



Richard Beasley Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Beasley May 2023 Newsletter



To our Parents/Guardians,

The month of April was filled with so many wonderful learning opportunities. Our students were immersed in Earth Day activities, Ramadan and Autism Awareness activities and learning, and so many other rich learning community building experiences.

It is hard to believe that April has already come and gone; but, we sure have enjoyed getting outdoors and the beauty of spring. With the warmer weather and longer daylight hours, it has been nice to welcome Spring-like temperatures in the month of April, despite the rain we seem to be getting! With only two months of school left, where has the time gone?! I suspect these coming weeks and days are going to fly by, and we look forward to the learning and excitement ahead of us.

The month of May begins with Education Week and Mental Health Awareness Week to help our students appreciate the love for learning and develop their skills on understanding concepts that relate to mental health & well-being. The theme of this year's Mental Health Week is **#MyStory**. Storytelling is a fundamental part of being human. Stories help build connections and strong communities. Storytelling, in all its forms, supports mental health and reduces stigma. Teachers have been provided with resources to support their programming in these areas.

As we prepare for year end, we do want to share that the Provincial wide EQAO assessment for our Grade 3 students will be taking place again this year. Our Grade 3 students will be writing the assessment during the week of May 24th – May 29th. Parent letters will be sent home to all of our Grade 3 families on Monday, May 15th with information regarding the assessment.

A very special Thank You goes out to our teachers who continue to amaze me with their ideas, thoughts, planning, teaching and expertise. The group of teachers at our school are truly blessed in every way possible. They continue to offer students enriching opportunities to learn.

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
May 1st	National Jewish Heritage Month -National Asian Heritage Month -Speech & Hearing Month - Education Week; Mental Health Week
May 3rd	Open House @ Richard Beasley 4:00– 5:30 p.m.
May 5th	Vesak/Buddha Day- is the most important Buddhist festival -National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
May 7th	National Child and Youth Mental Health Day
May 8th	Bear Witness Day: spread awareness of Jordan's Principle
May 14th	Mother's Day
May 18th	Ascension Day is a Christian observance that takes place on the fortieth day of Easter
May 21st	UNESCO World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
May 22nd	Victoria Day
May 25th	Shavuot, is a major Jewish holiday observed every year fifty days after the Passover Seder.

Thought for the Month:



HEALTH LESSONS

Beasley students will begin a unit on Human Development and Sexual Health between May 15th and June 16th 2023.

The Ontario Curriculum indicates, "Parents are the primary educators of their children with respect to learning about values, appropriate behaviour, and ethnocultural, spiritual, and personal beliefs and traditions, and they are their children's first role models. It is therefore important for schools and parents to work together to ensure that home and school provide a mutually supportive framework for young people's education" (page 13). This unit offers you, as the most significant influence of your child's values and behaviours, the chance to discuss the classroom lessons and consider them in light of your own family beliefs.

All parent information, including a recording of a presentation can be found at:

hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/programs/humandevelopment/

Parents will need to complete an exemption form, in Parent Portal, if they want their children exempted and email it to Richard Beasley school. Paper copies and/or phone calls will also be accepted. Please feel free to contact the school 905-387-5655 if you have questions or concerns regarding this upcoming unit.



OUTDOOR PLAY & SELF REGULATION

You might have noticed that a lot of changes have been going on in our kindergarten play area.

Outdoor education programs give children the skills they need to remain emotionally regulated and resilient, while also promoting the mental and physical well-being needed for children to succeed. We are seeing an increase in research about how outdoor education programs are beneficial to children. Bringing experiences outside and giving children clear goals can help with many aspects of self-regulation.



PLANNING FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

MOVING? Let Us Know

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

Just a reminder that popcorn and pizza ordering are open online for the rest of the school year.

Parents, if you are able to do so financially at this time, please feel free to go in and place your orders so you do not forget. We all know how busy our lives can get and it can be easy to forget to do it on a weekly basis.



BOOK DONATIONS

Just a reminder that if you are spring cleaning and come across any books that your students no longer need, we would love to have them for our Open House. We are hoping to have a table with some donated books so we can invite our students to do a book exchange where students are able to take one or two books that they are interested in reading.



AUTISM AWARENESS

Thank you to all the parents who came out on Thursday afternoon to support our Autism Awareness walk around the school. The students definitely seem to be having a fun time. We ended the walk with a treat of a blue Kool-Aid jammer. The reason for the blue was to acknowledge the colour associated with the theme.



On Monday, May 1st, we will be announcing the winners of our Math Meets Autism estimation activity that has been happening on Wednesdays during the month of April. Don't be surprised if your child brings home a jar of blue candy.

