

November 8, 2021

To: BRSD Families
From: Dr. Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools

Hello everyone!

We've been so fortunate to have clear weather for such a long time this fall. It's allowed students and staff to enjoy being outside more than usual and we're grateful for that. But despite the sunshine, the days are definitely shorter and I notice that a toque and gloves are becoming more important.

As we move further into the fall, there are many updates to share with you.

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is our new student information system, where all the data about students will be stored. Learning the new system is a big task for teachers and they've been working hard all fall. They're creating the first-ever report cards using this system right now and our Parent Portal, where you will be able to see up-to-the-minute information about your child's academic progress, is going to be available starting next week. Of course things won't be perfect at first, so I appreciate your patience as teachers and the Learning Department work out the kinks of starting something new.

2022-2023 School Calendar

The next school year (2022-2023) is a bit unique in terms of choosing a start date and the dates for Christmas vacation. We're posting a survey today and we'd love to hear your input on how to proceed. If the survey link doesn't come to you directly by email, you can find it on our website (brsd.ab.ca). The survey is open until Friday, November 19.

COVID Update

Over the weekend we reached an unsettling milestone. Since Alberta Health Services began notifying us, on October 12, of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are confirmed to have been at school while infectious, we have had 100 cases reported to us. There have been cases in 15 of our schools and, right now, we have three schools on Outbreak Status. We continue to notify classes and schools directly when cases are identified. As cases numbers begin to drop in communities, we hope cases in schools will soon begin to slow down as well.

Fall Break

As we have been doing for several years, BRSD students and staff will have a brief 'break' at the end of this week. Following Remembrance Day, we will have two days in lieu of Parent-Teacher interviews (Friday and Monday). Students will have an additional day on Tuesday, while staff will be back in schools for a learning day. Everyone will be back together on Wednesday, November 17.

Wishing you a great November!

Rita Marler