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Newsletter - November 28th, 2016

An Update from the Play Hard for our Yard Campaign

The Yard Committee has continued to meet with TDSB staff around the design and yard elements. We are currently waiting for a survey to be completed of the yard. We hope to receive a master plan of the yard in mid-December by the landscape architect. Once we have a master plan, we will share this with the school community. The plan will incorporate yard elements that were highlighted during the survey conducted in the spring with staff, students, parents and neighborhood residents.

Now on to fundraising ... A huge thank you to volunteers, school staff, teachers, students, parents and community members for supporting our two most recent events.

The school dance-a-thon, "**Dance Hard for our Yard**," raised over \$11,000 for our campaign! A huge thank you to Erica Fyvie, our parent volunteer who organized the event and Neil Carroll for spinning great tunes the whole day.

The 5th annual **Holiday in the Hood** was held over the weekend. Thank you to the numerous people who helped make the event so successful. A very special thank you to Laura Clark for taking the lead as organizer and doing a wonderful job of making sure everything came together so smoothly, from the vendors, to the wonderful food supplied by families and community members, to our special seasonal activities, it was a fantastic event that was enjoyed by school and community members alike.

We have currently raised \$35,000 for the Play Hard for our Yard campaign. For future planning, please save the date for our next two events, our Movie Night (playing: Finding Nemo), "**Watch Hard for Our Yard**", taking place at the school on Thursday, December 1st, and "**Rock Hard for our Yard**," on Saturday, January 14th, (adults only) taking place at Eton House.

Our Math Inquiry - Administrators and Teachers Visit Earl Beatty

On Friday, November 25th, Earl Beatty hosted a number of school administrators and teachers who visited classrooms to see the math-focused inquiry taking place at the school this year. Feedback from the visitors included the following points:

- Using real life connections to use benchmarks
- Common focus
- Evidence of risk taking
- Evidence of student voice
- Learning goals - annotated by kids
- Equity is evident
- Lots of examples of best practice
- Students tried things, made mistakes and then went back to it
- Consistent demonstration of student voice
- Everyone starting with high expectations for students
- No worksheets
- Evidence of literacy stations throughout grades
- Lack of pencil and paper tasks
- Sense of working together
- Obvious of school-wide work going on, between grades
- People who care and want to make a difference
- Intentional teaching/learning
- Work across teams/French-English
- Students working together
- High engagement in student participation
- Learning seems relevant and authentic
- Sense of community
- Energizing
- Evidence of teachers caring and working as a group
- Strategic learning pathway (teacher PD) - building trust

We are very proud as a school for the passion towards teaching and learning our staff consistently demonstrates, and the positive impact this has had on student learning. An additional thank you goes out to Mme. Loubier, Ms. David, and Ms. Cornel, for hosting our visitors and presenting a clear vision of our school's dedication to student achievement, equity of opportunity, and well-being.

The Hour of Code

The 2016 Hour of Code is a global event that takes place during the week of December 5th - 11th. Participants commit to dedicating 1 hour to coding activities during that week. Several classes will be participating in this event. The purpose of the event is to raise the awareness of computer studies, programming and coding and the problem solving, logic and creativity that can be realized from learning more about, and participating in these types of activities. Coding and its associated activities are important components of TDSB's Vision for Learning and the Global Competencies including Critical Thinking & Problem Solving, Creativity, Inquiry & Entrepreneurship and Communication.

December 9- Michelle (GBV) to work with Student Council and Rainbow Alliance

Bullying - What Parents and Families Can Do

Student nurses Julia and Kristin from Ryerson University have been working with the Early Beatty Public School community to make the school a healthier and safer space for everyone. This month, the focus is on bullying awareness and prevention. Parents play a key role in preventing and responding to bullying. If you know or suspect that your child is involved in bullying, there are several resources that may help.

Know the Warning Signs

Recognize the warning signs that your child is involved in bullying. They could be being bullied, bullying others, or witnessing bullying. Although these signs could signal other issues, you should talk to your child if they display any sort of behavioral or emotional changes. Be aware that not all children who are bullied exhibit warning signs.

- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics, or jewelry
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches, feeling sick or faking illness
- Changes in eating habits, like suddenly skipping meals or binge eating
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Feelings of helplessness or decreased self-esteem
- Self-destructive behaviors such as running away from home, harming themselves, or talking about suicide

Keep the Lines of Communication Open

Sometimes spending 15 minutes a day talking can reassure kids that they can talk to their parents if they have a problem.

Start conversations about daily life and feelings with questions like these:

- What was one good thing that happened today? Any bad things?
- What is lunch time like at your school? Who do you sit with? What do you talk about?
- What are you good at? What would do you like best about yourself?

Start conversations about bullying with questions like these:

- What does "bullying" mean to you?
- Describe what kids who bully are like. Why do you think people bully?
- Who are the adults you trust most when it comes to things like bullying?
- What do you usually do when you see bullying going on?
- Do you ever see kids at your school being bullied by other kids? How does it make you feel?
- Have you ever tried to help someone who is being bullied? What happened? What would you do if it happens again?

Model How to Treat Others with Kindness and Respect

Kids learn from adults' actions. By treating others with kindness and respect, adults show the kids in their lives that there is no place for bullying. Even if it seems like they are not paying attention, kids are watching how adults manage stress and conflict, as well as how they treat their friends, colleagues, and families.

If you think that your child is being bullied, is in serious distress or danger, don't ignore the problem. Get help right away:

- www.thelifelinecanada.ca
- www.kidshelpphone.ca
- www.stopbullying.gov
- www.bullyingcanada.ca

Student Nurses at Earl Beatty Public School:

- Julia: phuong.julia.tao@ryerson.ca
- Kristin: kristin.steele@ryerson.ca

Kids Have Stress Too Workshop - Date Change

Our Kids Have Stress Too workshop run by Eden Rockett, Toronto Public Health Nurse has been postponed to January. Parents have to commit to attend two sessions scheduled for: Wednesday January 11th, 2017 and Wednesday January 25th here at Earl Beatty at 6pm in the library. If you are interested in attending these workshops, please call Jackie Gallos to confirm your spot: 416-393-9070.

Thank You to Mr. Moulton and Best Wishes

Congratulations to our Head Caretaker, Greg Moulton, who has taken on a new position at Danforth Collegiate Institute, beginning next week. Mr. Moulton's last day at Earl Beatty will be this Thursday, December 2nd. We would like to thank him for all the amazing work he has done at the school and his efforts in revitalizing many areas of the school and the surrounding grounds. We would like to welcome our new Head Caretaker, John Nogueira, who will be beginning on December 5th.

Important Dates

December 1: Movie Night - Watch Hard for Our Yard - "Finding Nemo"

December 2: P.A. Day

December 8: School Advisory Meeting - Library

December 13: Yard Committee Meeting

December 16: Movie Night