



November 24, 2020

To the Brescia community,

Today, Western has made the decision to delay the start of the winter term until Monday, January 11th, 2021. Brescia will support this decision and give our students a much needed extended break. All Brescia courses for the winter term will now commence on Monday, January 11th. Any Brescia student who is exempted from this start date will be notified directly by the Registrar's Office.

We know that this term has been a challenging one. Yet in the Ursuline spirit, our community has responded to the changing circumstances with flexibility, patience—and most importantly compassion. This year, our students have faced levels of disruption we could never have imagined. And while they have brilliantly adapted, now is the time for us to step back and think about how to best support our community.

In keeping our students' health and well-being at the forefront of our decisions, this extended winter break will provide a much needed rest for our exhausted students. I hope that each and every one of our students is able to use this break to mentally unwind and support your personal wellness. This is very important—your personal wellness will serve as a source of renewed energy to continue forward through a successful winter term.

Brescia operations will open as planned on Monday, January 4th, 2021. Our faculty and staff have worked tirelessly since the beginning of the pandemic and we wish to also recognize the significant impact they have experienced. To give our employees the opportunity to unwind, rest and recharge, we are providing all employees who would regularly be required to work on December 21st and 22nd, those days off as *paid wellness days*. Employees who are required to work on those days can speak with their supervisors and receive these paid days off to be used, when appropriate, prior to April 30, 2021.

It is important to note that our residence will reopen as originally planned on **Saturday, January 2nd, 2021**. All students who plan to return to their home in Clare Hall will be taken care of and meal options will be offered.

Moving forward through 2021, I can confirm the following:

- Winter Reading Week will still take place, as planned, from February 13th through 21st.
- The length of the April 2021 final exam period will be condensed and run April 14th – 30th.
- Brescia supports Western's decision for an extended Canada Day holiday weekend and will close our campus on Friday, July 2nd, 2021, to enjoy an extra-long weekend at the start of summer holidays.



All members of our community are in my thoughts as we work together to successfully complete this term. I know that each of us has persevered and worked very hard through uncertain days. I am grateful for your continued support and the kindness and compassion I have witnessed in such a short time at Brescia.

From the 9th Counsel of St. Angela Merici, “Live in harmony united in one heart and one will.” I feel fortunate to be part of a community that is united, and looks out for each other, showing concern for our shared well-being.

I hope that the delayed start to our winter term is something we can all benefit from, and help us to greet 2021 with a renewed sense of optimism and faith.

Sincerely,

Cheryl

Cheryl Jensen, BSc, M.Ed.

Interim Principal