



December 18, 2020

Dear Chinook Staff and Families,

We want to thank each and every one of you for contributing to a successful school reopening. Thinking back to August, we have managed an incredible amount of change. We are very proud of what everyone has done to help keep staff and students safe: from implementing protective measures and adapting to changing provincial guidelines, to following the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) directives in response to the COVID-19 cases in our schools. Through the outstanding leadership and teamwork of school administration and staff, bus drivers, students, parents and caregivers, we have made it through to Christmas break.

This has been an unprecedented year for schools. We know that many families are dealing with challenges that the pandemic made worse. However, we have heard that students have stepped up and have been incredibly cooperative and helpful, and schools are very grateful. Chinook staff, through their outstanding efforts, have continued to make school engaging and positive for students.

Although there have been several cases of COVID-19 in some Chinook schools, at this point there is no significant transmission occurring within the schools. Cases have mainly been through community transmission. Currently, a small percentage of our school population is participating in remote learning due to cases in schools and we expect these classes to return to in-class learning on January 4th.

Families also had the opportunity, once again, to transfer between learning delivery modes. Some students will move to online learning with the Chinook Cyber School, while others are choosing to return to in-class learning in our schools. A few families also chose Home-Based Education as their best option at this time.

The Chinook Board of Education and senior administration have spent time thoroughly reviewing and discussing options for schools to remain open or move to remote learning after the Christmas break. We have also had discussions with the Chinook Teacher Association and received feedback from schools. The plan is to resume face-to-face instruction in all Chinook schools on January 4th. We will be monitoring and will consult with SHA if there is a significant increase in COVID-19 cases that may impact schools. We will continue to follow direction from the SHA, the Chief Medical Health Officer and the provincial government.

We assure you that we will communicate to schools and families as early as possible if any plans change. Please stay safe over the holidays and let's all continue to do our part in protecting and taking care of one another. Thank you for your continued support. Have a happy holiday and a Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Benesh".

Mark Benesh
Acting Director of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Pridmore".

Kim Pridmore
Chair, Board of Education