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Dear BTPS Families,

As you may be aware, many of our BTPS elementary aged students were provided with a daily nutritious meal in their school through the School Nutrition Program that was funded by an Alberta Education grant. In many of our BTPS schools, we were so pleased that we were able to provide many of our students with access to nutritious food items. When classes were suspended on March 15, the nutrition programs that we had in place for students in the schools could no longer be offered. We know that the needs this program addresses did not end when schools were closed, only our ability to offer them directly to students on a daily basis was no longer possible.

Alberta Education has allowed us to continue to support BTPS students with the funds provided. We know that the limitations put in place to flatten the COVID 19 curve has been hard on families in so many ways. For some families, reduced work hours or layoffs has meant for increased financial pressure. When these pressures arise, we understand that difficult choices have to be made in terms of how limited dollars need to be spent. We have decided to help and make some of those choices easier when it comes to the purchase of food items for families where money is tight. We have worked with some of our local food stores to help make this happen. Using those dollars provided to us to assist with nutritious food choices, we have purchased a number of gift cards that can be used towards buying groceries. These cards are redeemable at local grocery stores in most of our BTPS communities. While we know that they will not replace all that has been lost or all that it is needed, we are hopeful that the amounts we can offer will go a little way to help make things a bit better for families who could use a little help!

We want to make access to this help as easy as possible. If you feel this program would help you and your family, please reach out and contact your local school principal to let them know of you could use the help. They will work with you to make arrangements on how to receive this support. We completely understand how difficult this is for some of our families and we are more than happy to do all we can. You all matter to us and we feel fortunate that we are able to help during these challenging times.

We recognize the difficulties being faced in this crisis and want to do our part as members of your school family, your friends, and neighbors. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers! We look forward to a time when we can once again gather and celebrate as a BTPS family.

Take care,

Bob Allen
Superintendent of Schools

Lanie Parr
Board Chair