



## 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](mailto:richardbeasley@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: Mrs. J. Corbin Harper  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/richardbeasley](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/richardbeasley)

### Beasley March 2023 Newsletter



To our Parents/Guardians,

We welcome the new month of March with a renewed sense of optimism as the weather begins to change and the days become longer. In the month of March, we begin our journey of Eid and Lent leading up to Easter Sunday. I hope that we can all find some time this month to reflect on the important aspects of our lives and also the importance of reaching out to one another, helping each other, and giving to those less fortunate.

I can't believe that we are already well into the start of our second term at Richard Beasley! As you are aware the first Report Card was sent home in February giving our caregivers an opportunity to discuss achievement with their child and focus on growth and improvement through goal setting and next steps. We value the importance of a home and school connection and appreciate the support that you provide at home to ensure your child is meeting with success in all subject areas. Spring is approaching and learning is in full swing here at the RBS. As you may know, this is a time of year that students make the most academic and social learning improvements. Make school a priority. Very soon the weather will change with spring right around the corner. It can be challenging to keep our children focused on learning. The second Report Card will go home at the end of June to reflect achievement from February through to June. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher to discuss questions you may have around their progress and achievement in Term 1.

With March upon us, we are looking forward to the spring and realize that Daylight Savings Time is approaching! Please remember to spring forward your clocks by 1 hour on March 10th which will bring longer daylight to look forward to! We also have March Break approaching the week of March 11th. We wish our families and students a wonderful March Break week to rest & recharge for the remainder of the school year. Wishing you an enjoyable break & month ahead!

As I continue to settle into my role as principal here at Richard Beasley, I realize how much students, families and staff have done for me and, for that, I need to truly thank you. As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me via email at [jcorbinh@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:jcorbinh@hwdsb.on.ca) or call me at the school.

Take care,

*Mrs. J. Corbin-Harper*

Date	Activity
March 1st	Days of Fasting
March 3rd	Social Work Week Begins
March 8th	Recognition Assembly 12:10-1:00 p.m. /Maha Shivatri/ International Women's Day
March 9th	School Spirit Day
March 10th	Daylight Saving Time Starts
March 11th	Ramadan Begins
March 11-15th	March Break
March 14th	Sikh New Year
March 17th	St Patrick's Day/Heritage Day
March 20th	Nowruz (Iranian or Persian New Year)
March 21st	Rock Your Socks-World Down Syndrome Day/ International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 23rd	Earth Hour
March 24th	Palm Sunday
March 25th	Holi: This Hindu Festival celebrates spring, love, and new life.
March 29th	Good Friday
March 31st	Easter Sunday/International Transgender Day of Visibility

#### Thought for the Month:

##### Always be yourself.

Never try to hide who you are. The only shame is to have shame. Always stand up for what you believe in. Always question what other people tell you. Never regret the past, it's a waste of time. There's a reason for everything. Every mistake, every moment of weakness, every terrible thing that has happened to you. Grow from it. The only way can ever get the respect of others is when you show them that you respect yourself and most importantly, do your thing and never apologize for being you.

## HWDSB LAUNCHES NEW MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

On Wednesday, January 17, 2024, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) launched a Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) and Board Improvement Plan. HWDSB's five-year MYSP and Board Improvement Plan will guide the work of the school board from 2023 to 2028 and was created through extensive community consultation.

### HWDSB created a new Mission to guide the five-year MYSP:

**To ensure that every student experiences a sense of belonging and engages in dynamic learning to reach their potential and build their own future.**

In addition to the new Mission, the MYSP includes five Strategic Directions designed to enhance student belonging and achievement. The Strategic Directions are:

- Upholding Human Rights, Safety & Well-Being
- Providing Equitable Quality Education
- Collaborating with Students, Families & Communities
- Building a Sustainable Education System
- Reinforcing Indigenous Educational Wellness & Reconciliation

To learn more about the new MYSP please visit the website: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/hwdsb-launches-new-multi-year-strategic-plan-and-board-improvement-plan/>



## REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN

It is never too late to register for Kindergarten for September 2024 School year but please do so ASAP.

Students who will turn 4 years of age by December 31, 2024 are eligible for JK, while students who will turn 5 are eligible for SK.

If you know of families in our area who have children of this age, please pass this information along to them. Registration will be completed online. If assistance is required, please call the school at 905-387-5655 or visit [www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca).  
<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/>



## LOST & FOUND

Everyday students are leaving their coats, jackets, sweaters, gloves and hats on the school grounds. Those items without student's names are picked up and brought to our lost and found located in front of the school.

During the school year when the pile gets high we donate these items to missions and shelters.

During March break we will be donating any items left in our lost and found. Please be sure to check or have your child check the lost and found by Friday, March 8, 2024.



## PIZZA AND POPCORN CHANGES

As we mentioned in the letter that went home back in January, we are having to increase the cost of school pizza.

This decision hasn't been taken lightly, and we have been discussing this increase with our current provider Inferno Pizza over the couple of months in order to work out a solution that is cost effective for everyone. With the significantly higher inflation costs of products that our provider is experiencing, we are now at the point where we need to look at increasing our price from \$1.50 per slice to \$2.00. This new price will take effect at the beginning of March 2024. The money raised from pizza is used to purchase technology items, as well as to offset the cost of students for school trips.



Just to let parents know that we are in the process of changing distributors for our popcorn. We will have most of the same flavours. At this time, we still have some flavours from Kernels so students might have a combination of popcorn from the two different distributors. Many of the schools in HWDSB have been using this brand and are quite happy with it. We appreciate your support and thank you for your understanding.



