

Earl Beatty News

Issue 3 - May 15th, 2017

Learning Together!

Our School: A Belonging Collaborative Inquiry



The sense of self stems from the ability to feel safe. Belonging is part of this safety and can influence learning and development. We continually strive to explore new opportunities to further students' sense of belonging. In recent weeks, we have undertaken an examination or a collaborative inquiry to strengthen each and every classroom to nurture sense of belonging at Earl Beatty.

At the very foundation is to listen as it is to respect -- and to work within a cohesive collaborative approach, which together strengthens belonging within ourselves and at our school doors. These efforts will have lasting effect on the students in their sense of belonging as well as their success in the classrooms, schoolyard and in the community. Here are some examples of the Theories in Action taking place at Earl Beatty:

HSP Intermediate and Core French - *"If we co-plan our language streams **then** students will feel more comfortable contributing to the class discussions and group work in French and develop a greater sense of belonging and a positive mindset toward French."*

Grade 7/ 8 - *"If we provide Grade 7 and 8 students with the opportunity during instructional time, to develop a leadership opportunity for themselves, **then** their individual sense of belonging to the larger Earl Beatty community will grow."*

Grade 5/6 - *"If I provide more opportunities for students to get to know and trust each other better through cooperative games, **then** students will feel a greater sense of belonging in the class."*



Parents, family members and students admire the Tree of Belonging, one of the amazing productions on display at Earl Beatty's Arts Night.

A Show of Belonging – Earl Beatty's – Arts Night

So much of who we are as a community could be seen in the creations of our students. Through the leadership of our guest artists and the amazing direction provided by our educators, Arts Night was a wonderful opportunity for families to walk throughout the building to see a huge range of projects that presented a diverse identity of belonging throughout the school.

We would like to thank Mr. Shipton and the Arts Committee for their amazing work in leading this event, and the incredible partnerships forged with our community members and parents, who guided and directed us through this creative journey. Thank you to all the families for attending the event, and to our staff and students for their dedication to excellence in all you do.



Our Intermediate presenters did an excellent job at our whole school assembly in support of Mental Health and Well-Being.

Celebrating Well-Being and Positive Mental Health Choices

Earl Beatty celebrated the TDSB's Mental Health Awareness Week with a number of activities taking place throughout the week. Led by Mme. Ristic and the Intermediate students, on Mindful Monday, students practiced a whole school meditation activity. On Take Time Tuesday, the school was led by our Grade 7/8 leadership group that helped students understand the differences between Mental Health and Mental Illness. Our Grade 7/8 students led activities with every classroom in the school and brought about a strong sense of support and caring with students throughout the school. On We Belong Wednesday, every student participated in an activity where each person received a positive message from someone at school, strengthening bonds of community and understanding. On Take Care Thursday, students participated in discussions regarding healthy eating choices. On Fit Friday, Zumba classes as well as other physical activities took place, helping students (and staff) make the connection between physical health and well-being.

A Friendly Space – Dedication and Compassion Awaits



Walking into Earl Beatty's office is a constant buzz of activity. With the exception of the afternoon dismissal for all of 5 minutes or in between recesses – this is the only periods of calmness.

The calm before the storm or the surge of activity can derive either from a teacher rushing in to pick up material, staff using the photocopier, an injured student requiring an ice pack, or parental meeting. The grey chairs aligning the wall can usually have 1 to 2 students waiting for either a parent or a meeting with Ms. Poulis or Mr. Budd. Someone can be sitting at the sign in table, and the telephone is constantly, ringing, as is the buzzer, waiting for access at the front door.

"It's busy! It's exciting and filled with joy!" says Ms. Gallos. *"Everyday something new or pleasant awaits you"*, she adds. Ms. Gallos manages the attendance, and provides support to the teachers and the administration team. Her personality and humour compliments both her skill and dedication of her colleague, Ms. Argyropoulos. Both are always smiling with a calm stillness, however, they are both on the crest of excitement with their greetings and offer to help anyone walking through the doors of Earl Beatty.

