

2013-14 SD63 PROPOSED CALENDAR SURVEY - 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.
2/9/2013 14:49:42	Elementary	No	0	Support	It's great for the kids to have a break that it's longer so that can get have time with family or time away from school to reenergize. I wish we could give the kids an extra week at Christmas. It also helps the kids to get away from cold and flu bugs and get back to normal.
2/9/2013 14:52:32	Elementary, Middle	No	3	Support	Positive impact - the break is very healthy for our kids and very healthy for our family life. The kids are much better refreshed after being off for two weeks.
2/9/2013 15:30:59	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	Suits us fine since my husband and I are both self-employed and the kids are not in elementary school. Nice to be able to plan an extended trip away instead of taking extra time off school.
2/9/2013 16:04:30	Middle	Yes	1	Support	No concerns. Consistent with other SDs. Many kids are pulled out anyway and it's a disrupted second week as a result. Please continue w 2 weeks.
2/9/2013 16:40:35	Elementary, Middle	No	2	Support	
2/9/2013 17:54:16	Secondary	No	0	Support	As my daughter will be 15 at the time of the proposed 2 week spring break I have no concerns regarding her requiring supervision. However, I am sympathetic to the parents of younger children looking to find short term supervision. In my experience, this is often a challenge.
2/9/2013 18:51:53	Elementary	Yes	1	Support	
2/9/2013 19:31:35	Middle	No	0	Support	Love the 2 week spring break. Jan - June is a long haul. The 2 week break helps kids re-charge their batteries (and shake off the last of the cold and flu bugs). Keep it up please!
2/9/2013 19:41:54	Middle, Secondary	Yes	0	Support	
2/9/2013 21:23:38	Middle	No	0	Support	I am a teacher in the Victoria School District, which has a two week spring break. Last year, we removed our daughter from school so that we could take a two week holiday as a family. I support the two week Spring Break because I believe it is necessary to help school districts balance their budgets. I also find that having the two weeks really gives my daughter a good break away from school and allows families to be flexible when they are travelling. If a two week Spring Break is brought in, I believe it should align in the calendar with the other districts.
2/10/2013 8:07:45	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	

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2/10/2013 8:44:08	Secondary	No	0	Support	
2/10/2013 9:54:24	Middle	Yes	1	Support	
2/10/2013 11:23:35	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	
2/10/2013 12:12:32	Middle	No	0	Support	I fully support the 2-week spring break. I think it provides a needed respite for students, teachers and staff.
2/10/2013 13:34:22	Middle	No	1	Support	While I do support the 2 week Spring Break, the 8 minutes added each day appears awkward. I would prefer time added in a lump sum, perhaps starting and ending a little earlier just one day a week, say on Monday to get the difference needed done in one day. I'm sure all those involved could adjust for the one day a week difference. I know we could. Also, on a personal level, it was a little discouraging when friends out of our school district had 2 weeks off when we only had one.
2/10/2013 16:05:58	Middle	No	0	Support	
2/10/2013 22:00:49	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	We are happy to have 2 weeks in spring break, although our preference will be to have 3 weeks in winter/Christmas vacations and 1 week spring time.
2/11/2013 10:18:30	Secondary	No	0	Support	Doesn't make much difference to us with 2 kids in secondary. One of them is going on a trip to Europe in spring break so we are making use of it.
2/11/2013 10:28:17	Elementary	No	2	Support	
2/11/2013 10:42:35	Middle	No	0	Support	
2/11/2013 10:47:58	Secondary	No	0	Support	

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2/11/2013 17:34:44	Elementary	No	0	Support	I have two children, but am fortunate to be at home; I do not require care during the extra week of spring break.
2/11/2013 18:43:36	Middle	Yes	0	Support	
2/11/2013 19:41:32	Secondary	No	0	Support	Our family LOVES! the extra week of Spring Break and supports this. We however, would like to see the hours and instruction times in each semester be the same. This year we have had different end time in the second semester from the first, we do NOT like this at all and want to see the times the same. It is confusing and difficult to manage the two different end times. Please, please, please correct this!
2/11/2013 20:09:16	Middle	No	0	Support	
2/11/2013 20:45:34	Elementary	No	0	Support	I would love to see more outdoor education.
2/11/2013 21:32:21	Elementary	Yes	1	Support	
2/11/2013 21:43:37	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Support	Having the extra time together at spring break is a positive for our family. Having a break that is in line with other districts in our area only makes sense.
2/11/2013 22:32:10	Elementary	No	2	Support	I would rather have a longer summer break as well. How about we have 3-4 months off in the summer and school goes until 4pm, or so?
2/11/2013 22:50:19	Elementary, Secondary	No	0	Support	
2/11/2013 23:45:04	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Support	
2/12/2013 2:41:37	Elementary	No	2	Support	It is difficult to give a true opinion in a two week spring break when we haven't had one yet.
2/12/2013 7:14:21	Middle	No	0	Support	
2/12/2013 7:15:58	Elementary	No	1	Support	

