



Richard Beasley Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Beasley January 2024 Newsletter



To our Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone has had a chance to relax and enjoy some quality time with family and friends over the holiday break. Thank you for all of your holiday wishes and generous support before the Winter Break. Your kindness is truly appreciated by our staff. The start of school, after a significant break, always provides a good opportunity to re-establish a focus on learning. January will bring a fresh start for each of us and is always a time when we try to set goals and prioritize for the year.

I would like to share three life lessons I have learned in the past couple of years.

1. Human beings are creative beings. I have never seen more examples of taking problems or challenges and finding answers or solutions. It is easy to give in and let problems and struggles in your life win. Instead we endeavour to explore, invent, and create ways to do it better. Where there is a will, there is a way...for real!

2. I have learned to seek to understand, and then to be understood. Everyone has their own level of urgency. What gets me anxious or excited may not excite you. Your worries are not necessarily my worries. But, everyone's feelings are real and need to be heard and respected. We can all be better at this. We all have a story that should be heard.

3. Tough times bring people together. I have seen more genuine relationships formed in this school year than I have in many combined in the past. We expose our fears and anxieties, empathise and relate, and then support. I have seen this over and over in both students, staff and parents. I can only hope that this carries forward into more normal times.

I hope everyone gives these three lessons a glance, and spends some time over the next few months practicing at least one. I can only hope we can find creative ways to enjoy what we still have. Empathise and listen to our loved ones, and maximize the time with the ones you can be with. No matter what you do though make sure your #1 goal is to take care of yourself.

As always, if you have ideas, concerns or need clarification on an issue, please contact me. You can call the school to set an appointment or send me an email at jcorbinh@hwdsb.on.ca

Take care,
Mrs. J. Corbin-Harper

Date	Activity
Jan 8	1st Day back after Winter Break
Jan. 13	Maghi (Sikh holiday)
Jan. 14	New Year's Day (Orthodox Christianity/Julian Calendar)
Jan. 17	Birth of Guru Gobind Singh Ji (Sikh Holiday)
Jan. 19	Jersey/Sports Team Day
Jan. 21	Lincoln Alexander Day
Jan. 24	International Day of Education Bell Let's Talk Day National Compliment Day Beasley Celebrates Family Literacy Day
Jan. 24-25	Tu B'Shevat (Tu Bishvat) is the 15th day of the Jewish months of Shevat.
Jan. 26	PA Day (No school for students)
Jan. 27	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust Family Literacy Day
Jan. 29	Hamilton's Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia
Jan. 30	Chines Food orders due

Thought for the Month:

**I HOPE THAT IN THIS YEAR TO COME,
YOU MAKE MISTAKES.**

Because if you are making mistakes,

THEN YOU ARE:

making new things,

TRYING NEW THINGS,

learning, living,

PUSHING YOURSELF,

changing yourself,

CHANGING YOUR WORLD.

Neil Gaiman



We continue to need your help in some important areas:

- Please label your child's belongings; this is especially important as the colder weather approaches and more items are needed.
- Now is the time to make sure that your child (K - 5) has winter boots and winter gear as all students go outside for recess every day! Students cannot wear wet outdoor footwear into the building. It is a safety hazard as our floors can become slippery at times. Wet shoes also track in grass and dirt which creates extra work for our caretaking staff who are already very busy with their duties to keep our school clean and healthy. All students (K - 5) need to remove their wet shoes/boots when they enter the school and a pair of indoor shoes is required (preferably a pair that can stay at the school). Thank you for working on keeping our school not only clean but safe as well.
- Please remember to send in a labelled refillable water bottle for your child. It is important for children to keep their bodies well hydrated during winter to ensure that the barriers used to protect their bodies from colds and flu are fully functional and completely intact.

Student Feeling Sick

Feelin Sick? Stay Home



Remember that if your child is too ill to go outside for recess, then they are still too ill to attend school. As you know, all students must be supervised at all times. Unfortunately, we do not have the staffing to supervise students wishing to remain indoors during recess. Students may not be sent to the office during these times, as they are not able to be supervised. The school office is quite busy at recess times, and must be free to respond to school issues as they arise. Therefore, we do not permit students to stay indoors.

Cash Online

Parents/guardians are reminded to create their School Cash Online profile, to receive updates and information on upcoming school activities. Paying through School Cash Online offers a safe and convenient payment option that eliminates the need to send cash to school.

1st Term Report Cards

First term report cards will be sent home on Friday, February 16th with your child(ren). Please take the time to look over the report card with your child and comment on the third page of the report. This year there is a change to the Language reporting and you will only see one grade there. (Similar to the math reporting.) We will share more information in next month's newsletter. Please also note that interviews were held in November to discuss your child's progress so far this year. If you were unable to attend, please know that you may request a meeting with your child(s) classroom teacher at any time.

