



1041 - 10A Street
Wainwright, AB T9W 2R4

T: 780.842.6144
F: 780.842.3255
www.btps.ca

September 22, 2021

Re: Continued Kindness and Support Needed

Dear Parents/Guardians of BTPS Students:

This year unfortunately has been another challenging start up due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are doing all we can to keep our students and staff safe. This year seems to be more tiring and challenging than ever before which is worrisome as we have just started the year. People are exhausted from the continued restrictions and from the worry that the pandemic has imposed on us.

To add to the challenges this year, we are seeing more and more calls, emails, social media posts which are unkind, rude, disrespectful and harassing in nature. Staff have indicated that they have felt disrespected and harassed by the ongoing bombardment of negative emails, calls, personal interactions, and social media posts. We recognize that these are extremely challenging times and that there are differences of opinions but verbal abuse and the distribution of misinformation will not be tolerated. If staff receive messages that are not appropriate, they will not be responding.

COVID-19 has impacted us all. Our students' learning and extracurricular activities are definitely the top of that list. However, COVID-19 has also impacted our staff who have had to be flexible with at-home learning, worry about following all guidelines and keeping students safe in their classroom, worry about their own families and many have been personally impacted by COVID-19. My thoughts go out to all those who have lost loved ones and have been impacted.

I am asking for your continued support of our staff. Please ensure that your school administrators, teachers, support staff, custodians, and bus drivers know how fortunate we are in BTPS to have them all looking after our children. Also, when you see or hear unkind words or social media comments about our schools and staff, do what we ask our kids to do, which is stand up to these bullies and harassers. Let people know that it is not okay to be mean, disrespectful and disparaging. This is asking a lot as some of these comments may come from

your neighbours, relatives, or friends. However, our staff need to know that BTPS stands together which I know from the last year is absolutely true.

BTPS staff continues to go above and beyond to provide welcoming and caring classrooms for our students and they continue to do so with all restrictions in place. We are so fortunate to have amazing staff looking after our children each and every day.

Thank you for the support of our BTPS staff as we work hard to continue in person learning and activities for our students.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. St. Holoién".

Rhae-Ann Holoién