the school year including pro d days, statutory holidays and breaks. It seems just when my son gathers some learning momentum (grade 2), there is another break and he falls back. Could you not schedule a week of professional development programs for all teachers in the region during the last week of June and avoid some of the interruption?	Knott
2/11/2013 17:41:23	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	I do not agree with the two week spring break as it not only disrupts the children's learning when there are so many disruptions to the weekly classroom routines already with the many non-instructional days. It also puts added pressure on us to find childcare for the two weeks.	Arychuk
2/11/2013 22:34:10	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	Learning requires building knowledge through consistent engagement. Long breaks in instruction undermine momentum in learning. Are there benefits to a two week spring break over a one week break? I can't think of any.	jerome@jeromepeacock.com
2/12/2013 0:32:16	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	It is an extra financial burden on families to find another week of child care for their children. I also do not think that the few minutes tagged onto each day makes up for a full week of instruction time in the classroom. Our children need more instruction time not less.	sccg.evans@telus.net
2/12/2013 7:36:35	Elementary, Middle	No	2	Do Not Support		trevor.orne@telus.net
2/12/2013 8:17:19	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support		Synnuck
2/12/2013 8:30:15	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support		Furtado
2/12/2013 8:46:53	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support		Williams

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2/12/2013 8:51:41	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Do Not Support	<p>It seems the cost for taking care of the children for the additional week off at Spring Break, far outweighs the cost to keep teachers and other staff members in the schools for this same time period. Parents are stretched to the max already, and I know many parents who are scrambling to find daycare for their kids over those families who are jetting to Hawaii for an extended Holiday.</p> <p>I also found it interesting that at last year's District meeting, it was the men (trustees) who voted for the 2 week break, and the women (trustees) who voted against it. It appears the women seem to be much more in tune to what our parents our struggling with, and if the all of the trustees would have attended the COPACS meeting the following week after their meeting, they would have seen how their decision was definitely out of sync with the majority. It's a well-known fact that mainly teachers filled out the survey last year, and why wouldn't they vote for an extended paid holiday at work? Time to start listening to PARENTS and EMPLOYERS in the community to see what kind of impact this decision is having on all of us. Reinstate the one week break.</p>	houley@shaw.ca
2/12/2013 8:57:05	Elementary, Middle	No	3	Do Not Support	Having my 3 kids at home for 2 weeks is just too much for our budget because we have to book off from work for two weeks, and we usually save that off on summer. I think a week is good than two weeks	Marymen@telus.net
2/12/2013 9:03:29	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	This puts too much of a financial strain on families to have to either pay for an additional week of child care or take the time off work. We take our vacation time in the summer and do not have enough vacation time to take an additional week off in the spring.	lisa.makar@gmail.com
2/12/2013 9:35:08	Elementary, Middle	No	2	Do Not Support	I have three kids in public school and find that the amount and quality of their education is marginal. With the two week spring break the kids are getting even less school time. School used to be about the 3 Rs . Now the focus seems to have shifted or at the least been diluted with actives like saving pennies for Haiti and crazy hair day. Older teachers are out of touch WRT to new learning opportunities on YouTube etc. and new teachers are unable to get the kids to settle down and be disciplined. If I had the money I would move my kids to Private school.	Blenkinsop
2/12/2013 9:45:19	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support		Shick
2/12/2013 10:06:05	Elementary, Middle	No	2	Do Not Support		irenegug@yahoo.ca
2/12/2013 10:20:55	Middle	No	1	Do Not Support		Eaton

