

NVPAC 2010 Survey Results

Survey Questions sent out via email to all PACs:

Would you like to consider changing the 2009 ♦ 2010 school year schedule to close schools during the Olympics in February 2010. "YES" or "NO"

Duration of Survey: April 14th, 2008-May 9th, 2008 (26 days)

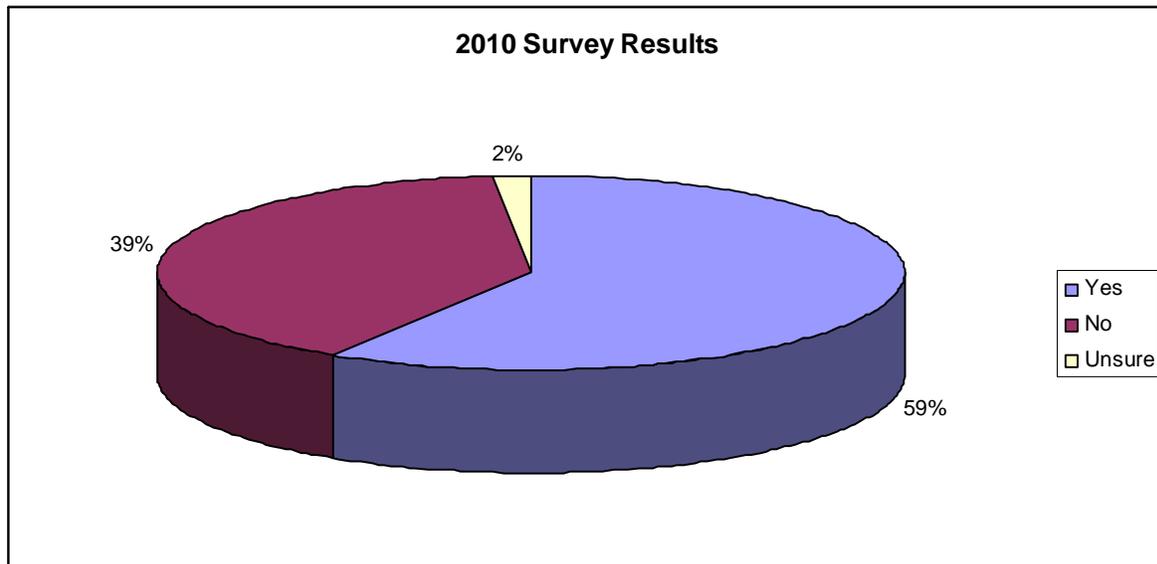
Number of Respondents: 903

Final Count:

Yes: 531

No: 355

Other: 16



Comments: 903 parents participated in this survey over a 4 week period. Although not exactly evenly split in the "yes" and "no" responses, both sides of the question were adequately represented. Many parents expressed their thanks in being asked.

Compilation of responses from parents:

Yes. Close school for 2 weeks, but this should be instead of or part of Spring Break.

YES!!!! Why would we ask the would to come and then miss it ourselves?

We vote, "Yes" to holding spring break during the Olympics week in February 2010.

No, keep the calendar as is.

Hi there, I would love to have the schools closed during the Olympics. Thanks for asking! My daughter will join Cove Cliff in the 2009/2010 year in Kindergarten.

Yes, provided this is March Break early, I don't want to loose summer holidays.

**Hi, Yes I would like this suggestion for closing schools during 2010 olympic games.
Thank you**

NO... The 2010 Olympics are already costing the province - please don't add over a full week of lost education time to that cost. Many families, some of whom will have more than one child, will be forced to find and pay for childcare.

An alternative might be to provide all students in the district an opportunity to watch specific "finals" if a Canadian athlete is in medal contention (either via a big screen in auditorium or theatre, or individual TVs in the classrooms...)

NO. I am strongly opposed. I don't think the Olympics schedule should effect schooling.

