



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 April 2024 Newsletter



To our Parents/Guardians,

It is extremely hard to believe that both Spring Break and Easter have come and gone and we have only a few more months left in the 2023-2024 school year. Although the calendar says April, many days it continues to feel like winter. I don't know about you but I am tired of winter coats and boots and truly looking forward to wearing some lighter clothing. Let's hope that Spring will appear soon in temperature and not just in name and date! As a season, Spring is a time where we get a sense of rejuvenation, a belief that things will be brighter, and warmer, and a renewed energy to put our best foot forward.

Parents, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your hard work this year. You are all vital to the success of students. Whether you were off or not, I hope that all of you found some time to reflect, refresh and rejuvenate yourselves with family and friends.

The month of April starts off with World Autism Day - the theme is **#Awareness – #Acceptance – #Appreciation: Moving from surviving to thriving**. We have a number of activities planned throughout this week. As always, there are many other events occurring throughout the month – Ramadan, culminating in Eid; Earth Month; Pink Shirt Day; Sikh Month; Passover, etc.

We are now into the final three months of the school year and these three months tend to be especially busy with activities. Over the years, I have found that once the Easter weekend is over that the time just seems to fly. Please check the newsletters, calendars and website for regular updates.

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.

Take care,
Mrs. J. Corbin-Harper

Date	Activity
April 1st	Easter Monday (NO SCHOOL)
April 2nd	World Autism Day; International Children's Book Day
April 5th	Laylatul Qadr (Night of Power); Beasley Autism Walk, wear Blue
April 7th	World Health Day
April 8th	Annunciation Day; PA Day; Total Eclipse Day
April 9th	First day of Chaitra (Hinduism)*; Last day to pay for Special Lunch Day; Vimy Ridge Day; Dental Screening for SKs & Gr 2 students
April 10th	11 Eid-al-Fitr (Islam)
April 11th	Grade 4/5 Trip to Hamilton Conservation Authority
April 12th	International Day of Pink
April 14th	National Volunteer Week
April 16th	Shawarma Special Lunch Day
April 17th	Ram Navami (Hinduism)*; Equality Day
April 15-19	Beasley School neighbourhood and community clean-up & Litterless Lunch
April 22 nd – 30th	Passover/Pesach (Judaism)
April 22	Earth Day
April 24	Theravada New Year (Buddhism)*; Administrative Professionals Day

Thought for the Month:



WHAT IS RAMADAN MUBARAK?

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It is considered a holy month that honors the time when Allah, via the angel Gabriel, revealed the first verses of the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam, to a caravan trader named Muhammad. This year, Ramadan began on sundown Sunday, March 10, and will end at sundown on Tuesday, April 9th. The final evening of Ramadan consists of a celebration called Eid al-Fitr, when the traditional month-long fast is ended with a feast. To celebrate the end of Ramadan, Richard Beasley will be having a Shawarma Special Lunch Day on Tuesday, April 16, 2023.

The exact beginning and ending times of the month of Ramadan are based on the sighting of the first crescent Moon on the last night of the eighth month (Sha'ban). Specifically, Ramadan is said to begin at the first observance of the crescent Moon over Mecca, Saudi Arabia (or on a date pre-determined by astronomical calculation). Beginning at puberty, all Muslims (with certain exceptions, such as if one is ill, traveling, pregnant, elderly, etc.) take part in the month-long, dawn-to-sunset fast that is the hallmark of Ramadan. Muslims believe that fasting cleanses the body, and the practice reminds them of the suffering of the poor.

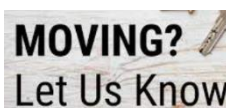


STUDENT INFORMATION



We have found that over the last couple of months, we have experienced difficulty reaching a few of our families. Please remember that it is vital that we have up-to-date records of your address, phone numbers and emergency contacts in the event that the school must contact you regarding your child, especially in the case of an emergency. Student Verification forms were sent home back in Sept. 2024, however if any of your information has changed since then, you need to update it ASAP.

PLANNING FOR SEPTEMBER 2024



In order to assist us with making the best decisions possible with respect to class organization and student placements for Richard Beasley School for the

2024/2025 school year, we would appreciate if you would let the office know if your family is planning to move in the next few months.

