

HWDSB

May 4, 2020

Dear families,

This week, we recognize Education Week. While we are apart, we continue to celebrate student success. We also honour the dedication of staff at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

Since our last update, the Minister of Education extended the school closure to May 31, 2020. The Ministry is monitoring the public health situation and may extend the closure if necessary. We have plans in case the closure extends into June.

Below are several updates we would like to share with you.

Update on School Construction: The province has announced that school construction will recommence starting today, May 4, 2020. We will provide further communication later this month on specific school projects.

Professional Activity (PA) Days and Exam Days: All remaining PA days and exam days will become instructional days, by ministry direction.

Mental Health Resources: This week is also Mental Health Week. In challenging times, mental well-being is a priority. We continue to add to the mental health resources on our [COVID-19 web page](#). We will be sharing helpful tips from The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health on our [website](#) and social media.

Specialized Services: We have posted a new [parent guide for deaf and hard of hearing students](#). The guide answers some commonly asked questions and recommends resources to support your child's auditory learning at home. If you have any questions, please connect with your child's classroom teacher or school learning resource teacher. We have also posted new videos in the [Learning4Success](#) series, which suggest learning tasks for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or a Developmental Disability who are on a modified or alternative program at school. All tasks use items commonly found at home.

Kindergarten Registration: School doors may be closed but we are [accepting](#) online kindergarten registrations for 2020-2021. Your child must four years old by December 31, 2020. Families can register at www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/#REGISTER. Families will create an account, enter details and add their child to our student information system. Office staff will connect with families to schedule a video conference to see official documents such as proof of your child's age. Find a school using our [School Locator](#).

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Newcomer Admission: Welcome Centre staff are available to assist with both general and newcomer admission and registration questions. Newcomer students who need an English language assessment at the Welcome Centre or a Prior Learning and Recognition (PLAR) assessment for equivalency credits can call 905-521-2554.

Feedback: As we continue with distance learning, we want to hear from families about their experiences. Watch for more information in the days ahead about how you can share your thoughts.

Stay well and be safe,



Alex Johnstone
Chair of the Board



Manny Figueiredo
Director of Education