

May 3, 2022

To: BRSD Families
From: Dr. Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools
Re: Welcome to May!

Hello everyone.

May is a month chock full of special occasions and events – especially in this first week.

May 1 was **National Principals Day** – a time to say “thanks” to school leaders for their dedication to providing a safe and caring environment for students, as well as for overseeing the instructional leadership of their school.

May 2 was **Bus Driver Appreciation Day**. We’re so grateful to the Bus Drivers who help ensure students get to school and home again safely every school day. It’s always a good day to say ‘thanks’ to your bus driver! We do wish our Division had a few more spare drivers on call for those times when someone can’t be available and you may have noticed that we are hoping to add to our roster. If you, or someone you know, is interested in this rewarding work, check our website at brsd.ab.ca/careers to find out more.

This first week of May, May 2 to 6, is **Education Week**. From Pre-K to Grade 12 and far beyond, *Learning Is a Journey*. You’ll find events and activities taking place at various schools this week to celebrate all the ways in which students are learning as they go.

Mental Health Week is also marked in the first week of May. There are so many connections between being well and being able to learn. Our school division has a variety of programs and services in place to support students in developing coping and resilience skills that will help contribute to their success in school and in life. This has been a focus for a long time, but as we understand more about the impact of the pandemic, mental health awareness and support is an even higher priority.

As if that wasn’t enough special occasions for one week, BRSD **Graduation Season** kicks off on Friday, May 6. It’s hard to believe we’re at that time already, but we are! The first ceremony of the year will be held in Daysland. By the end of May there will have been graduation events in Forestburg, Tofield, Hay Lakes, Bawlf, Camrose, Viking and Bashaw, with other 3 other school communities having their events in June.

May will also see the return of more outdoor opportunities for athletics and field trips – important aspects of wellbeing and learning that we appreciate even more fully after a long winter.

Whether it’s a special occasion or not, BRSD staff will, as always, remain focused on ensuring *Every Student, Every Day, A Success*.

Rita Marler