



Richard Beasley Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Beasley December 2023 Newsletter



To our Parents/Guardians,

Oh, how I love this time of year in the elementary school. It is so nice to see the excitement in the eyes of the children. I love hearing the laughter, the singing and the wonderful stories. It truly is one of the most wonderful times of the year.

As we head into the holiday season and bring term one to a close, we would like to thank the families of Richard Beasley for your continued support. We also want to thank our dedicated staff who put their hearts into creating engaging learning opportunities, providing caring classrooms and playgrounds both outside and inside. Together we are strong, so thank you all for everything YOU do!

It is hard to believe that we are near the end of the year and our holidays are quickly approaching. November was a busy month with a beautiful Remembrance Day Service, Progress Reports going home, reading interventions continuing; math delivery lessons by our Instructional Consultant; and our grade 4/5 classes taking part in the Road to the Grey Cup.

Thank you! It was so wonderful to see that many parents participated in parent-teacher interviews. Thank you for making time to discuss your child's progress. We want the lines of communication open between home and school as we work as a team to help support all students. Remember that you can reach out to your child's teacher any time you have a question or concern.

During the busyness of the coming month, try to remember time is one of the best gifts we are given. Enjoy family time over the winter break. Take time to snuggle up and read together, play board games, drink hot chocolate, get outside and just enjoy being 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 | Poinsettia All Money & Orders Due |
| Dec. 3 | International Day of Persons with Disabilities |
| Dec. 4 | Start of Advent |
| Dec 5 | School Special Lunch - subs |
| Dec. 6 | National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women |
| Dec 7 | Start of Hanukkah |
| Dec 8 | Craft Day @ Beasley – Crock-a-doodle for JK-Gr 3 Bodhi Day (Buddhist Activity) Hanukkah Spirit Day – Wear Blue & White |
| Dec. 10 | International Human Rights Day |
| Dec. 12 | Richard Beasley's Day of Coding Poinsettia Pick Up |
| Dec. 15 | Hanukkah ends Last Day of Holiday Food Drive |
| Dec. 18 | Spirit Day: Grinch Day – wear your favourite Grinch outfit |
| Dec. 19 | Spirit Day: Ugly Sweater Day |
| Dec. 20 | Spirit Day – Wear red, black/ green for Kwanzaa -Holiday Assembly (12:10 – 1:30) |
| Dec. 21 | Spirit Day – Wear red, white/green for Christmas |
| Dec. 22 | Spirit Day -Pajama Day Movie – Middle Block Last Day of School Winter Break Begins |
| Dec 25 | Christmas Day |
| Dec. 26 | Kwanzaa Begins |

Thought for the Month:



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 and also impacts on the smooth start of the day.

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



FEELING SICK

Being sure that a child is well enough to go to school can be tough for any parent. It often comes down to whether the child can still participate at school. Having a sore throat, cough, or mild congestion doesn't always mean kids can't handle class and other activities. However, we greatly



encourage you to keep your child home if they have symptoms like a fever over 100.4°F/ 38°C; pain from earache, headache, sore throat, or recent injury; diarrhea; vomiting; or trouble breathing.

A child who has the sniffles but hasn't slowed down at home is likely well enough for the classroom. But one who coughed all night and had a hard time getting up in the morning is encouraged to take it easy at home.

NUTRITION PROGRAM

All students at Richard Beasley benefit from our Snack program in the mornings. The snack program includes food from every food group and we try to include some foods that our students might not eat on a regular basis.



One of the companies whose financial support allows us to provide this opportunity to our students is Tastebuds. Their involvement in this program helps us to provide universal access to healthy foods in our schools and community environments and helps to improve student success, support healthy growth, development, and lifelong eating habits. Tastebuds is committed to collaborating with our partners and student voices to continually work towards sprouting healthy relationships with food.



Another company who financially supports our snack program is President's Choice Children's Charity. Their mission is to remove hunger as a barrier to education for Canadian students. Their support provides

a dual purpose which is to remove hunger as a barrier to a happy life and to educate children about food and nutrition.

HEADPHONES

In today's diverse classrooms, students have unique learning preferences and paces. Headphones offer a way to personalize learning by granting students control over their learning materials. Whether it's a teacher's recording, an audiobook, or an interactive lesson, headphones allow students to choose how they engage with the content.

