



Richard Beasley Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Beasley December 2024 Newsletter



To our Parents/Guardians,

December brings with it a festive spirit, and it's a month filled with various cultural and religious celebrations. It's an opportunity for us to embrace the diversity at Richard Beasley and learn from the rich traditions of team members, families, and community members. It is a time for giving thanks and being grateful to those around us. As a principal, I am exceptionally lucky to be blessed with such an amazing staff—teachers, educational assistants, early childhood educators, caretakers, and a wonderful office administrator. Aside from their fantastic classroom instruction and school duties, staff volunteer their time to provide a variety of exciting opportunities for the students at Beasley.

As the holiday season approaches, please give your child the gift of extra time. Put an I.O.U. for a special event or activity in their stocking. When students are asked to write about a memorable event in their lives, it isn't a special gift they usually choose to write about, but a particular experience they have had with someone special.

We were very pleased to meet with most of our school families for Parent/Teacher Conferences. It was amazing having all hands-on deck for the support of our students. This is a great opportunity to connect with your child's educators to discuss how your child/children are progressing at school and what their next steps are to further achieve their goals. Thank you to all of the staff, parents/guardians, and community members who spend a great deal of time and effort to create the best learning environment possible for our students. It is people like all of you that make Beasley School a special place to be 😊.

On behalf of the Beasley staff may I extend our best wishes to all of you over this festive season. May you have a safe and healthy holiday break!

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact myself or Ms. Gasparik via email or call us at the school.

Take care,
Mrs. J. Corbin-Harper

Date	Activity
Dec 3	12 days of Christmas Holiday activity starts
Dec. 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Dec. 6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
Dec 8	Bodhi Day: Buddhist holiday
Dec 9	Special Lunch Day (Hotdogs)
Dec. 10	International Human Rights Day
Dec. 13	Ugly/Favourite Sweater Day; Last day for Food Drive
Dec. 18	Last day for 12 days of Christmas Holiday activity/Holiday Assembly
Dec. 20	Last Day of School Winter Break Begins
Dec. 21	Winter Solstice (Indigenous Peoples)
Dec 25	Christmas Day Hanukkah Begins (end Jan 1)
Dec. 26	Kwanzaa Begins (ends Jan 2)



From the office:

- A gentle reminder to please call ahead if you are picking up your child(ren) early. Early pick up is for emergencies only in order to avoid unnecessary movement around the school.



- There has been an increase in the number of students entering the school at the front door in the morning. This causes congestion.

Please ensure that children arrive on time between 8:40 am – 8:55 am on the back playground.

Dressing for the Weather

As the winter season approaches, we want to ensure that our students are well-prepared to stay warm and comfortable during the colder months. To promote a safe and cozy learning environment, we kindly ask for your cooperation in ensuring your child(ren) dress appropriately for winter weather. Thank you for your



help in this matter as we look forward to a safe and enjoyable winter experience for all our students. If you have any concerns or specific considerations for your child, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Have a Wonderful Winter!

Parent/Teacher Communication

Parents and families are reminded to check and use the student agenda planners on a daily basis. Ask your child to show you their agenda at home every evening. Students should be using the agendas in class to record notes, reminders, etc., from the teacher/class. On some occasions, the agenda may not have a note written in it, but it is advisable for parents to check daily.



Additionally, if parents are uncertain about school work, assignments, projects, tests, etc., parents should write a note to the classroom teacher in the agenda. Teachers are not able to meet with parents without appointments. They cannot take phone calls immediately, but they can return your phone call if you leave a message for them.

Clear and regular communication between parents and teachers is important to benefit students and their learning at school and at home. If parents have questions/concerns, do not hesitate to speak your child's teacher.

Cold and Flu

Now that the colder weather approaches so too do children's illnesses. Please use your discretion in keeping your child(ren) at home to recover. A child who is coughing, sneezing or who has a fever is not in a fit state to learn and is able to infect other children.



Please note that if your child is well enough to come to school, then they are well enough to go outside. We believe outdoor recess is an important and valuable part of our students' day. Fresh air, exercise and time spent outside afford students a break from the structure of the classroom. It is imperative to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and is prepared to play outside.

Take a look at your child's attendance

December usually contains a winter break from school. And once your child returns in January, the school year will be about one third over. This is a great time to review the first part of the year and make plans. Looking at your child's school attendance should be part of this important process. Did your child attend school every day unless they were sick or there was a family emergency? If so, congratulations! Let them know you're proud of their strong attendance. Help them keep up the good work for the rest of the year and beyond.

Strong attendance is one predictor of success in school. If not:

- Remind your child that regular school attendance is a priority.
- Emphasize the need for rest, nutrition and exercise to stay healthy and stay in school.
- Consider the reasons you take your child out of school. Can you make some appointments outside school hours?