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2/12/2013 10:25:06	Middle	No	2	Do Not Support	Two weeks isn't good for the kids. It takes the students too long to get back into the routine. There is a two week spring break and then a four day long weekend for Easter. Adding extra minutes to the school day doesn't make up for the month that gets wasted around spring break.	trompain@shaw.ca
2/12/2013 10:31:53	Elementary, Middle	No	2	Do Not Support		hamel
2/12/2013 10:37:57	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support	I am not in favour of the two week Spring Break, however I would be rather more in favour of it if it took a week from the summer vacation.	macjackson@shaw.ca
2/12/2013 10:47:46	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	I find it quite difficult and costly for our family to find alternate care for an additional week at Spring Break. Also my children enjoy school at this age and find it too long to be away from their friends. They're young and enjoy school now so why not have them go while they love it. I don't feel they need that long of a break. Thanks	Eastman
2/12/2013 11:37:26	Middle, Secondary	No	2	Do Not Support	I think one week is plenty of time off for the kids to rest, recharge or whatever. Two weeks is just too long for them to be off school, only 10 weeks or so after a long Christmas break and just before the long Easter weekend, plus it makes for extra minutes every other day of school. I just don't support it at all...	mclaren
2/12/2013 12:05:47	Elementary, Middle	No	3	Do Not Support		Pow
2/12/2013 12:10:19	Elementary, Secondary	No	0	Do Not Support		dfietz@icloud.com
2/12/2013 12:38:02	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	I would like to express my concerns regarding the 2 week spring break closure for my children. I really do appreciate all the work the teachers do for my children, but do not support the extended spring break. We find that this is a financial burden on families to find a program that is not only reasonable and that is available for my children to attend together(ages 6 & 9) . Please take this into consideration for next year.	The4macs@telus.net

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2/12/2013 12:51:51	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Do Not Support	<p>Students in attending 1 at Royal Oak Middle School 1 at Claremont High School</p> <p>Particular concerns at the High School level where the schedule already allows for exam weeks, for each semester which is basically non instructional time as well as time near the end of the year for students who are behind to complete missed assignments. There is already a fair amount of non- instructional time built into the schedule. Expanding spring break is not beneficial to the students. I suggestion would be to go back to scheduling spring break to coincide with Easter Break to provide the time away from school students and teachers may require without further impeding class time.</p>	janys.langer@viha.ca
2/12/2013 13:59:00	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	I just don't see how 8 more minutes a day through the year equate to the same quantity and quality of work that would be accomplished in a week's worth of school. I know the minutes add up to be the same, but it's not.	cflora@shaw.ca
2/12/2013 15:51:24	Middle	No	0	Do Not Support	<p>I don't feel it is effective to ask parents' opinions on a two-week spring break when we have not yet gone through our first two-week break (2013). The impact of the longer break on students won't become obvious until late in the school year.</p> <p>Having said that, my child will definitely struggle academically following two weeks away, especially when followed so quickly by Easter weekend. Missing that much school also impacts any other time away which we were considering before the end of the school year.</p>	colleenenglish@shaw.ca
2/12/2013 16:00:20	Middle, Secondary	No	2	Do Not Support	I work in School District 62 and their spring break is only 1 week. For this reason alone, I do not support the 2 week break for Saanich and Victoria. Now if all districts could get on the same page, I could stand behind it! I would LOVE a 2 week break! It frustrates me that Spring Break is different across each district.	lucyp@shaw.ca
2/12/2013 16:55:21	Middle	No	2	Do Not Support		Jay
2/12/2013 18:16:33	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	It is hard to afford the care for my child during this break. Next year both my children will be in school so that means finding and paying for care for two children for two weeks instead of one. There are numerous pro-d days, administrative days, early closures and all of the stats and vacations. It is becoming increasingly hard to find the balance between needing to work and watch my children during the week.	kwansbrough@shaw.ca
2/12/2013 18:31:05	Elementary, Middle	No	2	Do Not Support	I feel that 8 minutes a day does not make up for a week of lost class time and urge the School District to return to a one week Spring Break.	johansson@shaw.ca