Ms. Gallos marks her first year anniversary at the school by undertaking the leadership role of Nutrition Coordinator for Earl Beatty's much anticipated eating healthy, a program essential to some and beneficial to all. She is also a lunchroom supervisor, ensuring not only each student's safe arrival into the school she helps enhance social and problem solving skills in the schoolyard. *"Students have taught me patience and kindness. It is a gift to watch them and embrace their stories each and every day"*, Gallos adds. *"Every child makes me laugh"*, she adds.

Ms. Argyropoulos with her dedication has served Earl Beatty for almost 2 years. She marks her anniversary in a few weeks. She cannot find the words to share her stories, and yet, she is always smiling with a twinkle in her eyes. Her administrative role is managed with calmness. She manages the accounting and inventory of supplies needed to keep 450 students learning. She is the banker for the school and she sorts, counts and manages finances for the array of programs, trips, and activities. She ensures students enjoy their field trips safely, managing the coordination of transportation needs. *"I just plan the buses, and take the money"*, Argyropoulos says. The humility shines from her when one can witness the paper, files, forms and money organized neatly on her desk. *"We support a compassionate and dedicated team,"* she adds.

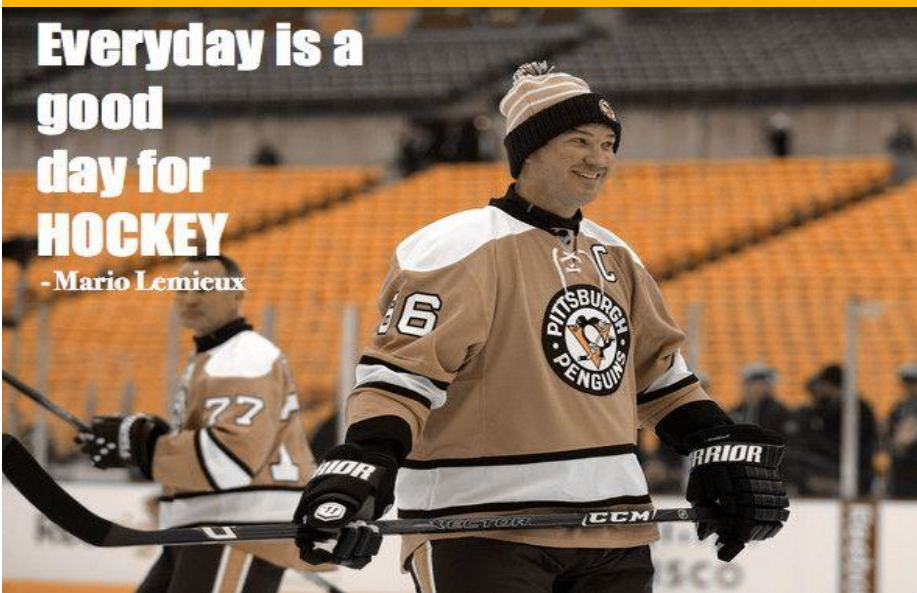
Asked what they feel when they walk into Earl Beatty Ms. Gallos, excitedly offers, *"Home!"* As two students arrive crying, there is care and attention to honour the needs of the students. A parent arrives to pick up their child for an appointment.

There are books awaiting students when they are waiting area. There are always decorations on the walls or hanging from the ceiling. Afternoon recess can make students hungry. Snacks can always be found at the office. *"It's friendly"*, adds Argyropoulos. *"People are kind and respectful. We think of one another in all we do"*, she adds.

As the calm enters the core of the school there is a contemplation to consider, Earl Beatty is an element of home. It is the extension of family. Ms. Gallos and Ms. Argyropoulos support Earl Beatty's administration and teaching team as they support both students, and their families with respect and compassion – families in transition, students in need of help, illness and family loss. They are the foundation in which the school operates each day.

Everyday is a good day for HOCKEY

- Mario Lemieux



Council Update

Students

Student Council has continued to provide amazing leadership and mentorship during outside play with its Recess Revival Program. The Playground Activity Leaders (PALS) program has also been supporting student well-being 3 times per week, and our Peer Mentor have begun during recess times. It is amazing to see so many students taking on leadership roles throughout the school. Well done!

