



Winona Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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PRINCIPAL: Mr. T. Illman
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Mrs. J. Adler
www.hwdsb.on.ca/winona

June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Grade 8 Graduating Students,

As you know, due to Covid-19, this year has been full of significant challenges for schools in Ontario including Winona Elementary. Students, staff and families have had to adjust and adapt to new realities many times over the past 15 months. The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board has been working closely with Hamilton Public Health through-out the school year as plans for school graduations have been underway for several months. As you know, we are obligated to follow Public Health guidelines at all times on the school property. Although it will look quite different again, we are pleased to let you know how our Grade 8 Graduating students will be honoured this year. We are very proud of our Grade 8 Graduates of the Class of 2021.

Graduation Video

We are excited to be able to share a special Video Graduation that has been created by our Grade 8 Team of teachers as well as many other staff members participating from the school. This video has been created over the past couple of months with a great deal of love and care by Winona staff as a special tribute to our 2021 Graduating Class. We know that families will enjoy this video together. The Grade 8 Graduation video will be released to students and families on Monday, June 21.

Parental/Passive Consent

The Graduation Video will be a commemorative recognition of our graduating Grade 8 students which will include a variety of pictures of graduates, congratulatory messages from the principal and teachers, as well as sharing the names of graduating students and acknowledging those who have received awards. The video will be shared on [HWDSBtv](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca) and HWDSB student credentials are required to access it. Recipients will be discouraged from sharing the video with people who would not normally attend the ceremony. Posting publicly, including social media, is prohibited although it is important to know that HWDSB cannot guarantee that recipients will respect this requirement. ***Parents/guardians who do not want their child recognized as part of the commemorative video should contact their student's teacher by Tuesday, June 15, 2021.*** If we do not hear back from you by June 15, 2021, we are assuming you are giving passive consent for sharing your child's name/photo/video in our virtual celebration.

Drive-Up Graduation Stations

On Tuesday, June 22 and Wednesday, June 23, we will be hosting a "Drive-up Graduation" in front of the school with a raindate of Thursday, June 24. You will be required to book an arrival time online to help us ensure appropriate Covid-19 social distancing. We will be staggering



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everyone, while on the school property, in accordance with Public Health guidelines. To ensure we are following Public Health guidelines, we ask that graduates only bring 4 guests to the school.

Booking an Arrival Time

To book your arrival time please visit the appointment scheduler website at:

<http://winonaelementary.schoolappointments.com>

Please note that the online booking calendar does not go live until Friday, June 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Upon arrival at the school during your time slot, you will be directed into our parking lot and will park your vehicle. You will then move through various stations before returning to your vehicle. The stations will be as follows:

Station #1 – Public Health Screening

Station #2 – Drop off iPads and school technology & Pick up of personal belongings

Station #3 – Graduation Folders with Diplomas, Awards, etc.

Station #4 – Special Gift for our Graduates

Station #5 – Photo Opportunity area in front of the school

Station #6 – “Winona Graduate” Lawn Signs to take home

Public Health requires that families and staff follow all protocols including: mask wearing on school property (except for pictures), hand sanitizing, social distancing of 2 metres, and that we move through the process of the stations within a reasonable time frame so that we don't experience “bunching up” and overcrowding. Congregating of families in the parking lot is not permitted by Public Health. Public Health has made the school responsible to ensure that the line continues to move along safely and to ensure that families return to their cars in a timely and safe manner. We will ask that people respect that obligation.

In our current Covid-19 world, we thank-you in advance for your positivity and support as we move forward celebrating the Class of 2021 at Winona Elementary.

Sincerely,

T. Illman
Principal