

December 31, 2021

To: BRSD families

From: Dr. Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools

Re: **Winter Break has been extended until January 10**

Hello everyone.

As you likely know, last night the Government of Alberta announced that winter break is being extended by one week, for all K to 12 students in Alberta. In BRSD, that includes Pre-K classes as well.

That means **there is no school until Monday, January 10**. School buildings will be closed and no instruction will be provided. Extra-curricular events such as practices, games or tournaments have been cancelled for the week.

In order to reduce the pressure on high school students, Diploma Exams have also been cancelled for this term.

According to the Minister of Education, this added week of winter break will allow Alberta Education and Alberta Health to put extra measures in place to help keep everyone safe at school and also allow them to gain more information about the number of students and staff in school divisions who have been affected by the most recent COVID-19 variant.

We have been advised that, after classes resume on January 10, schools can expect to soon receive rapid test kits for all students and staff, as well as medical grade masks. All existing measures, such as distancing and hand sanitizing, cohorting of K to 6 students, etc. will remain in place.

We have also been advised that the current situation is changing quickly and it's possible that new or different decisions could be made by the Government of Alberta prior to January 10.

School Divisions often learn information at the same time families do, when it is shared in a public news conference, but we will do our best to keep you informed of what we know, as quickly as we can.

Thank you for your ongoing support during these quickly changing times.

*Rita Marler*