

HWDSB

June 1, 2020

Dear families,

As we enter June, we remember the enthusiasm, spirit and sense of accomplishment that we feel at this time of year. This year is unique, but we look forward to our final month of learning as we honour our students, especially our graduates. We await Ministry of Education guidance as we plan summer learning opportunities and back to school.

Condemning acts of anti-Black racism

We want to first share that we are outraged by recent acts of anti-Black racism and violence that led to the death of members of the Black community. We have issued a statement to oppose injustice and racism, knowing that action is also required. We need all students, staff and families to be safe in HWDSB and our wider community. You can see [this statement on our website](#).

Sign up to pick up Belongings in Schools

On Friday, we shared information with you about how to retrieve student belongings in schools. Access to book is now available via secondary school websites. Elementary access, however, is delayed until tomorrow, June 2 at 8am. We thank you for your patience as we set up a new booking system at the elementary level. Find an overview of the plan and learn what to expect on our website [here](#).

Reminder: Student *Thoughtexchange*

Thank you to all the families who responded when we asked for input on distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, using the *Thoughtexchange* conversation platform. We are listening to your input, know we have work to do and will adjust how we move forward. We have extended the deadline for students to weigh in until **Friday, June 5, 2020 at 11:59 PM**.

Students need parent/guardian consent to participate. Emails were shared with families. Please consider sharing this opportunity with your child. If you have questions, please contact your child's school. Hearing more about students' experiences of distance learning during COVID-19 will help us respond and improve.

Fun Learning with our Community Partners

Starting this week, educators and students will have access to approved resources and programs from partners like Hamilton Honey Badgers, Telling Tales and McMaster Children and Youth University, for example, to enhance and support classroom learning. The virtual experience gives partners access to HWDSB's secured platform, Microsoft Teams. Families can learn more about this opportunity and the privacy safeguards in place [here](#).

HWDSB

Continued Supports for Students with Special Needs

The Specialized Services team has developed a new [website](#) for deaf and hard of hearing students. The website hosts information for students, families and educators. Topics include services available at HWDSB and in the community, sign language, hearing equipment and Auditory Processing Disorder.

How to set your SchoolMessenger Preferences

Did you know that you can choose how to receive your HWDSB messages? We use the communication platform SchoolMessenger to notify families about important announcements. Families can use the free SchoolMessenger app or website to choose how they want to receive these messages – phone, email, app or text (standard rates apply). [Learn more](#) about setting your SchoolMessenger preferences.

Stay well and be safe,



Alex Johnstone
Chair of the Board



Manny Figueiredo
Director of Education