

**Wednesday, January 18, 2012**

## **SD 68 Update 68 – Snow Conditions and Decision to Keep Schools Open**

This morning, the decision was made to keep schools open today and to have the school buses operate on their regular runs. The buses for students with special needs were cancelled.

A decision about whether schools are closed is made early in the morning – by 5:30 a.m. – in order to notify everyone in the district. At the time the decision was made this morning, roads were in relatively good condition, the snowfall was light, and the forecast was for the snow to stop.

The conditions changed significantly over the next two hours during the time that people were travelling to school and work. At about 8:55 a.m., Environment Canada changed the forecast to issue a snowfall warning for east Vancouver Island. All school buses did complete their runs this morning with no incidents.

At this time, schools remain in session and the district is monitoring the situation with the road conditions and weather forecasts.

On days with inclement weather there is seldom unanimous support for a decision to close schools or to keep them open.

The district's decisions are based upon official information about road conditions as well as a review by our own transportation department, and consideration of all known factors, including temperatures and other weather information.

With such a large geographic area, the conditions at individual school sites may vary, and this is also a consideration.

The district's priority is to take every reasonable step to have schools open and students engaged in learning. We know that closures can be a real hardship for many families.

Even if schools are open, parents are encouraged to make their own decisions, based on their own circumstances, about whether or not their children should attend school on any given day.