By Law Parking Enforcement

Parents picking up or dropping off children are asked to follow all posted signage to avoid fines. Most school areas have No Stopping and No Parking zones that are to be kept clear for safe access by pedestrians, and to allow school buses or other school vehicles to safely unload student passengers.



Change of Clothing

Parents, with the cold and wet weather upon us, please make sure that students have a change of clothing. Students sometimes slip in the wet snow and need to change into something dry.

Winter Clothing Donation

If you have cleaned out or in the process of cleaning out your child's closet and have any gently used winter boots or coats, we would greatly appreciate you donating them to the school. We sometimes have students who come to school without them.



Keep Your Child Reading Over the Holiday Break!

Holiday break is not a time for worksheets and textbooks, but your child should continue to learn. The best way is just to read a little bit every day and that means reading more than text messages! Here's how:

- Link movies to books. Your child, like many others, may enjoy watching movies during winter break. Encourage them to watch at least one based on a book--and read the book first.
- Give books for gifts. If your child will receive a gift this month, consider giving them a book or a gift card to a bookstore. Suggest this to other family members as well.
- Read for a purpose. Practical reading--the kind you do to learn a skill--is both fun and informative.

If your child enjoys cooking, they could read a recipe and try it out. If they like gadgets, they could read the instruction manual and put one together. If they like sports, they could check out the newspaper for a look at how their favorite teams are doing.



NUTRITION PROGRAM

Richard Beasley School has received funding from PC Charities to help support our Nutrition Program. Funding is limited. We are selling cookies during seasonal times of the school year to raise funds to support our student Nutrition Program.



Light up the School with Kindness

This holiday season, staff and students are taking kindness in our school one step farther.



Teachers will be exploring the concept of random acts of kindness and the idea that someone can choose to be kind without being recognized for it!

Beginning Tuesday, Dec 3, students will be given a choice board with 12 acts of kindness. If they are able to do one of the acts of kindness, they will cross it off their board. If they are able to do at least 10 of the acts of kindness, they will be entered into a draw to win a holiday treat bag.

Beasley Food Drive

Starting last Friday, November 29, Richard Beasley will be having a food drive. The food drive will run until Friday, December 13th.



On Friday, December 13th, we will be having a spirit day. Students can wear an Ugly/Favourite Sweater Day to help bring our food drive to a close. All items from our food drive will be used to help support families in our community. At Beasley we are always looking for ways to support and give back to our community.



School Fundraiser

Thanks to all members of Beasley community who took part in our Krispy Kreme Fundraiser.

With your support, we were able to sell 265 dozen donuts which raised just over \$1,850 to help support technology in our school. Over the last 3 years this fundraiser has allowed us to increase the number of iPads; projectors; keyboards; speakers; etc. in our school. We have also used this money to purchase headphones for individual student use but struggle to keep up with the demand as students seem to be going through them at quite a rate. Once again we would like to say thank you for your continued support.



School Cash Online

Have you signed up for School Cash Online yet? It's not too late.



The program is intended to reduce paper, eliminate the need for students to travel with money, and for money to be counted and stored at schools. Since October, you have been able to pay for pizza and popcorn using School Cash Online. **Pizza & popcorn can now be purchased for January, February and March using School Cash Online.**

Remember if you are not purchasing these items through School Cash Online, your child will not be able to bring money the day of in order to purchase them.

Behaviour During Unsupervised Times

We have been noticing an increase in inappropriate behaviour before school and during recess times. Students are playing 'hands-on' games and using inappropriate language. Teachers usually deal with these issues when they occur but students are referred to the office if the behaviour continues to repeat.

When Expectations are not met:

- Students who break rules will discuss the incident with the appropriate staff member. Students will be redirected and given the opportunity to practice the expected behavior.
- If a student receives several warnings or demonstrates continuous inappropriate behavior, a parent/guardian contact will be made.

If a student violates this code, they will be subject to disciplinary action. Consequences may include:

- Teacher reprimand
- Parent conference
- Detention- during recess or after school
- Short-term suspension
- Administrative reprimand
- Community Service in the building
- In-school suspension
- Loss of an activity or privileges

MENTAL WELLNESS

Prioritize self-care.

Give yourself permission to take care of yourself. The winter season can feel busy, overwhelming, and isolating at times. It is important to check in with family members to see if they share these feelings, especially children, young adults, and seniors. Taking the time to build a self-care kit for you and your family members can greatly increase everyone's mental well-being. Time spent together as a family should be meaningful, and creating a self-care kit is the perfect way to include everyone's interests and needs. Here are some ideas: decorating a mug or cup for tea, coffee, or hot chocolate; create a music playlist with your families' favorite hits; exploring new recipes to create some new family-favorite comfort foods; and/or taking time to color, journal, or practice yoga to soothe your body during the cold months.



What can you add to this list?