



BUFFALO TRAIL PUBLIC SCHOOLS – A Year of Gratitude: A Message from Superintendent Rhae-Ann Holoien

NEWS RELEASE – June 20, 2022

As the 2021/22 school year draws to a close, BTPS Trustees and Senior Leadership Team can't express our gratitude enough for the courage and resilience of our students, parents, staff, and community partners as we finished out another unprecedented school year. Despite the pandemic upsetting our routines, we witnessed incredible strength, perseverance, and, more importantly, a commitment to ensuring our focus remained on student learning.

After having spent the last couple of weeks reflecting on the last 10 months, I am very grateful for:

G = Great students. Without blinking an eye, you returned to school in the fall, fully embracing and helping lead our health and safety protocols. When required, many of you flipped to engage in online learning opportunities, then returned to school with twinkles in your eyes. Throughout it all, you were terrific learners. I was so proud to see every BTPS student participate in our September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and thrilled to have so many student voices at our board student engagement sessions or education plan engagements sharing their thoughts, ideas, and reflections. To the graduating class of 2022, BTPS is so proud of you and wishes you nothing but the best in your future endeavours.

R = Resilient staff. Thriving in the face of adversity, BTPS staff demonstrated that not even a global pandemic can stop them. Whether turning to online learning quickly or preparing our schools for the safe return of adults and children, I overwhelmingly heard BTPS is known for its safe, caring, and welcoming learning environments. Of course, credit goes to our school staff. Our Central Office departments, too, are to be commended for working behind the scenes to support our learning communities through workplace wellness initiatives, hiring new staff, planning learning opportunities, supporting technology, keeping buses on the road, or implementing an energy efficiency program. Thank you to all staff who bravely continued to keep their eyes on our students. Custodians, you are incredible!

A = Amazing Board. Following election day on October 18, our new board was quick to build its knowledge and leadership capacity to successfully approve a clean audited financial statement, a student-centred education plan, and a balanced budget. Modelling their commitment to improving student achievement, board members joined our leadership team at the October 27 Virtual Leadership Workshop. BTPS is grateful to have a Board committed to working as a

unified governance team, which listens and advocates for the needs of our rural learning communities through initiatives like our four-year stakeholder engagement sessions and Board student engagement sessions.

T = Tremendous teamwork. When it comes to the new K to Gr. 6 curriculum, our staff proved we got this! Through communities of practice and our teachers' hard work, implementation of the new curriculum will be seamless. Teachers involved in introducing the new K-3 English Language Arts and Literature, Math, and K-6 Physical Education and Wellness curriculums next September will be supported by newly acquired learning resources, a curriculum dashboard, and Hapara workspaces. On the inclusion front, initiatives such as BTPS' Pink Shirt Day Contest, Truth and Reconciliation Podcasts, September 30 student conference day and 2022 International Women's Day Live Event continue to foster the behaviours that ensure all students feel like they belong.

E = Exceptional learning opportunities for staff and students. BTPS continued our focus of maximizing student learning, in a safe and caring environment, supported by a highly effective time.

F = Family-oriented school communities. Thank you to all our parents, guardians, and community members for supporting our school staff as we upset routines, continued to communicate on virtual platforms and helped our students catch up on any learning when at home. I am incredibly grateful for your support during many of these transitions. Thank you for sending your children to Buffalo Trail Public Schools.

U = Unwavering commitment to students. From our principals and assistant principals to our directors, central office team, and staff, you stepped up to the table when called. You moved swiftly and efficiently responding to emerging practices like COVID tracking sheets to developing new processes such as playground cohorts, social distancing groups, virtual student events and celebrations – all the while continuing to focus on the learning needs of students. I could not be more grateful to have you on my team. THANK YOU!

L = Laughter. Through all our trials and tribulations, the one thing I always counted on to relieve the stress and see through to another day was laughter. Every time I participated in a meeting, learning event or entered a school, I was met with the sound that would fill my heart.

As we head into the summer months, thank you for all you have done and continue to do to be the best partners in our students' education. It has been far from easy, and the Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team appreciate everyone's efforts to juggle the many demands of school life. We look forward to seeing you back in the fall!



A YEAR OF

Gratitude

**A message from
Superintendent of Schools
Rhae-Ann Holoien**



BuffaloTrail
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS