

**Earl Beatty Jr & Sr Public School**  
**55 Woodington Ave, Toronto, ON**  
**(416) 393-9070**

*Vicky Branco, Superintendent*

*Sheila Cary-Meagher, Trustee*

*Alicia Fernandez*  
*Principal*

*Sherry Cavanaugh-Bell*  
*Office Administrator*

## **Making the Best of Winter Weather at Our School**

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. It keeps them physically fit, and helps them stay alert all through the school day. 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 windchill 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 keep one eye on the thermometer and the other on the needs of our students - a perfect balance of fun and safety.

## **Holiday Concert**

On December 12th Earl Beatty celebrated the Holiday season with two concerts.

The Kindergarten concert featured each of the five classes singing their own song followed by all the classes singing together. The students worked so hard to memorize seven songs and were amazing! The gymnasium was packed with parents and relatives, and the audience members loved every moment.

The Grades 1-8 concert was absolutely fabulous. All the primary classes sang four songs including "Tomorrow" from the musical Annie, Ms. Kostro's class performed on the recorder, Ms. Harrison's class sang a beautiful song, Mr. Bone and the band played and the choir sounded beautiful. At the end of the concert, all the performers sang one final number and it got everyone into the holiday spirit.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the concert a success: the MC's, those who helped with the decorations, the caretaking staff, all the teachers who

participated and to Ms. Philcox, our accompanist. Thank you!

Ms. Donovan

### **Earl Beatty Primary Choir**

The Earl Beatty Primary Choir is starting on January 22nd. It will run every Wednesday until the March Break and then resume again in the spring. On choir days, students will eat their lunches in the lunchroom and then proceed upstairs to the music room for choir rehearsal. The Primary Choir is open to students from Grades 1 to 3 and is an excellent way for children to develop concentration, musical, performance and ensemble skills, while expressing their love of music. There is no formal audition process, however, students should be committed to listening, learning and participating appropriately during rehearsals. Choir forms will be given to all Grades 1 to 3 teachers to hand out to interested students during the week of January 13th.

### **Me To We**

On Thursday December 13<sup>th</sup>, the Me to We club held a holiday craft sale. Many classes participated, creating ornaments, coasters, bookmarks, wreaths, cards, gift bags, paintings, and giant snowflakes. We were so happy to see many families stopping by before or after the holiday concert to support the cause. We are very proud to report that the sale was a huge success! With your generosity, we were able to raise \$846.35!

The painting completed by the students in Ms. Deda's class was part of a raffle draw. The lucky winner was Angus in Ms. Themelis & Ms. Viens' class.

Proceeds raised from the sale will be donated to Free the Children's Adopt a

Village program, specifically to a village in Haiti. Me to We club members chose to donate the funds to the healthcare pillar, which supports: the delivery and distribution of medical equipment and supplies, health education and training, a community radio health program, and playgrounds. Me to We believes that if communities receive support to establish five strong pillars (education, clean water and sanitation, health care, alternative income, and agriculture and food security), they will be on the road to building self-sufficiency and the need for charity will decrease over time.

Thank you to the students in the following classes for their support:

- Ms. David & Ms. Blakely
- Ms. Themelis & Ms. Viens
- Ms. Marois & Ms. Philips
- Ms. Loubier
- Ms. Deda
- Ms. Henry
- Ms. Wren
- Ms. Brown
- Ms. Gerencser
- Ms. Butler
- Ms. Kostro
- Ms. Dafoe & Ms. Ioannou
- Ms. Swire

A special thank you to Ms. Tirkos for her ongoing support with Me to We. Thank you everyone for your generous support with this event and cause.

The Me to We Club

### **School Advisory Council (EBSAC)**

Our first council meeting of the year was held on January 9th, 2014. Discussion included: the need for a crossing guard at Wolverleigh and Woodington and the dangers of ice on the schoolyard.

Another highlight raised at the meeting (and later confirmed) was the approval of

plans to install a mosaic this year at Earl Beatty. The mosaic will be completed by an artist and students in grades 4-8. Kindergarten to grade 3 students will participate as well by submitting design ideas. Location of the mosaic installation is to be determined. The planned installation date is before the Fun Fair at the end of May.

The complete minutes of each EBSAC meeting are distributed within two weeks via the [epsacinfo@gmail.com](mailto:epsacinfo@gmail.com) account. Please email us if you would like to be added to the distribution list.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13th, 6:30-8 pm (second Thursday of the month). All parents and members of the school community are welcome. Childcare will be provided. The meeting will be held in the lunchroom.

Laura White, Co-Chair

### **Student Council**

We have been working on several events and are very excited for them! First is a Valentine's Week Candy Gram sale and Bake Sale. The money raised will be split between The Heart and Stroke Foundation and our student council budget for future events. This will be a nut free bake sale, and anyone who is interested in donating treats can contact the President of the Student Council, George Magafas, at [george.magafas@gmail.com](mailto:george.magafas@gmail.com). The next event is Purple Day, which will be held on March 26. This is a new concept for the Student Council. It is to support Epilepsy Awareness, with donations being accepted for the Sick Kids Neurology Department. To learn more about Epilepsy Awareness and Purple Day, go to: [www.Purpleday.org](http://www.Purpleday.org).

George Magafas

### **The Night Crossing**

The Night Crossing, by Karen Akerman, is a tender story about a brave Austrian Jewish family, and their challenging long journey to freedom during the start of the Second World War. As the family desperately makes their way towards a safer place, they can only take with them what they can carry in their pockets. The children in the story bring along their two favourite dolls. Inside the dolls are hidden their family's most precious possessions: their Sabbath candlesticks.

The children in my class were very moved by this beautiful story. The book fostered a great deal of discussion about kindness, peace, discrimination, empathy and love.

As a highlight of our follow-up activities, my students were inspired to make dolls of their own. Inside the dolls, the children hid trinkets that they had made, along with notes they had written of peace and goodwill. The dolls serve as a reminder that we must all treat each other with respect and kindness, and must all work towards making our world a more peaceful and loving place to live.

Ms. Zaret

### **Colborne Lodge**

On December 4, 2013 Mr. Briggs' class visited Colborne Lodge in High Park. Colborne Lodge was built in 1837 by John Howard, who also founded High Park. At Colborne Lodge we learned about how people lived at that time. We also learned about Christmas traditions. There we learned about how the tradition of the Christmas tree started and why people put up green branches to decorate at Christmas time. Queen Victoria was the Queen of England and because Canada was a colony of England, Canadians liked to act like the royal family. Queen

Victoria's husband Prince Albert brought the tradition of the Christmas tree to England from Germany where he was born. People chose green tree branches to bring inside and decorate to remind them that spring would come again.

We also learned that before Queen Victoria, children used to be treated like little adults. Queen Victoria was the first to treat her children like children are treated today. She gave them toys and let them play. We got to see and play with some toys that children from that time used to play with. My favourite toys were the Jacob's Ladder and a stereoscope.

We also got to have gingerbread cookies and hot apple cider, and make a Christmas ornament. After visiting Colborne Lodge my class walked through High Park and visited the zoo. It was a great day!

Sean Masson

### **Phones Apes – Cellphone recycling program**

Ms. Themelis, Ms. Viens, and the kindergarten children in room 2 would like to thank everyone who has donated a cell phone to the Toronto Zoo's recycling program *Phone Apes*. In the first half of the year, we have successfully collected 36 cell phones!

We will continue our collection until the end of the school year. Phones can be dropped off in room 2 (next to the office) or in the office.

For more information regarding the program, please read the FAQs at the following link:  
<http://www.torontozoo.com/conservation/PhoneApes.asp>

Ms. Themelis and Ms. Viens

### **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. We look forward to sharing this journey with you and your child.

