



Anastasia Poulis
Principal

David Budd
Vice-Principal

Weekly Update...January 29, 2016

New Entrance for Earl Beatty Families

As part of our Facility Plan from last school year, we are implementing a change in the entrance for our Earl Beatty Families.

Our new school entrance will be at the school's address: 55 Woodington Avenue. A buzzer and video will be placed there and school office staff will be allowing access to the school building.

The entrance currently on Woverleigh Avenue will be for Beatty Buddies Families only and daycare staff will be allowing access to the daycare.

This practice will ensure the safety of our students as access to the school office will be immediate upon entrance to the school.

This new entrance for Earl Beatty Families will be effective the week of Monday, February 1, 2016.

Thank you for your support.

Attention all Parents

Entry Routines:

- Parents are asked to say goodbye to their children when the bell rings outside
- As a school, we are trying to promote independence and self-regulation in students, especially in Kindergarten
- By January, students should be able to follow their teacher into the school alone
- If students are late and do not come to the school on time with their class, students and parents are asked to follow our Late Procedures and go to the office to pick up a late slip and report student lateness
- If parents are visiting the school, parents are reminded to follow our Visitor Policy and sign in the office and wear a Visitor tag
- Supervision of students in the morning begins at 8:30 in the back school yard. ECEs and EAs will be on bus duty there.

Thank you for your support in ensuring student and school safety

Weather Conditions

Principals are often asked how we decide whether it's too cold to allow our students out in the schoolyard for recess.

Fresh air and exercise are important for children. Parents can help by making sure their children come to school prepared to spend time outdoors. Hats, mitts, boots and a warm jacket are important to keep students comfortable during lunch and recess.

But extreme cold can be dangerous, and parents want to know that their children will be safe. When the temperature is predicted to drop below -15C, the City of Toronto may declare a cold weather alert. Schools are very sensitive to the needs of our students and pay close attention to the weather, especially when the wind-chill is below -20 C.

The TDSB Severe Weather Protocol is flexible, so that every principal can make a decision that meets the needs of his or her school. It sets guidelines for when to allow students outside for recess, when to make outdoor breaks shorter, and when to keep students inside altogether.

Canadian winters can be wonderful but when the weather is cold, school staff members keep one eye on the thermometer and the other on the needs of our students - a perfect balance of fun and safety.

Lockdown and Fire Drills

At the beginning of each school year, our students and staff prepare for the year ahead by establishing the foundations for a successful year. One of the ways we know we can help students be successful is to create a safe environment in which to learn. Though no one ever wants to see an emergency happen at a school, it's important for school staff to be equipped to deal with those situations, should these occur.

The safety of students and staff is a top priority at our school and to that end, as with all emergency drills, it is essential that we are prepared and understand the importance of procedures that will help ensure the safety of everyone in our school.

The TDSB has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans based on guidelines from the Caring and Safe Schools Team that include steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, how staff will get students away from possible dangers, and how students' families will be contacted.

One aspect of emergency preparedness is the lockdown and fire drill. Under the Education Act and in accordance with Ontario's Fire Code, all schools are required to conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills and six fire drills each school year. Lockdown drills, like fire drills, are an essential component to ensuring student and staff safety. It is important that all staff and students are prepared and know how to respond in cases of emergencies. The drills last approximately 5 minutes and ensure plans are effective and

can also systematically identify any safety concerns.

Communication is also very important in any emergency situation. The emergency contact information kept on file is important in helping this happen. It lists the people who can pick up a student from the school. If you have not yet provided this information to the office or have updates to the information on file, please make sure our office staff has that information as soon as possible.

February is Kindergarten Registration Month

Kindergarten is the first step in a lifelong journey that will see your child learn, grow, and succeed at the Toronto District School Board. At the TDSB, we know early learners learn best through doing; so our four and five year olds are introduced to math and science through play as part of K-12 STEM programming. To inspire a love for learning, kindergarten classrooms are bustling with inquiry and exploration through science activities, math games, art projects and more. Visit your local school during February to register.

To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four years-old by December 31. To register for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five years-old by December 31.

All of our schools now offer Full-Day Kindergarten where students will attend Kindergarten for the entire school day. This includes a morning and afternoon schedule and a lunch break. Visit the Kindergarten website to learn more about this program and learn how to prepare your child for school.

Kindergarten Registration at Earl Beatty will begin on Monday February 1st to Friday February 12th, 2016. Please call 416-393-9070 to book your appointment.

Sharing Assembly

We had our very first Sharing Assembly this month. We reviewed our School Code of Conduct, discussed Fairness; our Character Trait for the month of February, met our Student Council and, read the book Red.

