

June 1, 2021

To: BRSD Families
From: Dr. Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools
Re: It's June!

Hello everyone – welcome to the month of June! Summer weather is in the air and we're all feeling a bit more optimistic about the future, as COVID case numbers continue to go down across Alberta.

Finishing the school year together

I'd like to thank parents, students and staff for their flexibility in switching to remote learning, and back again, during the month of May. Like many places, our school division experienced a remarkable number of COVID cases in the weeks following Spring Break and we are grateful that things have gotten better.

I know we're not in the clear just yet (as is being demonstrated in different areas of BRSD right now) and we will ask schools to continue to be cautious for the next month, in order to be able to end the school year in person, together. But we're all getting excited about the possibility of being together under more 'normal' conditions next fall.

Vaccines

We've been asked recently about whether or not BRSD will be giving COVID vaccinations to students without parental permission. I would like to remind everyone that schools do not administer vaccines. Although, in the past, school buildings have been used by Public Health as a convenient location for administering vaccines to school-aged children, permission to administer a vaccine is given by parents only, directly to the Health staff. In addition, public schools do not have any requirement that students (or staff) must be vaccinated in order to attend school or work in the school division. Vaccination decisions continue to be a family and personal choice.

Mental Wellness Day

As we make our way through the last days of this challenging school year, we continue to be aware of the levels of stress, anxiety and exhaustion that our students and families are facing. Alberta Education has designated Thursday, June 3 as Mental Wellness Day for schools. The theme is *Take Care of Yourself and Each Other*. There are a variety of speakers, sessions and programs available on that day, which can be viewed live or on your own schedule. You can find more information about the event at this website address: <https://www.alberta.ca/mental-wellness-day-for-schools.aspx>

All the best in this final month of the 2020-2021 school year.

Rita Marler