I vote NO. I absolutely oppose the closure of schools during the Olympics. Not all children will be able to attend the Olympics for obvious reasons of expense, February is an extremely awkward time for a break (so soon after Christmas, leaving such a big gap until summer), the weather is terrible, many parents rely on school being open in order to work.

YES, please change the school schedule to allow students to attend the Olympics - a once in a lifetime opportunity.

No, childcare will be impossible and only add to all the mayhem as many people will not be able to take time off work.

No - I do not want to school to close for two weeks during the olympics.

I am a parent from Carson Graham. reasons:

1. care must be provided while the student is at home. ie. one of the parent may need to be home.
2. students are not necessarily volunteering or attending the games.

The answer to the above question is YES!!!! I believe it makes the most sense to have the kids off during this time. It would provide an opportunity for the kids to go and see this Once in a Lifetime Event, and it would also help decrease the traffic congestion in North Vancouver.

Yes to school closure during the Olympics – great idea.

No.. no school closure in Feb. if it means less time for a longer spring break holiday

YES-Provided there are not further closures for `spring break` and Xmas break is not an extended one; i.e., the kids still need to get their schooling in!

Our answer to the question about closing the schools during the Olympics is NO. The reality is most of us will only be able to attend few selected events and for working parents, work will continue. Shutting down the schools will put a lot of parents in a difficult position.

I don't agree of the school to be closed. The kids needs to be in school to learn. This is stupid action from who ever is in charge of having the school closed. I don't see the reason for the question. Don't you think so!!!!!!????

Yes, I would consider a revised school schedule for the 2010 olympics

My opinion is that schools should not be closed during the olympics.

I would strongly object to closing the school during the weeks of the Olympics.

Yes I would like to hear what options might be available...but if it is simply to move Spring Break up to an earlier date - it would make for a very long year for our students when it is normally end of March. But I am open to hearing ideas on the subject and evaluating ideas from there.

Thanks for all of your great work.

If this means we would miss the March break, then my answer is NO, I would not like the schools closed for the Olympics. Unfortunately, your question leaves room for further questions, and if left unexplained, it's difficult to provide an accurate answer. If you have elaborated on how this reflects on the rest of the school year, I would appreciate seeing it.

Hi there, I do not like the idea of closing schools for olympic. Education always comes first for my kids.

YES - if other districts close (should not be district by district)

I am not in support of this closure unless it replaces the normal spring break closure and is not in addition to it. Thanks

What are the kids going to do? Stay home and watch the games on TV? Tell you what -- you get us tickets to the events and then we'll skip school. This is a really, *really* stupid idea.

Does this mean we will change the Spring Break or are they going to have 2 weeks off during Olympics AND then Spring Break the next month? If we are moving Spring Break, then I vote "yes". If it is in addition to Spring Break, then I vote "no". Could someone reply to my email and let me know so that I can tell the rest of the parents at our school?

Please just keep the school year the same. We don't need to change the kids lives just because of the games

No.but in the case they were closed, when would,or would the time lost be made up?

As a parent of then 2 kids in elementary school, I would support a 2 week closure of school during the 2010 Winter Games. Having participated at the games myself and attended and watched other games as a spectator, I will want my kids to also be able to attend events here in Vancouver.

YES, subject to the details of how the lost time will be made up.

Sure, close the schools anytime. I think that kids need more time off, seriously.
Thank you

It would be an option, so we could go out of town for the two weeks the Olympics are on in Vancouver.

I would not be interested in having the school year schedule changed to coincide with the Olympics since we are not intending to attend any of the events. Our children are not old enough to sit through enough of an Olympic event to warrant paying the high price of attending one.

Why should the schools close? Where would the children go? They don't compete, events are too expensive to attend, they are too young to volunteer

The schools should absolutely close for the two weeks during the Olympics. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for all of us to enjoy.

PS Even if the schools do not officially close, we will not be sending our children!

Leave spring break where it is, But perhaps offer up "credit time" for those participating in the events....most likely with cost etc, many families will not be attending the entire time anyhow and for those few events they do want to attend, kids can simply be pulled out of school for the day.

