



Employee Update #20 - We Made It! End of School Year Update

1 message

News Flash Administrator <newsflashadmin@ocdsb.ca>

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To: News Flash <newsflash@ocdsb.ca>

Cc: Corporate Records <corporate.records@ocdsb.ca>

Dear OCDSB Colleagues,

When Margaret Mead said, "Never underestimate the power of a small group of people to change the world." I think she may have been foreshadowing the work of the OCDSB staff in 2020! These past four months, I have been so impressed watching you in action - thoughtful, innovative and caring AND making an impact. Since we cannot get together in person, I wanted to invite you into my home workspace and share my reflections on the school year.



Celebrating success

Thanks to all of you who have been so busy these past few weeks celebrating our students and in particular our graduates. The video ceremonies and tributes have been so much fun to watch and I know they mean so much to students and families. Thank you for making time for that. This week, the District recognized the many volunteers who work so tirelessly in our schools through our online [Community Recognition Awards](#). We also virtually celebrated our [Student Recognition Award recipients](#).

There is one other very special group that I would like to acknowledge and that is our retirees. Let's all take a moment to acknowledge our colleagues who are retiring at the end of this school year. You definitely know how to go out on a bang! We may not have been able to celebrate in person this year, but we are so appreciative of the impact you have had on our students and our community. We look forward to celebrating with you at next year's retirement ceremony. In the interim, please accept our sincere thanks and warmest wishes. Enjoy your adventures.

Summer Learning - Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Toolkit

In recent weeks, many employees have been reaching out to colleagues and friends looking for resources to support their learning journey on anti-racism, anti-Black racism and anti-oppression. We are excited to launch the OCDSB Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Toolkit. Take some time to explore what the toolkit has to offer - you will find books, articles, podcasts, videos and teaching resources. The kit also includes educator resources to help purposefully embed equity, diversity, inclusion, anti-racism and anti-oppression into instructional practices. Whether this is your first step into this learning or you are an active ally, there is something in this toolkit for you including a [Guide to Selecting Anti-bias Children Books](#); [How To Avoid Cultural Appropriation In Your Lessons](#) and [5 ways help create a culturally sensitive classroom](#). Take a look: [Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Starter Tool Kit](#).

School Year 2020

Last week, we shared that the Ministry has provided guidelines with three possible models for learning in September. School districts must have plans for each of these:

- Fully remote/virtual (this will be enhanced synchronous learning)
- An adaptive or blended learning environment (combination of in-school and at home learning with reduced ratios)
- Fully in school (conventional learning with full ratios)

Plans must also be in place to support transition to fully remote learning by individual classes, or a school or a group of schools should there be concerns regarding the spread of the virus. Parents will have the option to have their student(s) opt-out of in school learning and learn remotely .

Final decisions regarding how we start the school year will be made in early August after further consultation with the Ministry and health authorities. At this time, we anticipate September will begin with an adaptive learning model, with a goal of transitioning to in school learning as soon as health authorities say that is okay. A staff memorandum with more details about expectations for September 2020 will be issued today.

Stay Connected

As we work through planning for September, there are lots of unanswered questions. We promise to keep in touch and keep you informed as information becomes available. Please check your OCDSB email for updates.

Finally, my very best wishes to you for a happy summer. Use this time to relax, explore, learn and invest in yourself. We know that September will look different, but based on our experience this year, I am confident that together we can do great things.

Be well and be safe. Happy Summer.

Camille

Camille Williams-Taylor

Director of Education/Secretary to the Board