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2/12/2013 20:21:31	Elementary, Secondary	No	0	Do Not Support		marnasunshine@gmail.com
2/12/2013 20:28:58	Elementary, Middle	No	1	Do Not Support	I do not feel that the loss of one week of school (education) is good and don't see how the addition of however minutes per day makes up for that. I am fortunate to be able to take two weeks off if necessary but many people cannot and therefore it is an added expense.	sdp@telus.net
2/12/2013 20:31:39	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	I would refer 1 week as it is difficult to get time off work, and expensive to put the kids in out of school care for 2 weeks, on top of the regular out of school fees.	Macdonald
2/12/2013 21:10:05	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	<p>I think that the all of the breaks in the month of March this year will be very hard on the children.</p> <p>Having such a long break in the middle of the month means the children will lose far too many hours for learning as well as lose the important "rhythm" that teachers have worked hard to establish in the classroom. I feel the reason that we often see improvement in children's learning after January is because the teachers have managed to ease the children into a rhythm and when they start to feel confident and secure the learning process starts to all click.</p> <p>I will be home with my children when they are not in school in March and I plan to continue to educate them so that they don't fall out of that important learning rhythm.</p> <p>Working parents who are only able to put their children in a daycare situation for all of that time won't necessarily be able to uphold their children's learning rhythm.</p> <p>I am glad that I am in a position that I can, but I do not support a longer break in March. I have suggested this before but ending the school year a week earlier in June would benefit my children far more than a two week Spring Break.</p> <p>Joanne van Oort</p>	joeyvo@telus.net
2/12/2013 22:04:46	Middle, Secondary	No	1	Do Not Support	Difficult to plan work. With kids at home, I will have to use half of my yearly holidays to provide care for them, meaning that summer vacation and Christmas break will have to be shortened, or become unpaid holidays. Until the workplace recognizes the additional need of parents and gives another week vacation, this is an inconsiderate idea with no family value.	Hayes
2/12/2013 23:02:33	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support		Sunderland

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2/13/2013 5:26:49	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support		Morgan
2/13/2013 6:23:47	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	I do not believe the slight extension of the school day sufficiently offsets the educational time lost to a 2 week spring break. I would prefer to see the school day returned to its previous length and spring break returned to one week. We found the former calendar to be effective and have not seen a benefit to elementary school having longer days and an extra week of spring break.	Westinghouse
2/13/2013 6:33:57	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support	I feel that the 2 week spring break creates a financial burden for my family. The summer break is already too long to financially manage full time child care and summer child care deposits are in often due in April. My child care costs each month are \$255. In the summer time, we need 6 weeks of care at approximately \$200/week. That's a big increase and although it's spread out in payments from April to August, it reduces our limited disposable income for that entire duration. The 2 week spring break now increases that limited income duration by yet another month. I only support a 2-week spring break if the summer break is reduced by one week. I think children need to have fewer long term breaks in their learning. To be completely honest, I think we should have 3 x 3-week breaks in the year (winter, spring, summer) and that children should be in school the remainder of the year.	erinandkerry@hotmail.com
2/13/2013 6:54:58	Elementary, Secondary	No	1	Do Not Support		nightingaleand2@shaw.ca
2/13/2013 7:56:08	Elementary	Yes	2	Do Not Support		cheryl.haight@gov.bc.ca
2/13/2013 8:16:13	Elementary, Secondary	No	1	Do Not Support	My husband is having to use a significant portion of his vacation time, time he can no longer use for us as a family, in order to take care of our son during this time. We could put him in camps or daycare, but that is expensive, especially considering we have the 8 weeks of the summer to think about. Plus, for my daughter who is in grade 11, the break is too long. She is concerned about getting out of the rhythm with her classes. She would much prefer the regular one week spring break.	kvbutler@shaw.ca
2/13/2013 8:34:19	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support		Belgaumkar
2/13/2013 8:42:27	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support		chodgetts@shaw.ca
2/13/2013 9:03:05	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support	I don't have a strong opinion either way. However it is challenging to have to find additional child care.	Hatt