Yes I would like the schools to close down during the Olympics. I work in the WVan school district and they are doing the same thing. I would make life easier!

"YES" absolutely with no "make up" time

Yes, one week only instead of two.

Absolutely NOT!

It comes so soon after a two week Christmas break, leaving 4 1/2 months without a break. Weather will probably be terrible, so sending the kids outside to play will be unlikely. For those of us not rich enough to afford tickets to events, or to fly somewhere warm, two weeks in February will be too long to fill in the time and keep the kids occupied and happy.

Some teachers live in other districts, and if their kids' districts don't close down for February, that leaves them working while their kids enjoy a spring break in March, making travel impossible and day care an issue.

SPRING BREAK DATED SHOULD NOT BE ALTERED BECAUSE OF THE OLYMPICS!!!

Mark me down as a YES for closing the school during the Olympics. We will likely be leaving town regardless of whether or not school is in session to avoid the associated hassle of the Olympics.

No I would not like to consider changing the 2009 - 2010 school year schedule to close schools during the Olympics games....I think it's a great thing for the city and hope the children will have opportunities to attend, however, I don't believe many employers will give parents the time off work during this time period - so children will have to go to daycare rather than the Olympics.

YES" Just wondering if this would mean no break in March and/or a shortened summer break?
Thanks

I am glad we are finally being asked this question as parents of children living on the Northshore. Traffic is going to be gridlocked. Many families will be attending events. Many families will be volunteering. Many families will choose to travel out of town. Our catchment area (Montroyal) will be one of those significantly affected being on a main route to two of the major tourist sites - Grouse Mountain and Capilano Suspension Bridge. I would vote for school to close for more than the actual 2 weeks - several days before and several days after - up to 3 weeks. We could start school early in August and stay in school later into July. Sincerely, parent of 2 children in Grade 7 this year - will be in Grade 9 -

My answer would be NO. But perhaps the school could work some time into the schedule to have the kids watch a particular sport during class time. Maybe the class could vote on the sport they would be interested in watching and perhaps some assignments related to the sport would be given to the class.

NO. NO. NO. NO.

I think if parents choose to take their children out of school during this period, then that is their personal choice. I do not understand why we would even consider altering our regular school year to accommodate the relatively few families/students that might choose to attend the Olympics. Absolutely ridiculous, especially since we would have barely returned from Xmas vacation and it is then a long haul through to the end of June for both students and staff. I think the current break schedule is well timed and works to support both efficient teaching and effective study habits. NO, again

Yes. Please consider changing the 2009 -2010 school year for the Olympics.

This should be supported by our schools to enable participation and those who wish to volunteer.

No, they should not, they already get enough time off already!!

I do not think we should revise the school year surrounding the 2010 Olympics. I support the Olympics but not to revise my child's school around it's schedule.

People are asking how the time would be made up if the school district made this 2 week closure. Thanks

It would probably be important to whether parents support this or not. Thanks!

Sound like a good idea, these two weeks could also be considered "Physical Education Week" with different activities been organized for the week.

No I would not be interested in pursuing this issue due to day care issues. If day care costs could be resolved then I would have no objection.

This question is a little vague...would this proposed closure in February be instead of the regular closures, or in addition to?

If it is in addition to, then my vote would be "NO".

Thank you.

I would vote a "Yes", feeling that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Our Son will be in grade 9 at the time, there may be many opportunities he would benefit from during the games.

Thank you for soliciting our voice!

Hello Ms. Smith, Some other moms and I were chatting and we thought it would be great for the North Van schools to close for 1 week during the games and then have another week off around the Good Friday/Easter Monday break in March/April (not sure when it falls that year). We are most interested in a revised schedule but aren't sure that the whole 2 weeks off is the best solution as some felt that it would be a very long stretch post games to the end of the school year

NO, I do not want my kids to miss 2 weeks of school unless you change spring break to coincide with the Olympics.

