



BORDEN SCHOOL

Achieving Success Together

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Dear Borden School Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022 with Borden School! I hope that the break from school provided all our families with time to relax, connect, and be joyful. I am very excited to resume the learning journey alongside all Borden School Bruins and their families.

In this update I will share information on the following: Current Situation, Staffing Update, Reporting Positive Cases, Thanks for Donations, Finals Dates, Grade 7-12 Parent Portal, Dressing for the Weather, Rapid Tests, Hockey Tournament

Current Situation:

Given the current situation across the province, and particularly in schools, I think it is natural for people to be wondering what is happening or what is going to happen. I wish I had some sage words or a crystal ball to make accurate predictions for all of us to rely on. Although I cannot predict the future, there are a few things that I can share.

First off, if we look at other parts of Canada and around the world, we can predict that the Omicron variant of Covid-19 has the potential to disrupt communities and schools. It is far more challenging to predict *where* and *when* those disruptions may occur and how severe or prolonged those disruptions may be. At the time of typing this note, we are continuing to stay the course at Borden School. We are still committed to our layers of protection at the school level (masking, cohorting, distancing as much as possible, etc.). We are still committed to delivering high-impact, engaging, and innovative lessons, activities, and learning tasks for all our students. We are also, most importantly, still committed to caring for each and every one of our Borden Bruins in the fullness of their well-being.

While maintaining those commitments, the teaching staff are also re-engaging and revitalizing our Google Classrooms. If a time comes when an individual classroom, or possibly all of Borden School, pivots to Level 4 (remote learning), we will be prepared for that. We have technology available to lend to our families, the staff have the skills and experience to effectively engage and teach remotely, and our students have had (and will have) opportunities to practice accessing classroom material online.

I wish I had more specific information to share. I wish I could state more precisely what will happen in the coming days and weeks. I wish that the cloud of uncertainty would be lifted off of our students, families, community, and staff. Having said all that, I

recognize that Borden is an incredibly resilient and connected community. No matter what happens in the days and weeks ahead, we got this!

I will be eager to communicate any news as it unfolds. Also, please be sure to keep up to speed with the letters delivered from the school division as well.

Staffing Update:

Carina Logue has completed her time at Borden School as an EA. Taylor Smith will be joining the Borden staff as a part-time EA starting on Monday, January 10th. We will send a “get to know our newest staff member” update next week. Please join me in welcoming Miss Smith to Borden School!

Reporting Positive Cases:

In the case that a Borden School student receives a positive result on a Covid test (whether a rapid test or a PCR test), families are being instructed to communicate that to the school as soon as possible. If you are in a position where you are reporting positive case(s), please also identify whether the test result came from a rapid test or a PCR test. The province and Prairie Spirit School Division are continually adjusting their response plans and the distinction between test types is important for next-steps at the school, division, and ministry level.

On that note, Borden School has a small stockpile of Rapid Tests that are meant for families of Borden School students to use. If you are in need of Rapid Tests for your family, please let us know at the school.

Thanks for Donations:

Before the December break, Borden School reached out to families hoping to gather donations of non-perishable food items, clothing, and various other items. After some late donations on Friday, December 17th, the final tally of items collected at Borden School exceeded 3,000! We had entered into a friendly competition with W. W. Brown School and Dalmeny High School, and Borden School has been victorious! The admin staff at W. W. Brown School will be decked out in Borden blue sometime in the near future. I would like to again share my sincere gratitude for the donations and selfless care displayed by the Borden community during this time!

Final Dates:

Days for Quarter # 2 final assessments in Grades 9-12 will be January 27th and 28th. We are currently finalizing plans for the Grade 9 students who have been travelling to Langham for their PAA courses (I/A and Home Ec.). Once we have that information locked down, I will reach out to Grade 9 families directly and share that.

	Thursday, January 27th	Friday, January 28th
Grade 9	PAA – this is still to be determined	Math
Grade 11-12	Health Science	Math

Parent PowerSchool Portal:

This window is currently open for students and families in Grades 7-12. As always, if you have questions or would like to speak about anything specific, please reach out the appropriate teacher(s). The portal will remain open until the end of the school day on Tuesday, January 11th.

Dressing for the Weather:

The temperature over the holiday break and first week back has been brutally cold. Moving forward, it is important that all students (K-6) dress appropriately for the weather (suitable jacket/parka, boots, ski-pants, toque, mitts, scarves, etc.). Also, all students who ride the bus (K-12) need to be dressed for the weather and for the potential that a bus may breakdown or become stuck.

As a school, we move recess breaks indoors for K-6 when the weather is too cold. We use the temperature of -27°C as a benchmark to determine if a recess break will be outside or inside. There is an element of professional judgement too, as -27°C on a calm, windless day is quite different from a blustery and windy -27°C or lower. It has also happened in the past when the AM recess has been indoors, but the PM recess has been outdoors as the weather changed throughout the day. If an outside recess determination is made (it is announced prior to recess breaks on days when it is an issue), we expect all students in K-6 to be able to go outside. Students who are unable to go outside because of unsuitable clothing put a strain on the supervision of students (having students in too many places for the number of adults who are required to supervise). Your understanding and support in this area is greatly appreciated. If you would like to speak more about this, please reach out to the school.

Hockey Tournament:

Before the holiday break, students (and a few staff members) from Grade 7-12 were able to participate in the Borden School Floor Hockey tournament. This was very exciting as this was one of the events that was lost last year.

The tournament was action-packed and all the matches were spirited contests! I want to extend a huge thank you to all our players, time-keepers, announcers, and fans for making the Friday, December 17th afternoon such a memorable and fun experience! It was a great feeling (even though my team performed poorly) to leave the building with a smile on my face after hearing the stories shared by students and staff of battling in the corners and scoring clutch goals.

Our intention is to post a picture of the championship team on our Facebook page, but cold weather has interfered with attendance. Stay tuned for a picture update of the championship team (led by the indomitable Mrs. Kaufmann who spent hours making "fair" teams and somehow ended up on the championship squad – haha!).

Important Dates:

January 20 – SCC Meeting @ 7PM (online)

January 27 – Quarter #2 Final Day of Evidence Collection (Grades 9-12)

January 28 – Quarter #2 Final Day of Evidence Collection (Grade 9-12)

January 31 – Staff Prep Day (No classes K-12)

February 1 – Quarter #3 begins (Grade 9-12)

February 4 – Progress Report #2 Goes Home (Grades 9-12)

February 14 – Sleigh Rides – more information to follow

February 21-25 – Winter Break (No classes K-12)

February 28 – Classes Resume

Conclusion:

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you have questions or would like to speak about anything at Borden School, please reach out to me. I can be reached by email at brody.morris@spiritsd.ca, a phone call to the school at (306) 997-2090, or you can call or text my cell phone which is (306) 371-2888. Your gracious support and kindness are always appreciated!

Brody Morris – Borden School Principal