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2/12/2013 8:18:20	Elementary	No	0	Support	
2/12/2013 8:19:39	Elementary	Yes	0	Support	<p>Any cuts to education are difficult to swallow but if 5 school closure days means we save programs and staff to support students for a higher quality education when they are here it is necessary. If the 2 week spring break is voted down the money will just come from reducing another service in the system, my fear is that we won't see another survey asking us whether or not we support those cuts.</p> <p>I am also curious why I was asked to self-identify as a district employee? Does that mean that my feedback will be handled differently than any other parent? Is there a reason why? Just curious and thank you for taking the time to reach out to get more parent feedback on this issue, it is important.</p>
2/12/2013 8:32:05	Elementary	Yes	1	Support	I am not pleased I had to choose one option. I do not feel strongly either way as this is my first child in his first year of instruction.
2/12/2013 8:38:37	Elementary, Middle	No	2	Support	I prefer that there are several longer breaks during the year than a 10 week summer vacation. My children struggle with the return to school following the long absence.
2/12/2013 8:48:55	Elementary, Middle	No	3	Support	We love the 2 week spring break. Gives us the chance to take a holiday or just spend more time together as a family. One week is just too short.
2/12/2013 8:52:11	Elementary, Middle	Yes	0	Support	
2/12/2013 8:53:23	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Support	Don't particularly like the 3 day week (where there is a Monday and a Friday off in the same week). There is one proposed for next year (Oct. 14 and Oct. 18) Not a lot can get done in a three day week. Teachers usually forgo homework, etc. Would prefer two 4 day weeks and also makes for a 4 day long weekend. Thank You!
2/12/2013 9:09:31	Elementary	No	0	Support	
2/12/2013 9:17:37	Elementary	No	2	Support	

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2/12/2013 9:26:23	Elementary	No	1	Support	Too many non-instructional days for one. And, a better balance between Statutory Holidays and non-instructional days is needed. For example, why have Oct 18 as a non-instructional day right after Oct 14 Thanksgiving? It means a 3 day school week which is what has happened this year with Feb 15/13. Either combine it with Thanksgiving or give up either the Oct or Sept non-instructional day.
2/12/2013 9:39:56	Elementary	No	0	Support	The spring break does not impact me now as I am a stay at home mom. I think it would impact those that do work as it costs a lot to have their children in camps and care. I am for the 2 week break as I find the children need it and one week is not enough. Having said that I think that it would be nice if there was something that could be done for those parents that have to pay for care for the extra week of care that could make it more affordable as I may be in that position in a few years myself. Other than that it is great for the children and that is what matters the most in the long run!
2/12/2013 10:23:24	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	
2/12/2013 10:24:11	Middle, Secondary	No	3	Support	
2/12/2013 10:33:22	Elementary, Middle	No	1	Support	
2/12/2013 10:39:13	Elementary	No	1	Support	
2/12/2013 10:47:15	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	
2/12/2013 10:47:24	Middle	No	1	Support	Our younger child attends elementary school in Victoria district, so having a two-week spring break makes it so both kids have the same length of spring break. For that reason, we support it, but given the option, we would rather have both kids have a one-week break. By the time the two-week break is over, the kids have gotten completely out of the school routine, and they get back into it just in time for end of the year activities to start. There is no benefit to a two-week break other than the financial benefit to the district.
2/12/2013 10:50:58	Middle	No	0	Support	
2/12/2013 10:59:21	Middle	No	0	Support	

