



Richard Beasley Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

80 Currie Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8T 3M9
Phone: 905.387.5655
Fax: 905.387.4354

EMAIL: richardbeasley@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Mrs. J. Corbin Harper
www.hwdsb.on.ca/richardbeasley

Beasley April 2023 Newsletter



To our Parents/Guardians,

Although the calendar says April, many days it continues to feel like winter. Let's hope that spring is simply right around the corner and will appear soon! I don't know about you but I am tired of winter coats and boots and truly looking forward to wearing some lighter clothing.

At least the sun has started to shine. With the arrival of spring, we also anticipate rain. On rainy mornings, students will be admitted into the school starting at 8:40 where our supervision will take place in the classrooms until our day starts at 8:55. We ask that you do not drop off our children prior to 8:40 as there is no supervision until that time.

The month of April starts off with World Autism Day - Celebrating the Spectrum Day. We have a number of activities plan throughout the month. As always, there are many other events occurring throughout the month – Ramadan, culminating in Eid; Earth Month; Pink Shirt Day; Sikh Month; etc.

We are now into the final three months of the school year and these three months tend to be especially busy with activities. Over the years, I have found that once the Easter weekend is over that the time just seems to fly. Some people have started to ask about our end of the year traditional celebrations and other activities. Our staff and administration are working out the details to ensure that health and safety concerns are taken care of in order to determine the best way to hold true to our festivities. Please check the newsletters, calendars and website for regular updates.

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.

Take care,
Mrs. J. Corbin-Harper

Date	Activity
April 2nd	World Autism Day
April 4th	Mahavir Jayanti: celebrates the birthday of Jainism founder Lord Mahavira.
April 5th	Pesach (1st day of Passover) – spans 7 days
April 6th	Beasley Indoor Easter Egg Hunt
April 7th	Good Friday (No School)
April 10th	Easter Monday (No School)
April 11-14th	Litterless Lunch Week @ Beasley
April 12th	International Day of Pink (Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+); Wear Pink
April 14th	Last Day of Passover; Vaisakhi/ Khalsa Day celebrates the Sikh New Year
April 17 th – April 18th	Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah)
April 17-21	Beasley School neighbourhood and community clean-up
April 21st	Eid-UI-Fitr
April 22	Earth Day
April 25th	Shawarma Special Lunch Day
April 28th	Autism Walk @ Beasley, wear blue

Thought for the Month:



WHAT IS RAMADAN MUBARAK?

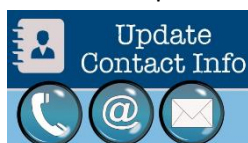
Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It is considered a holy month that honors the time when Allah, via the angel Gabriel, revealed the first verses of the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam, to a caravan trader named Muhammad. This year, Ramadan is expected to begin at sundown on Wednesday, March 22, and end at sundown on Friday, April 21. The final evening of Ramadan consists of a celebration called Eid al-Fitr, when the traditional month-long fast is ended with a feast. To celebrate the end of Ramadan, Richard Beasley will be having a Shawarma Special Lunch Day on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

The exact beginning and ending times of the month of Ramadan are based on the sighting of the first crescent Moon on the last night of the eighth month (Sha'ban). Specifically, Ramadan is said to begin at the first observance of the crescent Moon over Mecca, Saudi Arabia (or on a date pre-determined by astronomical calculation). Beginning at puberty, all Muslims (with certain exceptions, such as if one is ill, traveling, pregnant, elderly, etc.) take part in the month-long, dawn-to-sunset fast that is the hallmark of Ramadan. Muslims believe that fasting cleanses the body, and the practice reminds them of the suffering of the poor.

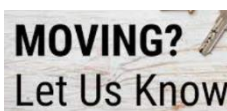


STUDENT INFORMATION

It is vital that we have up-to-date records of your address, phone numbers and emergency contacts in the event that the school must contact you regarding your child. Student Verification forms were sent home back in Sept. 2022.



PLANNING FOR SEPTEMBER 2023



In order to assist us with making the best decisions possible with respect to class organization and student placements for Richard Beasley School for the 2023/2024 school year, we would appreciate if you would let the office know if your family is planning to move in the next few months. We thank you in advance for keeping us informed! School and classroom organization begins at the end of April so sharing this information with us now is very helpful for our planning for next year!

POPCORN & PIZZA ONLINE ORDERS

Popcorn and pizza order are open online for the rest of the school year. Parents, feel free to go in and place your orders so you do not forget. We all know how busy how live can get.



BOOK DONATIONS

During our Education Week, May 1-5, we are hoping to have a book exchange where students are able to take one or two books that they are interested in reading. If you have any books at home that your children are no longer reading, please consider donating them to the school to help with this cause.



AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH



April is World Autism Month, an annual opportunity for a dedicated conversation about autism spectrum disorder. Autism touches more than 70 million people globally. Approximately 1 in 66 children and youth are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Canada and this number continues to grow. Each child and adult with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is unique and has their own strengths, gifts, and support needs. In addition

to World Autism Awareness Month, World Autism Awareness Day is recognized on Saturday, April 2nd.