We will be having these Sharing Assemblies on a monthly basis. These assemblies are to help us build our school community and to allow our students and staff the opportunity to celebrate the learning that is happening in our classrooms.

Great News!

Our Caring and Safe Committee was inspired last school year by the "Kill It With Kindness" initiative. Through the leadership of the Earl Beatty Rainbow Alliance members, under the guidance of Mr. Nore and Ms. Vanderlugt, our school was involved in various activities that break down barriers and promote inclusiveness.

One way that KIWK has been changing communities around the globe into more of a positive one is through The Friendship Bench Project Canada.

Earl Beatty has been selected as one of the recipients for this year's donation of The Friendship Bench!

The Friendship Bench will be presented to our school on April 11, 2016.



Game On!

Game On! -Boys Mentoring Program is an exciting program developed by the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association, for boys age 10 to 14. The program is now being offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters, in partnership with our school. The goal of ***Game On!*** is to provide boys with

information and support to make informed choices about active living, balanced eating and feeling good!

Groups of 8-12 boys will be paired with 2 male volunteer mentors. The program will consist of seven 1½-2 hour sessions every Tuesday.

We are excited to have this partnership here at Earl Beatty.

Extra-Curricular Activities at Earl Beatty

Many new activities have started up or will be starting very soon...

- **ECO Club** will run every other week on Fridays led by Mr. Budd ~ Grades 3-8
- **Ball Hockey Intramurals** have started and are taking place over the lunch hour on Wednesdays, led by Ms. Swire and Neil Carroll ~ Grades 4-8
- **Choir** continues at lunch on Tuesdays led by Ms. Donovan ~ Grades 3-8
- **Student Council** takes place on Tuesday's led by Mr. Budd ~ Grades 4-8
- **Positive Spaces Group** has met and will continue to meet at various times throughout the school year, under the leadership of Mr. Nore.
- **Games Club** for Grades 1 and 2 will be starting up soon, led by Mme. Themelis.
- **Swim Team** has practices on Thursday mornings at 7:15 a.m. led by Neil Carroll and Julien Mathe
- **Technology Club** will run every other week on Fridays led by Mr. Budd ~ Grades 3-8

Let's Go Marlies!

The Earl Beatty community had a wonderful time at the Marlies game this past Saturday, January 23rd. Many students and their families got to experience the Fan Tunnel, hear the choir (thank you to Ms. Donovan for her excellent leadership) beautifully sing two anthems, and the opportunity to skate on the ice after the Marlies victory! Thank you to parents Helen Redman and Gillian Crossin, for putting in an immense amount of time and

effort in making this fundraiser so successful. With over 500 tickets purchased, Earl Beatty was very well represented.



Medical Forms

We are updating our students' medical information. Some parents may receive further forms that require information due to medication that their child may be taking. If you do receive these forms to complete from the school, please complete and return to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Anaphylaxis In Our School

There are student's attending our school who suffer from life-threatening allergies.

Prevention is the best approach. Therefore, we ask your co-operation in not sending any snacks or lunches containing peanut products with your child.

Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when peanut products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. Please speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students.

Although peanuts and peanut products are the most common foods to cause anaphylaxis, shellfish, fish, eggs, soy or any other food can cause this. Anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students.

The Board has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If you are interested, contact me for further information. Further information is also available through Anaphylaxis Canada (416-785-5666).

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken.

Your understanding and co-operation in ensuring the safest environment is appreciated.

Diabetes

Diabetes (formerly known as Diabetes Mellitus) is a serious disease that impairs the body's ability to use food properly. In students with diabetes, insulin is either not produced or does not work efficiently. Without insulin, glucose builds up in the blood stream and the body begins to break down fat to be used for energy. The body creates ketones and an excess of this material can result in severe complications that can result in coma and/or death.

Diabetes Management procedure has been developed to provide clear and consistent process for support of our students with diabetes. In addition, we are raising awareness about the signs and symptoms of diabetes to improve understanding and response.

Good-bye Ms. Brown-Fisher ... Welcome back Ms. Poulis!

Earl Beatty staff and students had an opportunity last week to say thank you and good-bye to Ms. Brown-Fisher. We would like to thank her for her dedication to the students and *awesome* attitude throughout her time of leadership at the school.

We welcome back Ms. Poulis from her maternity leave - her inspirational leadership has been on display at our Sharing Assembly and in several other domains already, in her return to the role of Principal.



Thank you Ms. Brown-Fisher! ... Welcome back Ms. Poulis!