



Sunday, June 20, 2021

Ridgemount Families,

We have a very busy week coming up so I wanted to share some updates with you. Firstly, I would like to share some bittersweet news. This will be my last June at Ridgemount. I will be taking on the role of Principal at Central Elementary School starting in September. I am so fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with all of you and your children over the last few years. I have established some wonderful connections and relationships with staff, students, families and the community. As I embark on this new learning and leadership journey I am taking so many amazing memories, experiences and learning with me! I wish to extend a huge thank you to all of you for your support and involvement with your child's education and I have mixed emotions about leaving such an incredibly caring and supportive community but feel confident knowing that our staff, students and families are committed to ensuring that our all of our students have the best educational experiences through their elementary years. I am truly grateful to all! Thank you!

We will welcome Mr. M. Castellani into the Principal role at Ridgemount starting next school year. As the current Principal of Prince of Wales Elementary School, Mr. Castellani has a great deal of experience in leading a variety of schools and brings with him a great deal of community building, knowledge of education and establishing strong relationships. We welcome him to the community and I know that he too is looking forward to being a member of this incredible team!

We also will be saying goodbye to some fantastic educators. All have contributed to the amazing climate at Ridgemount! Please join me as we wish the following staff all the best as they begin new experiences in education:

Ms. Gaston – Office Administrator AM

Ms. Filipovic – Remote / Ridgemount Music Teacher

Ms. Filice – Gr 1 /2 Long Term Occasional Teacher

Ms. Faulkner – Gr 7 Long Term Occasional Teacher

Mr. Patocs – Gr 7 Long Term Occasional Teacher

Mr. Feenstra – Gr 3 AM Long Term Occasional Teacher
Ms. Mete – Kindergarten Long Term Occasional Teacher
Ms. Romero – Kindergarten Long Term Occasional DECE
Ms. MacDonnell - Kindergarten Long Term Occasional DECE
Mr. Parente – Remote and Ridgmeount Kindergarten Teacher
Mr. Amis – Remote and Ridgemount Gr 6 Teacher
Ms. Kahn – Remote and Kindergarten DECE
Ms. K. Skinner – Kindergarten Long Term Occasional Teacher
Ms. Stewart – Reading Specialist Gr K-2

And finally, a special goodbye and good luck to Ms. Memme as she begins her new chapter in retirement. A huge thank you to you Ms. Memme for all of her care, support and dedication towards our students and families in the HWDSB. She has truly left an impact on so many of her students, families and colleagues and for this we thank her.

I also wanted to share a few things with you as we approach the last few days of the 2020-2021 school year. And what a year it has been! Thanks to all of you for your flexibility, understanding and patience as we all navigated our way through these unprecedented times.

Year-End Celebrations (by June 25)

- Grade 8 Virtual Graduation Ceremony will be shared on Monday, June 22 by the end of the day. Our walk up Graduation Ceremony for all in person and remote grade 8's will take place on Tuesday, June 22 from 1:00-5:00pm with students and families scheduling 10 minute visits at the school. All Covid safety protocols will be enforced. If you have not already booked a time please contact the school at 905 575 1535.
- All other grades will engage in virtual year end celebrations with their classes before Friday, June 25. Teachers will share the dates and times of their celebrations with students in the next few days.

June 28 & June 29 at all Elementary Schools

- All Kindergarten up to Gr 7 students will engage in self-directed learning on June 28th and 29th as these dates are set aside for teachers to move classes, assist with distributing and collecting materials and planning for our next school year . Attendance is to be taken. Teachers will provide students with materials for

self-directed work for these days. Teacher will share learning materials for students to engage in for June 28 and June 29. Teachers will also communicate to students how they can be reached for questions throughout the day June 28/29.

Student Pick-Up of Personal Items/Drop-off of Learning Resources

- June 28pm/29am students will be able to pick-up personal items and return learning resources (iPads, textbooks, etc.).
- Teachers will communicate with their students and families as to when they are to come to the school to drop off learning resources and pick up any personal belongings that remain at the school. **PLEASE BE SURE TO RETURN ALL SCHOOL LOANED IPADS & CHARGERS ONCE THIS DATE AND TIME HAS BEEN SHARED WITH YOU**
- Remote Learning School students will be instructed by the board to return borrowed iPads to their home school
- All Enhanced Public Health protocols will be followed by staff and students/families and congregating won't be permitted
- As there are still updates happening with schools and staffing families will be asked to access the Parent Portal in mid August to find student's teachers and class placements for the next school year. **Find this on the [Parent Portal](#). ([Backup location](#) for forms and translations or contact the school and we will assist you with locating the appropriate form.**
- **Report Cards will be sent to all families electronically on Thursday, June 24. You will need your child's date of birth dd/mm/year to open the email to access the reports**

Please be sure to check voice mail messages, emails, the Parent Portal and our website for updated information regarding upcoming events, the HWDSB Learn Disrupt Rebuild initiative and communication regarding remote/in school transitions and information for registration and remote learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Please contact the school office if you require any support accessing these (905 575 1535)

Parking Lot and Pick Up and Drop Off

A reminder that for the safety of our staff and students, families will not be permitted to enter the school parking lot throughout the school day. Families are asked to follow the parking signs posted on Ronaldshay and Hester streets and to ensure students safely enter the school using the sidewalks and the proper entrance by the portable. The parking bylaw officers have been patrolling and giving warnings that they will be ticketing those parked illegally in the upcoming weeks. Please do not park

in our school bus loading zones (Along the west side of Ronaldshay beside the Kindergarten during entry in the mornings and at the front entrance on Hester at dismissal time).

If valuable items are found they are turned into the office so please contact us if your child has lost something valuable. Clothing items found in classrooms, lockers or hallways will be gathered in a bag and after a short time disposed of or donated to a local charity.

Please be sure to wear masks when on or near the school premises especially during busy drop off and pick up times. We are also encouraging students to wear masks when outdoors at recess, especially when they are playing closer contact activities. Students are still encouraged to social distance and there is plenty of space in each cohort year to remove themselves and take a mask break.

Thank you for keeping up with the communications coming from HWDSB, and for completing important forms, daily screening and reminding students of safety protocols as required. Please be sure to connect with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. A reminder to stay updated and informed please register for our website by logging on to www.hwdsb.on.ca/ridgemount/

If for any reason your child is instructed by Public Health to self isolate for a period of time parents/guardians must review and complete the **Attestation for retrun to school after illness OR self isolation form before their child can return to school. Please be sure to complete and return this form. The form can be found here:**

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/ridgemount/files/2020/11/Attestation-for-return-to-school-after-illness-OR-self-isolation-1.pdf>

Mr. G Carey – Principal

Ridgemount Elementary School