Many of our students are taking part in the Reading program Lexia or listening to online books, having their own set of headphones helps them to effectively use these programs.



As a school, we have purchased a number of headphones over the last two months but they do not seem to be lasting. We would greatly appreciate it if parents can help us in this area by purchasing a set of headphones for their child, place their name on it and send it to school in a Ziplock bag. **Please note that your child will be the only one using them.**

AGENDA CHECK

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 upcoming assignments, 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 set appointment times. They are not in a position to take phone calls immediately, but they can return your phone call if you leave a message for them.



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.

SPECIAL LUNCH DAY

On Tuesday, December 5th, we will be having a Sub Special Lunch Day.

Subs will be purchased from Mike's Subs on Upper Gage.

All monies raised will be used for Miscellaneous Student Items e.g., gym equipment; recess bags; trips; library; etc.



Cash Orders & Payments Due by 3:15 p.m. on Friday, November 24th, 2023.
Deadline for Cash Online Friday, November 24th by 11:59 p.m.

POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

Please continue to support our Poinsettia School Fundraiser. Our poinsettias will be coming from Sonny's Flowers Ltd. a highly regarded greenhouse who has been supplying Poinsettias to various businesses and supporting fundraising efforts for over 30 years.



Cash Orders & Payments Due by 3:15 p.m. on Friday, December 1st, 2023.



Deadline for Cash Online Friday, December 1st by 11:59 p.m.

All monies raised will be used for miscellaneous school and student subsidies.

TREAT FRIDAYS – COOKIES

Starting Friday December 1st and every Friday throughout December, we will be selling cookies during the 2nd Nutrition Break.

For sale will be a choice of: double chocolate chip cookies or Holiday sprinkle cookies.

The cost of each cookie is \$1.00.

If we have cookies left after the Holiday Break, we will continue to sell them until we have none left.

All monies raised will be used for Miscellaneous Student Items e.g., gym equipment; recess bags; trips; library; etc.



FOOD DRIVE

Starting December 1st, our school will be collecting canned goods and dry goods. The proceeds from this food drive will be given as hampers to families in our school community. Did you know that in 2022, more than 4.5 million children benefited from food pantry services? Community food drives like ours help make sure those children and their families can get emergency food assistance when they need it.



Please give what you can. Every single donation helps, and together we hope our combined donations will make a real difference for those in need. The food pantry is asking for nutritious canned and dry goods.

Please check all food labels to make sure that any items given are not expired.

OUTDOOR PLAY EXPECTATIONS

Outdoor play must be safe and respectful!! Please speak to your child about keeping their hands to themselves. Aggressive play is rough and it causes injuries and insults to other children. While at school, there is no need to play games that involve grabbing, pushing, shoving, or hitting. Likewise, snowball throwing is not permitted, as it is not safe as we never know where it might land or what object might be caught up in it. Students are not permitted to throw snow during outdoor times. Every year, we also tend to have issues with the building of snow forts. We will be having conversations with students to see if there is a way to work around this issue and hopefully we can reach amicable solutions.



WINTER WEATHER

We ask that all students are sent to school with proper winter wear each day. Please review our weather conditions for outdoor recess below.



Weather Conditions

Students will play outdoors when:

- Temperatures are above 15°C with consideration given to wind chill factor
- There is light precipitation (e.g. snow flurries, drizzle)
- Snow is on the ground, depending upon how different play areas are affected

Playground/Field Conditions

Students will be permitted to use the field and asphalt play areas when conditions are suitable for safe play. Safety considerations included:

- Fields that are not muddy or icy and asphalt play areas that are not icy
- Snow that is not deep enough to inhibit students walking/running

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. Please consider taking some time to label your child's clothing in case they misplace them.



PROGRESS REPORT CARD

The progress report card provides a “snapshot” of student learning that reflects grade-level expectations and standards, student achievement and progress toward independently meeting expectations, and indications of where help and support are needed. This year parent teacher conferences were held on Thursday, Nov. 16 and Friday Nov. 17th. If you were unable to meet with your child's teacher on those day and have concerns, do not hesitate to email or call to set up either an in-person or a phone interview. If you have



not already done so, please take some time to read the progress report card again, sign it and return it as soon as possible.

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.

Why Is It Important to Read to Your Child?

