

January 29, 2021

To: BRSD Families
From: Dr. Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools
Re: We're at the half-way mark!

Hello everyone!

Here we are, reaching the half-way point of our school year.

It's an exciting time, as many students and staff shift into something new. There are new classes and new opportunities for many junior and senior high students. In addition, some students from all grades are choosing to return to in-person classes next week, while others are going to embark on At-Home Learning for the next quarter.

Schools are reaching out to those who are switching between school and home, to ensure students have everything in place for next week.

Even for those whose routine does not change much, it feels hopeful – we are moving back toward brighter days and spring is just over the horizon.

We have been fortunate to get through the return of students after winter break without a single COVID case impacting our schools, and we hope that continues. We appreciate the diligence of parents in continuing to monitor their children's health and keep them home if they are not well.

There is much to look forward to, as we move into the second half of this school year. In addition, many of us are already starting to think about what comes next. How can our schools and programs meet the needs of students, parents and staff in the years to come?

As parents, you should have received a brief survey from your school, asking how you feel about the quarter system. Your response will help us plan for the future and we appreciate your input.

Along with all the reasons to feel optimistic and hopeful, we recognize that there is still much that feels overwhelming.

Across Canada, today is "Let's Talk" Day – a time to consciously focus on Mental Wellbeing. Today, and all days, I share the message that, if you need support, please reach out. Many families are facing challenges different than they have ever had before. If our schools can help support your children through a difficult time, we will.

By taking care of ourselves and each other, we will make it through.

Rita Marler