



Date: Wednesday, December 22, 2021

Topic: **Update to parents, guardians, and staff**

The following notification was just received from Manitoba Education:

Extension to the Winter Break for Students:

Please be advised that public health officials have recommended an extension to the school winter break by two days for students. This means students will resume classes on January 10, 2022. School staff will return on January 6, 2022 for professional learning and to prepare for the continuation of learning in January.

This extension will give public health officials more time to assess the effects of the omicron variant in Manitoba, and to provide direction on the return to class in January. This will also allow further time for distribution of rapid antigen tests to families with students in Kindergarten to Grade 6.

The majority of child care centres will remain open for children under the age of 12 to ensure families can continue to access needed child care services.

While this is a very new development, public health officials are working to learn more about the omicron variant and what this means for schools. We appreciate your understanding and commit to sharing any additional information about the return to school once it is available.

Please share the attached holiday message sent on behalf of the Minister with your school communities.