



By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

... Lend Me Your Ears

BUSINESS (NOT QUITE) AS USUAL..

Dear people of Halton Hills;

During these uncertain times, rest assured we remain open to serve you. We have adjusted services according to the guidance by Health Canada.

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NEWS

SCHOOL YEAR-END PLANS ANNOUNCED

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The Halton District School Board has released its much-anticipated plan for year-end celebrations at elementary schools.

Despite Ontario Premier Doug Ford encouraging Ontario schools to hold in-person, outdoor celebrations at the end of the month due to decreasing COVID-19 cases and increasing vaccinations, the Board has decided to keep the celebrations virtual.

"Given the ongoing public health risk and uncertainty, we must make decisions that support the health and safety of everyone involved. Halton Region Public Health has provided

further guidance, referencing the provincial government's Roadmap to Reopen regarding a limit of 10 people at outdoor social gatherings and organized public events (beginning June 11)," HDSB stated in a notification to elementary school families. "This is especially important given the presence of Variants of Concern in our community, which are more transmissible. With these factors in mind, the safest way of celebrating is virtually."

This also includes Grade 8 graduations.

"We know how important graduation and end-of-year celebrations are for students, staff and families — especially after such a challenging year. This is

why teachers, students and families have already put tremendous effort and time into organizing and preparing virtual graduation ceremonies for students and families.

Schools have been planning graduation celebrations since early March as a way to provide an equitable and safe opportunity for all students and staff to celebrate this milestone," the board said.

"Video salutes are in production or complete, as well as many other school specific special touches for Grade 8 students that abide by the Health and Safety protocols put in place across Ontario. These planned graduations and activities ensure there is equitable access for both in-person and virtual students to celebrate in all communities. Due to the limit of 10 people at outdoor gatherings, HDSB elementary schools with Grade 8 students will continue with their previously planned virtual graduation ceremo-

nies and activities."

The board added "we did not make this decision lightly." There will be an in-person opportunity for students to pick up belongings and drop off Board-owned technology and resources on either Monday, June 28 or Tuesday, June 29, "with health and safety protocols in place," the Board said.

Students participating in summer learning and/or are registered for remote learning in September do not need to return their technology in June, the Board added.

Students currently attending school in-person in specialized programs or with individual support will continue to do so through to Tuesday, June 29.

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