



Richard Beasley Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Beasley December 2022 Newsletter



To our Parents/Guardians,

What a great time of the year! It is exciting to see the joy in the faces of our students during the holiday season. Due to the busy nature of the season, sometimes schedules and added responsibilities can cause stress. Concerts, parties, family visits and so many other events seem to be packed into a limited amount of time. Scheduling becomes an issue and we always seem to be looking for ways to complete our to-do list.

During this season of the year we would like to say thanks to:

- Parents and guardians who diligently check their child's homework, read with them every night; and spend quality time with their child.
- School Council members and parents who helped organize and support our fund raisers by reaching out to extended family and friends to ask for additional support as well as driving around to deliver the items.
- All the people in our school and board who are committed to giving their best to your children every day. For example: caretakers, nutrition support personnel, board support personnel, office staff and all of our educators.
- All of you who are doing your very best to send your child ready to learn every day.

During winter break there will be a myriad of opportunities to create a stronger bond with your child/children and continue to support their academic growth and success. The holidays are good times for story telling around the dinner table, playing board games as a family, going for walks/drives to enjoy the decorations or routines like bedtime reading that cultivate connections between home and school expectations. Hopefully years from now, during the holiday season, you and your child will remember many wonderful times spent together.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me via email at jcorbinh@hwdsb.on.ca or call me at the school.

On behalf of the Richard Beasley staff we hope that you have a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Take care,
Mrs. J. Corbin-Harper

Date	Activity
Dec 1	International Christmas Lights Day World Aids Day
Dec. 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Dec. 6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
Dec. 10	Beasley School Council Holiday Breakfast International Human Rights Day
Dec. 16	National Ugly Sweater Day
Dec. 18	Hanukkah Begins
Dec. 23	Last Day of School Winter Break Begins
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 26	Hanukkah Ends Kwanzaa Begins

Thought for the Month:

**Behind every young
child who believes in
himself is a parent who
believed first.**

Matthew Jacobson

From the office:

- A gentle reminder to please call ahead if you are picking up your child(ren) early. Early pick up is for emergencies only in order to avoid unnecessary movement around the school.



- There has been an increase in the number of students entering the school at the front door in the morning. This causes congestion.

Please ensure that children arrive on time between 8:40 am – 8:55 am on the back playground.

Dressing for the Weather

With winter weather upon us, please make sure students are dressed appropriately for outdoor activities. On days where cold weather and snow are in the forecast, boots, mittens or gloves, a warm hat and a winter jacket should be worn.



Snow pants may also be needed for children who will play in the snow. Please remind your children of this, as many feel that they do not have to wear what they come to school with during outside nutrition breaks.



ON TIME & READY TO LEARN

Attendance: As the weather changes and we get more settled into school, we are beginning to notice a number of students showing up for school late or not attending. It is important to note that students who attend school regularly tend to be more engaged in their learning, feel more connected to the school and have better academic outcomes than students who miss a lot of school.

Did you know?

- If your child is 20 minutes late every day, he/she will have missed 12 days of school instruction by the end of the school year.

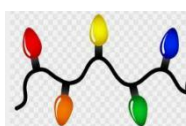
- If your child misses two days of school per month, he/she will have missed one-month worth of instruction by the end of the school year.

Light up the School with Kindness

This holiday season, staff and students are taking kindness in our school one step farther. Teachers will be exploring the concept of random acts of kindness and the idea that someone can choose to be kind without being recognized for it!

Students will then have a chance to choose to do a random act of kindness at home or at school. They will be encouraged to reflect on what it feels like to do something good for someone else who is not expecting it and to remain anonymous while doing so.

Beginning the week of Dec. 5 – 9, students will have a chance to write one random act of kindness they have done recently on a colourful holiday lightbulb printed on card stock. They will then hang their lightbulb on strings of tinsel that will be placed throughout the school.



Get ready to Light up Richard Beasley with thoughtfulness, compassion and kindness!

Parent/Teacher Communication

Parents and families are reminded to check and use the student agenda planners on a daily basis. Ask your child to show you their agenda at home every evening. Students should be using the agendas in class to record notes, reminders, etc. from the teacher/class. On some occasions, the agenda may not have a note written in it, but it is advisable for parents to check daily. Additionally, if parents are uncertain about school work, assignments, projects, tests, etc., parents should write a note to the classroom teacher in the agenda. Teachers are not able to meet with parents without appointments. They cannot take phone calls immediately, but they can return your phone call if you leave a message for them. **Clear and regular communication between parents and teachers is important to benefit students and their learning at school and at home.** If parents have questions/concerns, do not hesitate to speak your child's teacher.



School Council Fundraiser

Thanks to all members of Beasley community who took part in our MacMillan Fundraiser.

With your support, we were able to raise over \$1,300 to help support our school library. Over the last 2 months, many of our books have been weeded out due to appropriateness of material, age of books, etc.

This fundraiser will help us replace many of those books. We are being very intentional in the books that we are purchasing and making sure that many of them are diverse. We believe that with a growing diverse student body that students should be able to see and read books that reflect them, their families and their culture.

Order(s) pick up will be on Tuesday, December 13, between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. Please come to the side Library doors (by the staff parking lot.)



School Cash Online

Have you signed up for School Cash Online yet?

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

It's not too late.

The program is intended to reduce paper, eliminate the need for students to travel with money, and for money to be counted and stored at schools. Since October, you have been able to pay for pizza using School Cash Online. You can also pay for popcorn using School Cash Online.

