

Message from Our Trustee

June 2023

Dear families,

As we approach the end of the school year and the start of the summer break, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for helping to make this school year a positive one. This is our first school year since 2018-2019 that has not been interrupted by closures as a result of COVID-19, and it has been such a pleasure to visit schools and school events over the past few months and see students, staff and families connecting and learning together.

I think it's important to acknowledge the effect the pandemic has had on students; and we have made it a priority to put supports in place for student learning, achievement, mental health and well-being. We also continue to work hard to create safe, inclusive and caring learning environments where our students know and feel that they matter and belong.

June is also a time when we look ahead to transitions - students moving ahead to new grades, new schools and new adventures. Thank you to the school staff who support students through these transitions. Congratulations to all of our graduating students moving on to secondary school or post-secondary pathways. We are so proud of all that you have achieved, class of 2023, and wish you all the very best in what comes next.

I also want to acknowledge all that you have done, as family members, to support your child and our schools - whether that's asking your child about their learning, communicating with their educators, attending school events, reading the information that comes home from the school, sharing feedback, completing surveys, tracking down library books, volunteering on field trips and in the classroom, participating in school councils, and so much more. We are grateful for all of the ways you support your child's learning and our public education system.

Communicating with families remains an important priority for us. I have had the pleasure of meeting and connecting with many families throughout the school year and appreciate how important it is that we remain connected to you. In addition to communication from your child's school, there are also many ways you can stay connected with what is happening in the Board, including our [newsroom](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [award-winning podcast](#). We were also very pleased to launch this year the [Centre for Black Student Excellence Mailing List](#) for families looking to receive information directly related to supporting Black students, celebrating Black excellence and dismantling anti-Black racism.

As we approach the summer, we look forward to welcoming students who will be participating in our variety of [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) summer learning programs. I wish everyone a happy, safe and restful summer break.

Carolyn Butterworth

Trustee, Georgina and East Gwillimbury