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### EDUCATION: Extra-curricular activities have been cancelled for public elementary students

# Teachers work to rule

BY JENNIFER BROWN  
 STAFF WRITER

Choir practice, house-league sports and after-school tutoring are no longer available to public elementary students in York Region.

Teachers withdrew from all extra-curricular activities as of yesterday — a week after they approved a strike mandate for their union.

"It's a late-breaking trend," said Maria Gillespie, principal of Armadale Public School in Markham. "We were doing all kinds of things and then teachers received a directive from the federation (union) that voluntary services be discouraged."

As a result, Gillespie's morning announcements yesterday included the news that all lunchtime and after-school extra-curricular activities would be postponed until further notice.

"It's disappointing for kids who were excited about doing house-league and choir, but they'll find other things to do while the weather is still nice," Gillespie said.

The teachers have been told by their union to arrive at school just 15 minutes before classes begin and leave 15 minutes after they end — the minimum requirements under the Education Act.

Provincial union president Phyllis Benedict said the withdrawal of services is a natural progression following a strike vote.

"The two actions go hand-in-hand. We felt it was better to stop at this time rather than mid-stream. It was a very difficult decision for elementary teachers, as these activities are an important part of being a teacher," she said.

For now, teachers are being told by their union to focus on the classroom.

The union returns to the negotiation table with the board Wednesday.

Board vice-president Karen Barker said staff plan to monitor the impact of the teachers' actions this week.

Benedict said concerned parents should be pressuring trustees to reach a settlement with the teachers.

"It's unfortunate we had to take action to begin with, so if parents are upset, they should focus it in the right direction and push to get a resolution," Benedict said.

**"It's disappointing for kids who were excited about doing house-league and choir, but they'll find other things to do while the weather is still nice."**

Extra-curricular activities have been banned at York's public high schools since the first day of school.

And even though their union has scheduled talks to continue today and Wednesday, high school teachers won't consider restoring extra-curricular until they get a contract.

"We're encouraging members at this time not to be planning trips, and any trip that has been planned for a year or more, where money was collected, will have to be judged on its merit," said Gerry Harrison, local president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation.

Any teachers who defy the union order by participating in extra-curricular activities could face financial penalties amounting to "thousands of dollars," he added.

"We're not talking. Oh, you were a

bad person." We're talking serious consequences," he said.

Each school has a rules committee, which deals with any teacher who does not follow union directives.

If needed, the matter is passed to the district level, as was the case last month with a Sutton field hockey coach.

The teacher, scheduled to escort her team on a tour of England, received a special exemption from the union so she could go.

Until contracts are settled though, Harrison said teachers will be focusing their time in the classroom.

"This government hasn't put any money into extra-curricular activities. But, sure, I'd like to see extra-curricular activities happen. I see it as a valuable aspect of school life," he said.

High school students from across the region are planning a rally tomorrow outside the board's offices in Aurora, demanding extra-curricular activities be restored.

Meanwhile York Region's Catholic teachers, who were ordered back to work last week, have been told to judge for themselves whether they want to take part in extra-curricular activities.

"Because of the (back-to-work) legislation and the question of whether work-to-rule could be considered a strike, we have left it up to each individual teacher to make the choice until we have a settlement," said Claire Laughlin, local vice-president of the English Catholic teachers union.

With three weeks of class time lost to the strike, Laughlin wonders whether there will be any time for extra-curricular activities once it is decided how the lost time will be recovered.

"Everything's in limbo," she said.

Come  
 To Church  
 On Sunday

**STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
 34 Church St. N. 640-1163  
 Worship Minister: Rev. Robert Nightingale  
 Education Minister: Nancy Monteith  
**Sunday, October 11, 1998**  
 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
 Saturday October 17, 1998 - Retreat Workshop  
 Sunday School from Baby Fold to the Grade 8 level  
*Everyone Welcome*

**BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH**  
 (South of 47 Highway formerly Bloomington Rd.)  
 Pastor: Dr. John Howarth  
**Sunday, October 11, 1998**  
 9:45 a.m. - Thanksgiving Sunday Speaker - Miss Carole Balm Chosen People Ministries  
 "The Fall Feasts of Israel"  
 Pastor John is out of town  
 Anniversary Service Oct. 18  
 No Evening Service  
*Everyone Welcome*

**THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH**  
 254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville  
 The Rev. Robert A. Shields 640-1461  
**October 11th, 1998**  
**19th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Thanksgiving Sunday**  
 8:00 a.m. - Holy Communion  
 10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist  
 Nursery and Church School provided  
**Everyone Welcome!**

**Parkview Village**  
 12184 Ninth Line South  
 Stouffville  
**Sunday, October 11, 1998**  
 Rev. Howard Minaker  
 Bethel Pentecostal Assembly  
 Thanksgiving Service  
 7:00 pm - Auditorium

**VIVIAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 473-3543  
 On Hwy. 48 at Vivian Rd.  
 Pastor Robert Okum  
 Holding forth the doctrines of grace  
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
 7:00 p.m. - Evening Service  
*Everyone is Welcome*

**WIDEMAN MENNONITE CHURCH**  
 10530 Hwy. 48 - North of Major Mackenzie Phone: 640-6219  
 Interim Pastor Henry Regehr  
**Sunday, October 11th, 1998**  
 9:45 am - Christian Education  
 10:45 am - Youth Pastor Sue Fallon and Youth  
 7:00 pm - No Evening Service  
 Oct. 12, 1998 Thanksgiving Service  
 at Rouge Valley Church 10am  
*Everyone Welcome*

**STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
 6853 Main St., Stouffville 640-5696  
**Sunday, October 11th 1998**  
 9:30 am Worship & The Word  
 11:00 am Friendship Service  
 (Sunday School for ages 3-12 runs concurrent with this service)  
 6:00 pm - Renewal Service

**STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 A Fellowship Church  
 6273 Main Street  
 Pastor - Rev. Gordon Bickle  
 Asst. Pastor - Gordon MacCormack  
**Sunday, October 11th, 1998**  
**"Thanksgiving"**  
 10:00 a.m. Bible Class  
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
 Thanksgiving Message  
 Communion  
 Music - Mrs. Francesca Wright  
**Wednesday 2 pm**  
 Bible Study & Prayer  
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**Springvale Baptist Church**  
 Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.  
**887-5651**  
 Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming  
 Associate Pastor: Bill Thornton  
 Associate Pastor/Student Ministries: Brian G. Simcoe  
 Worship & Music Co-ordinator: Heather Thornton  
 Children's Ministries Co-Ordinator: Sharon Russell  
**CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF MINISTRY**  
**Sunday, October 11th, 1998**  
**9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**  
**Worship Service**  
**Pastor Bob Flemming**  
**Series: Eph. (A Beautiful Bride)**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**No Evening Service**  
**10:00 AM**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**Wednesday, at**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Kids Clubs**  
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