

October 8, 2021

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

Re: Happy Thanksgiving!

Hello everyone!

The first five weeks of the school year have flown by and here we are in October already!

In many ways the school year has gotten off to a very smooth start. But it also continues to be a time of uncertainty and change, as COVID-19 once again has a strong grip on our communities. We are grateful for your patience and understanding as we navigate the changing rules and work together to protect the health and wellbeing of students and staff.

In these early weeks of the year, many BRSD schools have been made aware of people connected to their building who have tested positive for COVID and we appreciate those who have reached out to us. We have tried to ensure that school communities knew all the information we knew.

Next week will bring the return of contact notifications. Alberta Health Services will once again notify schools when someone who was at school while infectious tests positive for COVID-19. Schools, in turn, will identify and notify those who have been in close contact. It is our understanding that there will be an AHS recommendation for close contacts to isolate, but it will not be mandatory unless they are symptomatic themselves.

One of the keys to ensuring schools continue to be safe environments in which to learn and teach is for everyone to follow the Daily Checklist. We are so grateful to all of the families and staff who have been diligent in reviewing the checklist each day and ensuring children or adults with symptoms of illness do not come to school. You can find the checklist here: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/56c020ed-1782-4c6c-bfdd-5af36754471f/resource/58957831-a4ab-45ff-9a8e-3c6af7c1622e/download/covid-19-information-alberta-health-daily-checklist-2021-08.pdf> Information for children is on Pages 3 and 4.

Communities across Alberta will also be participating in a municipal election on Monday, October 18. School Board Trustee elections are taking place for the County of Beaver and the City of Camrose. The Camrose County and Flagstaff County representatives have been acclaimed. I'd like to thank our current Board members for their years of service. Beaver County: Lyle Albrecht and Zsuzsanna Hemperger; Camrose County: Karen Belich and Kendall Severson; Flagstaff County: Jeff Kimball and Laurie Skori; and, in the City of Camrose: Norm Erickson and Val Sims.

This is Thanksgiving weekend and, though there are challenges in our world, there is also much for which to be thankful. I wish you a season filled with the people and activities that help you remember all that is good.

Rita Marler