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December 19, 2017 Volume 16

Season's Greetings from Brookwood Staff

It is hard to believe that the Christmas Season and the holiday break are nearly upon us!

The staff of Brookwood School would like to wish our Brookwood School families all the best for the holiday season. We wish you all a safe, happy and enjoyable Christmas season. We will return to classes after the break on Monday, January 8, 2018.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Brookwood School Staff

Christmas Teas

Thank you to those parents and guests who attended our Kindergarten, Grade One and Grade Two Christmas Teas last week. Between our Christmas Teas and our Grade Three and Four Christmas Concert, more than 2000 guests attended the Christmas performances. A big thank you goes to Miss Stewart, Mrs. McAllister, and the classroom teachers for preparing the Kindergarten, grade one, and grade two students for their performances at the teas. They were priceless! Thank you to our Grade Four Student Leadership Team 1 members who assisted at the teas. Their help was appreciated.

Student Celebration Assembly

The next Student Celebration Assembly will be on Thursday, December 21 at 11 am. Please note the time as it is at a different time than our usual assembly time.

We will be sharing student learning, as well as, participating in some carol singing. We will be doing the Student of the Month and School Pride draws.

Pajama Day

Grade Four Student Leadership Team 1 will be sponsoring Pajama Day on Thursday, December 21. Students and staff are encouraged to wear their favorite pajamas to school that day. Students are reminded to wear appropriate winter wear so that they can enjoy recess outside that day.

The 12 Days of Fitness - Wellness Theme

This month, Brookwood students are learning how to stay active during the holiday season through our theme "The 12 Days of Fitness." Ask your child what we are doing here at school each day. Here are some fun ideas for your family to do at home:

- Grab your skates or sled and head outdoors to the local outdoor or indoor rink or toboggan hill.
- Build a snowman.
- Go cross-country skiing or downhill skiing/snowboarding.

- Go for a winter walk.

This year, go beyond the holiday hustle and bustle. Get your family to participate in fun, refreshing activities that brighten your spirit. Here are some ideas:

- * Spread some cheer! Volunteer at local charities. They always need extra help during the holiday season.
- * Check out the local festivals happening in Spruce Grove and Stony Plain.
- * Hold a contest in your neighborhood to see who can build the biggest snowman.
- * Go caroling around your neighborhood.

Family Vacations during the School Year

Families are encouraged to take vacations according to the school calendar, but we know that this is not always the possible. Throughout the year, there are a number of families who take vacation time and the result is that our teachers are often requested to provide "homework" prior to students leaving on vacation. As the school administration, we have directed our teachers to share with parents that it is not possible to prepare homework prior to a vacation for a few reasons.

□ Teachers in classrooms have unit/daily plans but they are not always able to follow a perfect outline as the timeline can change, even on a daily basis.

□ As well, teachers are constantly planning, organizing and revamping lessons based on student needs and level of understanding, as a result it is difficult to "teach" students what they need to know before they complete some work when it hasn't been covered in class yet.

When a student is absent for vacation purposes outside of the school calendar, teachers will keep track of the work they need to complete and provide them with what needs to be done upon their return. This allows the teacher to make decisions on which assignments could be omitted, based on their individual skills, and which assignments are vital for their completion to ensure continued success in the subject area. Students will always have a reasonable amount of additional time to complete work they have missed and have an opportunity to ask questions to their teacher that might arise.

□ Additionally, vacations are for enjoyment and we understand how difficult it can be to complete school work with a busy and often full vacation schedule. As a result, in place of school work, teachers may ask the student to document their vacation through video or written description or reflection, and may offer them the opportunity to present the information to their classmates when they return. We continue to ask for parent support in helping their children to complete work or assignments that

were missed while away on vacation. We appreciate your support of this school procedure as we work together to ensure success for all of our students. Our goal is always to help our students develop their learning and achieve success.

Cobs Bakery Fundraiser

Brookwood School Association **wants to remind Brookwood parents about the ongoing Cobs Bakery Fundraiser.** It is easy and brings in funds for the school. Each time a purchase is made at COBS and the buyer indicates that they would like to contribute to Brookwood School; a 5% donation of the total sale will be directed to the school. A cheque will be presented annually to Brookwood School.

-Thank you from
Brookwood School Association

