



## 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 February 2025 Newsletter



To our Parents/Guardians,

February is here – filled with lots of special events and happenings for our students and staff! This month we celebrate Black History Month, Week of Kindness and Pink Shirt Day. We will be trying to blend this learning into one, focusing on Being Kind. 'If we practice kindness, bullying will not be an issue.' We can also practice kindness by accepting others no matter their differences. Our differences are what helps to make us so unique.

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. Some just stop to say hello or ask how my day is going; others go into longer conversations about their time away from school or upcoming home events. These conversations help to build positive relationships and create lasting memories. With the chance to interact with so many people, there are definitely "chats" or interactions that stick out more than others. I never forgot the time that a student asked if I was okay because I was not my 'usual' self. 😊 or the students who comment on my clothing or my hairstyles. Our students are pretty observant and some quite fashion savvy.

As January comes to an end, we had a few cold days and we never know what February might bring. HWDSB recommends inside recess when the temperature falls below minus 20 degrees Celsius (including the wind chill). The rest of the time, we do our best to get the children outside, as they need their fresh air and the opportunity to run, jump and play. Please always ensure your child is dressed for the weather. Extra mittens and socks can be helpful.

I would also like to take this time to thank you for your patience trying to juggle working with two different Administrators. The last six months has been quite a journey for me, and having Ms. Gasparik in to help run the school has helped make my healing and my transition back to work easier.

Thank you for your continued support in helping make Beasley an amazing school. As always, my door is open and I welcome you to email me at [jcorbinh@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:jcorbinh@hwdsb.on.ca) or call anytime that you have questions, comments, or concerns. Take care and thanks again for your continued support!

*Mrs. J. Corbin-Harper*

Date	Activity
Feb. 1st	Start of Black History Month & Psychology Month
Feb. 2nd	Groundhog Day
Feb. 3rd	Kindergarten registration opens
Feb. 4th	National Sweater Day; School Council Forms due; World Cancer Day (Awareness)
Feb 6th	Comic Creating PD – Gr 1 -5
Feb. 11th	School Council Meeting (6-7:30)
Feb. 14th	Valentine's Day; wear red, white or pink
Feb. 15th	National Flag Day of Canada; Nirvana Day
Feb. 14th	Term 1 Report Cards sent home
Feb. 17th	Family Day (No School); Random Acts of Kindness Week starts
Feb. 26th	Pink Day – Kindness, Pink Day & Black History Celebrations (Wear Pink); Maha Shivrati: Hindu festival celebrated annually in honour of the god Shiva
Feb. 28th	Term 2 IEPs sent home; Start of Ramadan

### Thought for the Month:

*Kindness* is more than  
deeds. It is an attitude,  
an expression, a look,  
a touch. It is anything  
that lifts another person.

—Plato  
QUOTEDIARY.NET

## 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 3, 2025. **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

February is Black History Month. Every February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and festivities that honour the legacy of Black people in Canada and their communities.

2025 National Theme: African Americans and Labor -



This theme underscores the diverse and significant ways in which labor—whether voluntary or involuntary, skilled or unskilled—has been at the core of the Black American experience. 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

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. 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.



## Contacting Parents

Every school year it is of upmost importance that we have up to date telephone numbers and email addresses in case we need to reach parents. We have noticed that we already have a few contact numbers that are not working. If you have updated your telephone number(s), please let us know as soon as possible.



## National Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day

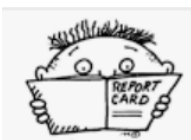
National Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day is the Day of Pink on Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> where we stand up against bullying and discrimination. A day to stand up for kindness.

Everyone faces conflict in daily life and through it we can learn to negotiate and build relationships. Bullying is a form of violence that leaves no room for negotiation and seeks to tear others down rather than build relationships. Bullying comes in many forms. We are now more than ever reliant upon electronic communications and social media is a huge part of this. Cyberbullying continues to become more prevalent and is a huge concern for all of us. It is important that incidents of cyberbullying be reported as soon as possible in order to properly investigate and to take further steps as needed. 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. Support Bullying Awareness, Prevention and Diversity by wearing Pink on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025



## Report Cards

On February 14th, 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. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have concerns or questions about your child's progress.



## Thank you

We would like to thank all our students who participated in our Chinese Food Special Lunch Day. It was quite a success. We had over 82 orders. 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 next year. 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.



## Your Parent School Council!



Are you interested in supporting the success of your child's educational path and building a better community? Then come out to our next School Council meeting! Did you know that School Council has a legislated role within the school and plays a significant role? We work with the principal, vice-principal and staff to ensure the best possible education for students by: reviewing the school's priorities, and supporting the development and implementation of plans to achieve the desired goals.

Timelines for formation of Richard Beasley School Council 2024-25

- Information sent home to school community – Tuesday, January 21, 2025
- Nomination forms due to school – Tuesday, February 4, 2025
- Elections/1<sup>st</sup> School Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 11, 2025

## 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.



## What's in your child's lunchbox?

During the year, please join us in promoting healthy eating by packing healthy snacks and lunches for your child. Research shows that good health is a prerequisite for good learning. It is also a vital component of a child's growth and development. It is a fact: a healthy mind depends on a healthy body. Students who eat healthy food are better prepared to learn and are more likely to succeed in school. For more information about Ontario's healthy schools' initiatives visit: [www.ontario.ca/healthy\\_schools](http://www.ontario.ca/healthy_schools)



## MENTAL WELLNESS

### ANXIETY AND ANXIETY DISORDERS

Throughout the last couple of years, we have all experienced a higher level of anxiety than normal and were required to adapt to many changes that occurred. Children have also experienced this anxiety, or become upset for various other reasons. Many times, we often tell them to calm down without giving any explicit directions on how to deal with stress and anxiety. Here is a list of helpful tools and tips to teach your child how to calm themselves in moments of anxiety and/or frustration.

- Imagine your favorite place - it's like taking a mini vacation wherever you are
- Think of your favorite toys or games
- Name animals alphabetically (alligator, bear, cow, dog, etc...)
- Squeeze Something (play dough, clay, silly putty, your fists, a [stress ball](#))
- Get a cold drink of water or hold ice cubes
- Practice deep breathing together (fill your belly like a balloon and then let the air out slowly)
- Create a calm down spot at home (have your child help to make it cozy with some calming items)
- Make a calming glitter jar (containing water, food coloring, glitter or glitter glue) together

The language we use with children is also important in times of stress or anxiety. Use the following phrases to help your child know that you are there to understand and support them.

- “I am here, you are safe”
- “Which calming strategy would you like to use?”
- “How can I help?”
- “Let’s work this out together, we’re a great team”
- Reassuring them: “I love you” or “Do you want a hug?”
- “I am here for you, we will get through this together”
- “What can we do different?”
- “How did that make you feel?”