No. However, I'd say "yes" if the students used the time off to volunteer for the olympics.

"NO" This answer is without the benefit of any information, such as whether this is instead of Spring Break. It is assumed then that the question is about extra time off in the school year.

NO is my answer, the school schedule should not be modified. For that two week period, the curriculum in classes of every grade level should focus on each sport participating in the Olympics. Small studies should take place and various events should be watched on television either within the classroom or gymnasium, bringing the school together as a whole community. Paralympics included – Our children need to be educated and what a better forum than the classroom environment. Many families will most likely be attending certain events but only a select few will be attending events every day for the two week period (longer, if you include the Paralympics). Many parents have to continue working within the 2010 Olympics, and if our children have the time off, parents will have to pay for other forms of child minding. If parents choose to withdraw their children from school then that is their prerogative BUT class should be in session and teachers should be accountable for that timeframe.

Yes replace spring break with Olympics school closure

YES we would like to see schools close for 2 weeks over the Olympics. Perhaps Spring Break could be shortened or eliminated in 2010 to help offset lost days.

To Whom it May Concern,

I don't feel that school closures are necessary during the 2010 olympics. A decision to close the school would be based on several assumptions that may not be correct:

1. All students not attending school would have the opportunity to attend olympic events;
2. All the parents of these children would have time and money to take those children to Olympic events;
3. In lieu of attending olympic events, all parents would be satisfied with their children sitting home and watching those events on television, potentially unsupervised, while their parents are at work; and
4. All people not interested in watching/attending olympic events have the time, money, desire to take a forced vacation to accommodate for the fact that the schools have been closed. I think it would be appropriate to view some olympic events during school time, take some winter-olympic themed field trips (skiing, skating, etc.) and do some olympic projects at school. There may be families who choose to leave town or remove their children from school during the olympics, but that is their own decision to make.

Yes, I do agree as long as the time is reallocated and they will not miss days throughout the year.

My response= YES as long as it does not impact the grade 12 post secondary application process or timing.

Our answer is 'no'. While athletics and physical education are an integral part of our children's school experience, I feel that prioritizing the Olympic schedule over what is best for our children would be a serious error in judgement. For many children, spring break is a mid term break which allows them an opportunity to rest and re-focus. With the break normally near the end of March, weather in Vancouver is beginning to mellow and allows opportunity for more outside play. A February break would not be beneficial to the children, as it would be too close to Christmas break and likely during one of our coldest, wettest months. Doesn't matter to me. Whatever the majority wants.

Yes I would consider bumping up Spring Break for the two week Olympic period. To be closed for both time periods would be too much even with an earlier start date or shorter Christmas/New Year break.

I have been involved in the Calgary Olympics in 1988 and now will be part of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. This is a once in a life time even and I can guarantee if we do not change the school year you will have quite a few student absent and teachers frustrated because some of the students will be behind in learning. Also the Olympics will cause such a disturbance in the city including schools that students will not be focused on learning but more on what is happening in during the Olympics. Please remember that there will many venues (concerts and shows) other than the Olympic events that will be taking place during that time to promote our wonderful city.

Hi, We think they should close, but only if the two weeks off can be tacked on to the beginning or end of the school year

yes close schools so students can participate in the olympic experience

No - keep the schools open - most kids won't be able to attend \$\$ and this will keep them engaged in what is happening - through school activities.

YES, but only if these two weeks are in place of the spring break or any other non-instructional days.

Under NO circumstances should the district consider closing school for a sport event.

YES.....It would be great to be a part of the Olympics without having to worry about keeping up with school work.

DO NOT LET OUR SCHOOLS CLOSE DURING THE OLYMPICS. My husband and I are dead set against this happening. If someone would like to speak with us we would be happy to discuss this. Our phone number is 604 988 1230.

