



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 September 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parent/Guardians

Welcome to the 2022 - 2023 school year! We are thrilled to welcome our students and staff back to school. We hope that you were able to relax and make special memories with your friends and families. Now it is time to look forward to a wonderful new school year.

A friendly reminder that the first day of school will be Wednesday, September 6, 2023. We are looking forward to welcoming students back on the 6th!

Richard Beasley School is such a special place to learn and grow. We are proud of our beautiful school and have high expectations for each and every student. Our students are kind, compassionate, and eager to learn. Together with our dedicated staff, we strive to make connections with students to help them feel valued, accepted, and safe.

We are excited to return to our normal school operations this year. We are aware that we will need to continue to address unfinished learning by using an acceleration model to fill in gaps in knowledge. Instruction will be focused on specialized skills and content needed to learn grade level materials while providing the appropriate tools needed to grasp concepts.

We know that the past few years have been challenging, and we are thrilled to see students, staff and families again. Each new year is a new opportunity for students to reach their full potential, make new connections and learn and grow with their school community.

Partnering with families is crucial to promote a healthy transition to school both socially and emotionally. We recognize that students may be feeling anxious with the start of a new school year and we will continue to place a strong emphasis on social emotional learning while focusing on building classroom community. We encourage families to stay connected and informed by following our school website. We also invite families to keep up with communications from HWDSB by subscribing to email updates or following HWDSB on social media.

Date	Activity
Tues. Sept. 5	PA Day; NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Wed. Sept 6	1 st day of school (Grs. 1-5) Kindergarteners new to school come for visit Remote Learning Registration Closes
Thurs. Sept 7	All kindergarten students start today
Fri. Sept 8	International Literacy Day
Sat. Sept 9	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day
Sun. Sept 10	World Suicide Prevention Day
Thurs. Sept 14	1st Pizza Day (Please return form with cash to order.)
Fri. Sept 15	Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)
Sun. Sept 17	International Week of Deaf People
Wed. Sept 20	Krispy Kreme Forms Due
Thurs. Sept 21	International Day of Peace Pizza Day
Fri. Sept 22	School Terry Fox Run Day
Sat. Sept 23	Celebrate Bisexuality Day
Sun. Sept 24	Yom Kippur
Wed. Sept 27	Rowan's Lay Day
Fri. Sept 29	School Orange Shirt Day
Sat. Sept. 30	Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Thought for the Month:



Here are some important points to remember as students prepare for the start of the school year:

Supporting a Positive Return to School

- HWDSB will continue to offer a wide variety of mental health supports for students. This is especially important during the return to school, which can be stressful for some students. See some supportive tips in our recent [We Help Update](#) on our blog. Explore our [We Help web page](#) for more evidence-based and timely school-based mental health services and supports. Across HWDSB, we are also reintroducing a welcoming, inclusive initiative to help students as they return to school. Reimagining Wellness 3.0 is a series of lessons and activities for elementary students which address needs that have arisen in the past few years. Watch for details in the days ahead.

Elementary Remote Learning

- Elementary families interested in switching between in-person and remote learning will have an opportunity to register students starting Monday, August 28. The 2023-24 Remote Learning Registration form is now available on Parent Portal and will close at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, September 6. Families can complete this form if they wish to transition from in person to remote learning, or transition from remote learning back to in person. Families selecting a new learning option will be choosing this for their student for the entire 2023-24 school year. Students will begin attending their new classes when the re-organization process takes place in early October. [Click here for more information about Elementary Remote Learning](#).

First Days of Kindergarten

- Kindergarten families should have received an email once their Parent Portal account was created. If you have not received your email, please contact your child's school. Before this weekend, every new Kindergarten family should be notified by their school team when their child's Kindergarten orientation visit is scheduled on Wednesday, September 6. All Kindergarten students will begin their first full day on Thursday, September 7. [Click here for more information about Kindergarten](#).

Addressing a Concern

- Students and families with classroom concerns are encouraged to contact their student's classroom teacher. School-wide concerns can be addressed by the principal. [Addressing a Concern \(PDF\)](#).

Right to Disconnect

- Healthy work-life boundaries, including the ability for all employees to disconnect from work after hours, is an important part of maintaining one's health and well-being. HWDSB has implemented a [Right to Disconnect Procedure](#) to support educators, administrators and other HWDSB staff. While all urgent communication will continue to be shared after hours, please note that families communicating with educators and administrators may receive a delay in response to all non-emergency inquiries received after hours.

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

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Under the Education Act Regulation 612, school boards in Ontario are required to establish a School Council for each school within the board. The purpose of the School Council is "through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents."

The role of the School Council is to:

- Advise the Principal and, where appropriate, the school board.
- Place students' interests first
- Support school success planning goals
- Encourage parent and community involvement
- Promote positive attitudes towards public education School Councils provide input to the Principal or the board on any matter.

According to School Board regulations, elections for School Council must be held within 30 school days from the beginning of the year. For the 2023-2024 school year this means that elections must be held by Tuesday October 17th. **Principals must provide notice of School Council elections to the school community 14 days prior to the election date. Elections must be held by secret ballot.**

Please keep an eye out for further information coming home regarding elections and start up for a Richard Beasley School Council.

MENTAL WELLNESS

How to Support a Mentally Healthy Back to School for Your Child

By School Mental Health Ontario

We know that while many students and families are eager to return to a "more normal" school experience, some will be worried about starting back, and what this new school year will look like for them. Remember as parents/caregivers you know your child best!

We are aware that each child will approach the new school year with many different feelings. They may be excited, or perhaps nervous and some children could be quite worried and anxious. All of these feelings and emotions are natural responses.

Anxiety can show up in different ways. Your child may tell you that they are feeling fearful or overwhelmed. Or you might notice things like frequent headaches, trouble sleeping, irritability or emotional outbursts. Your child might seem withdrawn, or overly tired or restless. Being watchful for signs of anxiety can help you to provide support early, before the problem worsens. Not all stress can be avoided, but sometimes we can reduce it. Having tools and strategies ready to cope with stress is important, so that we and our children can be less negatively affected.

Talk to your child about the return to school

- Take some time to think through what the return to school might look like for your child and talk to your child about what to expect. Children may feel nervous about returning to school for any number of

reasons. It is important to allow space for them to express their concerns, and also to help them to remember the parts of school that they enjoy and are looking forward to the most.

- Check in regularly with your child, as their emotions and feelings will likely change from day to day or week to week. You can normalize any fears as a response to the uncertainty and can reassure them. Even though things are different, they can manage and there will be adults there to help.
- It can be helpful to remind your child of the positives of going back to school, such as seeing their friends again. Perhaps make a list together about what they are excited about.
- Remind your child that when school starts, they will be supported and safe.

Conversation starters for the return to school

In discussions with your child, consider asking these questions:

- Who are you looking forward to connecting with this school year?
- What is one thing you're hoping to do during the school year?
- What are the strategies that really worked for you during remote learning? Are there things we can build on?
- How are you feeling about this school year?
- What's one thing you feel excited for?
- Is there anything you feel a bit worried about?
- How can I help you to feel comfortable about school?

<mailto:https://smho-smso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Supporting-Mental-Health-and-Wellness-during-the-Return-to-School-Tip-Sheet-EN.pdf>