EARTH MONTH

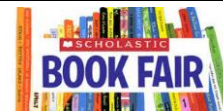
Last month was Earth Month, Beasley students took some time during the school day to take part in cleaning up around our school as well as the community. Mrs. Pessoa was able to get us gloves, recycling and garbage bags from the City for our students to use for this activity. Classes also took part in a Litter-less lunch campaign. Originally, we had scheduled it for one week but then extended it for another week. Mrs. Sabourin's 1/2B class came out on top with Mrs. Robb's 2/3A a close second.



Seeing that we had quite a bit of success with our Litter-Less Lunch days, we would like to continue with the idea and designate Thursdays as WASTELESS THURSDAY campaign.

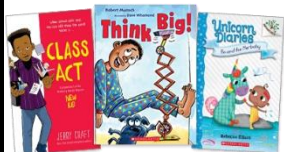
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

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. Also, please come in and visit us during our Open House on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.



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.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

The first week of May (May 1 – 7) is a time for communities, families and friends to come together to mark Children's Mental Health Week. As we come out of the pandemic, a clearer picture is emerging around its negative impact on child and youth mental health, especially for kids with serious mental health issues.



EQAO

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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.



CLASS BUILDING FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

The planning process for 2023-2024 school will be starting pretty soon. Over the next couple of months the staff at the school will spend many hours developing class lists based on a detailed set of criteria, focused on student learning and success for the following year. We take this process very seriously and do our best to plan for the success of all of our students at Richard Beasley.

As in the past, we wanted to remind families that we do not take requests for class placements. In this complex process we take the following into account.

- learning partners
- ability groups – learning groups
- needs of students
- separating some students due to relationship issues depending on the number of classrooms.
- balance of gender/ non binary
- behavioural needs/ dynamics between students
- combined classrooms are not streamed (for example, a 2/3 split is not high achieving grade 2's and low achieving grade 3's) – combined class resource

Thank you for your understanding and trusting the Beasley staff as we build classes for the next school year.



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/writing, we will be including a Reading Section in our monthly newsletter. Hope it helps as you read with your child(ren) at home.

Writing is an important part of our daily lives. It is, however, a difficult skill to learn and master. By getting a head start with some simple activities, you can help your child begin to develop their writing skills at an early age.

- **Respond to your child's writing:** Respond to the ideas your child expresses verbally or in writing. Make it clear that you are interested in what the writing conveys, which means focusing on "what" the child has written rather than "how" it was written. It's usually wise to ignore minor errors, particularly at the stage when your child is just getting ideas together.
- **Praise your child's writing:** Take a positive approach and find good things to say about your child's writing. Is it accurate? Descriptive? Original? Creative? Thoughtful? Interesting?
- **Avoid writing for your child:** Don't write a paper for your child that will be turned in as their work, and don't rewrite your child's work. Meeting a writing deadline, taking responsibility for the finished product, and feeling ownership of it are also important parts of the writing process.
- **Provide your child with spelling help when they are ready for it**
When your child is just learning how to read and write, they may try different ways to write and spell. Our job is to encourage our children's writing so they will enjoy putting their thoughts and ideas on paper. At first, your child may begin to write words the way that they hear them. For example, they might write "haf" instead of "have", "frn" instead of "friend", and "Frd" instead of "Fred." This actually is a positive step in developing their phonemic awareness. Keep practicing with them, and model the correct spelling of words when you write. As your child gets older and begins to ask more questions about letters and spelling, provide them with the help they need.
- **Practice, practice, practice:** Writing well takes lots of practice, so make sure your child doesn't get discouraged too easily. It's not easy! Give them plenty of opportunities to practice so that they have the opportunity to improve.
- **Read together:** Reading and writing support each other. The more your child does of each, the better they will be at both. Reading can also stimulate your child to write about their own family or school life. If your child has a particular favorite story or author, ask them why she thinks that story or that person's writing is special. As you read and write more with your child, you will be building an important foundation, and taking steps that will help your child to become a better reader, writer, and student. Your efforts now will make a difference — and it may be just the difference that your child needs to succeed!

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/helping-young-children-develop-strong-writing-skills>

MENTAL WELLNESS

Resilience in Children: Strategies to Strengthen Your Kids

by Katie Hurley, LCSW Licensed Clinical Social Worker

All children are capable of working through challenges and coping with stress. Resilience is the ability to bounce back from stress, adversity, failure, challenges, or even trauma. It's not something that kids either have or don't have; it's a skill that kids develop as they grow.

Resilient kids are more likely to take healthy risks because they don't fear falling short of expectations. They are curious, brave, and trusting of their instincts. They know their limits and they push themselves to step outside of their comfort zones. This helps them reach for their long-term goals and it helps them solve problems independently.

All kids encounter stress of varying degrees as they grow. Despite their best efforts, parents can't protect kids from obstacles. Kids get sick, move to new neighborhoods, encounter bullies and cyberbullies, take tests, cope with grief, lose friends, and deal with divorce, to name a few. These obstacles might seem small in the eyes of an adult, but they feel large and all-consuming to kids.

<https://www.psycom.net/build-resilience-children>