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VIA EMAIL

July 29, 2020

To All Employees

On behalf of the Frontier School Division Board of Trustees, I'd like to express our appreciation for your ongoing support over the past months as we've worked together in the best interests of our students and communities.

At the beginning of March, we had very little indication that our lives were about to change due to a world-wide pandemic. The change was swift, and our personal and professional lives have not been the same since. Our world has been altered due to COVID-19, and we wonder if we will ever return to the life we remember pre-pandemic.

We had minimal time to plan, as one day students were in school attending classes, and within a few short days they were at home, getting used to distance learning, either on-line or through learning packages delivered to their homes. Everyone scrambled to adjust and to make the best of these drastic changes in teaching and learning.

But out of this initial chaos and uncertainty, great stories emerged involving many members of our Frontier Family and communities as everyone worked together to take care of our precious children. There are stories like the Principal who delivered learning packages across the ice roads to ensure students had what they needed. Schools and communities organized frequent parades, driving by students' homes to say hello and to let their kids know how much they were missed. Food packages were assembled and delivered throughout communities, thanks to the tireless efforts of employees in many of our schools. There were personal moments like the Kindergarten student who caught his first fish while fishing with his Grandfather. Students throughout our Division completed a multitude of creative and interesting projects, and we are so proud of all of them. The list of students, individuals, and communities that went above and beyond is endless.

Once our graduates, parents, and schools realized graduation would be different this year, people got to work to create a celebration that afforded people the opportunity to recognize this important milestone in their students' lives, while still adhering to public health regulations. Afterward, many communities realized they had found new ways of celebrating graduation that would be worth repeating in future graduations.

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The Board of Trustees of Frontier School Division wants to thank everyone in our schools and communities for accommodating the changes that were required with the onset of the pandemic. We know it was challenging, and at times, seemingly impossible, but your perseverance and willingness to find new and different ways of caring for our kids is greatly appreciated by so many people.

We look forward to September with the hope that our students are back in class, growing and learning with their friends and caring staff. Information will be sent out to you describing what the return to school will look like as we get closer to September.

Again, we express our deep appreciation for the effort everyone has made during these unprecedented times. We encourage each of you to stay safe and healthy as you continue to follow the public health guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Ballantyne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Ballantyne
Chairperson
Frontier School Division Board of Trustees