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March 26, 2021

Dear Prairie Spirit families:

Signs of spring are in the air, under our feet, and all around us! This is a very hopeful time of year and I'm sure we are all eagerly anticipating spring.

As a Division, we have committed to providing regular communication to our families. I would like to share an update with you as we look forward to the Easter break next week.

### ***COVID Rapid Testing***

You may have read in the news that the Government of Saskatchewan has provided COVID Rapid Testing kits for every school division in the province.

We are currently working with the local Medical Health Officer to determine our next steps for the rapid tests we have received. We will provide more information about rapid testing and how it will be used in Prairie Spirit once a plan has been developed.

Written parental permission will be required for a student to be tested. This testing will be optional and no one will be tested without written consent.

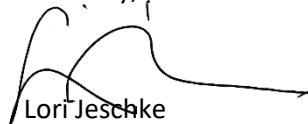
### ***Back to basics***

Although we are all getting tired of things like masks and hand sanitizer, it is more important than ever that we maintain our safety protocols. The Saskatchewan Health Authority is urging a **back-to-basics** approach as we combat COVID-19 and the variants of concern (VOC) in the community. We know that VOC are much more transmissible and cause more serious illness.

In Prairie Spirit schools, we are continuing to follow our safety protocols and layers of protection, which include mask wearing, hand hygiene, social distancing, student cohorts, and cleaning guidelines. Students and staff should stay home if they have symptoms.

We are reminded that this pandemic is like a marathon. The end of the marathon can be the hardest. Perseverance and patience are required! We all look forward to a time when we can relax some of the restrictions in our schools. We will do that when it is safe to do so. For now, these processes have been helping to keep our students and staff safe and they will be carefully followed.

Sincerely,



Lori Jeschke  
Director of Education