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2/13/2013 9:12:54	Elementary, Middle	No	3	Do Not Support	Two weeks is too much. We would need daycare for three children for the extra week plus, it is difficult for children to get back into the swing of things after a two week break. The majority didn't support the two week break before when asked. Hopefully the school board will respect the majority this time and NOT have two weeks off.	renetta@shaw.ca
2/13/2013 9:14:25	Elementary, Middle	No	1	Do Not Support	The children get more than enough time off throughout the year.	vernski@shaw.ca
2/13/2013 9:46:56	Elementary, Secondary	No	1	Do Not Support	I have a couple reasons why I don't support the two week spring break. With 2 months through the summer to try and provide for childcare I find the 2 week break requires too much in the way of those resources need for the summer. I don't view teachers and schools as child care providers, I view them as educators, and it still requires resources to bridge the 2 week gap. In addition, especially at the middle school and secondary school levels I feel that the two week break disturbs the student rhythm too much and they fall out of the groove heading into the last quarter of the school year potentially have negative effects on final exams.	snowdawg49@gmail.com
2/13/2013 9:58:35	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	I expressed my concerns about a two week long spring break prior to the 2012-2013 calendar. I am a working parent and, like many others, have only a limited number of vacation days to use during the year. Therefore, my children will need to attend day camps during spring break which has an impact financially.	cdhome@shaw.ca
2/13/2013 12:54:49	Middle	No	1	Do Not Support	I highly doubt that extending the instructional day by a few minutes provides the equivalent benefit to students as a full week of instruction. Also, the combined cost to the parents of students is much greater than the cost savings to the school district by reducing the number of instructional days.	john.ouellette@gmail.com
2/13/2013 13:00:04	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Do Not Support	Extending the school day for extra minutes in term two is not the equivalent of an extra five days of classes. Teaching time is not just about hours spent but number of days. More teaching days is more effective than longer teaching days. The burden on families with younger children requiring care is unnecessary for the cost savings achieved. If teachers want an extra week vacation they should not hide behind cost savings or pretend that teaching time is equivalent.	debclark4@shaw.ca
2/13/2013 13:01:24	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	We would prefer to end the school year a week earlier in June, when the weather is warmer.	Kristashaw@shaw.ca
2/13/2013 13:21:15	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support	The additional cost for child care over the two week Spring Break is causing excess hardship on middle class and lower income families such as myself.	clclare69@gmail.com

2013-14 SD63 PROPOSED CALENDAR SURVEY - DO NOT SUPPORT COMMENTS

Timestamp	Please select which level(s) of school that your children currently attend.	Does anyone in your immediate family work for the Saanich School District?	How many children would need supervision during the school closure?	How do you feel about the two week Spring Break proposed in 2013/14 calendar?	Comments regarding the impact (positive or negative) of the current 2012/13 calendar or the proposed 2013/14 calendar on your family that you would like to share with the Saanich School Board.	Please provide your email address (if available) or your surname.
2/13/2013 13:31:10	Elementary	Yes	2	Do Not Support	I feel that my kids already have enough breaks from the school and that extended breaks tend to set them back. As well the extra cost if child care is hard on families.	Orr
2/13/2013 13:33:13	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support		helen.love@shaw.ca
2/13/2013 14:59:15	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	Both parents work in our home and child care is expensive and difficult to find during the breaks from school (spring break, pro D days, etc.). Most of the options for child care on these short term "breaks" start after our work starts and finish before our work day is done. Adding even more time off to the already ridiculous amount off for the kids is a unwanted and unneeded hardship to our family.	the_cp@hotmail.com
2/13/2013 15:29:20	Elementary	No	3	Do Not Support		Trevort75@gmail.com
2/13/2013 15:39:04	Elementary	No	3	Do Not Support	The two week-school closure was sold as a necessary tool to provide a balanced budget for SD63. At the end of the fiscal year, the district ends up in surplus which allows for additional expenditures. Poor budgeting. The two week spring break is a drain on our family for child care. It means that we don't take a week off together as a family, but my wife and I each take a week off separately to supervise our children.	Dmonster@telus.net
2/13/2013 16:25:41	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support	I cannot afford to put my child in a camp /supervised activity during spring break. I already pay for care during summer break and non-discretionary days!	Eshepburn@telus.net
2/13/2013 16:28:08	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	For dual working parents this additional week disruption is costly to both the parents and the children. Financially for the parents and learning time for the children. Its a long interruption to the learning routine for the kids.	heygibbs@gmail.com

