



## Richard Beasley ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

September 2017 ... **Welcome Back!**

**Dear Parents and Caregivers,**

On behalf of the staff of Richard Beasley School, and the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, welcome back to what will no doubt be another great year here at RB! I can tell you that we have been excited to get going and that I am thrilled to once again be a part of the RB community!

Mr. Schlecht and Mr. Elliot have really done a terrific job once again preparing our school over the summer. Teaching staff, Early Childhood Educators and Educational Assistants have been preparing and classrooms are warm, welcoming, and safe environments for your children to be successful in. Mrs. McDonald has dedicated much time and effort to communicating with families and gathering information in accordance with the 'beginning of school' protocols. **Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the accompanying forms and for returning them to school by Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup>.** Also a reminder that we are once again asking families to contribute \$4.00 toward the cost of the Student Agendas that have been distributed to students in Grades 1-5. **Student agendas are fantastic communication tools.**

Included in this package you will find;

- ✓ Our 'Welcome Back' (September) newsletter and September calendar
- ✓ A current Richard Beasley staff list
- ✓ 'Media Consent Ageement' (**to be signed and returned to the school**, replaces the former 'internet use' and 'photo consent' agreements)
- ✓ Student 'walking trip' permission form (**to be signed and returned to the school**)

Parents are a critical part of students' learning experience at school! Your child's teacher should always be your first/primary 'go to' person and please do not hesitate to make contact with questions or concerns about your child's education. Working together is the best way to support our students to achieve their full potential ... thank you and please see accompanying information.

David Thorne  
Principal  
Richard Beasley Public School



## September 2017! Things to know ...

1. Our **Healthy Morning Snack** program ('Grab and Go' as the kids know it) has already begun! All students once again have access to nutritious snacks prior to the start of each school day.

**THANK YOU** to our **parent volunteers for all the help and support** in order to make this fantastic initiative work!

2. We are intending to once again offer a Nutrition Break '**Milk Program**' where students will be able to purchase either 2% or chocolate milk for \$1.00. We will be starting the week of Monday, September 11th!

3. **Pizza Days** (Wednesdays) will also be starting soon! This is another program absolutely loved by many students and **made possible by the wonderful work of parent volunteers**. Students will be able to purchase tickets from our volunteers who will be 'set up' in the gym at the start of the day on Wednesdays. Pizza is delivered in time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nutrition Break. Pizza Days should be starting the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> as well.

4. **Volunteering at the school ... PLEASE consider!** Initiatives mentioned above (e.g. Morning Nutrition program, Pizza Days, etc.) are fantastic and consistently loved and appreciated by Richard Beasley students and families. Our ability to continue offering such programs depends on **parent volunteers (!)** so, if you have a bit of time to spare, and would be interested in volunteering at the school in some capacity, please let us know! Volunteering could be working in classrooms with students or helping with various school based initiatives. If you are interested, please see the office for details! School Board policy requires that a 'Volunteer Agreement Package' (available at the office) be completed and a current Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS or 'Police check') be presented (see office for details). **Thank you in advance for your consideration!**

5. **Students arriving late and/or leaving early** ... we will continue to use 'late slips' and 'excusal slips' in the office for the purpose of accurate attendance tracking. Students arriving late, or requiring to leave early will need to get the appropriate 'slip' from the office. One copy (of the duplicate slips) will be given to the teacher and one copy will be retained by the office for record keeping. This has replaced the use of the former student 'sign in/out' book. **Adults who need to be in the building for any reason will continue to sign in/sign out at the office.**

6. **Student Agendas** ... We will once again be using a 'student agenda' (Grades 1 – 5) as a vehicle for communication between the school and home. While we are mindful of beginning to move increasingly toward 'paperless' processes, the student agendas seem to be the simplest, and most consistently useful tool at this time. We are also endeavouring here to find ways of ensuring that the use of the agenda is a meaningful part of each day for students. The cost of the agenda will continue to be subsidized by the school however not at the same rate as has been the case in recent years. **Student agendas are \$4.00 per child** (\$3.00/child in the case of families with multiple children in attendance). Payment can be sent in with your child **'on or before' Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> please!**

7. **School Bus** ... some Richard Beasley JK/SK students are eligible to ride the school bus to and from school. Kindergarten students that meet criteria for busing are contacted by the HWDSB Transportation department and begin ridership on the first day of school. Students in Grades 1 through 5 who are hoping to ride the bus **must complete a 'Courtesy Transportation Request' form and submit it to the office.** 'Courtesy Transportation' must be (re)applied for each school year. Richard Beasley shares a school bus with Lisgar School. Once the kindergarten ridership is determined for BOTH schools, any remaining seats are divided between the schools and then offered to families who have submitted the form indicated above. This is NOT a 'first come, first served' process but rather 'seats' are offered to students based on Board developed criteria (e.g. age of student, medical concerns, etc.). 'Courtesy Busing' typically begins by no later than October 1<sup>st</sup> each school year, however usually earlier than this.

8. **Safe Schools Policy** ... parents often have questions related to, or included in the Board's 'Safe School Policy'. A couple of reminders;

- ✓ **Adults in schools** ... **any adults entering the school are required to check in at the office.** Of course parents/guardians are welcome to assist their children with any needs (while at the office), however we do not permit parents to accompany students to classroom or lockers. For our younger students, and/or if any assistance is required, we will always make arrangements for staff to help where necessary. Adults volunteering in the school check in at the office, sign in/sign out, and receive 'identification tags' to wear while in the building.

### **Some dates to remember!**

- **'Meet the Teacher**' night is Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 6:30. Please plan to stop by, say hello, and see many of the great things that are already underway at RB!
- **P.A Day** (no school for students) on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Our first Richard Beasley **School Council meeting** is Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> (5:30 – 6:30) in the school library. ALL parents/guardians of Richard Beasley students are welcome to attend. **If you are interested in becoming a member of the School Council and perhaps taking on a more active role here, simply complete a 'self-nomination' application form (available at the office) and return it to the school.** There will be School Council representation in the gym on 'Meet the Teacher' night for anyone wish to ask about additional information.
- **Richard Beasley Recognition assembly** ... we recognize and celebrate students at the school monthly. We celebrate student success in areas such as academics, arts, athletics and social skills. Assemblies are held in the gymnasium close to the end of each month and the first one for this year is on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> @ 9:15 a.m. **If your son or daughter is being recognized, you will be invited to be in attendance.**

**As always, if you have any questions or concerns about this, or anything else, please don't hesitate to call me directly or make arrangements to come in and talk ... thank you for the continued help and support in making Richard Beasley School safe and a great place to be!**

**David Thorne and the staff of Richard Beasley School.**