

## **Parent Bulletin – June 5**

As we move into June, we are beginning to finish up another school year. Teachers will be providing their last assignments to students and encouraging them to submit work for evaluation. After final marks have been submitted, the Administration will be preparing the report cards for this school year. From all indications, report cards will be sent electronically this year. Please encourage your student(s) to submit incomplete assignments. There are still opportunities for students to improve their academic standing while maximizing their learning in preparation for September 2020.

On Wednesday, instructions were sent to students and parents/guardians regarding locker clean-out and text book and other school property retrieval. Please review this information and the instructions carefully. Please ensure that your student, or you, sign up using the link. We have modified the parent-teacher interview sign-up to accommodate with the scheduling. At this time we are not asking for TDSB-owned devices be returned to the school, with the exception of graduating students. We ask that grade 12 students return devices at the same time as they clean our lockers and return school property. All students currently in grades 9, 10 and 11 are asked to keep TDSB-owned devices for now.

Many parents have been asking about plans for the Class of 2020. At this time, Commencement has been postponed until the fall. We are hopeful that physical distancing restrictions will begin to lift over the coming months, but as always we must follow the direction of Toronto Public Health, the Province of Ontario and the TDSB. And while we were trying to accommodate some type of “walk-through” the school grounds towards the end of June to acknowledge graduates individually with their parents, the present restriction of no more than 5 people in a gathering makes this impossible. However, we will continue to work towards acknowledging graduates by the end of June in a creative way.

We have also been receiving requests for information regarding September 2020. At this time, we are aware that the Ministry of Education, in conjunction with school boards across the province, are currently exploring what “back to school” might look like in September. Please continue to monitor the TDSB’s website for the latest information.

I would like to remind the Harbord community about the importance of following Toronto Public Health directives. Over the past two days, the Admin team have been working at the school in preparation for students returning to school beginning next week. We take this work extremely seriously and we must ensure that all students and staff follow these directives to keep our community safe. In travelling to and from school over the last two days, I have also noticed many people not following the physical distancing guidelines and standing on Bloor Street in close proximity to others without masks. There is also far more foot traffic. Warm weather and the loosening of restrictions can give us a false sense of security and a belief that we have flattened the Covid-19 curve. We are not “out of the woods” yet, but I continue to be optimistic that Harbord students and staff can be back in school sometime soon.

I feel it is important to speak about world events in the last week and a half. Since arriving at Harbord two years ago, I have been so impressed with the honest, open and difficult conversations taking place in our school community around Equity. Our staff have participated in much learning and professional development about Equity, anti-black racism and anti-oppression. These conversations would not have taken place without relationships of trust, both with students and staff. Our students, from a variety of diverse groups, have courageously poured their hearts and souls out to us to help us better understand their lived

experiences. This is how true learning takes place. We are a strong school community that values the diversity of our students, families and staff and we will continue to ensure all voices in our community are heard and valued.

Have a good weekend. Stay safe and take care.

Cynthia Abernethy