

April 6, 2021

To: BRSD Families

From: Dr. Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools

Re: We're starting the home stretch!

Hello everyone.

I hope that your family has found an opportunity to enjoy some downtime during this past week of Spring Break and Easter.

With classes resuming today, we are entering the home stretch of the school year. We're nearly half way through the second semester. Our fourth and final quarter will get underway next week.

### ***Draft curriculum***

On March 29 Alberta Education released a draft of the new curriculum for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6. We recognize that concerns have been raised about aspects of this proposed curriculum and we have very much appreciated hearing the voices of those parents who have reached out to us.

Alberta school divisions had been expecting to pilot the new curriculum starting this fall, but BRSD has not yet made final decisions about what pieces, if any, will be trialed in our classrooms. We will determine how to proceed based on a thorough review of all 7 of the courses included in the draft curriculum, as well as the feedback of teaching staff and parents.

Parents who would like to read the curriculum and send feedback directly to the provincial government can do so at this link: <https://www.alberta.ca/curriculum-have-your-say.aspx>

### ***COVID-19 information***

Looking around the province, and closer to home, we can see that COVID case numbers are on the rise once again. We have been so grateful to all of the families who have diligently followed the Daily Checklist criteria and ensured that students who are not feeling well stay home from school. That caution has been helpful in keeping our school division's case numbers low - we have had only two cases reported in BRSD schools since in-person learning resumed on January 11. We hope that remains true, but we also know things can change rapidly and we are ready to respond as needed.

We recognize that the changes, restrictions and uncertainties brought about by COVID-19 continue to create stress for students and families. Our school teams feel it too. We are all doing our very best to ensure that students have the support they need during these unusual times. If you believe your child would benefit from some additional assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. Along with the school administrators and staff, our Mental Health Capacity Building team and our Family School Liaison team members are on hand to help.

Take good care. Stay well.

*Rita Marler*