Since the early 1970s, autism groups around the world have worked hard to educate schools and workplaces about the signs, symptoms and facts of autism. And while this has been largely successful, the autistic population is still extremely marginalized: Many are under-employed, suffer from depression and often live in poverty. General public "awareness" has had a limited tangible impact on the lives of people living with autism and may have even led to some of the negative stereotypes. A deliberate rebranding, however, aims to achieve specific goals like the following:

- increased employment opportunities for adults on the autism spectrum
- more positive, empowered and diverse portrayals of autism in media and entertainment
- next-level inclusive classrooms, especially in secondary and post-secondary schools

At Richard Beasley, we will be doing a number of activities throughout the month to raise acceptance. **On Wednesdays, students will have a chance to pay 25c to estimate how many blue candies might be in each jar.** All money raised will be donated to the Autism Program at McMaster's Children's Hospital. Parents, feel free to sent in a donation it they like. Another activity will occur on April 28th when we will be having a walk around the school property to bring the month to a close.



RICHARD BEASLEY GOES PINK

On Wednesday, April 12, 2023, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board schools and worksites will recognize the International Day of Pink. Unlike Pink Shirt Day, which is meant to combat all forms of bullying, we celebrate International Day of Pink in Peel to specifically combat homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia.

International Day of Pink began when a high school student in Cambridge, Nova Scotia, was bullied with homophobic language because he wore a pink shirt to school. The next day, hundreds of students at his school stood up to bullying and wore pink to school to show their support for equity and inclusion. On this day, students, staff, and families from across HWDSB is encourage to wear pink and participate in a number of activities.



WHAT IS A STEM CLASSROOM?

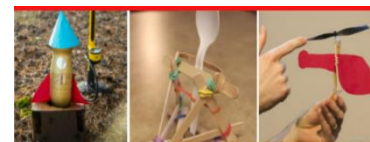
STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEM encourages students to think outside the box to develop creative solutions to problems. STEM education encourages students to build core skills that are essential for future success in school and beyond.

Richard Beasley is creating a STEM room for our students.

STEM has a number of benefits which include:

- Promoting Equality in Education. Teaching STEM at a young age can help encourage more kids to pursue a career in STEM. ...
- Fostering Creativity. ...
- Teaching Collaboration. ...
- Integrating Other Disciplines.

In the next week, you will receive a letter from the school asking for some household donations or unused toys that we can use in our STEM room.



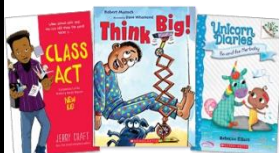
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Scholastic will be coming once again to Richard Beasley School during Education Week, May 1 -5th, 2023.

Students will have a chance to browse the display of books. This year, Scholastic is also offering a Virtual Book Fair where parents and students can browse selections from their homes.

Get ready!

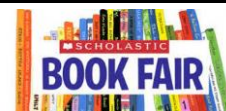
Soon you will be able to explore exciting new books to enhance your home library and inspire the young readers in your life! Hundreds of books, carefully chosen to delight kids of all reading levels, will be waiting for you when our virtual doors open!



REMEMBER! Every purchase earns valuable Book Fair Rewards that can be used to support our students.

Shop any time! Your Virtual Fair is open 24 hours, beginning at midnight on your start date! No shipping fees! Orders are sent directly to our school.

*Free shipping where available, some restrictions may apply.



POLICY ON CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Hamilton Wentworth District School Board has the following policy in place regarding Personal Electronic Devices and cell phones: "As part of our efforts to promote and maintain a positive Catholic climate in our schools, all PEDs must be kept out of sight, turned off, and not used within school premises or during school-sanctioned activities, unless the classroom teacher grants specific permission for use".

Parents are asked to please review this policy with their children prior to sending them to school with PEDs. Thank you.



DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

We have had several issues with dogs on our school grounds. We have put up signs all along our property to ensure the safety of our students that state no dogs are allowed during school hours and that after school hours, dogs are required to be on a leash at all times.

We want to make our playground and field a safe and clean place for both children and dogs and reminding your friends and neighbors of these rules will help us accomplish this goal.



OFFENCE DECLARATION FOR RETURNING VOLUNTEERS

Parents play an important role in the development and education of their children, and in the success of the school community. At Richard Beasley School, we welcome and encourage the participation of parents and community members, and are grateful for the countless hours our volunteers have contributed in previous school years. To volunteer at our school, you must complete a vulnerable sector criminal background check. A criminal background check is required for all school volunteers in Ontario.

Even if you want to accompany your child on a field trip, you need this background check. Once you have completed the process, you are on file with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board as being a school volunteer. All returning volunteers will receive an Offence Declaration form that must be filled out and returned to the board office each year. Completing the Offence Declaration will ensure that you can continue volunteering.

CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

On rare occasions, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at school asking to visit their child or to take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect students when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights and other special instructions.

If legal custody matters affect your family, please ensure that our office and classroom teachers are aware of any custodial arrangements that may affect your child during school hours.



RICHARD BEASLEY HOUSE SYSTEM

Richard Beasley has decided to give the school house system a try.

We are so excited to be rolling it out to our entire school and had our 1st house get together last Friday. This was a huge task! How were we going to roll out the House System to a staff that had never even heard of it before, but thanks to Mrs. Sabourin, Ms Fennell and our School's Public Health Nurse who researched, had a number of meetings among themselves and with the staff, we were ready to go. We are currently focusing on the Identification and Management of Emotions during our meetings.



They started by taking our class lists and assigning students to houses in a random pattern down the list. We believe that assigning houses should be at random. One teacher was also assigned a house at random to "lead." We also have a number of grade 5 students as student leaders in each house.

The House system encourages students of all grades and skill levels to work together as a community. House activities will provide an opportunity for every grade to participate in completing tasks or challenges. The younger students will build a new found confidence and have the chance to learn from the older students. The upper grades will learn responsibility and leadership skills as they act as role models for the lower grades.

KEEPING YOUR CHILD'S TEETH HEALTHY

We recently had the City of Hamilton Dental Program in visiting our kindergarten and grade 1 classes. April is Oral Health Month. Oral health is important for overall health and wellbeing. Dental problems can lead to infection, problems with sleeping, eating, and concentrating. We can do simple things every day to prevent dental problems.

Dental Tips Checklist:

- Brush it! Brush and floss teeth daily, make sure your child is brushing two times a day for two minutes each time.
- Check it! Check your child's teeth monthly. Visit a dentist if you see broken or chipped teeth, holes in their teeth, bumps on the gums or any signs of pain or swelling.
- Nourish it! Offer less sugary foods and drinks to help prevent cavities and make water your child's drink of choice.
- Schedule it! Schedule routine check-ups and cleanings with your child's dental provider



EARTH MONTH

April is Earth Month and we can't think of a better way to celebrate than by working together towards a sustainable future for everyone!

Earth Month encompasses the international celebration of Earth Day on April 22, 2023, the most celebrated environmental event worldwide. Initiated in 1970, this event has been considered the birth of the environmental movement. Each year, more than six million Canadians join 500 million people all over the world to address local environmental issues.



This year's Earth Day theme is Invest in Our Planet, and Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) has come up with six ways students and their families can help take action towards a healthy and green future for everyone.

- Organize a clean-up around your school's neighbourhood and investigate the effects of litter on wildlife.
- Spring into spring and encourage walking and rolling to school.
- Run a clothing drive and divert textile waste from the landfill.
- Participate in some of the family-friendly programs and activities offered in the region and engage in environmental learning about Earth Day.
- National GOOS Paper Day is April 6! GOOS stands for Good On One Side and is an important initiative to make sure both sides of paper are used before recycling it.

Whether the focus is on eliminating the use of single-use plastics like plastic bags and plastic water bottles, learning about one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or focusing on the connection between climate change and Indigenous knowledge, HWDSB is excited to create learning opportunities and activities that students can share with their families to invest in our planet and make a real difference.

MENTAL WELLNESS

BUILDING MENTAL WELLNESS IN CHILDREN: WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Parents are the true experts when it comes to knowing their children, and often the first to notice any changes in their kids' behavior:

It turns out that one in four people will experience a mental health condition over the course of their lives. Half of these conditions begin before age 14, and 75 percent before age 26. This means that to successfully treat mental health

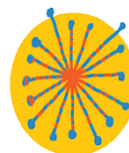
conditions and prevent negative mental health outcomes, we need to look early at our kids' overall emotional well-being.

One of the ways parents can help do this is by creating environments that help our kids to grow up resilient.

resilience isn't something we're born with – we build it through experience. And with this experience, kids acquire skills to stave off issues like depression, anxiety and other emotional problems, and just as importantly, to overcome problems when they arise.

The two key components of resilience are engagement and awareness. Engagement is how we connect with others. When children have candid, trusting communication with others – parents, teachers, siblings – they get to practice processing their experiences and discover new ways of coping. Awareness is our ability to self-reflect. It's a skill that can be learned by children and encouraged parents. If children can identify when they feel out of sorts, they are a step closer to being able to ask for or seek help.

Have Conversations Early and Often. The best way to foster engagement, increase your child's self-awareness, and to figure out what is going on with your child is to have open conversations. Start early. From toddlerhood through adolescence and young adulthood, ask and talk about their mood, interests, behavior, friends, struggles and successes. If this is seen as part of your routine relationship, it will pay off in the long run.



**The Clay Center for
Young Healthy Minds**

Shining light on mental health through education.

<https://www.mghclaycenter.org/parenting-concerns/what-parents-can-do-to-promote-mental-wellness-in-our-children/>