Parents



The Fun Fair is nearly here and Dr. Laura Clark and her team are collecting books again this year. Both English and French children books are being called upon. No, adult books are required at this time. There's a box ready in the main office of Earl Beatty for those who are ready to donate. The box will be present for the next few weeks. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sports – Staff Shows its Sizzle!

Hopeful Students Defeated by Savvy Veteran Group in Staff vs. Student Hockey Game

Although it began with some question of what would be the final result, in the end, it wasn't even close. Though the younger team put up a valiant effort, the staff crushed the hopes of the students in a lopsided affair. Buoyed by the skill of Mr. Rumball, the tenacity of Mme. Stangolis, the defensive presence of Ms. Swire and Ms. Harris, and the surprisingly surgeon-like precision of Mr. Drew's shooting, the staff took away any hope the students had of an upset victory. Mr. Briggs was a steadying presence in net, while Mr. Reyes, Neil and Julien also provided a spark to a team motivated to prove experience trumps youthful energy. Mr. Budd was reported to have been doing cartwheels down the hallway in joyful exuberance following the results of the game, and mockingly giving detentions to anyone who dared get in the way of his celebration. Way to go staff! *

- Please note – some “alternative facts” may have been used in this article, but the story is based on true events. Also, a big thank you to Dylan for organizing the event.

In the News

Challenge of the Week

Ms. A was organizing the Welcome to Kindergarten packages. She had to place 5 items in 35 bags. How many items in total Did she place in the bags?



- Congratulations to Lori Ann in Mme. Chau Wolpert's class, last week's winner!
- Please email or send your answers to Mr. Budd – david.budd@tdsb.on.ca

Please mark your calendars as we host and/or participate in the following activities:

- May 16 –At Home Alone Workshop
- May 23 – Track and Field Meet (Grades 4 – 8)
- May 25 - Welcome to Kindergarten Open House
- May 31 – Math Evening
- June 5 – Volunteer Appreciation Tea
- June 7 – Math Evening

Library Corner

Dragon Seer's Gift by Janet McNaughton was offered a 5 star rating by grade 7 student, Nashia at Dovercourt Public School, *"This book is exciting from the outside and the inside. This book has won many awards. It is funny, happy, sad and exciting all at the same time. This book takes you on an emotional roller coaster ride."*

Twelve-year-old Gwyn Rae bored by homework and bullied at school takes on a Heritage Fair project in the hopes of boosting his history mark. He begins to investigate the papers of his ancestor Daniel Rae with help from his older sister, Maddie. Together they discover a notebook filled with writing only they can see and an iron key that seems to react to their touch. When the key unlocks a secret door in an old church, Gwyn and Maddie are launched into the adventure of their lives.

She adds "It is the perfect book to be read before bed. I think many students will be able to relate to the main character and it will inspire TDSB students to use other resources beyond the Internet. The plot of this story was very unique and mixes history and the present to make an amazing novel for young adults to read. I hope other readers like this book as much as I did and read it as well."



Anything is Possible at Earl Beatty, where students feel



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Now & Then



Now & Then

"On Saturday morning, May 28th approximately 200 students and teachers gathered at Earl Beatty's school yard filled with enthusiasm and excitement for our trip to Expo 67. By 8:15 am everyone was assembled beside their bus. We were scheduled to leave for Montreal and 9 am and finally got underway at 9:45 am. After travelling for about 2 hours we made a twenty-minute stop at a service centre to stretch our legs and get a closer look at the scenery. We continued on our way for another two hours and stopped again at a roadside park on the banks of the St. Lawrence River. Here we ate our lunches and purchased cold drinks. The remaining hours of the trip to Montreal were taken up singing songs and admiring the beautiful scenery", says Paul Barnes from Yearbook 67.

The staff of 1968 likely shared in the excitement of Expo and helped organize Earl Beatty's Expo 1967 trip, not only offering an exciting learning adventure but to mark a moment in Canada's history; particularly as students today, continue to share in the country's 150th birthday in 2017. History is remembered and memories are cherished by those who help influence our lives by their talent, commitment and compassion. May we remember those who walk the halls of Earl Beatty with learning, laughter and leadership.