

## **FAQ ON SCHOOL CALENDAR**

### **Who develops the school calendar?**

A committee is formed in the district consisting of teacher representatives from each building, one administrator and two BOE members. The group meets together to schedule vacations, conference dates, early release dates and staff development days. In addition the committee researches calendars from surrounding districts. The first draft of the calendar is presented to the Teaching and Learning Committee of the BOE. Then it is brought before the full BOE for adoption.

### **What are early release days used for?**

In the 2009-2010 calendar, two early release days are scheduled for parent conferences. Ten early release days are scheduled for professional development for our teachers. These early release days are contractual.

### **How are early release days for Professional development scheduled?**

The committee tried to schedule the early release days on the second Wednesday of each month to afford parents consistency throughout the school year. This did not work for April and June, but it worked for all other months. Teachers by contract also have 10 hours of additional Professional Development time that is scheduled for after school. This time has now been attached to the early release days to provide a longer period of time for teachers to work on curriculum and instruction.

### **Why do we have an early release day on Veterans Day?**

The committee discussed many ways to improve the November school calendar. This month has Election Day as well as parent conferences and Thanksgiving. To minimize days off for students, we scheduled school on Veterans Day. This day will be an early release day. All schools will focus on honoring veterans during this day, with ceremonies in each school. The afternoon will serve as a Professional Development time for teachers. Old Saybrook, Westbrook, Clinton, Madison, North Branford all have school on Veterans Day. Guilford uses this day as a full day for professional development.