We thank you in advance for keeping us informed! School and classroom organization begins at the end of April so sharing this information with us now is very helpful for our planning for next year!

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

April weather can be very unpredictable and the "April Showers" can just as easily be "April Snowflakes"! We are outside at both nutrition breaks and very rarely stay indoors because of inclement weather. Please be sure that your child has appropriate outdoor clothing at school every day to accommodate these weather changes. We strongly encourage splash pants at this time of year so students can be comfortable in their classrooms with clean, dry clothes after recesses.

For safety and school cleanliness, please ensure that your child has clean indoor shoes. Running shoes with non-marking soles are required for gym. Flip flops or Croc-style shoes are not safe for gym classes.



AUTISM AWARENESS & ACCEPTANCE



April is World Autism Month, an annual opportunity for a dedicated conversation about autism spectrum disorder. Autism touches more than 70 million people globally. Approximately 1 in 66 children and youth are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Canada and this number continues to grow. Each child and adult with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is unique and has their own strengths, gifts, and support needs. In addition

to World Autism Awareness Month, World Autism Awareness Day is recognized on Tuesday, April 2nd.

Since the early 1970s, autism groups around the world have worked hard to educate schools and workplaces about the signs, symptoms and facts of autism. And while this has been largely successful, the autistic population is still extremely marginalized: Many are under-employed, suffer from depression and often live in poverty. General public "awareness" has had a limited tangible impact on the lives of people living with autism and may have even led to some of the negative stereotypes. A deliberate rebranding, however, aims to achieve specific goals like the following:

- increased employment opportunities for adults on the autism spectrum
- more positive, empowered and diverse portrayals of autism in media and entertainment
- next-level inclusive classrooms, especially in secondary and post-secondary schools

At Richard Beasley, we will be doing a number of activities throughout the week to raise acceptance. **From Monday to Thursday, students will continue to have a chance to pay 25c to estimate how many blue candies might be in different shown jars.** All money raised will be donated to the Autism Program at Ron Joyce Hospital. Parents are free to send in a donation if they would like to help with this cause. On Friday, April 5, during the last period, students will be doing a walk around the school property to bring the awareness week to a close.



RICHARD BEASLEY GOES PINK

On Friday, April 12, 2024, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board schools and worksites will recognize the International Day of Pink. Unlike Pink Shirt Day, which is meant to combat all forms of bullying, we celebrate International Day of Pink in Hamilton to specifically combat homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia.

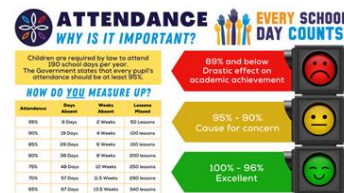
International Day of Pink began when a high school student in Cambridge, Nova Scotia, was bullied with homophobic language because he wore a pink shirt to school. The next day, hundreds of students at his school stood up to bullying and wore pink to school to show their support for equity and inclusion. On this day, students, staff, and families from across HWDSB are encouraged to wear pink and participate in a number of activities.



THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

We certainly understand that a child needs to stay home if they are ill or as directed by Public Health. We never want

a child to attend school if they are feeling sick; they should be home resting and receive care. Any absenteeism has an impact upon the pupil. Chronic absenteeism can be an indicator of academic failure or of other social/emotional factors and can have a direct negative effect on all areas of a child's development and subsequent adjustment in future years. Once a pupil is enrolled in school, regular school attendance is mandatory. The enforcement of school attendance is required for all pupils of compulsory school age up to the age of 18.



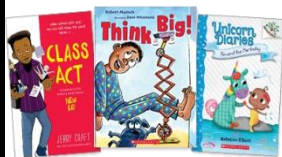
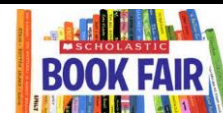
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Scholastic will be coming once again to Richard Beasley School during Education Week, May 1 -5th, 2024.

Students will have a chance to browse the display of books. This year, Scholastic is also offering a Virtual Book Fair where parents and students can browse selections from their homes.

Get ready!

