



Richard Beasley Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Beasley June 2023 Newsletter



To our Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are entering into our last month of the school year. It is a joy to close this academic year with field trips, track & field and bringing our community together again. I am so grateful to have been part of the Richard Beasley community. It seemed like yesterday when I first started and now I am at the end of my second year. I look forward to a fantastic 2023-24 school year as we continue to build more memories together.

I truly hope that over the summer break, our Beasley families take advantage of opportunities to relax, reconnect with family and friends, and put away those devices and get outside and enjoy the outdoors. We encourage all of our students to explore their passions and interests, to keep their bodies healthy with lots of play and exercise, and read all the books they can find. I am looking forward to hearing about some of these activities, even if they are learning a new craft, a new recipe or enjoying a new book. For some students, just this chance to step away from school for a time will be enough to rejuvenate and strengthen their well-being and mental health.

We say goodbye and best wishes to all of the Richard Beasley families moving on and we also welcome many new families into this wonderful community. For all of the new Kindergarten to Grade 5 families, please join us on September 6th, 2023 in the school yard by 8:40 a.m. for entry.

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
June 1st	Jump Rope for Heart -Beginning of: Italian Heritage Month; Pride Month; National Indigenous History Month
June 2nd	PA Day; NO SCHOOL
June 4th	Trinity Sunday
June 8th	Feast of Corpus Christi: A Roman Catholic feast day marking the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist
June 11th	Race Unity Day: A holiday in the Baha'i faith that promotes racial harmony and understanding
June 12th	Grade 5 students visit Lawfield
June 14th	Track & Field Day
June 16th	Feast of the Sacred Heart Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib
June 18th	Father's Day
June 20th	McDonald's Special Lunch Day
June 21st	Play Day
June 23rd	Gr 1 – 5 End of Year Trip; Kindergarten End of Year Picnic
June 24th	Litha: A Pagan and Wiccan festival
June 27th	Grade 5 Celebration; Report cards go home
June 26th– July 1st	The Hajj: among the most important of Muslim holy days
July 28 – July 2nd	Eid al-Adha

Thought for the Month:



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, an opportunity to learn about the unique cultures, traditions and experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. It's a time to honour the stories, achievements and resilience of Indigenous Peoples, who have lived on this land since time immemorial and whose presence continues to impact the evolving Canada. The House of Commons designated June as National Aboriginal History Month in 2009. The name was changed to National Indigenous History Month in 2017.

Each week will be dedicated to a different theme to highlight specific aspects of Indigenous history, cultures and perspectives. Explore learning resources on each theme:

- June 1 to 6: [Women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people](#)
- June 5 to 11: [Environment, traditional knowledge and territory](#)
- June 10 to 18: [Children and youth](#)
- June 19 to 25: [Languages, cultures and arts](#)
- June 26 to 30: [Reconciliation](#)



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.



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!

VOLUNTEER DIRECTIVE

If you are planning on joining your child on any class trips, year-end trips, or helping in the classroom, school or on sporting events as a volunteer, you MUST have an updated Criminal Reference Check – Vulnerable Screener. CRCs are done on-line or at the Police Station at a cost. It could take approximately 6 - 8 weeks for this process to be completed. Please call the office for more information or see our School Website for all the details! Thank you for your support.

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 Summer Book Exchange so our students can have some new books to read over the summer months. We are hoping to have a table with some donated books in the front foyer so students can come down and select one or two.



PRIDE MONTH

In 1995 Canada's supreme court finally considered sexual orientation a prohibited ground of discrimination in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. LGBTQ+ members who faced, hate, exclusion, and often lived in fear for their lives long fought for these rights and believed in a better future. Thanks to the LGBTQ+ folks and allies who persevered, today we celebrate Pride month! Pride is the promotion of dignity, equity and increased visibility for 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples. It is a celebration of life, rights, dignity, equity and difference.



