

March 10, 2022

To: BRSD Families
From: Dr. Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools
Re: In like a lion!

Hello everyone.

There's no doubt that this month has had a genuine "in like a lion" beginning. I hope March becomes a "lamb" very soon!

COVID update

The last few weeks have seen school divisions shift to being mask free, cohort-free and having most COVID-related rules removed. We're all excited to see each other's faces again and pleased to return to more 'normal' school environments.

I appreciate the patience people are demonstrating as schools transition once again, and I'm also proud of the respect that people are showing for those who choose to continue wearing masks.

Our schools continue to experience higher levels of absence than in a 'usual' year. I believe this shows that parents are being diligent in keeping children at home when they don't feel well. The Daily Checklist and the need for people to isolate if they test positive for COVID remains in place and we are grateful to you for continuing to follow these provincial protocols.

Focused forward

You may have seen some of our recent reminders that *Success Starts Early*. Kindergarten registration is now open for the fall, with both Tofield and Camrose providing full-time and half-time options and half-time programming available through BRSD in Bashaw, Bawlf, Daysland, Forestburg, Killam, New Norway, Round Hill, Ryley and Viking. Children who will be 5 years old by December 31, 2022 are eligible to enrol.

With three and a half months left in this school year, we're very focused on students' learning journey. Literacy and numeracy continue to be a critical focus for all of our learners and we're also excited to be able to take more field trips and other adventures, as well as welcome more visitors and spectators to schools for assemblies, music and drama productions and more. Plus, basketball zones and provincials are coming soon, which will provide a great opportunity to cheer on our Battle River teams!

As we "Spring Forward" to Daylight Savings Time this weekend, I'm sure we're all looking for other signs that winter is on the way out and longer, warmer days are on the way in.

Rita Marler