



Richard Beasley Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Beasley February 2024 Newsletter



To our Parents/Guardians,

Being that February is a month filled with Beasley love, friendship, and positive energy, I would like to wish our entire Beasley Family a Happy Valentine's Day! It is times like this that I feel truly blessed to be the elementary principal of such a fantastic school. I truly enjoy coming to school and love the interactions with our students. February is also the month that we emphasize the importance of kindness, although we talk about it all year long. As a principal, I get to interact with kids all day, and the conversations I have with them are pretty amazing. Most days, no matter how I am feeling, walking down the hallway and talking to the students can put a smile on your face.

Our focus remains to cultivate a positive climate and create the best learning environment possible. High quality instruction and student learning are our highest priorities. Everything that we do at Richard Beasley is designed to help students learn in all areas and be successful well beyond their time in elementary school. Once again, that partnership between school and home is a key ingredient for student success. With that said, we hope that your students are feeling safe and supported. This is an interesting time in their lives and development, and can be challenging at times.

Thank you for your continued support of our amazing school. Thank you for your kindness, smiles, and support with academics, behaviors and modeling the importance of a solid education.

As always, my door is open and I welcome you to email or call anytime that you have questions, comments, or concerns. Take care and thanks again for your continued support!

Take care,
Mrs. J. Corbin-Harper

Date	Activity
Feb. 1st	Start of Black History Month & Psychology Month
Feb. 2nd	Groundhog Day; National Sweater Day
Feb. 5th	Kindergarten registration opens
Feb 7th	Special Lunch Day-Chinese Food
Feb. 12th	Random Acts of Kindness Week
Feb. 14th	Valentine's Day; Ash Wednesday
Feb. 15th	National Flag Day of Canada; Nirvana Day: annual multicultural festival that commemorates the death of the Buddha once he reached Nirvana
Feb. 16th	Term 1 Report Cards sent home
Feb. 17th	Kindergarten Field trip to RBG
Feb. 18th	Maha Shivrati: Hindu festival celebrated annually in honour of the god Shiva
Feb. 19th	Family Day (No School)
Feb. 27th	Updated IEPs sent home
Feb. 28th	Pink Shirt Day (Anti-Bullying)
March 1st	Out of Catchment Forms due

Thought for the Month:



REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN

Your child is eligible for the two-year Kindergarten program in the calendar year that they turn four or five. You may register your child online or come into the school starting February 5, 2024. **Registration Forms are available at**

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/>

Note, only parents or legal guardians can register their children for school.

Required documents include:

- Proof of age (child's birth certificate or passport);
- Proof of address (identification that shows parent/guardian's current home address);
- Proof of immunization;
- Verification of date of arrival/immigration documents (if the child was not born in Canada).
- If registered using our print method, bring a completed [Child Information Form](#), also available at your school.



COLD WEATHER AND OUTDOOR PLAY

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. Children need fresh air and exercise and time spent outside affords students an opportunity to break free from the structure of the classroom. It is important that children come to school prepared for the cold. Boots, mittens or gloves, snow pants and hats should be worn to school and it's a good idea to provide extra mittens, socks, etc. in the event they are needed. As always, Principals use their judgment in determining whether or not students remain inside during recess given the weather conditions. However, the City of Hamilton's Public Health and Community Services Department recommends individuals stay indoors when the temperature drops below minus 15 degrees Celsius without wind chill. This is the approach we will take at Richard Beasley School.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The 2024 theme for Black History Month is: "Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; Future to Build.". Black History Month is a month dedicated to commemorating the achievements of Black people throughout history, whilst also reflecting on the prejudices Black people have endured. Throughout Canada and North America, Black History Month is celebrated in February each year, and is a very important event for everyone to celebrate.



WHY DO WE CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

Black History Month is celebrated to mark and commemorate Black contributions to arts, culture, science, sport, and history. It is important to remember that historically, Black people in Canada have been overlooked and have faced a lot of prejudice and discrimination as a result of race. Black History Month is celebrated annually so that we all can remember and celebrate the wonderful things that Black people have brought to Canada. No matter where you live, we invite all Canadians to learn more about these communities, and how they continue to help shape Canadian history.

NATIONAL SWEATER DAY – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

National Sweater Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about climate change and energy conservation, and show how together – classroom by classroom, school by school – we can be a part of the solution. Since 2010, over a million Canadians have participated in National Sweater Day at their schools, workplaces and homes. It is a day to help raise awareness about climate change and modify behaviours around energy consumption. Make an impact beyond National Sweater Day by asking students to reflect on their personal carbon footprint and make personal commitments in their own lives to help keep climate change in check.

