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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Dear parents, families and guardians,

Yesterday, the [provincial government](#) announced that winter break is extended one week for all Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 students across the province. For our Division, this extends winter break with a return to learning on January 10, 2022. The Minister of Education indicated yesterday that more information will be communicated next week. As we learn more, we are committed to sharing information with families.

The additional days will help us understand our staffing numbers as we look forward to welcoming students back to in-person learning.

I know we all remain concerned about the Omicron variant and the rising case counts. It has always been our priority and commitment to keep students and staff safe throughout the pandemic. While our safety protocols have and continue to serve us well, this temporary extension should also help mitigate further spread of COVID-19.

Rapid test kits and masks

The province also announced that rapid test kits and medical grade masks will be provided to staff and students across the province. We expect that every student and staff member will have access to two five-test kits, as well as an eight-week supply of medical-grade masks.

Distribution of masks and rapid tests is being finalized; we will share more information with families once we hear more from the province.

Diploma exams

The province also announced yesterday that January diploma exams have been canceled. A decision will be made about April and June diploma exams at a later date.

Keeping one another safe

The decision to extend the winter break is never made lightly. I know this will have a tremendous impact on families, both adults and our students. Thank you for your continued support and patience as the pandemic tests our resolve. Together, I know we will continue to support one another.

Be well and keep safe.



Darrel Robertson
Superintendent of Schools