19th December, 2018

Dear Primary and Middle School Parents/Guardians,

**Report Card Update**

The Department of Education is focused on ensuring quality teaching, learning and improved outcomes for our students.

In response to feedback from key stakeholder groups, including the Bermuda Union of Teachers and School Principals, I would like to advise you that report cards will not be going home in December 2018.

The Department of Education is working together with our important stakeholders on the best way forward for the implementation of Standards-Based Grading and the reporting of grades. Once the best way forward is finalized, information on these critical matters will be shared with you in January 2019.

**Academic Calendar Change**

I would also like to remind parents that all students in the Bermuda Public School System (except those attending preschool) will now return to school on January 3rd, 2019. Preschool students will return to school on January 2nd, 2019.

Principals and school staff will be participating in professional development on January 2nd, 2019, the day that students were previously due to return to school.

The academic calendar was changed as a result of the need for professional development for Standards-Based Grading at primary and middle school levels, and to be responsive to requests from our senior school and special school principals for school-based professional development.

We at the Department of Education remain committed to working collaboratively with parents, teachers and principals to improve the outcomes of students in the Bermuda Public School System, and apologize for any inconvenience caused by the change in the academic calendar.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful Christmas with your family and all of the best for 2019.

Regards,

Kalmar Richards (Mrs.)
Commissioner of Education