Collectively, we can have a powerful impact. Students are invited to wear a sweater to school on Thursday to mark this occasion. The sweater can range from being an 'ugly sweater' to one that is nice and colourful.



BEASLEY FAMILY LITERACY DAY AND FAMILY DAY

Reading is essential to learning and a source of lifetime enjoyment as well. Although there is a great deal of emphasis on teaching reading in school, the basic building blocks are put in place long before our children ever enter the classroom. Celebrate Family Day and Family Literacy Day by turning off the TV, putting away your tablet, quieting your phone and social media, and cuddling up with a good book. Once again, we are trying our best to keep that love of reading happening. A huge thank you to our staff for planning and promoting this event and to our families for coming out and supporting our Snuggle Up and Read. Special Shout-out goes out to our Reading Specialist, Mrs. Davies for helping plan the majority of the day.

REPORT CARDS

On February 17th, you will receive your child's term one report card. This report, unlike the progress report, will provide you with more detail on how your child is progressing at school in all areas of the curriculum which have been taught this term. Please review the report with your child and discuss the next steps that are suggested for improvement. As a parent, the biggest change you will notice will come on your child's report card. Instead of having the language mark divided into four parts: writing, reading, media literacy and oral communication; it will be one mark.



THANK YOU

We would like to thank all our parents who participated in our Chinese Food Special Lunch day. We are hoping that it will be very successful. We have almost 60 orders. Last year the reviews from students were quite good and most of them said that the food was really good and they were looking forward to doing it again so we decided to make it happen. If you had a discussion about the food with your child(ren), please let us know what their thoughts were. Feedback on these types of events is always appreciated.



UNCLAIMED LOST AND FOUND ITEMS



Many winter clothes, boots, hats, mittens etc. have accumulated in the Lost and Found which is located by the Kitchen near the office. So much has accumulated that we are asking students and parents to take time now until February 14th to search for lost items. It's our hope that by Valentine's Day most lost items will have found their way home. Any items remaining will be packed up and donated.

UPDATE PERSONAL INFORMATION

Sometimes, when we call home or attempt to contact parents over the phone, we discover that the contact information written on the registration card is not accurate. When we send out emails to the community, we routinely have around 12 emails bounce back with messages that they are no longer valid. Please take some time to contact the office if your contact information has changed so when can update it on your child's registration card and in the school contact information. Not only is this a safety issue, but most of the information parents also receive from the school is sent via email, text or sometimes by phone. In order for you to be up to date on what is going on at Richard Beasley, it is important we have the correct contact information.

NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING PINK SHIRT DAY

National Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day is the Day of Pink on Wednesday February 28th where we stand up against bullying and discrimination. A day to stand up for kindness, where we work together and treat others with dignity and respect. Working together we can make sure that Richard Beasley is a safe learning and working space for everyone. Building healthy relations in our school communities are important; however, it is also important to review steps we can take together to stop bullying and discrimination. Bullying refers to any situation where a child is being deliberately and repeatedly hurt by others and they find it difficult to stand up for themselves. This can be face to face or online, in school or in the community. It may be physical or it can be verbal or emotional.

We all have a role to play in creating communities where children feel safe and valued, where we stand up to prejudice and are united against bullying or acts of discrimination. Reporting these types of behaviour is the first step in addressing these situations. We need to ensure that our children know who the caring adults are at school and in their community so that

incidents of bullying or discrimination are reported and addressed promptly. Support Bullying Awareness, Prevention and Diversity by wearing Pink on



February 28th!

OFFENCE DECLARATION

Parents play an important role in the development and education of their children, and in the success of the school community. At Richard Beasley 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. All volunteers in HWDSB schools MUST provide a new Vulnerable Sector Screening every three years. Volunteers must also sign a current offence declaration each year, in between Vulnerable Sector Screening updates. We want everyone at HWDSB to be safe in our buildings and the updated Vulnerable Sector Screening is one way we can protect our students. 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 Richard Beasley School as being a school volunteer.



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.

READING

Research tells us that children who read often for enjoyment perform better on standardized tests and report cards. From my family to yours...let's try to put down the electronics and enjoy a good book from the elementary library! It's free! It's quality family time, and giving the option of reading books or doing dishes, vacuuming, folding laundry, or dusting, I know most kids would prefer to grab a book and camp out in their rooms!

Tips to change habits and perceptions:

1. Let your child see how important reading is by doing it yourself.
2. Read to your child every day.
3. Make reading a family pleasure.
4. Give books as gifts.
5. Arrange your home and children's bedrooms to encourage reading.
6. Help your child become an author.
7. Select media games that promote reading and academics.
8. Make library visits a regular routine.
9. Books on tape can help pass time on long road trips.
10. As children get older, read longer chapter books and poetry to your children.