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2/12/2013 11:17:30	Elementary	No	1	Support	If a two week spring break can assist the bottom line for SD63 I am in support. I can find care for my child or arrange to work from home for the additional week so it is not a big issue for me.
2/12/2013 11:24:32	Middle	No	0	Support	
2/12/2013 11:40:13	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	I fully support a 2 week Spring Break for our children. I noticed that our children suffered less illnesses which lead to less sick days following the 2 week break last year. The children need a break from each other for not only health reasons but also social reasons. My children were happy to return to school after 2 weeks and were excited to see their friends and teachers verses 1 week. They are children and need time away from the stress of school and routine. In my opinion it would be a mistake to return to a 1 week Spring Break.
2/12/2013 11:46:39	Elementary	No	1	Support	
2/12/2013 12:04:18	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Support	
2/12/2013 12:36:32	Elementary, Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	We really like the idea of a two week spring break!
2/12/2013 13:23:25	Elementary	No	1	Support	
2/12/2013 13:29:09	Elementary	No	0	Support	love the two week Spring Break - other school districts support it, and it stinks to be the kid who only gets one week.
2/12/2013 15:59:10	Elementary	Yes	2	Support	I work for the SD63 but just as a Student Monitor at lunch. Hours a week and the rest of the time I'm at-home-Mom. The two week spring break does not affect my family needing extra care.

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2/12/2013 16:00:07	Middle	No	1	Support	It is difficult to find camps for children in middle school and it is too long of a period to leave them unsupervised. I also believe it is a large break from learning with also having the 2 week holiday break however I understand you have budget constraints. The off - setting cost to parents makes it difficult with their budgets as well. Perhaps it would be good if the schools could coordinate with the rec centres about providing camps for older children if the school district needs to go with the 2 week break.
2/12/2013 16:47:20	Elementary, Secondary	No	1	Support	I like the 2-week Spring Break idea. Indeed, I think all vacation periods should be fairly long. With that in mind, I would prefer extending each school day (15 minutes or whatever's required) to allow for an extra couple of weeks off during the summer (close schools earlier in June, and then start up again later in September --- i.e., holidays from June 20 until September 10).
2/12/2013 17:43:31	Middle	No	2	Support	
2/12/2013 17:57:28	Elementary	Yes	0	Support	
2/12/2013 17:57:43	Elementary	Yes	0	Support	
2/12/2013 18:05:18	Elementary	Yes	0	Support	
2/12/2013 18:36:37	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Support	
2/12/2013 19:27:06	Elementary, Secondary	No	1	Support	
2/12/2013 19:33:38	Elementary	No	2	Support	I am in support of the two week spring break. I feel that it is a much needed break for the children to get rejuvenated for the remainder of the year. My husband and I have fairly flexible employers and most often we are able to make our schedules work when needed for the kids (5 & 7 years). I like the placement of most of the pro-d days. Might be nice if some of them coincided with the long weekends. But I like that there is a day almost every month.

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2/12/2013 20:26:27	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	The 2 week break during the second term of high school makes it difficult for students to get to after school jobs because of the extended day. It would be preferable to have the day start earlier then later. The longer break makes it easier to plan holidays as we work in a nearby district and the holidays should be synchronized so that all students and their parents can travel together without having to miss valuable school time. It is also a good time to take a driving class and the longer time period will help to facilitate this class.
2/12/2013 20:50:11	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	
2/12/2013 21:13:20	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	Please align the break with the other local school districts. We have family members in more than one local district.
2/12/2013 21:42:39	Elementary	Yes	2	Support	<p>Wonderful time to connect with our kids. Everywhere else is doing it...when we don't (1 week spring breaks) the kids feel disenfranchised and left out of the holidays when they have to attend school while their friends are off enjoying the break, particularly with all the interesting activities put on by organizations around town.</p> <p>The 2 week spring break helps our international students have the opportunity for activities & trip and socialization outside the formal classroom setting.</p>
2/12/2013 22:16:29	Middle	No	1	Support	<p>We have a child in SD #61 as well who enjoys a 2 week spring break -- I think the districts should match their time off and weeks to make it easier for parents to schedule holidays, day care, camps etc.</p> <p>I fully support a 2 week break which gives families and teachers enough time to take holidays and catch up on other aspects of their busy lives.</p>
2/12/2013 22:23:44	Elementary, Middle, Secondary	Yes	0	Support	My children (3) go between 2 different households; the 2 week break allows both families time with the children; it effects our family in a positive way. I fully support it!
2/12/2013 22:33:39	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Support	Yes I fully support two weeks, and now could you send out another questionnaire asking parents whether they would like music lessons as part of our school curriculum as currently it is zero. I bet many parents are unaware.