To kick off Pride Month, the Intersex-Inclusive Progress Pride flag or Rainbow flags are being raised at the Education Centre and all HWDSB schools. The annual flag raising is to honour and celebrate students, families, staff, and members of our local communities who are of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations. 2021 marked the first time that all HWDSB schools raised the Rainbow Flag for the month of June. HWDSB has committed to replacing Rainbow flags with the newer Intersex-Inclusive Progress Pride flags both this year and next year for all our schools.

KINDERGARTEN PICNIC & CELEBRATION

As we move away from the hosting of a kindergarten 'graduation' or celebration (as it was previously called), the kindergarten team will be having a family picnic and year end celebration on Friday, June 23rd. The majority of our senior kindergarten students will be transitioning to grade 1 classes in our school.



GRADE 5 CELEBRATION

While we don't have any graduates at Richard Beasley, we will be celebrating our grade 5 students before they head off to middle school for grade 6. Our grade 5 celebration will take place on June 27th at the school. Mr. Rodriguez will be sharing more information in the near future as they transition to Lawfield or move on to other schools in our board.

PARENT PORTAL

Parent Portal is a login-protected space that collects useful tools and information for HWDSB families including your child's grades, attendance and schedule.

The Parent Portal can be accessed at <https://ps.hwdsb.on.ca>. It is very important to fill out all of the available forms found in the portal so we have the up to date information needed for your student.

In Parent Portal, you can connect to your child's school online, anytime, anywhere.

Available in the following languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, and Serbian.



The new Parent Portal supports busy families who want to:

- View your grades and attendance (secondary)
- Complete school and board forms online
- Report an absence from school
- Pay for school items or events using School Cash Online

*****Parents/Guardians, please make sure that you are signed up for Parent Portal as your child's class and teacher for next school year will be shared on it during the month of August. All schools will be following that process this year.**

SCHOOL COUNCIL INFORMATION

Richard Beasley's School Council has met this year in person to support our school. This year was the first time in 3 years that we had a School Council. The final meeting of the year is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14th at 6:00 p.m. If you haven't attended a meeting yet this year, but would like to join this last meeting, please email me at jcorbinh@hwdsb.on.ca or the School Council Chair Tim Montgomery at richardbeasleySC@hwdsb.on.ca by Wednesday, June 7th. We are hoping to have a social where our parents can just get together have a light dinner and some snack and socialize with each other. This would be a good time to meet the parents of some of your children's friends so maybe you can exchange telephone numbers/emails and make plans for get togethers in the summer.

Thank you to our Council executive: Tim Montgomery (Chair), and all of our members. Your efforts have been so appreciated! We are hopeful that next year we will have another council and we are always looking for new members to help us make our school even better than it is. Watch for notifications on the school website and in a letter that will come home in September with information about our 2023-2024 elections and meeting. We typically meet about 6 times per school year on a weekday evening. Parents and guardians are welcome to join as a member or to join as an attendee.



OUTSIDE ELEMENTARY RECESS AND ROUGH PLAY

We have seen an increase in rough and competitive behavior at recess breaks, particularly with our Grades 4-5. All students have been spoken to proactively by classroom teachers



about inclusivity and not putting their hands on each other. Outside supervisors will be giving time outs on the playground benches when they are seeing this behavior. We are trying to establish consistency and the same expectations for all students when outside and we know that we will see positive results in the future.

REPORT CARDS

As we prepare to communicate student achievement for term 2 through the Report card, report cards will be sent home with students on Monday, June 27th. Parents will have an opportunity to reflect on student progress and next steps by completing a feedback form with their child that is to be returned to the school prior to the last day of school which is Wednesday, June 28th.

Thursday, June 29th is a PA Day, so there is no school as our students begin their summer holidays for the year.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR FUNDRAISING THIS YEAR

We would like to take this time to say a great BIG THANK YOU to all the families who supported us with all of our fundraising ventures this school year.

With all the monies raised, we were able to:

- subsidize a number of activities for our students;
- subsidize the buses and the entry price for our end of year trip
- purchase technology, including iPads, and other items for our STEM room
- purchase a large number of diversity and non-fiction books for our library (we still have a way to go)
- purchase a few pieces of gym and recess equipment

CLASS BUILDING FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

The planning process for 2023-2024 classes have started and we are still working on them. Please note that 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 ⅔ 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. As noted earlier, parents, guardians and students will be informed later in the summer which class they will be in for September.



