



1041 - 10A Street  
Wainwright, AB T9W 2R4

T: 780.842.6144  
F: 780.842.3255  
www.btps.ca

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

Dear 2020 BTPS Graduate,

We cannot imagine how difficult things have been for you since the announcement that in-school classroom instruction would be cancelled effective March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We know that the changes have required you to be flexible and adapt to a very different model of learning. We appreciate the hard work your teachers are doing to deliver education in this new way. We are confident that we will be able to prepare you for the next part of your journey. Your commitment to your studies and the dedication of your teachers is so important to a successful experience. Keep up the good work!

Graduation is an important milestone in the lives of our students and marks an important celebration in the K to 12 education process. With the onset of COVID-19 the opportunity to celebrate our students in the traditional manner, at the traditional time, was lost. While that opportunity was lost, it certainly was not forgotten. Our schools want to celebrate their graduates and they want to mark this event in a public ceremony. The current gathering limitations do not make this possible. We are hopeful that as we move through the next few weeks, the changes in the status of this pandemic will occur and public gatherings will be allowed. We also have to be prepared for the fact that this might not happen.

The BTPS Board of Trustees know that as graduates, you are worried about what will happen with your graduation ceremony. We understand that it is important to all of us to have a decision regarding how your K to 12 achievements will be celebrated. In consultation with your principals, we have decided that if classes resume in schools by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and we are allowed to gather in groups, schools will work with their respective eligible graduates to identify a date to hold the graduation ceremony between June 19<sup>th</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. If classes do not resume in this school year, then schools will work with their respective eligible graduates to identify a date to hold a ceremony between August 21<sup>st</sup> and August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We understand that having graduation events in all of our 13 schools during a limited time period will mean that we will have more overlap than we typically would. Schools will communicate their dates with each other, but we will need to expect that in this unique circumstance, there will be scheduling conflicts.

On behalf of the BTPS Board of Trustees, we want to thank you for your patience. In the last two weeks we have focused our attention on the continuity of learning and we are now turning our attention to other matters that are important to our students, staff, families and communities.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob D A" with a long, sweeping tail.

Bob Allen  
Superintendent

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L Parr" in a cursive style.

Lanie Parr  
Board Chair