The benefits go far beyond literacy

Writer: [Hannah Sheldon-Dean](#)

Clinical Expert: [Laura Phillips, PsyD, ABPdN](#)

By reading to your child starting at a young age, even before they're able to communicate verbally, you help lay the neurological groundwork for effective language use and literacy. That's partly because books expose children to vocabulary and grammar that they wouldn't normally hear. “When kids are with caregivers or parents, they're exposed to the same language, the same vocabulary words, the same patterns of speaking, which is wonderful,” says Dr. Phillips. “But books allow them to hear new vocabulary and new ways of putting words together, which expands their ability to make sense of and use language.”

Research has found that young children whose parents read to them daily have been exposed to at least 290,000 more words by the time they enter kindergarten than kids who aren't read to regularly. And depending on how much daily reading time kids get, that number can go up to over a million words. All that exposure likely makes it easier for kids to expand their vocabularies and understand the variety of texts they'll need to read as they get older, both inside school and out.

Aside from language and literacy, reading is also an important tool for helping children develop empathy. As kids read books about people whose lives are different from their own (and especially stories told from the perspectives of those people), they gain an appreciation for other people's feelings, as well as other cultures, lifestyles, and perspectives.

Books can also help kids learn how to handle their own feelings in healthy ways. Seeing characters in books experience big emotions like anger or sadness lets kids know that these feelings are normal — and gives them a chance to talk about their own difficult feelings, too.

Parents can use reading time as an opportunity to foster kids' emotional awareness and build their toolkits for handling feelings: “Have you ever felt as angry as the girl in this book? What would you do if you did?”

Having time to read with a parent or caregiver isn't just about the activity of reading. It's about having consistent, focused time together, without other distractions or demands. Even a few minutes of reading together gives both you and your child a chance to slow down, connect with each other, and share an enjoyable activity.

<https://childmind.org/article/why-is-it-important-to-read-to-your-child/#:~:text=It%20exposes%20them%20to%20new,how%20to%20handle%20challenging%20feelings.>

MENTAL WELLNESS

How to support your child's mental health during the holidays

[FamilyMeans News](#)

1. Reduce Stress

The best way to prevent stress in your children is to manage your own stress. If you are stress free (or at least managing stress well) you will set a base of calm. Be sure to practice good self-care and get enough sleep. You are setting the example for your children! For youth, a lot of the stress that comes this time of year is from uncertainty. Be sure to be open about what their holiday break schedule will look like, including what they are expected to do and what activities are planned. Predictability is key in managing stress connected to expectations and events.

2. Give your child the tools to work through stress/anxiety.

No matter how much you plan and attempt to reduce stress, there are still times where it can overcome your child. Some tools that we suggest to use when your child is feeling stress include, focusing on calming breath or meditation, journaling, allowing them to spend time alone, getting outdoors into fresh air, taking a warm shower or bath. Talk with your child about why they are feeling stress and help them to find ways to work through it successfully.

3. Keep routine.

Again, predictability is key! Try to keep sleep and eat schedules close to the schedules your children keep while in school. While an exception is ok for special occasions (like New Year's Eve), it is best to keep bed and wake-up times within an hour of the usual during school time. Eat three healthy meals a day and be sure to keep active!

4. Prepare for family and friend time.

The holiday gatherings that you will have with family and friends are supposed to bring joy and togetherness. For children, a room full of adults with prodding questions can be overwhelming and anxiety inducing. Prepare your child for the event to come by giving them an idea of who will be at the gathering and what the event will look like. Remind them that those they will be surrounded by are excited to learn about what they have been up to since they were seen last. Help them to prepare and practice answers to common questions.

Remember that they are kids! Some traditions depend on kids being on their best behavior and with lengthy services, parties with strangers, and elaborate meals the demand can be high. When scheduling events be sure to have just one high demand activity per day, and plenty of time for rest and recovery.

5. Rest.

Be sure your children get 8-10 hours of sleep each night. Also plan for relaxing activities that allow for recharging.

6. Have fun!

It is so easy to get wrapped up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and miss out on fun activities that can be had together. Take time to do something that you all want to do and don't feel like you have to do. Laugh and be silly!

<https://www.familymeans.org/articles/2021/12/17/how-to-support-your-childs-mental-health-during-the-holidays/>