

From: [Valene Johnson](#)
To: [Lise Bradshaw](#)
Subject: Fw: questions re: types of songs allowed/ disallowed (upcoming SD 23 School Winter concerts):
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 7:26:43 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-p5dkivlc.png](#)

The email Amy sent to David Buckna!

Valene Johnson (she/her)
School Board Trustee

Central Okanagan Public Schools, SD23
T: 250-212-3804
E: valene.johnson@sd23.bc.ca
www.sd23.bc.ca



I acknowledge that I live, work, learn, and play within the ancestral, traditional and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation.

From: Amy Geistlinger <Amy.Geistlinger@sd23.bc.ca>
Sent: 27 November 2024 12:55
To: Kevin Kaardal <Kevin.Kaardal@sd23.bc.ca>; Oreo Pagus <dbiz4u2@gmail.com>; Lee-Ann Tiede <Lee-Ann.Tiede@sd23.bc.ca>; Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>; Wayne Broughton <Wayne.Broughton@sd23.bc.ca>; Chantelle Desrosiers <Chantelle.Desrosiers@sd23.bc.ca>; Valene Johnson <Valene.Johnson@sd23.bc.ca>; Lisa Guderyan <Lisa.Guderyan@sd23.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: questions re: types of songs allowed/ disallowed (upcoming SD 23 School Winter concerts):

Dear David,

Thank you for emailing trustees with your questions about songs at school winter concerts. It is a question that I hear from teachers and community members also.

Thanks to our Superintendent, Mr. Kaardal, for clarifying that teachers have the autonomy to select songs for such concerts.

Recently, my daughter's school had been learning about Diwali during their morning announcements. Students learn about various different celebrations and beliefs from Indigenous people and various other people and cultural groups. We value diversity and inclusion in Central Okanagan Public Schools, and this would only be authentic if we acknowledged and learned about a variety of different cultures and beliefs.

I am grateful that you brought forward the question.

Sincerely,
Amy Geistlinger
School Trustee
Central Okanagan Public Schools

From: Kevin Kaardal <Kevin.Kaardal@sd23.bc.ca>
Sent: November 20, 2024 10:04 AM
To: Oreo Pagus <dbiz4u2@gmail.com>; Lee-Ann Tiede <Lee-Ann.Tiede@sd23.bc.ca>; Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>; Wayne Broughton <Wayne.Broughton@sd23.bc.ca>; Chantelle Desrosiers <Chantelle.Desrosiers@sd23.bc.ca>; Amy Geistlinger <Amy.Geistlinger@sd23.bc.ca>; Valene Johnson <Valene.Johnson@sd23.bc.ca>; Lisa Guderyan <Lisa.Guderyan@sd23.bc.ca>
Cc: Susan Bauhart <Susan.Bauhart@sd23.bc.ca>; cgordon@bctf.ca <cgordon@bctf.ca>; Copac President <Copac.President@sd23.bc.ca>; Copac Vicepresident <Copac.Vicepresident@sd23.bc.ca>; Copac Treasurer <Copac.Treasurer@sd23.bc.ca>; Copac Secretary <Copac.Secretary@sd23.bc.ca>; Copac AtLarge1 <Copac.AtLarge1@sd23.bc.ca>; Copac AtLarge2 <Copac.AtLarge2@sd23.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: questions re: types of songs allowed/ disallowed (upcoming SD 23 School Winter concerts):

Dear David,

There is no policy or restriction regarding the selection of songs for school concerts. Teachers have autonomy to select songs that reflect their community and the theme of the concert. Typically Winter concerts use a variety of traditional, modern and cultural songs from Canada and around the world.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kaardal
Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Central Okanagan Public Schools

From: Oreo Pagus <dbiz4u2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2024 1:22 PM
To: Kevin Kaardal <Kevin.Kaardal@sd23.bc.ca>; Lee-Ann Tiede <Lee-Ann.Tiede@sd23.bc.ca>; Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>; Wayne Broughton <Wayne.Broughton@sd23.bc.ca>; Chantelle Desrosiers <Chantelle.Desrosiers@sd23.bc.ca>; Amy Geistlinger <Amy.Geistlinger@sd23.bc.ca>; Valene Johnson <Valene.Johnson@sd23.bc.ca>; Lisa Guderyan <Lisa.Guderyan@sd23.bc.ca>

Cc: Susan Bauhart <Susan.Bauhart@sd23.bc.ca>; cgordon@bctf.ca; Copac President <Copac.President@sd23.bc.ca>; Copac Vicepresident <Copac.Vicepresident@sd23.bc.ca>; Copac Treasurer <Copac.Treasurer@sd23.bc.ca>; Copac Secretary <Copac.Secretary@sd23.bc.ca>; Copac AtLarge1 <Copac.AtLarge1@sd23.bc.ca>; Copac AtLarge2 <Copac.AtLarge2@sd23.bc.ca>

Subject: questions re: types of songs allowed/ disallowed (upcoming SD 23 School Winter concerts):

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questions re: types of songs allowed/ disallowed (upcoming SD 23 School Winter concerts):

1. Are secular Christmas songs such as "Jingle Bells", "Frosty the Snowman" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" allowed to be sung or heard at School Winter Concerts in SD23?
2. Are traditional Christmas songs/carols such as "Silent Night", "We Three Kings" and "Away in a Manger" allowed to be sung or heard at School Winter concerts in SD23?

Please provide a copy or weblink of the current SD23 policy on the matter.

Thank-you in advance.

Regards,

David Buckna (retired SD23 teacher)

'Disgusted' by school action

<https://www.castanet.net/news/Letters/517601/-Disgusted-by-school-action>