



Richard Beasley Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Beasley May 2024 Newsletter



To our Parents/Guardians,

May is usually a wonderful time of year in schools, where we celebrate as we watch your children’s learning blossom. The skills, concepts, and knowledge that students have been working on throughout the school year tend to come together during the month, just in time for 2nd term report cards.

The month of May also begins with Education Week and Mental Health Awareness Week to help our students appreciate the love for learning and develop their skills on understanding concepts that relate to mental health & well-being. The theme of this year’s Mental Health Week is **Be Kind**. This is a theme that we have been using throughout this school year, emphasizing that a little kindness goes a long way both at school and in the community. Being kind and tolerant to each other can help improve our everyday living conditions.

As we prepare for year end, we do want to share that the Provincial wide EQAO assessment for our Grade 3 students will be taking place again this year. Our Grade 3 students will be writing the assessment during the week of **May 24th – May 29th**. Parent letters will be sent home to all of our Grade 3 families on Monday, May 13th with information regarding the assessment.

A very special Thank You goes out to our teachers who continue to amaze me with their ideas, thoughts, planning, teaching and expertise. The group of teachers at our school are truly blessed in every way possible. They continue to offer students enriching opportunities to learn. This year again we have our House System up and going; we had our Autism Walk on Friday, April 19th. The next two months will be filled with lots of activities from Open House, Spirit Days to Track and Field and end of year trips. We will be sharing all of these activities with you ahead of time to make sure that you are always aware of our happenings.

Recently, I have been sharing the Beasley Happenings with you on Sundays. Please share with me if this is helpful and something that you would like to continue. I can’t promise you that I will always remember all the events but I will definitely try my best to do so.

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 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 1st | National Jewish Heritage Month -National Asian Heritage Month -Speech & Hearing Month Mental Health Week |
| May 3rd | Good Friday (Orthodox Christianity) |
| May 4th | Yom HaShoah/Holocaust Remembrance Day (Judaism) |
| May 5th | -National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; Pasha Easter (Orthodox Christianity) |
| May 6 th – 10th | National Child and Youth Mental Health Week; Education Week |
| May 9th | Ascension Day; Open House @ Richard Beasley 4:00– 5:30 p.m. |
| May 10th | Bear Witness Day: spread awareness of Jordan's Principle |
| May 12th | Mother’s Day |
| May 17th | International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia; Spirit Day – Mismatch Day |
| May 20th | Victoria Day |
| May 23rd | Vesak/Buddha Day (Buddhism) |
| May 25th | Shavuot, is a major Jewish holiday observed every year fifty days after the Passover Seder. |
| May 27 th | Memorial Day (Kamloops residential school announcement) |

Thought for the Month:

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.”

WENDY MASS, “THE CANDYMAKERS”

RICHARD BEASLEY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S



OPEN HOUSE



MAY 9, 2024, FROM 4:00 – 5:30

80 CURRIE ST., HAMILTON, ON.



YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO:

CHAT WITH TEACHERS **VISIT OUR BOOK FAIR**
TOUR THE SCHOOL **VISIT CLASSROOMS**
INTERACT WITH OTHER PARENTS
TAKE PART IN SOME FUN ACTIVITIES
HAVE DINNER WITH US

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 beginning of May so sharing this information with us now is very helpful for our planning for next year!

OUTDOOR PLAY & SELF REGULATION

You might have noticed that a lot of changes have been going on in our kindergarten play area.

Outdoor education programs give children the skills they need to remain emotionally regulated and resilient, while also promoting the mental and physical well-being needed for children to succeed. We are seeing an increase in research about how outdoor education programs are beneficial to children.

Bringing experiences outside and giving children clear goals can help with many aspects of self-regulation.



ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

All electronic devices, such as cell phones, digital game devices, computers and cameras are not to be used while the student is on school property before, during, or after school activities without the permission of school personnel and only for educational purposes. If a student carries a cell phone, they are responsible for the cell phone at all times. At no time will students use electronic devices for digital, audio or video recording without permission from the teacher. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen property.



HEALTH LESSONS

Beasley students will begin a unit on Human Development and Sexual Health between May 15th and June 16th 2024.

The Ontario Curriculum indicates, "Parents are the primary educators of their children with respect to learning about values, appropriate behaviour, and ethnocultural, spiritual, and personal beliefs and traditions, and they are their children's first role models. It is therefore important for schools and parents to work together to ensure that home and school provide a mutually supportive framework for young people's education" (page 13). This unit offers you, as the most significant influence of your child's values and behaviours, the chance to discuss the classroom lessons and consider them in light of your own family beliefs.

All parent information, including a recording of a presentation can be found at:

[hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/programs/humandevelopment/](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/programs/humandevelopment/)

Parents will need to complete an exemption form, in Parent Portal, if they want their children exempted and email it to Richard Beasley school. Paper copies and/or phone calls will also be accepted. Please feel free to contact the school 905-387-5655 if you have questions or concerns regarding this upcoming unit.