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2/12/2013 22:40:23	Elementary, Middle, Secondary	Yes	0	Support	my children share another home with their mother; this allows both families/households to have time at the break.
2/12/2013 23:03:17	Elementary	No	0	Support	
2/12/2013 23:23:11	Elementary	No	0	Support	I currently work for Greater Victoria school District where they have had a 2 week spring break for a few years.
2/12/2013 23:44:59	Elementary	No	1	Support	I feel that all districts should be in agreement to have a two week Spring Break. Consistency is very important.
2/13/2013 7:21:20	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Support	
2/13/2013 7:25:16	Elementary	No	2	Support	
2/13/2013 7:35:45	Elementary	Yes	2	Support	I support a 2 week spring break but would like to see it combined with Easter. As well, if there is family day again a NID day in combination would be easier on families to find child minding.
2/13/2013 8:19:24	Elementary, Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	We support the 2 week break.
2/13/2013 8:36:38	Elementary	No	1	Support	
2/13/2013 9:22:55	Elementary, Middle	No	1	Support	I support it as long as it coincides with the Victoria School district dates as I have a child in that District as well.
2/13/2013 9:29:31	Elementary	No	0	Support	
2/13/2013 9:52:16	Elementary	No	0	Support	
2/13/2013 10:08:58	Elementary	No	2	Support	

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2/13/2013 10:26:04	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Support	I am in favour of a 2 week spring break as I am a stay at home mom and this would allow for some time away with the family. I am concerned, however, at the continual reduction in instructional hours. (reduced again from last year's schedule even with the 2 week break.) - If this helps with budgeting I understand, I just don't want to set a precedent for decreasing instruction. Thank you.
2/13/2013 10:37:35	Elementary	No	2	Support	
2/13/2013 11:14:38	Elementary	Yes	0	Support	
2/13/2013 11:22:06	Middle	No	1	Support	Definitely challenging to get care for a longer period of time (2 weeks), and can be financially taxing, for families with younger children. As a single mom I couldn't have afforded to pay for care for 2 weeks full time mid-year. Now that my son is older and is able to care for himself while I work from home we are able to manage a two week break from school. I believe that the kids really need that time off but that has to be balanced with the abilities of families to find care for their children through this time, as well as the amount of affordable care available.
2/13/2013 12:47:32	Elementary	No	1	Support	
2/13/2013 13:00:15	Elementary	No	0	Support	
2/13/2013 14:14:05	Middle	No	1	Support	
2/13/2013 14:14:20	Middle	No	1	Support	
2/13/2013 14:25:20	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	
2/13/2013 14:39:10	Elementary	No	0	Support	We feel that a two week break is ideal as it allows a long enough period of time to refresh the children's enthusiasm and energy for school. We find that otherwise the children become a bit burned out and tired of the school routine during the long January to June period of time.

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2/13/2013 14:45:34	Elementary, Middle, Secondary	No	5	Support	
2/13/2013 15:07:24	Elementary	No	2	Support	Would be congruent with Victoria school district break thus creating consistency and grouping if my kids with other parents for rotation of child are should other means not be available
2/13/2013 17:03:21	Middle	No	1	Support	A 2 week spring break is great
2/13/2013 18:04:28	Elementary, Middle	Yes	0	Support	I need a two week break and so do my kids. We need more family time and are looking forward to a vacation together.
2/13/2013 19:19:10	Middle	Yes	0	Support	
2/13/2013 20:21:44	Elementary	Yes	2	Support	
2/13/2013 20:46:49	Elementary	No	1	Support	We will just change our vacation schedule and make use of the 2 weeks Spring Break. We are fortunate enough to be able to take time off work.
2/13/2013 21:09:18	Elementary	No	2	Support	two weeks at maximum. we have made it work so far, just need the advanced warning and a tax credit for the extra care would be nice.
2/13/2013 21:10:04	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Support	children need a good break before exams - some r&r time - one week is not enough
2/14/2013 0:53:29	Elementary, Middle, Secondary	Yes	0	Support	Time for us to connect as a family and time for me as a professional to recharge and organize for the final term of learning.
2/14/2013 7:34:54	Elementary	No	1	Support	I am in support of the 2012-13 calendar year and the proposed 2013-14 calendar year. Our children deserve to have rested and functional instructional personnel in their classrooms. There's a good possibility there could be more positive outcomes with rested, refreshed and rejuvenated teachers and students, and performance by all could be achieved for a win-win outcome.
2/14/2013 9:34:44	Elementary, Secondary	Yes	2	Support	