## REPORTING IN & SIGNING OUT

If you are bringing your child/children to school after 8:55 am or 12:40 pm, please make sure to report to the main office. Mrs. Hallas will document that your child has come to school late, give your child a late slip and send them to their classroom. If you are signing your child/children out for the day or for any time during the day, you need to do so in the sign-in/sign-out book just outside the office by the main doors.



## ON TIME ARRIVAL FOR SCHOOL

The instructional school day begins at 8:55 a.m. We are experiencing high numbers of students arriving late to school. When students arrive late they are missing the beginning of classroom instruction and disrupting the classroom schedule. We are asking for parent/guardian support to ensure that students arrive to school prior to the 8:55 bell so that all students can be in the classroom ready to learn.



## REPORT CARDS

1st term report cards have been sent and we are into term two, the message you want to send is to respect their hard work as every student has made some progress in their learning. Praising kids for following through when things get difficult, for making a sustained effort, for trying things they're not sure they can do successfully; can all

help teach them the pleasure of pushing themselves. DO stay positive. Find something to praise initially, even if it's only to comment on the slight improvement in your child's grades or how well they get along with their classmates. If the marks aren't stellar, but your child has worked hard and tried their very best, they deserve recognition for what they achieved. Make sure to focus on the effort they put in and commitment they showed instead of the outcome or the final grade.

## LIBRARY BOOKS

With the rest of the money raised from our MacMillan's fundraiser last year, funds from Scholastic Book Fair and Indigo gift cards, we were recently able to purchase about 100 new books for our library as we had to purge and get rid of quite a few outdated ones.

We recently had personnel from the Board in to revamp our library as we are moving back to the Dewey Decimal Classification System. This is the system that you usually see when you visit the Public Library. Most schools have already done this.

In the next few months, we will be purchasing more non-fiction books from monies raised from MacMillan's fundraiser. Once again thank you to all the families who supported it.



## HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

Updating contact information in schools is important for a variety of reasons. It ensures that parents and guardians can be reached in case of an emergency or for important updates about the school. It also helps schools to stay in touch with students and families, and to keep track of who is authorized to pick up a student from school.



There are a few different ways that schools may update contact information. Some schools may ask parents and guardians to fill out a form at the beginning of the school year with their current contact information. Others may send out a notification to families asking them to review and update their contact information online.

Regardless of the method used, it is important for parents and guardians to keep their contact information up to date. This may include their home and mobile phone numbers, email address, and physical address. It is also a good idea to provide the school with the contact information for at least two emergency contacts in case the primary contact is not available.

By keeping contact information up to date, schools can ensure that they have a reliable way to reach families and guardians, and families can be confident that they will be contacted in case of an emergency or important update.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

It's a fact that students who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful in school than students who do not. Parents who make regular school attendance or being at school on time a priority also are helping their children learn to accept responsibility. And that's an important lesson for a successful life. Attendance patterns are formed early in life.

Children who develop good attendance habits in the early grades will be more likely to continue them throughout their school career. That's important, because students who miss school (whether it be the entire day or a part of the day), miss out on carefully planned sequences of instruction. They miss out on active learning experiences and class participation. They miss out on the opportunity to ask questions.

What Parents Can Do:

- Let your child know that you expect him/her to attend school every day. Explain that, just as you have a job, it's their job to go to school and learn.
- Get involved with your child's school. When he/she sees you in the halls or the classrooms they better understand the importance of school.
- The Board requires a parent notification to all families when students reach 10 and 15 days of absences (excused or non-excused).

We appreciate your support in having our students in school and on time.



## EARTH HOUR

Started by WWF and partners as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour is now one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment, engaging millions of people in more than 180 countries and territories. Join the millions of people around the world and switch off your lights in support of nature and our planet on Saturday, March 23rd, 2024 at 8:30 pm. - <https://www.earthhour.org/> Spend 60 minutes doing something positive for our planet.

Ideas for your family to do for Earth Hour!

Earth Hour belongs to you. Celebrate your commitment to the planet with your friends, family, community or at work - in your own way. A simple event can be just turning off all non-essential lights on March 23rd from 8:30-9:30 pm. For one hour, focus on your commitment to our planet.

To celebrate, you can:

- prepare a candle lit dinner,
- talk to your neighbours, or invite people over
- stargaze, or go camping in your backyard
- play board games, or charades
- host a concert, or a sing-a-long
- create or join your own community event
- have an Earth Hour every month

The possibilities are endless!



## LITERACY FOCUS

**HWDSB: Student Learning and Achievement: We will improve student learning and achievement through effective instructional strategies.**

Reading at Home

Talking about books and reading is an important part of your child's learning. Below are some questions to help you get started in conversations about books and reading. It is important that your child read daily at home. The questions below will support the things we are doing at school.

- Why did you choose this book?
- What do you think will happen next? Which part of the text makes you think that?
- Does this book remind you of anything that has ever happened to you?
- What have you been wondering as you read this?
- Does this book make you think of anything else you have read?
- Were there any words or phrases in your reading that you really liked? Which ones?
- What had been your favorite part of the book so far? Why?
- Was there a part of the book that surprised you? Why?
- Would you like to read another book by this same author? Why or why not?
- Can you think of someone else you know who would like this book? Why?
- Was this book too hard, too easy, or just right for you? How do you know?
- Were there any places in the book that had you confused? Did you reread to help you understand?