

Greetings Rideau families,

Congratulations to everyone on making it to the last week of school! We know that this has been a truly unique, challenging school year, and we are so proud of everything that has been accomplished by our Rhinos. In spite of the difficulties and obstacles with Emergency Remote Learning, we have seen kindergarten students learning to read, students improving fluency and math skills, researching and conducting experiments at home, and sharing their learning with classmates and teachers. We have all become better at Google Classroom, we have laughed and shared stories on Google Meet, and learned a variety of life skills such as cooking, gardening, and other household chores. It has been a hard 3 months in many ways, but our Rideau community has persevered and risen to the challenge.

This week is a week to wrap things up and say our good-byes for the summer. We hope that all our returning students have a great vacation, and we look forward to seeing you in September. We don't know exactly what school will look like in the fall, but we know that we will put student safety first, as we work towards full in-class learning again. For all our students who aren't returning in the fall, we wish you all the best in your new schools. To our graduating grade 6 students, thank you for making Rideau such a special place. Whether you have been a Rhino for one year or 8, you have left your mark on your school, and we know that with hard work and determination you will be successful in the future. We are excited to celebrate your achievements this evening and again tomorrow with our recognition activities.

As I wrote in my last email, we also say good bye and thank you to many staff members this week. It is difficult this year not to recognize everyone in a year-end assembly. Congratulations to Mme Dossett on her well-deserved retirement – it has been an amazing career, during which she has impacted the lives of so many children and families. To everyone else moving on to new schools and new adventures, we will miss you, and will welcome you back any time you want to visit.

Report cards will be mailed on Wednesday, so should arrive next week. Included in the report cards is a letter from the Director, explaining this term's reporting and the impact of Emergency Remote Learning.

During the period of school closure, we deployed over 50 devices (Chromebooks and iPads) to support student learning – that represents more than 10% of our students! If you borrowed a device, please return it to the school on Monday, June 29, from 9 a.m. to noon, or Tuesday, June 30, from noon to 3:00 p.m. If you can not return the device at one of those times, please let us know via email at [ridea@limestone.on.ca](mailto:ridea@limestone.on.ca) or [seiverightg@limestone.on.ca](mailto:seiverightg@limestone.on.ca). Depending on what the situation is in the fall, devices will once again be available for at-home learning.

Finally, parents and guardians, thank you for all of your support and hard work this year. We know that for many of our families, remote learning has been a difficult endeavour. We have seen parents learning and working alongside their children, helping navigate Google Classroom, and still try to juggle work and home responsibilities. We could not have supported and engaged our students without your involvement, and we appreciate your work.

Have a great summer everyone! It's a good opportunity to take a break from screens, rest, and recharge. We are excited to see everyone back in the fall. Please check the website (<https://rideaupublicschool.limestone.on.ca/>) and Twitter (@RideauPS\_LDSB) for updates, and I'm sure I will send out an email in August.

Take care, and have a safe and happy summer,

Greg Seiveright, Principal