Hi, My first question is - how long would that actually be? Secondly, given that none of the youth in school at this time, unless they are already 18 can volunteer in any capacity, what would be the benefit of this? I would appreciate more dialogue on these questions before I would say whether I favor one or the other. The only people who this might help might be staff who want the time off to volunteer. I don't think that for most students this makes much sense.

YES, It a once in a lifetime opportunity for the students of Vancouver/North Vancouver. There likely will not be an Olympic event in Vancouver again any time soon.

If they cancel the spring break insted yes I don't mind.

I would like my children to experience the Olympics and therefore feel they would benefit from having holidays at this time. Thank You,

Yes. If ALL school districts do the same. What dates would the school be closed if this were to happen? Would this replace Spring Break? It's hard to answer yes or no without more information

If this is in place of Spring Break then "YES" but not if it's an additional break for the students.

It depends. Would school go into July. I teach in Burnaby and would not want to be on a different schedule as my children.

YES YES YES, it is going to be a highways and byways nightmare and I think that schools might wish that they had closed in hindsight if they don't.

I vote NO. The school should not close for the Olympic games. Parents will still have to work on these days. Not every parent has the luxury of taking this time off. Students would therefore be unsupervised. Students will have to make up all class work that will be missed and this is a burden on students in grade 11 and 12 when it is very important to keep on top of your grades. There will be a small percentage of students that will attends these games but for the majority of students and parents life will continue as usual.

Please close the schools but only if the time will be made up, for example, no spring break.

Neither my children nor I will be attending the Olympics, but we all enjoy time off school. I would need to know what the "changes" would be before I decide. If it makes regular school days longer, it would be fine, if they take away spring break or make summer shorter it would not be fine. Thus I need to know what amendments would be made before I could make a decision.

Yes, I would definitely be infavor of changing the school year schedule to have time off over the olymics. I hope all of the districts do it!

I think that the kids should be given at least some of the time off while the Olympics are on. Spring break could perhaps be altered to accommodate some of the lost days...

This question is impossible to answer accurately without additional information identifying how a closure will impact the calendar for the entire year

Yes - I think it would be worth further consultation on closing schools during the Olympics.

No I would not like to change the calendar and close the schools during the Olympics. I think it would be a hardship for many parents including myself who have to work during this time. I also think that having a 2 week break at Christmas and then in February would affect the learning process as well. The students do not need another 2 week break, I think it is very disruptive to the learning process and the family unit. If the family is not able to take the time off, the teenage children will have 2 weeks in which the families will need to ensure the children are positively occupied while they are at work.

NO. I would prefer schools be kept open during the Olympics. The kids are too young to volunteer and most will not be attending events.

I would, at first glance, answer yes to the question. However, at what expense? Will the regular Spring Break holiday be lost as a result. The ramifications of such a decision are not clear.

I do not support the idea of closing school during the Olympics because many people will not be able to attend the events and we should attempt to remain productive in our communities during this time.

Yes. Reason: Class attendance will inevitably be uneven anyway, which could lead to extra recovery work for both teachers and students. For the sake of equality, it would be better to plan and adjust in advance.

Question: What is being planned at the post-secondary level?-

Most definitely "NO" Do you actually think that kids will be at the Olympics the entire time. It would only be a valid excuse to miss school. Also, how would this effect kids in their graduating year?

Yes. I have done two Olympics, Beijing will be my third, and Vancouver will be my fourth. This is an experience of a lifetime being brought to our city. There will be lots of events that are free as well as paid events. Volunteers are required too. The Board should consider providing this opportunity to let everyone contribute or participate.

**Greg Davey
Associate Director Olympics, IP and Broadcast Services
GM Convention Centre Services
550 Burrard St. Floor 6
Vancouver B.C. V6C 2B5
gregory.davey@bell.ca
Desk: 604-678-7507
Cell: 778-835-7507**

NO...I don't not think the school schedule should be changed for the Olympics. I think the kids would rather have the time off they have now as the weather generally is not very good during the time the Olympics are to be held and the odds of going up to Whistler are slim for many parents.