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2/13/2013 17:27:47	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support	<p>Both my husband and myself have a garden maintenance business. The two week spring break is a negative for us as this is the beginning of the start up to our season after having a slow down over winter. As we do not have family to rely on for extra care one of us needs to be at home thus creating a shortfall in our income.</p> <p>We feel that our child would benefit from more time learning and interacting in a school environment than being shuffled around to work with us or trying to be squeezed into programs at the rec centre that he has no interest in. Not to mention the cost of the programs or trying to find a caring reliable person we can afford on a part time basis.</p> <p>Also the kids have enough time off with all the monthly holidays, non-instructional days, two weeks of Christmas holidays, half days and 3 months of summer break. In short out of a 12 month time period our child has a total of 6.23 months of education only!</p> <p>In short families need to work to support their children and children need to learn!</p>	wright11@telus.net
2/13/2013 18:22:15	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support	I provided my feedback on the proposed 2 week spring break for the current school year (2012/13) last year and stated that it is not good for working families who have to pay for another week of daycare, I did notice that no announcement was made as to what the decision was but I found out by looking at our school's calendar that spring break indeed had become 2 weeks long. So now I do have to wonder why you are asking the question again and if our opinion does indeed matter and if you are planning on informing us of the decision. Thank you	elkemia@telus.net
2/13/2013 19:03:02	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support		nicolachalmers@shaw.ca
2/14/2013 6:48:55	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	<p>We have always had one week for Spring Break and it's worked well. Two weeks means that I have to arrange for child care and that makes it very challenging for me, especially financially and potentially takes away from summer vacation as I am having to use vacation time for Spring. Given the choice, I vote for only one week Spring Break</p> <p>Thank you</p>	kjo711@gmail.com

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2/14/2013 10:35:12	Middle	No	2	Do Not Support	<p>Adding a few minutes to the school day is not the equivalent of 5 extra days in school - it simply isn't. Those few minutes get squandered on various end of day activities and do not have the equivalent benefit of 5 full school days.</p> <p>By going to 2 weeks off and adding the time onto each school day, the school district has simply reduced the time our children are in school.</p>	richmondkb@shaw.ca
2/14/2013 12:18:06	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	I prefer the one week spring break with a shorter day at school instead for work reasons. Otherwise my in-laws need to babysit as I don't have enough vacation time and I think 2 weeks is too long to impose on them. On the other hand it's nice that this year I took leave without pay from my job to stay home with them for the 2 weeks which is a treat.	Bolton
2/14/2013 12:52:51	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	<p>As a parent that works the 2 week spring break is a KILLER for families with 2 or more children. My choices are to find daycare, or put them in camps that cost the amount I am making. Or choice number 2 is to use up over half my holiday at the beginning of each year.</p> <p>I DO NOT SUPPORT the 2 week spring break!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>	Bowie
2/14/2013 12:57:22	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support	<p>Thank you for asking us for our opinion on this.</p> <p>The supposed savings by closing the school for two weeks rather than one, which I believe was in the neighbourhood of \$150,000, seems to pale in comparison, nor be a true savings, when on factors in the additional costs for additional childcare (we either pay as tax payers or as parents). More importantly though, the theory that no instruction time is lost since the school day is lengthened by a few minutes a year doesn't truly reflect reality – an entire week of full-time instruction cannot be gained back by children being in school for an extra few minutes each day – it simply isn't realistic. So I see this as a loss, both to our bank accounts as either a tax payer or as a parent, and a loss to our children in the amount of instruction they receive each year. Lastly, holding a break in March when the weather is dark in miserable, as opposed to the a potentially warmer and truly spring-like alternative in April, would definitely be a welcome improvement too.</p> <p>Thanks again for your consideration.</p> <p>Bryn Johns</p>	bryn_sidney@yahoo.ca

