



Principal's Report

Mrs. Corbin-Harper

March 5, 2025



Newsletters

All newsletters will be posted on our website

Nutrition Program

- Special thank you to Mrs. Pessoa, our EA team and Mrs. Hallas our Office Administrator for their hard work and dedication keeping our Nutrition Program up and running
- Nutrition Programs provided by Tastebuds and a grant from President's Choice
- Monies raised from the school cookie sales also go towards our nutrition program
- We have a "Grab 'n Go" process providing snacks to each classroom for students who would like or need a snack throughout the school day
- Snacks are all peanut/nut free (i.e., bananas, oranges, yogurt tubes, granola bars, crackers, cheese)
- There is no obligation to participate in this program

EQAO

- The primary-division assessment tests the reading, writing and mathematics skills students are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 3. The testing takes place during a two-week period in late May and early June. The grade 3 teacher, LRT and myself sit together to determine the best time to complete the assessment.
- All students who attend publicly funded schools in Ontario and who follow The Ontario Curriculum are expected to participate in EQAO's provincial assessments. These tests are part of the province's educational program. For students with special education needs, some accommodations that are consistent with regular classroom assessment practices are permitted. Special provisions may also be permitted for English language learners.
- Over the last 3 years our students have continued to improve in math and writing but have reading has remain stagnant.
- Each question on EQAO tests is based on the learning expectations set out in The Ontario Curriculum, which is what children are taught in classrooms across Ontario every day

Acadience (Kindergarten to Gr 2 Reading Screener) –

- Mandatory in HWDSB for all students from Senior Kindergarten to Gr 2. Assessment is done at the beginning of the year for all students. If students do not get the required benchmark for their age level, they must be assessed again in February and then again in June depending on the gains made.
- Acadience Reading is a universal screening and progress monitoring assessment that measures the acquisition of early literacy skills from kindergarten through sixth grade.

- It provides an in-depth assessment of reading skills to help untangle the many possible reasons why a student may be struggling to make progress. Diagnostic assessment data provides a guide for targeted instruction that can help students reach their full potential.
- Acadience Reading has been trusted by educators for over a decade to help improve student outcomes. When your approach is backed by research, it means less guesswork in the classroom. Acadience assessments are:
 - Standardized
 - reliable and valid
 - fast to administer and report
 - assess core early literacy skills

Safety – Concussion Protocol

Over the last few weeks we have had a number of students with falls, some of them resulting in hitting their heads. We recognize that children and adolescents are among those at greatest risk for concussions and that while there is potential for a concussion any time there is body trauma, the risk is greatest during activities where collisions can occur, such as during physical education classes, playground time, or school-based sports activities. Once students have been reported to have hit their heads, we complete the concussion protocol form and ask a number of questions to help determine students cognitive state at the time. It is important to note that signs and symptoms may be different for everyone; and that signs and symptoms can appear immediately after the injury or may take hours or days to emerge.

PA Day – Antisemitism

The training session will address topics related to antisemitism, which include discussions of hate, discrimination, stereotypes, and violence against Jewish people. Topics of genocide, hate, religious and ethnic based violence as it relates to antisemitism will be discussed. We recognize that these topics can be particularly sensitive and potentially distressing for participants, especially those who identify as Jewish and with personal or familial identities and/or experiences related to these issues.

The goal of the presentation was to foster a shared understanding and concern for the presence and impact of antisemitism in our community. We hoped to:

- Explore antisemitism within a right, equity, inclusion and belonging framework
- Focus on the specific impacts of antisemitism on HWDSB students and communities
- Share tools and resources
- Explore ways to prevent and respond to incidents

Kindergarten Registrations 2025 – 2026

- So far, we have about 12 new Registrations for September. Most of our future students came out to our Kindergarten Orientation on during the 2nd month of May. This year we have received a number of out-of-catchment forms.

Health Curriculum

Once again, this year in May staff will be going through the health curriculum **Health Curriculum**

- We have found that many of our parents do not read the Health curriculum so are unaware of the expectations that the school is required to cover. We have decided that next year, we will include the specific expectations along with the Health letter to parents so that they can make a more informed decision on whether they would like their child to be excepted or not.