Report
Cards

HWDSB: Student Learning and Achievement:

We will improve student learning and achievement through effective instructional strategies.

A WORD TO PARENTS

When parents and caregivers read with their child during the elementary school years, they provide a valuable gift — the lifelong advantage of literacy! Here are some reasons why it's important to read together 20 minutes every day:

- Young students need lots of practice and encouragement as they learn to read
- Reading aloud improves your child's speaking, reading, listening, thinking and problem-solving skills
- Experience with various kinds of books, like poetry or non-fiction, broadens your child's knowledge and curiosity
- Vocabulary grows as your child hears new words and ideas in new stories
- Reading together daily creates a special bond that strengthens relationships; your child discovers that reading is enjoyable
- Your child learns to read and then reads to learn

Read together at least 20 minutes every day.



Lots more at
ReadingFoundation.org

READING WITH YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CHILD

Teachers know the skills students need to become happy and confident readers. They also know which methods are most effective for teaching reading. Four key skills that predict future success are phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. **Reading together at least 20 minutes a day builds these reading skills.**

PHONICS

Simply put, phonics is the sound that each letter makes when reading. Help your child use her knowledge of letter sounds (phonics) to "sound out" letters to make a word; then have her reread the sentence. Play word games while reading. For example, when you see the word "cat," ask your child to think of a word that rhymes (hat-cat), or change a letter to make a new word (car-cat).

VOCABULARY

Vocabulary is all the words your child uses or understands. Students who have the biggest vocabularies are the best readers. Pause to explain a new word or concept while reading together. Make a list of new words at home and watch it grow longer.



5 Rules for Raising a Successful Student
1) Read 2) Read
3) Read 4) Read
5) Read

FLUENCY

Fluency is the ability to read with speed and accuracy. Listening to your child read aloud helps him increase fluency. When you read, he hears how smooth reading sounds. Pause to clearly say new, different or difficult words, and ask your child to repeat them. Fluency and vocabulary are important for comprehension.

COMPREHENSION

Comprehension is the reason for reading! It involves understanding, remembering and talking about the text. When reading with your child, occasionally ask questions or talk about a character. Let your child guess or predict what might happen next or explain the plot. Can she retell the story: what happened in the beginning, middle and end?



KIDS WHO READ SUCCEED



Mental Wellness

Coming Back After a Break

Your child's overall health includes both their physical and their mental health. Physical health includes things like how well a child grows, how strong they are and how well they can recover from an infection. Mental health includes how well a child thinks, copes with feelings and behaves. A mental health disorder in childhood involves delays or disruptions in thinking, behaviors, social skills, or regulation of emotions for a child of that age. These delays or disruptions cause distress to children or interfere with how well they function at home, school or in social situations.

Just like your child's physical health, your child's mental health changes over time, getting better or worse. We can help our children build habits that help them be mentally healthy, in the same way that we teach them habits such as brushing their teeth, eating nutritious food and getting proper exercise to help them be physically healthy.

Mental health problems are common in children and teens. It is best to notice a problem early on and get the right treatment to support your child, just as you would for a broken bone. The tricky thing is that kids and teens are growing and changing all of the time. It can be hard to tell the difference between mood and behavior changes that commonly happen as children age and ones that are a sign of anxiety, depression or other mental health concerns.



The infographic is set against a light blue background with white snowflakes. At the top left is a large thermometer icon with a blue liquid level. To its right is the title 'What's the rule for extreme cold?' followed by a paragraph explaining the cancellation policy. In the center is an illustration of a blue schoolhouse with a clock tower and a red flag, surrounded by snow-covered trees. Below the schoolhouse, on the left, is a section titled 'Where do I find cancellation information?' with a list of four sources. On the right is a laptop icon displaying the website and Twitter handle, followed by a section titled 'Families always have a choice' with a paragraph about family discretion.

What's the rule for extreme cold?
In extreme cold, buses may not start or run as expected and HWDSB may need to cancel transportation. But this **does not** automatically mean that schools will close. In 2014, Trustees gave the Director (or designate) the discretion to keep schools open when busing is cancelled due to extreme cold.

Where do I find cancellation information?
We will share this announcement in a variety of ways:

- The HWDSB website www.hwdsb.on.ca
- HWDSB's Twitter account www.twitter.com/HWDSB
- HWSTS website www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca
- Local media outlets:
CBC Hamilton, CHCH TV, CHML, CKPC
Brantford, Hamilton Community News,
Hamilton Spectator.

hwdsb.on.ca
[@HWDSB](https://twitter.com/HWDSB)

Families always have a choice
A school cancellation is a tough decision – and some families may disagree with HWDSB's call. Families can always make the choice they feel is best when it comes to sending their child to school.