Soon you will be able to explore exciting new books to enhance your home library and inspire the young readers in your life! Hundreds of books, carefully chosen to delight kids of all reading levels, will be waiting for you when our virtual doors open!



REMEMBER! Every purchase earns valuable Book Fair Rewards that can be used to support our students.

Shop any time! Your Virtual Fair is open 24 hours, beginning at midnight on your start date! No shipping fees! Orders are sent directly to our school.

OFFENCE DECLARATION FOR RETURNING VOLUNTEERS

Parents play an important role in the development and education of their children, and in the success of the school community. At Richard Beasley School, 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. To volunteer at our school, you must complete a vulnerable sector criminal background check. 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 the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board as being a school volunteer. All returning volunteers will receive an Offence Declaration form that must be filled out and returned to the school office each year. Completing the Offence Declaration will ensure that you can continue volunteering.

EARTH MONTH

April is Earth Month and we can't think of a better way to celebrate than by working together towards a sustainable future for everyone!

Earth Month encompasses the international celebration of Earth Day on April 22, 2024, the most celebrated environmental event worldwide. Initiated in 1970, this event has been considered the birth of the environmental movement. Each year, more than six million Canadians join 500 million people all over the world to address local environmental issues.



This year's Earth Day theme is Planet vs. Plastics, and its focus is to advocate for widespread awareness on the health risk of plastics and rapidly phase out all single use plastics.

Here are at least six ways students and their families can help take action towards a healthy and green future for everyone.

- Organize a clean-up around your school's neighbourhood and investigate the effects of litter on wildlife.
- Spring into spring and encourage walking and rolling to school.
- Run a recycling drive at home and divert plastic from finding its way to the landfill.
- Research some STEM activities that we can use to repurpose plastic.
- Participate in some of the family-friendly programs and activities offered in the region and engage in environmental learning about Earth Day.
- National GOOS Paper Day is April 6! GOOS stands for Good On One Side and is an important initiative to make sure both sides of paper are used before recycling it.

Whether the focus is on eliminating the use of single-use plastics like plastic bags and plastic water bottles, learning about one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or focusing on the connection between climate change and Indigenous knowledge, HWDSB is excited to create learning opportunities and activities that students can share with their families to invest in our planet and make a real difference.

April "Waste Less Wednesdays"

For the month of April, we will be having Waste Less Wednesdays!

For the four Wednesdays in April, Richard Beasley students and staff are encouraged to use reusable containers in their lunches. We understand that packaged foods are sometimes the best option for families. This will not be about judging each other's lunches, but rather appreciating the ways that families use reusable containers and celebrating the creative ways we can work together to reduce waste from food packaging. So, when you pack your lunches on Wednesdays in April, think about how you might use your great ideas to reduce food packaging! Every little bit helps!

We will celebrate Earth Week April 17-21. Classes will be encouraged to create art, engage in a school yard clean up and wear green on April 21 to recognize Earth Day at Richard Beasley!

LITERACY FOCUS

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

Reading with Your Child

By: [Bernice Cullinan](#), [Brod Bagert](#)

There is no more important activity for preparing your child to succeed as a reader than reading aloud together. Fill your story times with a variety of books. Be consistent, be patient, and watch the magic work. It's no secret that activities at home are an important supplement to the classroom, but there's more to it than that. There are things that parents can give children at home that the classrooms cannot give.

Even after children learn to read by themselves, it's still important for you to read aloud together. By reading stories that are on their interest level, but beyond their reading level, you can stretch young readers' understanding and motivate them to improve their skills. Taking the time to read with your children on a regular basis sends an important message: Reading is worthwhile.

The goal is to motivate children to want to read so they will practice reading independently and, thus, become fluent readers. That happens when children enjoy reading. You can help your children find the tools they need to succeed in life. Having access to information through the printed word is an absolute necessity. Knowledge is power, and books are full of it. But reading is more than just a practical tool. Through books we can enrich our minds; we can also relax and enjoy some precious leisure moments.

With your help, your children can begin a lifelong relationship with the printed word, so they grow into adults who read easily and frequently whether for business, knowledge, or pleasure.

<https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/early-literacy-development/articles/reading-your-child>