

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

We are all thrilled to be two months into the school year welcoming our parents back and interacting with our students in our schools. The relationships we have with you and your children bring such a positive energy into our division. It is that energy that makes us all excited about learning.



## Parents Supporting our Schools

It is so great to hear that parents are taking time each day to ask your child what they learned at school to see what role you can play in your child's achievement. We appreciate parents encouraging their child to get involved in extracurricular activities that support their social emotional well-being. It continues to be very helpful when you are able to support your child's interactions on social media. More information is available [here](#).

Our schools really appreciate having parents in the school volunteering, attending school events, supporting the school council, engaging in our surveys, and attending parent teacher interviews. Your presence and your involvement matters.



## Positive Energy is Key

Please let our staff and our schools know when they are doing things well. It means a great deal to our people when you do have a moment to acknowledge their hard work. Similarly, when something isn't going well, it really helps our staff when you speak directly with the source of your child's concern. Please try to assume the best in everyone and seek first to understand. In so many cases the solution is at our fingertips if we simply communicate in a positive supportive way with each other. We do ask our staff not to communicate with each other or with you after 6 pm to ensure we all have quality time with our families. That said, we all do our best to respond to parental inquiries within a 24 hour time frame.

**“As parents you play an important role helping us to keep this positive momentum as the school year moves on”**

## Inclement Weather in Alberta

It's a certainty that we will experience inclement weather in the coming months, but unfortunately it isn't always predictable and the weather varies a great deal across our school division.

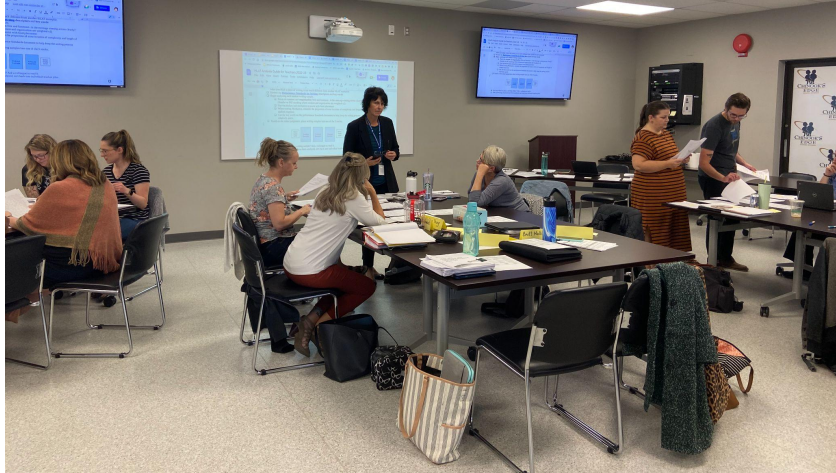
Our first priority is always safety. We want to be mindful that it is far better to stay safe and sacrifice one day of school in exchange for a lifetime of learning. We are very clear to our staff that we do not want them traveling when they determine it is unsafe to do so. We want to be equally as clear to you as parents, that we do not want our high school students who drive, or you as parents, to be driving to our schools when it is unsafe to do so.

In extreme weather conditions, we may close one or more schools and ask that no one in that particular community travel. These days are called red days.

Days when our schools are open but our buses aren't running, are referred to as yellow days. We need our staff, our students that drive, and our parents not to travel if they feel it is unsafe. It is also important that you inform your school if your child will not be in attendance on yellow days - we cannot make any assumptions when safety is at stake. Because we do not always have accurate weather information for every corner of our division at our fingertips, we rely on individuals to make good decisions for themselves knowing the weather conditions in their area.

On both yellow and red days we do our best to allow access to learning and to move learning forward regardless of a weather disruption.

More information on inclement weather is available [here](#).



## Professional Learning Days

Our schools are making a concerted effort to give you a larger window into what they are learning as professionals and why it matters for your child over time. We truly believe that by allowing us time to learn as professionals you will see a positive impact on your child's success.

Our teachers share ideas with each other that give them the confidence and the tools necessary to deal with a wide variety of complex needs that they face each and every day. We truly appreciate your patience and support for our ongoing learning needs over time. More information on Professional Learning Days is available [here](#).

## Student Attendance

You will continue to hear more from our schools as to how important it is to have your child attending school. All of our research suggests that we are most successful when students attend 90% or more of the school days allocated in a given year. While we continue to be flexible and accommodating with a wide variety of student learning needs, we want you to know that every effort that you can make to help ensure your child is attending regularly helps them and helps us as educators. Throughout our focus on attendance, we also look at what we can do as adults to make it more likely for your child to attend school. We are actively working to make our schools as engaging, safe and caring as possible. Our teachers are continuing to make contact with parents when there are attendance concerns so that we can work together to address any difficulties. Thank you for your help in this area. More information on attendance is available [here](#).