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2/14/2013 17:07:19	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	I thought I was sending my kids to school to get an education but every time I turn around they are off for holidays, short days, professional days. I am frustrated that the holiday schedule is great for those who work within the school system but for those of us with mon-fri jobs the days off and short days are becoming a burden to work around. Is this a proposal to benefit my child's education or to benefit the already short work year of those working within the school system???	kristigregory25@gmail.com
2/14/2013 19:42:34	Elementary	Yes	2	Do Not Support		jpucci@shaw.ca
2/14/2013 19:49:49	Middle, Secondary	No	2	Do Not Support		Isfeld
2/14/2013 20:13:30	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support	It's too much time at a time of year when I don't want to use my limited vacation days, but I don't want to put my son in an unfamiliar environment for a week at age 5 either.	chrisharbord@shaw.ca
2/15/2013 15:19:36	Middle	No	2	Do Not Support	impact on our family would be an increase in child care fees not to mention how that makes my kids feel - they look at child care and camps as a negative thing that they have to do because their parents have to work. i also object to taking away a full week of education from my children - i am paying for a tutor for one already - they need more school time not less.	glossop
2/15/2013 15:57:51	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	We are a dual lower income family that cannot afford day care or time off from work. This current year is already a challenge for us finding care for all the pro d days, early dismissals and the 2 week spring break.	wong-loewen
2/16/2013 4:11:38	Middle, Secondary	No	2	Do Not Support	Expense to working parents, whether taking time off work or paying for camps. Interruption of studies makes it hard academically for kids. The change in time table mid-year for Claremont this year has been a real mess for our extra-curricular schedule. Kids get bored being off that long.	faydeo@hotmail.com
2/16/2013 8:41:55	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support		jill_m_shaw@hotmail.com
2/16/2013 8:58:40	Middle, Secondary	No	2	Do Not Support		Drmelling@shaw.ca
2/16/2013 16:12:22	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	We (parents) feel that the kids are already out of school more than necessary due to stat holidays and Pro-D days that another week off at spring break is not necessary. The kids need to be at school longer to maintain a routine of homework and studies without long breaks throughout the year. There is only 9 school days in March 2013 due to a two week spring break, Easter and Pro-D days...not much school time. We disagree with the two week spring break.	krallen@shaw.ca

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2/16/2013 20:55:52	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	<p>Negative impacts. Cost of care. Stress on family. Lack of learning.</p> <p>One week is plenty.</p>	Kirkendale
2/16/2013 20:59:10	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	Additional financial stress & family stress. Would rather kids in school learning and have just one week off not a total of 16 days off.	Patterson
2/17/2013 10:09:02	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support	A 2 week spring break means I have to take an extra week off work to care for my child, or send him to a camp. It's also more difficult getting back into a routine when you've been off for 2 weeks.	lyjpp@telus.net
2/17/2013 10:44:52	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support	<p>I support a 1 week spring break. There is no benefit to having the schools open for a mere 4 minutes extra in order to get a two week spring break.</p> <p>Four minutes is enough time for teacher to tell kids to get organized for the start or end of the day. It is not enough time to do any decent teaching.</p>	Douglas
2/17/2013 15:06:51	Elementary	No	2	Do Not Support	<p>I am a stay-at-home mom. This extra school closure will not impact us financially for daycare or babysitters, it will impact my children having to get back in to regular routine when school does get back. For the current 2012-13 year, I was disappointed to see they would return from spring break, only to go to school for 4 more days then be off another 4. Why couldn't it be combined, making spring break 1 week later and incorporating the Easter holiday? As for next year, I would personally prefer them to only have 1 week. Shorten the school day by the 8 minutes originally added to accommodate 2-week spring break, and only have a 1 week spring break. The teachers I have spoken to say that the kids have a harder time getting back in to the classroom routine when there is a longer period of "holiday" - and I agree with this. We, as a family, do not go away for Spring Break so the benefit to having 2 weeks is unimportant to us.</p> <p>My second concern with the proposed 2013-14 calendar is the Thanksgiving holiday. Could the Non-instructional day scheduled for Friday Oct.18th be moved to Friday Oct.11th? This would make it two 4-day weeks, but have a 4-day weekend in there, instead of just one 3-day week.</p> <p>Thank you for reading my concerns.</p>	kpjh@shaw.ca

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2/18/2013 20:12:57	Elementary, Secondary	No	1	Do Not Support	I need to find daycare for my younger child. Also, it is too long of a break when we have no plans and the kids are bored. It is also a very long break for the kids to retain the info they were working on before the break.	ts.hanson@shaw.ca
2/18/2013 20:13:43	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support		Chryseis.green@gmail.com
2/19/2013 12:33:10	Elementary	No	1	Do Not Support		awalsh@uvic.ca
2/19/2013 12:37:33	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Do Not Support		beatriztorileis03@yahoo.ca