



September 28, 2023

To: BRSD Families
From: Rhae-Ann Holoien, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Subject: September Wraps up

As September draws to a close, I am reflecting on the fantastic start we've had in creating lasting memories for our 2023-24 school year. At Battle River School Division, student and staff excitement, learning, and community engagement, demonstrates how our schools embody our core beliefs. It has been an honour to experience this during my school and classroom visits.

BRSD's extracurricular activities have taken off within our schools. Students are enthusiastically and actively participating in volleyball, golf, cross-country, and other activities, promoting a culture of physical fitness, teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship. Banners adorn our gymnasiums as a testament to our students' successes, emulating promise for our 2023-24 school year. I want to thank all coaches, referees, managers, drivers, and volunteers who support our activities.

In conjunction with celebrating the start of this academic year, we commemorated National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in our schools and classrooms. Students actively engaged in meaningful activities aimed at deepening their understanding of the history and lasting impacts of residential schools on Indigenous communities. This is a critical step in an ongoing journey of learning and understanding for all. Tomorrow, September 29, BRSD will recognize [Orange Shirt Day](#), and we ask that you please join us in wearing your orange shirt as a symbol of unity and support for reconciliation efforts. I am excited to share with you an [audio recording](#) and a [video](#) from our students recognizing the importance of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

At BRSD, our vision is *Every Student, Every Day, a Success*. During my school visits, I asked students what they thought were great things about their schools. The most common response was their teachers and school staff. It is heartening to hear the positive student comments about the people who support their daily learning.

I enjoy watching various events where students thrive and succeed outside of the classroom as much as seeing academic progress and success. I will continue to support and celebrate the achievements of our students. Please stop to say hello to me if you see me around, as I am enjoying meeting our families from across the division.

As Thanksgiving approaches, my heart is full of gratitude for the support our families have for our schools and the amazing work our staff does each day! I wish you all a Thanksgiving full of joy, laughter and togetherness. Please view my message for this season of thankfulness [here](#).

Sincerely,

Rhae-Ann Holoien
Superintendent of Schools