No - not for elementary schools anyway. Perhaps for high schools
Why?

Not every parent is going to be able to take off work to volunteer at the Olympic Games or leave town. Closing the schools leaves young children without their routine, their friends and potentially without activities.

As a parent of two, I would like more discussion around the closure of schools for the 2010 Olympics. As a PAC chair, I see the benefits of the Social and cultural aspects of the Olympics but am concerned about teaching days in school. I would be happy to participate in any form of information sharing on this topic and can be reached at the address below.

My Children go to Carson. I do not want the school to close or the schedule to change during the 2010 olympics. I cannot afford to take my family to the games, even if I could, it would only be for 1 or 2 days at most, definitely not enough to warrant a school closure.

I don't see a good reason to close schools during Olympics in February 2010. By closing schools it will be too much hsssel for parents and wondering around for kids.

Hi there, Not sure if you'd like my answer as I will not have a student in the NV School District in 2010 but...For all it's worth. I've heard, from many families, that they plan to be away from Vancouver during the Olympics of 2010...If that is really true it probably would be best to offer "Spring Break" during February instead of the usual March. Also, for those of us staying here it would be nice to have the opportunity for our children to volunteer at the events. A long way of saying YES.

YES We know Capilano College is closing for those two weeks. Let's make it consistent!

Yes I think this could be a good idea but How would it impact students taking provincials that year for grade 12 if at all?

Good evening, In regards to the following question from the North Vancouver School District: "Would you like to consider changing the 2009 – 2010 school year schedule to close schools during the Olympic Our answer is most definitely YES. I can not understand why this question and decision has not been made sooner. West Vancouver School District made their "positive" decision ages ago.

I don't believe the school year should be rearranged do to the Olympics If one should consider such change why not think about employers giving holidays around the same date, or maybe even closing churches down!

As noted in subject heading, I suggest closing the schools during the Olympics to either allow families to attend the games, volunteer or just escape from the Olympic chaos that we are sure to find ourselves in otherwise.

It may affect teachers though.

I am firmly opposed to the closing of schools during the Olympics. There are a sufficient number of events that will occur outside of school hours if parents want to bring their children. Parents can also pull a child out of school if they want them to see a specific event. Childcare will also be a major issue for many people as most working parents will not have the time off.

For sure, YES. If we don't it will be just messed up wasted time with Students and Teachers alike bolting to take this or that in. Or like wiser people, get the #\$\$%^ out of town.

My vote is NO. I think it would be a great learning opportunity/growth experience to be with classmates, cheering on our Canadian athletes during this time.

Yes - I believe that during this time traffic will be a nightmare, children/families might be involved in activities/volunteering and some families might use the opportunity to travel out of town to avoid the disruptions. From an educational perspective, the time to a February closure is very short and the third term will end up extremely long, but overall I am in support of school closures during the Olympics.

I am in favour of considering a revised local school calendar for the 2010 Olympics only if the school students are involved in volunteer positions organized by the school districts. Children who are too young to be involved in the games should be in class as usual.

I think it's a good idea if the kids can volunteer or be part of the Olympics. Should it be just an excuse to get traffic off the road, opening schools to house visitors, or any other reason that does not involve a direct and real benefit to the kids then I disagree with the closures.

NO (if it means added on time at end of the year) YES (if it is in lieu of the spring break) Parents can take their kids out of school to participate if they want.

YES this is a terrific idea. We must give our kids this time off. Yes yes yes.

No. We are not open to school closures. We will not be seeing many - if any events - and if we do actually get tickets, we will just take the children out of school for that particular event and date/time.

Although this does not impact our own children (both will have graduated) we feel strongly that closing school during the Olympics makes a great deal of sense....what a wonderful opportunity for youth to be involved (if possible) in something historical and patriotic...and to be able to share this with their families. Our answer to closing schools for 2 weeks during Olympics 2010...**YES**

... well, maybe 7 or 8 school days off for the break and then a couple more days at easter so that the february to june thing isn't so long.

