



R.L. Hyslop Week-At-A-Glance  
Week of May 17<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Monday May 17 <sup>h</sup> Day 3		<p style="color: green; text-align: center;"><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <p><b>Monday May 24<sup>th</sup> - Victoria Day</b> <b>*No school</b></p>
Tuesday May 18 <sup>th</sup> Day 4		
Wednesday May 19 <sup>th</sup> Day 5		
Thursday May 20 <sup>th</sup> Day 1		
Friday May 21 <sup>st</sup> Day 2		

**Thought of the week:**



**A Message from Ms. Hogan, Vice-Principal:**

To our Parents/Guardians,

We know that changes to social interactions with important people in our lives can result in accumulated stress. As we continue to strive for equity in our schools and communities, we must remember to reflect on our interactions with people whose identities are different from ours, especially virtually.

**Some questions for reflection:**

1. How are we influenced by unconscious biases that are hidden even from ourselves?
2. How may we perpetuate discrimination against others, despite our best intentions?
3. How can we develop an awareness of identity as a necessary layer of relationship-building for inclusive schools?

This truly is a moment in our school's history, as many of our young leaders and influencers of the future head towards the forefront of change. The world is changing and continuing to do things as we have always done them will not suffice in this new age.

Striving to create cultures of belonging is an ongoing endeavor – a journey that includes continuing awareness and skill-building. I will do all that I can to help our HWDSB community along this journey. It starts with embedding equity and inclusion in all aspects of our curriculum, culture, and community.

Be well everyone.

*Sincerely,*  
*Ms. J. Hogan*

**Mental Wellness Check-Ins:****Hope and enjoyment**

"Now more than ever, finding joy in your day-to-day experiences can improve your quality of life and enhance and protect your mental health. As many of us are mired in intense and heavy information from the news and social media, possible [long-term shelter-in-place orders](#), financial instability, and political and civil unrest, it's become more and more difficult to find peace—both internally and externally. Furthermore, for many adults who are working from home while taking on new roles and responsibilities for their children's academic needs, a newfound stress in the home is ever present. How can we, both individually and as a collective, "spark joy" to lift our own and each other's spirits to get through this global crisis?"

([www.helpguide.org](http://www.helpguide.org))

- I am optimistic about my future.
- I feel good about myself
- I like and accept myself.
- I usually expect good things will happen.

- I enjoy life.

[www.https://cmha.ca](https://cmha.ca)

## Our Journey to Becoming More Equity Literate

### Greater Equity Means Greater Student Success

Ontario's diversity is one of its greatest assets. It is the Ministry of Education's responsibility to respect and value the full range of differences we find in our students, staff, and the entire community. We know that to create safe, inclusive and engaging learning environments within our publicly funded education system, we must be committed to equity and inclusion for all students.

### Equity Action Plan

The Ministry of Education's **Education Equity Secretariat** will bring new resources and explore program options, create new policies and establish realistic goals to help bridge gaps and disparities in achievement for all students across the province.

We are focusing on a small number of clear objectives that include shifting the culture in our classrooms, schools and districts by applying an equity, inclusion and human rights perspective to internal organizational structures — including the Ministry of Education itself. We are tracking our progress to measure success in achieving our goals.

Additionally, diversity in leadership and in enrolments for teacher training will increase fairness in the hiring and promotion of staff and educators by removing barriers for underrepresented communities. School leaders and educators will better reflect Ontario's diverse student population. Research shows that when students see themselves reflected in their learning environment, they are more likely to feel a sense of belonging and well-being.

### The Goal of Equity in Education

In *Achieving Excellence*, Ontario's vision for education, the ministry included "Ensuring Equity" as one of its core goals. By identifying, removing, and preventing, systemic barriers and discriminatory practices, students will be able to realize their full potential, and that will improve student achievement. Demographic data can help identify barriers and provide a clearer picture of who makes up Ontario's student and staff population. This type of research also contributes to more informed decision-making.

*Achieving Excellence* is ambitious — but it's achievable. The vision challenges the education system to go beyond simply graduating successful students to developing resilient and engaged citizens. It ensures that Ontario students have the opportunity to succeed personally and academically, regardless of background, identity or personal circumstances.

Ensuring equity is a necessary foundation for improving student achievement, promoting student and staff well-being, and it's a critical component of the student experience. The Ontario government is committed to the success of every child and student across the province, and it will ensure that linking student achievement, well-being and equity is the top priority in all Ontario schools.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/equity.html>



## GRADE 8 GRADUATION

Our Grade 8 students will be celebrating the end of their elementary school days in June. More information will be made available in the upcoming weeks. Due to restrictions, we will need to follow the advice given to us from Public Health and the HWDSB. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Cantwell or the school at 905-662-8425.

### Things We Need to Know:

1. Please note that if your child(ren) needs technology or a work package, please call or email the school and leave a message. Someone will reach out to you and make arrangements for a date and time for pick up.
2. Just a reminder to touch base with your child's teacher (if they are not using MS Teams) at least a couple of times a week to share how they are still engaging with learning. This allows us to continue to mark your child present for school. If your child is not engaging and being marked absent for an extended period of time, the expectation is that the case will be passed on to the School's Social Worker.



**Next Meeting Date: Last meeting of the year** TBD via MS Teams.

Please email our School Council Chair to ensure you are added to the Teams invite list!

**For more information about School Council, please reach out to our Chair, Christine Scheewe, by email: [RLHyslopSC@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:RLHyslopSC@hwdsb.on.ca)**