Remember if you are not using School Cash Online, your child will have to bring money the day of in order to purchase items. In January, there will be limited slices of pizza available for sale.

Beasley Food Drive

Starting this Friday, December 2, Richard Beasley will be having a food drive. The food drive will run until Friday, December 16.

If you are coming to our Holiday Breakfast, don't forget your canned good.

All items from our food drive will be used to help support families in our community.

At Beasley we are always looking for ways to support and give back to our community.



Books and Puzzles



If for the holidays your children receive any books, puzzles or board games for gifts and you are getting rid of old ones, please consider

donating them to the school.

We can use the books to help with classroom libraries. The books and games will be used for indoor recess times so students have activities when outdoor recess is not an option.

Cold and Flu

Now that the colder weather approaches so too do children's illnesses. Please use your discretion in keeping your child(ren) at home to recover. A child who is coughing, sneezing or who has a fever is not in a fit state to learn and is able to infect other children.



Please note that if your child is well enough to come to school, then they are well enough to go outside. We believe outdoor recess is an important and valuable part of our students' day. Fresh air, exercise and time spent outside afford students a break from the structure of the classroom. It is imperative to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and is prepared to play outside.

LITERACY FOCUS

HWDSB: Student Learning and Achievement: We will improve student learning and achievement through effective instructional strategies.

Grades K to 6: Goal #2: Improving the reading achievement of all students and closing the gap for those historically underserved.

In keeping with the Board's strategic direction on reading, we will be including a Reading Section in our monthly newsletter. Hope it helps as you read with your child(ren) at home.

Shifting the Balance in Literacy Instruction

by Laura Callaghan

Literacy is inseparable from opportunity, and opportunity is inseparable from freedom. The freedom promised by literacy is both freedom from - from ignorance, oppression, poverty - and freedom to - to do new things, to make choices, to learn.

Koichiro Matsuura (former UNESCO director)

Reading is a fundamental, lifelong skill that students must have to navigate their school experience and thrive in their future pathways. Developing literacy skills supports equity and inclusion. Our Board's work in literacy is equity work; it is not just about the right to read, but the right to a positive future.

On Nov. 9 2021, the Supreme Court of Canada released a unanimous decision recognizing that **learning to read is not a privilege, but a basic and essential human right.** This came from the Moore vs British Columbia decision and confirmed that human rights laws in Canada protect the right of all students to an equal opportunity to learn to read. Many hoped it would

be a catalyst for change in Ontario's education system.

Reading is the best school-based predictor of secondary school graduation and, although many Canadian students perform at acceptable levels of reading, the challenge for Canada is to raise the bar and close the gap for all our students.

When leaders at all levels of our education systems say that reading is their number one priority and that reading success is their expectation for every student, the stage is set for establishing excellent reading instruction.

https://www.st-clair.net/Data/Sites/1/media/public/Common/Board%20Meetings/2021-22/BR_Apr_19_22_ShiftingtheBalanceLiteracyInstruction.pdf

MENTAL WELLNESS

Mental health and the holidays: Stress for kids by Joel Steed (Mayo Clinic)

Question: We tend to believe that the holidays are a magical time for children and that the stress of it all is only felt by the adults. However, ... our kids are under stress, as well. What are the signs to look for, and how can we help them?

Answer: Holiday events can be stressful for children. Family members who haven't seen the children for a while tend to focus a lot of attention on them, comment on how they've grown and changed, or hug and kiss them without asking. Even the change in activity level and managing multiple conversations and relationships can cause concern for kids.

Additionally, there may be pressure to get dressed up, take perfect family pictures, and be in a good mood for meals and events when that may not be how they are feeling inside.

"When you add in the fear of the 'illnesses' still circulating in our communities, changes in school routines or even the death of a loved one, this holiday season may be particularly challenging for kids, and we should be sensitive to their feelings and needs," says Lisa Hardesty, Ph.D., Mayo Clinic Health System psychologist. "Remember that stress can be a natural and automatic physical, mental and emotional response to challenging events, and most children don't yet have the coping skills to navigate through on their own."

Some signs that children are stressed may include emotional outbursts, increased irritability, trouble sleeping, withdrawal from others, struggles in school, frequent complaints of headaches or stomach aches, and increased defiance. "Irritability and anger are common signs a child is overwhelmed because they are trying to get out of a situation that is causing them discomfort," says Dr. Hardesty.

Here are some tips for helping your child manage stress:

Plan ahead.

Identify potential "pitfalls" and reduce barriers to success. For instance, make sure to promote optimal sleep and nutrition prior to new holiday experiences, and recognize that the level of activity and noise may be triggers for most children.

Set clear expectations.

Children thrive on routines. Outline examples of behaviors you will and will not tolerate. When correcting children, tell them what you want them to do rather than what not to do. For example, instead of saying, "Stop chewing with your mouth open," try saying, "Please chew with your mouth closed."

Act, don't react.

When children act defiant, take a deep breath and calmly correct behavior. Don't mirror their anger level. Remind yourself that your children are impressionable, and your words matter.

Pick your battles.

If their behavior is simply irritating, try to ignore it. The moment they do something positive, compliment them. Sometimes children simply want a reaction, so try to react to the positive behaviors immediately instead of the negative. Also, be OK with children sitting out activities that cause them discomfort or anxiety.

<https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/mental-health-and-the-holidays-stress-for-kids/>