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.

WAYS TO KEEP KIDS READING AND WRITING THIS SUMMER

- **CREATE A READING PLAN:** A summer reading plan is not a new idea. But there are many ways you can do it
- **USE TECHNOLOGY TO YOUR ADVANTAGE:** There are TONS of shows, websites, and iPad apps at our fingertips these days. Use them to your advantage while school's out!
- **TAKE THE LEARNING OUTSIDE:** Make and take a portable writing center outside with your child. Record the things you hear, see, smell, and feel. Create a poem or story about it. Even if you only have a sidewalk, use sidewalk chalk and review letters or words.
- **USE FUN WRITING PROMPTS:** Writing prompts don't have to be dry and boring. They can be rather fun if used in moderation. Sometimes people use writing prompts as their writing program.
- **READ AND WRITE FOR AUTHENTIC PURPOSES:** Read everything. The cereal box. A recipe. A road sign. Directions to a card game. Read to each other. Got a birthday coming up? Write a card. Someone sick? Write a card. Need to tell someone thank you? Write a letter. See a pattern? 😊 Challenge your child to keep a journal of his favorite summer memories.
- **READ AND WRITE ABOUT THINGS THAT INTEREST YOUR CHILD:** Even the most reluctant readers and writers perk up a bit when we speak their language...the language of their prior knowledge. When we're passionate about something, we tend to stick with it much longer than if we're disinterested. Find books that fuel their passion. Read to them A LOT. Let kids explore the books themselves.

<https://thisreadingmama.com/top-10-ways-to-keep-kids-reading-and-writing/>

MENTAL WELLNESS

SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE! TIPS FOR PARENTS TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH OVER BREAK

By Parth Patel, CommUnity Crisis Services; Youth Mobile Crisis Coordinator

With summer fast approaching and the school year coming to a close, it's important to recognize that the change in routine can result in some noticeable changes to your child's mood and behavior. Summer break is considered a rewarding, enjoyable period for kids to have some extra time to spend with their friends and family. This break means warmer weather and less academic responsibilities. Perhaps your child wants to pursue meaningful hobbies they are interested in, play video games, or find a part time job to learn new skills and make some money. Even though this break is celebrated by many, it can be a major source of stress for others, especially those who thrive on structure and organized time.

Not all students are able to organize social interactions with their friends over the summer due to lack of transportation and cell phones to stay in touch. For some kids, this skill has not been developed yet, and they may not know how to initiate hang outs with their friends. Either way, without the convenience of seeing their friends at school, some kids may start to experience loneliness and isolation at home. Kids may also find themselves staying up late, sleeping in, and spending most of their time chilling at home. They may fall into long periods of inactivity leading to boredom, unproductivity, and possibly even depression symptoms. School can provide many students with a sense of purpose, and losing this sense of purpose can be pretty disorienting.

Here are a few steps and tips that caregivers can use to help their child transition into summer and enjoy this time!

1. Create a new summer routine. Yes, summer is an ideal time to relax and take it easy, but it's still helpful to maintain some sort of routine that your child can get used to.
2. Make healthy choices. Of course, life is all about balance and indulging in yummy foods and taking time to rest are okay, **and** we also know that certain habits like staying active, eating healthy, getting enough sleep can benefit your mental health as well.
3. Explore a new hobby. Since students may not be feeling like they have a sense of purpose now that they aren't in class, try encouraging them to try out a new hobby they've been interested in and help them access that activity.
4. Be aware of any behavioral patterns. Sleeping in more is pretty common during summer break, but if you are noticing that your child sleeps most of the day, gets frustrated easily, and stops doing the things they once enjoyed, it may be a good time to check in with them.
5. Family fun time. Summer is an awesome time to create new memories that your child will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

<https://builtbycommunity.org/summerbreak/>