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2/14/2013 9:51:15	Elementary, Middle	No	1	Support	We appreciate the longer spring break and don't mind the time changes to the school schedules to accommodate it. There has been no negative impact on our family with these changes to the 2012/2013 school year.
2/14/2013 10:11:06	Secondary	Yes	1	Support	
2/14/2013 10:25:29	Middle	Yes	0	Support	Families have students in schools around the city and having all school breaks coordinated is the best thing for all.
2/14/2013 11:01:48	Secondary	Yes	0	Support	
2/14/2013 11:51:48	Middle	No	0	Support	
2/14/2013 12:18:25	Elementary	No	3	Support	
2/14/2013 12:58:57	Middle	No	0	Support	I am a YFC and my children are adults. I have answered these questions as STAFF Thanks
2/14/2013 16:49:38	None of the above	Yes	2	Support	I love it, because my son and niece both have 2 weeks in two different school districts that I currently work in (Saanich) SD62 and #93 (French). It would also be helpful if all the districts tried to coordinate the weeks off...it just so happens this next year both Saanich and my sons school board are proposing the same two weeks off (first time in 7 years!!) We can have a spring break together :).
2/14/2013 20:04:17	Elementary, Secondary	Yes	0	Support	
2/14/2013 20:44:14	Elementary, Middle	No	3	Support	
2/15/2013 8:41:34	Elementary	Yes	2	Support	Time off is important to children to experience life and learn outside the classroom
2/15/2013 9:29:51	Elementary, Middle	No	3	Support	The Christmas vacation concerns me. Closing so close to Xmas does not allow for some pre xmas celebration and relaxation. It is also too short. Very unhappy about this.
2/15/2013 11:26:58	Middle	No	0	Support	

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2/15/2013 13:34:56	Elementary, Middle	Yes	0	Support	
2/15/2013 21:57:12	Elementary, Middle	Yes	1	Support	Our youngest child is in the Victoria district and the other is in Saanich so it would greatly simplify things if the spring break dates were all the same!
2/16/2013 7:50:30	Middle	No	1	Support	Can you move the Feb Prod D day so it before Family Day not after? Thanks
2/17/2013 9:01:33	Middle, Secondary	No	0	Support	The two week break would be better if there wasn't the 4 day back to school period between spring break and Easter. It does not make sense being at school for four days and then another break.
2/17/2013 15:38:34	None of the above	Yes	0	Support	
2/18/2013 7:11:38	Elementary	No	1	Support	
2/18/2013 8:44:54	Middle	Yes	0	Support	
2/18/2013 13:06:49	Elementary	No	2	Support	Hello, I would like to voice my support for a 2-week spring break, as it allows families to take a vacation without missing additional school days, which is quite hard with a 1-week spring break. Also, it would be nice to see the school district settle on a preference for this and update the 6-year calendar so families can plan in advance. Currently the Saanich School district 63 six year calendar shows a 6-year calendar from 2006/7 to 2012/13. This is not very helpful for families planning spring break or Christmas vacations for upcoming years. Many holidays require planning of 1 year or more, and this is very difficult to do when the school calendar seems up in the air until the last minute. It would be nice to see a Saanich school calendar that actually went 2-3 years forward instead of showing the past. Thank you.
2/18/2013 13:43:53	Elementary	No	1	Support	
2/18/2013 17:42:20	Elementary, Middle	No	2	Support	

2013-14 SD63 PROPOSED CALENDAR SURVEY - 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.
2/18/2013 18:16:13	Elementary	No	1	Support	The only thing I don't like about the proposed schedule is the 3 day week in October, I would prefer to see two 4 day weeks - off the Friday before the holiday Monday.
2/19/2013 12:31:49	Elementary	No	1	Support	
2/19/2013 12:32:28	Middle, Secondary	No	3	Support	
2/19/2013 12:33:38	Elementary	No	1	Support	
2/19/2013 12:34:24	Elementary	Yes	0	Support	
2/19/2013 12:35:01	Elementary	No	0	Support	
2/19/2013 12:35:40	Elementary	No	0	Support	
2/19/2013 12:39:20	Middle	No	0	Support	I would like the SD63 to look at a 12 month calendar allowing a school, elementary, middle and high school to try on a trial basis and see if enrollment may increase in different areas allowing others to enjoy their time with their families
2/19/2013 12:39:57	Elementary	No	2	Support	It is good the way it is.
2/19/2013 12:40:33	Elementary	No	2	Support	
2/19/2013 12:41:12	Elementary, Middle	No	0	Support	