



Commission scolaire English-Montréal

English Montreal School Board

Bureau du Directeur général
Office of the Director General

Montreal, March 13, 2019

RE: March 15th, 2019 DEMONSTRATIONS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Dear Parents,

As you may already be aware, an international strike movement to raise awareness on climate issues will take place on **Friday, March 15th, 2019**. Several students have expressed interest in participating in the planned demonstrations. After discussions with several school administrators, we consider it important to inform you of our position regarding this event.

The English Montreal School Board (EMSB) is concerned about climate change, and as an organization, we continuously strive to be environmentally conscious.

On March 15th, the planned demonstrations will take place during regular school hours. As this event is not an activity supervised by the school, we cannot release students from their obligation to attend class during that time. If you wish to authorize your child to participate in the demonstration, his or her absence must be reported by the parent to the school. The absence will otherwise be considered unauthorized and handled as per the school's code of conduct.

Although it is our firm belief that the fight against climate change is an important one, we encourage all of our students to attend school and not attend these demonstrations. The EMSB and the school administration cannot be held responsible for the absenteeism of any student that wishes to attend the activities related to this strike.

To that end, it goes without saying that we encourage activities within our schools that aim at raising awareness in lieu of public demonstrations.

Thank you for your understanding,

Ann Marie Matheson
Director General