

## ***Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division***

### ***2016-2017 School Year Calendar***



### ***Questions and Answers***

#### **Why do we have another week-long November break?**

The Ministry of Education changed the school year regulations in 2012. The previously required 197 school days were replaced by a mandatory minimum of 950 hours of instruction in a year. The first school day for students was to be after Labour Day. SRPSD schools lengthened their school days to ensure that we met the new required number of hours of instruction. Our school year provides 960 hours of instruction.

For the 2015-2016 school year, the Ministry accommodated the late Labour Day by directing school divisions to start school for students on September 1<sup>st</sup>. That left us with room in the school year to provide a November Break.

The same thing has happened for the 2016-2017 school year: the Ministry accommodated another late Labour Day by directing school divisions to start school for students on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. Once again, we have room in the school year for a November Break.

#### **Is there going to be a November Break every year?**

Not likely. The Ministry has not indicated any plans to move away from a post Labour Day start for students whenever feasible. Once the start of school for students is moved back to the day after Labour Day, the opportunity for a week-long break in November is greatly reduced.

#### **It seems like students are getting more holidays every year!**

The hours of instruction for students was increased when all schools moved to a minimum of 950 hours of instruction in 2012. The hours of instruction for Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division students have been the same since then.

Although there are slightly fewer days in the year, the number of hours that students are in school has actually increased since 2012 from an average of 930 to 960.

#### **It's a challenge finding child-care arrangements for the November break.**

We know that childcare spaces are difficult to find, but the number of school days for students is the same. Families would still need to make arrangements for their children to be out of school for the same number of days regardless of where those days are placed.

Our November break coincides with the break for students at the University of Saskatchewan.