

Update from the Superintendent



TO: Parents/Guardians
FROM: Mark McQueen, Superintendent
DATE: December 21, 2023

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I want to take a moment to reflect on the spirit of this season and extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you.

Christmas is a special time, a season that invites us to embrace the warmth of family and the joy of rest. Finding happiness in simple and mundane moments becomes a treasure in a world filled with challenges and uncertainties. It's a time when we can slow down, share laughter and love, and create cherished memories with those who mean the most to us.

Christmas is, at its core, a season of giving. It's a time when we exchange gifts to show our appreciation and love for one another. In education, our teachers and support employees give our students the most precious gifts of all – knowledge, inspiration, and unwavering support. Every day, they pour their hearts into nurturing the potential of our young minds, and for that, I am profoundly grateful.

During the past two weeks, I have enjoyed visiting many of our elementary schools dressed as the Conductor from The Polar Express movie. My visit has two purposes: First, I want our students to believe in the magic of the holidays, but secondly, and more importantly, I want them to believe in themselves and to know that I believe in them. I've been handing out little silver bells with the word "believe" inscribed on them, and we've been ringing these bells together to signify that we believe! Hope is the greatest gift we can give to someone, and I hope that our students, and staff, understand how much our community believes in them.

In education, the ultimate gift is the relationship between a teacher, a support employee, an administrator and a student. These bonds are formed through guidance, mentorship, and genuine care. They are the gifts that keep on giving, influencing lives and inspiring our students to become the best versions of themselves.

This holiday season, let's remember that the relationships we nurture within our BDS Team of Teams are what make our district extraordinary. The sense of belonging, unity, and purpose strengthens our educational community.

I take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to every member of the BDS family – our students, parents, guardians, teachers, support employees, and the broader community. Your support and dedication make our schools thrive, giving our students hope. I am genuinely thankful for your unending commitment to our mission and purpose.

As we celebrate this Christmas and welcome the New Year, I wish you all a joyful, restful, and heartwarming holiday season. May your days be filled with love, laughter, and the warmth of family and friends.