- **Human Development**

The Human Development and Sexual Health component of the HPE curriculum helps students learn about healthy human physical development as they develop skills for healthy, respectful relationships.

Sexual development is one component of overall human development. Students will learn about healthy human development in ways that are geared to their age and stage of development. Parents are the primary educators of their children and are their children's first role models. It is important that schools and parents work together so that both home and school provide a supportive framework for young people's education. The curriculum does not replace the role of parents in educating their children about sexual health.

- **Opting out of Human Development and Sexual Health learning**

As a parent, you can opt out or ask to exempt your child from Human Development and Sexual Health learning in the Grades 1-8 Health and Physical Education curriculum.

Your school board must have a policy or procedure that lets students be exempted.

Schools must:

post the exemption policy/procedure on their public website

notify all parents at least 20 school days before the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations are taught

For more information, please speak with your child's teacher or principal, or contact your child's school board.

Recognition Assembly – Our 1st term recognition assembly will take place on Thursday, March 6th, 2025. We take this time to recognize students who display exemplary learning skills. Each teacher can select 4 or 5 students to give award to. This term we decided to add 4 leadership awards to recognize students who display the board values of dignity; compassion; trust and joy.

- **Value of Dignity** - This student consistently treats others the way that they would want to be treated. They demonstrate respect for themselves and others.
- **Value of Trust** - This student is one who independently helps other students solve problems (both academically and socially). Teachers can trust them to do the right thing even when no one is watching.
- **Value of Compassion** - This student shows that they care about others, they treats others with kindness and independently shares a willingness to help other students in their time of need.
- **Value of Joy** - This student is one who consistently exhibits joy in learning and being a member of the school community. They are able to build positive relationships with staff and other students.

Taste Buds – The Great Big Crunch

The Great Big Crunch is a time dedicated to celebrating healthy food at school and highlighting the need for a universal, healthy school food program for Canada. The Coalition for Healthy School Food has

hosted the Great Big Crunch since 2020. Our students will gather the gymnasium (after the assembly), each with a crisp, juicy apple in hand. After a countdown, everyone bites into their apples simultaneously, making a great big “crunch!” All the apples are from the local orchards of Drummond Farms and purchased through a generous donation from FirstOntario Credit Union and The Ontario Produce and Marketing Association.

Repairs Around the School

- Buddy Bench - our school buddy bench was recently broken. We are not quite sure if it was hit by the snow plough while ploughing the playground. As this bench was used quite a bit by our students, we have decided to purchase a new one. The cost to purchase a new one is approximately \$1300 and money used from different fundraisers will be used to do so.
- Basketball net - safety guard repair - last summer the board conducted an overall health and safety inspection throughout the school. One of our basketball nets was proven to be unsafe as it was missing the safety restraint system in one area so we needed to purchase a new one as the students were not allowed to use that particular net. As the Board does not pay to replace it, it is a school cost. The quote to fix it is just over \$1300 and the money will be taken out of school fundraising. There is another necessary repair with a quote of over \$1900, and has been placed in further work.

Volunteers

We are hoping to get some parents to help us out with our school ventures. So far, we have one parent who helps with pizza on Thursdays at 2nd nutrition break, and need at least one more (or one who can also be an alternate). We would also love to have some volunteers who can come in and read with our students. Students read with the teacher every day but having the opportunity to read to/with someone else will help improve their skills.

HWDSB Volunteer Policy and Procedures

- Part of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board’s Volunteer Policy is that any volunteers working with children must have obtained a Vulnerable Sector Screening Report
- This is essentially a criminal record check for individuals working with children to protect children
- To obtain such a report, an adult must complete an application form from the Police Station or on-line
- The cost is approximately \$25.00 and is valid for 3 years with the HWDSB
- It could take up to 4-6 weeks for the report to be prepared
- Once you have obtained the report, there are Volunteer Forms for Richard Beasley School that need to be completed and an Offence Declaration is completed every school year for the duration of the 3 years
- For school trips, you will not be permitted to attend without a Police Check