

HWDSB

June 8, 2020

Dear families,

At HWDSB, we care deeply about the well-being of all members of our school communities, including students, families and staff. We know that the pandemic continues to be a challenge to our well-being. Families, please remember that we have resources to support [mental well-being during COVID-19](#).

Picking up belongings in schools

As some schools continue to support parents/guardians and students this week with picking up belongings, we would like to thank staff for all the work involved. We know this has been a large and challenging, but important, task for families. There will be a second chance in late June for families who were unable to pick up belongings. More information will be shared once finalized.

Report Cards

Parents/guardians and students will receive their report cards at the end of June. We will send report cards, as a secure document, using SchoolMessenger's email feature. When you receive the email, you will need your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN) to verify access to the report card. You can find your child's OEN on a previous progress report or report cards. If you are unable to find your OEN, please contact your child's school.

Parents/guardians, please ensure that your current email is on file by logging into your SchoolMessenger account and registered with your child's school to receive the report card. If in doubt, please contact the school by submitting your email address through the contact form on your child's school website. For convenience, access your school's contact form [here](#). If you have questions, please call 905-527-5092 or email info@hwdsb.on.ca.

Summer Learning Update

This week, Continuing Education shared its [2020 Summer Program](#) brochure and opened summer registration. Next week, we will be ready to share information about other summer learning opportunities for students.

Secondary School Graduation Celebrations

Graduation is a milestone that deserves praise. This month, we will celebrate the class of 2020 with advertisements, billboards, and by providing our Grade 12 graduates a window-style sign they can proudly display. More details to come! If you wish to honour graduates in your own way, feel free to use our school logos for this celebration.

Elementary School Celebrations

We look forward to the many virtual celebrations to come at the end of this month for our elementary schools, including Grade 8 graduations. We are excited to share certificates to all Grade 8 students. School-based awards will also be allocated to celebrate student accomplishments.

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Focus on Youth

Starting Monday, students 16 to 21 years of age can apply for our Focus on Youth summer employment opportunity. We are pleased to run the program, with modifications due to COVID-19, in partnership with the Ministry of Education. Focus on Youth provides students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills, gain work experience, and give back to their community. Students [can apply here](#) with their resume before June 22, 2020.

Building Indigenous Community

We are inviting all Indigenous parents, guardians, staff, students and teachers to join the upcoming series of Virtual Talking Circles, to share, learn, listen and celebrate connections and the end of the unusual school year. HWDSB's Indigenous Education Team has planned this innovative opportunity to share the voices of Indigenous communities and to help shape a long-term crisis response plan. The conversations will be held on June 9, 16 and 23. Please see full details in [this flyer](#) and register using [Microsoft Forms](#).

Indigenous Community Thoughtexchange

As this challenging time continues, we are using [Thoughtexchange](#) to see how things are going for Indigenous learners, parents/guardians, staff and community. What are you worried about? What is working well? Where do we go from here to make things better? We will email all families more details about this opportunity. If you see yourself as a member of the Indigenous community, please have your say and share with others who this may benefit. This opportunity is open until the end of day Friday, June 26.

Plans for Next School Year

Staff are actively working on school opening plans to be ready for when the closure is lifted. Health and safety considerations are at the forefront of these plans. The Ministry of Education will inform us at the end of June about how public education will resume for the next school year.

Ontario COVID-19 Testing Plan

The province released its testing plan on May 29, 2020, [Protecting Ontarians Through Enhanced Testing](#). Ontario's testing guidance now indicates when you should visit an assessment center. Stay informed and visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19. Local information is also available from [Hamilton Public Health Services](#).

Stay well and be safe,



Alex Johnstone
Chair of the Board



Manny Figueiredo
Director of Education

HWDSB

curiosity • **creativity** • **possibility**