GET OUTSIDE AND ENJOY THE WEATHER

1000 hours outside is a global platform for those who wish to reclaim childhood, reconnect families and live a fuller life. The average child spends 4-7 hours on screen time and gets limited amount of unstructured free play outside every day.

Since the weather is getting better (sort of), check out this initiative:

https://www.1000hoursoutside.com/#google_vignette

Families can sign up to receive a tracker that kids can colour as they increase their hours. For a list of local free outdoor ideas, check this out:

<https://activeparents.ca/spring/>

Let's get our children outside and let them play, build creative games, make new friends, cement old relationships, etc.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Scholastic will be coming once again to Richard Beasley School during Education Week, May 6 -10th, 2024. Students will have a chance to browse the display of books. Also, please come in and visit us during our Open House on Thursday, May 9, 2024 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.



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



MENTAL HEALTH MONTH: A CALL TO BE KIND

The World Mental Health Month aims to address mental health issues in an empathetic way, with a unifying voice, helping everyone to feel hopeful. We all have the capacity to be compassionate, and we know that doing so can make an enormous difference. This year's Mental Health Week is centered on the healing power of compassion. In a world plagued by suffering, we emphasize that kindness is equally intrinsic to our humanity. Join us from May 6 to 12, 2024 to explore how compassion connects us all.



EQAO

As we prepare for year end, we do want to share that the Provincial wide EQAO assessment for our Grade 3 students will be taking place again this year. Our Grade 3 students will be writing the assessment during the week of May 24th – June 3rd. Parent letters will be sent home to all of our Grade 3 families on Monday, May 13th with information regarding the assessment. If you have any questions regarding EQAO, please reach out to Mrs. Robb, Mrs. Pessoa or myself. You can also feel free to visit the website below to read more about the test. https://cdnsm5-ss9.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_29970/File/Families/Provincial%20Testing%20-%20EQAO/Parent%20Guide%20EQAO.pdf

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



OFFENCE DECLARATION FOR RETURNING VOLUNTEERS

End of year trips are fast approaching and we will need volunteers. If you would like to volunteer at our school or accompany your child's class on a school trip, you must complete a vulnerable sector criminal background check. A criminal background check is required for all school volunteers in Ontario.



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.

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 board office each year. Completing the Offence Declaration will ensure that you can continue volunteering.

ACTIVE PARENTS

Active Parents is a go-to resource for parents in the Halton and Hamilton regions looking to find great kids' activities, parenting support, local deals, and kid-friendly events. They provide all the information parents are searching for into one easy-to-use website, saving them hours. They introduce parents to new businesses, local events and memorable destinations they might not know otherwise existed!

activeparents.ca



CLASS BUILDING FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

The planning process for 2024-2025 school will be starting pretty soon. Over the next couple of months the staff at the school will spend many hours developing class lists based on a detailed set of criteria, focused on student learning and success for the following year. We take this process very seriously and do our best to plan for the success of all of our students at Richard Beasley.

As in the past, we wanted to remind families that we do not take requests for class placements. In this complex process we take the following into account.

- learning partners
- ability groups – learning groups
- needs of students
- separating some students due to relationship issues depending on the number of classrooms.



- balance of gender/ non binary
- behavioural needs/ dynamics between students
- combined classrooms are not streamed (for example, a ⅔ split is not high achieving grade 2's and low achieving grade 3's) – combined class resource

Thank you for your understanding and trusting the Beasley staff as we build classes for the next school year.

MENTAL WELLNESS

TALKING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AT HOME: WHAT DO YOU WISH YOUR PARENTS KNEW?

As part of our Youth Mediathon, a group of young people worked with UNICEF and pediatrician Hina Talib to create this guide for parents and young people, aiming to facilitate intergenerational conversations about mental health.

TIPS FOR PARENTS:

1. Check on us

Parents should let us know that they care about our mental health. Most of the time young people hide their true feelings from their parents, but it's important to check on them. That doesn't mean parents need to know each and every detail of our life. Give us privacy. But they must know whether their child is alright.

2. Help us build a healthy parent-children relationship

Be someone we can trust. Be a good listener. Become a safe space so that your child can rely on you. Try to understand them and their way of thinking. Be friendly with them so that they can open up and share their problems with you. Notice us. Try to understand if we are going through any mental health problems. If you suspect so, ask us about it in a gentle and caring way. Check if we need help. Ask us how we are doing and make sure we realize you really mean it. Such as, "How are you today? Is everything alright?"

3. Listen and make an effort to understand

Parents should know that we have our own point of view and our own personality. Sometimes parents don't take the problems of teenagers seriously, but they should try to be empathetic. Listen to the whole story without interrupting, and try to listen from our point of view. Try to understand what we are going through. From their perspective, many things may not seem painful, but problems that seem normal to you can be strange and new for us. And be aware that we are not always expecting you to give us advice. Sometimes we just want you to be a listener while we rant about things that are troubling us.

SOMETIMES YOU MIGHT NOT BE HEARING THE RIGHT THING

<https://www.voicesofyouth.org/talking-mental-health-at-home>