



TRUSTEE James Li MBA CPA CMA

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June 23, 2020

Dear Students of Don Valley North,

As this school year draws to a close, I want say great job on completing an unprecedented school year and to wish you a happy summer break.

When the 2019-2020 school year kicked off last September, I don't believe anyone could have imagined the roller coaster ride that it would become, and what a ride it was! The social distancing measures implemented into our society at the beginning of March have never before been experienced in any part of our history, and they instituted very significant changes to our everyday lives.

As the schools were closed and all of you were asked to stay home as much as possible, I was worried about you and how you would cope with the changes. I was concerned that you wouldn't be able to learn the things that you normally do, or that you might miss your friends and teachers. I knew you wanted to go to the park, or the library, or the mall, and that some of you may have been looking forward to a big trip that had to be cancelled.

But throughout these past months you have shown an incredible amount of strength and resiliency in adapting to this new environment and thriving in the face of change. I saw that you took on the challenge of learning from home and using technology to complete school assignments. I saw that you stayed connected to your friends, family, and teachers using various telecommunication tools. And when the weather warmed up, I observed you stretching your legs outside while responsibly following social distancing rules in order to protect yourselves and others. You have certainly prevailed against all the challenges we have faced so far this year, and I am extremely proud of you all.

This year has proven to us that the world can change very quickly and in many unexpected ways. As we move forward together, I encourage you to continue to be strong and creative in order to overcome any challenges that life may present. You have already demonstrated that you are able to succeed in the face of tremendous uncertainty, and I am confident that nothing will slow you down. On this note, please remember to also give your parents a great big hug as this year had also been a challenging one for them and I'm sure hugs from you will be a tremendous to lift their spirits.

This summer will be different from the ones before, but I know it can still be one that is full of fun and enjoyment. Before the summer starts, I want to share with you all the things I plan to do in this video <https://youtu.be/72H-wywuRFk>. I would also love to hear what you plan to do this summer – you can send me a message at james.li@tdsb.on.ca.

I wish you all a blast!!

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Li", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Li
Trustee, Ward 13 – Don Valley North
Toronto District School Board