I would only like to see the school closed during the 2010 Olympics if it replaced the springbreak but not if it was in addition to springbreak. This is too difficult for working parents to find daycare.

Hello In response to the question "should North Van schools close during the 2010 Olympics?" I would not like to have any school closures during the 2010 Olympics (we've never had them before....even though they've been held in other cities. I can't see why we'd need to close for this reason.) I would also not like to have the "March Break" moved either, for whatever it's worth. Thank you for asking

YES, I am in favor of changing spring break from March to Feb. to coincide with the Olympics. I understand that West Vancouver and Whistler has already approved the change. This is a once in a life time opportunity.

Good Morning I am in favour of closing schools for the 2 weeks during the Olympics for several reasons. I think alot of families will take the opportunity to attend events, volunteer opportunities and a chance to participate in the various cultural activities around vancouver. My vote is: YES

Yes, I would like to consider changing the school calendar for 2010 during the Olympics. It is not a yes to doing that, just a yes to the discussion.

Our kids should experience the Olympics when it is so close to home.

Yes. West Van is doing this. The North Shore should be consistent. I think many families would take their kids out during this time anyway, so it's apt to be a lost couple weeks anyway. Also less hassle for teachers commuting to the area during times when traffic will be disrupted. Plus it's a great opportunity for our kids to attend events or the public ceremonies.

LESS TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD
HELP IN THE COMMUNITY
GET OUT OF TOWN IF WE WANT!

My vote is NO! Do not close schools during the 2010 Olympics. While schools are not a babysitting service, I will have to work during the Olympics and unsupervised preteens and young teens are not a great idea. Also, our family will be very limited as to the events we can attend due to the high cost of tickets and I feel that this would further a feeling of frustration during the Olympics for my son. To be out of school, unsupervised, with a party going on that he will have little access to is not a good idea. If the plan is rent out the schools for some purpose, then my NO vote is even stronger.

YES! I would absolutely agree that the school year should be changed to encourage participation/celebration of the Olympics by students, parents, and educators. I think, otherwise, the 2 weeks will be a waste, educationally. Thanks for asking the question!

NO, definitely NOT ! I don't think the school schedule should be change because of 2010 Olympic. Our children should go to school and learn to follow the Olympic events at the school as

it happen. Teachers can make it fun and educational as I happen at home following this big event. School schedule should not be change or effected by it.

Because there is no simple yes/no answer, results from questions like these can be misleading. People should be given an opportunity to present their views. Therefore, I my answer is the following: I am not a supporter of the olympics and have no intention of doing anything to "help" them. Therefore, if people are thinking of closing the schools so they can attend the olympic events, I say no.If people are planning to leave town in order to get away from the olympics, and class sizes are drastically reduced, then it makes sense to close for at least some of that period. If that happened, I would assume that there would be no further spring break time.

Hi

I have 2 children aged 8 (grade 3) and aged 13 (grade seven), currently at Montroyal School. My vote is NO to changing the school calendar for the Olypics as the children will have just had a 2 week break at the end of December! It also make childcare arrangements more difficult than they already are for working parents.

We would vote that the schools NOT close during the Olympics. While we appreciate the once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in some Olympic activities, and do, indeed, plan to participate/attend, we are a two -income family. We will not be going away for 2 weeks and renting our home (as suggested by the individual who forwarded the survey email), nor can we be home to care for our children during a two week break.

YES I think it would be a good idea as the opportunity to be part of the Olympics would be so great for the kids.

We're parents of two elementary school aged children and we say "yes" to this question as we expect many children will be taking part in the Olympic spirit and related activities. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for this City and we support this initiative. Perhaps these could be designated as pro-D days and/or an early spring break.

YES..I am also a student at SFU and they are planning on revamping their 2009 -2010 school calander year so that everyone gets the opportunity to participate in the Olympics.