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

**Registration by appointment** will start on Feb 18 and continue until the morning of Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Please call Sherry at 416 393-9070 to book your appointment.

#### **Please bring the following to register:**

- \*Proof of age (birth certificate or passport)
- \*Proof of address (two pieces of ID that show your address, such as a phone bill)
- \*Proof of immunization (the card that shows a list of needles your child has received)
- \*Verification of date of arrival, if your child was not born in Canada

For environmental conservation purposes, the school will minimize paper copies of kindergarten information. Please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten) for the kindergarten package.

### **French Immersion Information Night**

Many parents interested in enrolling their child in Senior Kindergarten French Immersion came to the information night held on Wednesday, January 8 at the Earl Beatty gym.

Ms. Kirsten Johnston, Coordinator of French Programs, came to present information and answer questions.

Parents must go to [www.tdsb.on.ca/pars](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/pars) to register. Registration online was opened on January 6<sup>th</sup> and will continue until January 30<sup>th</sup>. **Everybody must register within this timeline.**

Parents whose children are already enrolled in Junior Kindergarten must get their child's OEN number from the school since report cards have not been issued yet. This particular information is needed for registration.

If a sibling is already in the program, parents must indicate this in the registration form and include the sibling's OEN number.

Ms. Johnston emphasized that she will be e-mailing parents of the offer and they will have to accept or reject within a specified time period.

### **Need a Laugh?**

Please come out to Earl Beatty's first comedy night fundraiser called **Because Lice Isn't Funny**. Money raised goes to lice checks at the school (and, also, lice really *isn't* funny). The Facebook event page is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/610460772342548/>.

The details are as follows:

**Date:** Thursday, January 23

**Time:** 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. The comedy show will be from 8-10, but come early for a drink or dinner!

**Place:** Hirut Restaurant, 2050 Danforth Avenue

**Tickets:** \$15 each

There will be some raffle prizes available, and winners will be called between sets.

Hirut has a 42-seat maximum, and the

tickets are first come, first served. We are starting to sell tickets this week, so if you know you want one or two, please RSVP on the Facebook page or email [xtine@sympatico.ca](mailto:xtine@sympatico.ca).

Thanks for your support!

### **Earl Beatty Silent Auction**

Are you already fretting about the February Blahs? Well, fret no more, the Earl Beatty Silent Auction is back! There will be lots of great items to bid on, friendly faces that you see in the schoolyard everyday and a wonderful night to socialize with all of them! It's so much fun and a great opportunity to help our kids! We are nailing down the date and location of our event so stay tuned for more details soon!

In the meantime, we need help! Do you work for a large company that would be willing to donate something for us to auction off? How about hockey tickets? Electronics? A weekend getaway? Do you own a cottage? How about donating it for a weekend to an EB family? Does your place of work offer a business or service that might be able to offer something to our swag bags that will be given out to families that attend the auction? Please put on your thinking caps and ask friends and family if they would be willing to help our school out. We will promote their business at our event and in other forms of school communication (blog, newsletter, tweets etc) Please contact Sheila at [sphilcox@rogers.com](mailto:sphilcox@rogers.com) for more information.

Also, if you are interested in being on the Silent Auction Committee please contact Sheila at the above email. We have a great team of parents but could always use more help to put this event together!

Thanks and see you at the auction!

## Artists Needed

Artists are needed to develop and assist with the creation of art projects in the school. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please contact Ms. Fernandez.

## Recess During Cold Weather

Elementary school students are kept indoors for recess and lunch times for a number of weather conditions such as: rain, lightning in the area, extreme winds and extreme cold. When temperature and wind chill measure -28C or lower, students are kept indoors. Recesses and lunch hour may be shortened if the temperature and wind chill reading is between -28C and -20C.

If a student's medical condition requires further consideration due to weather conditions, or if parents have other questions or concerns about how and when weather conditions affect your child's school day, please contact the school office.

## Cancellation of Busses and School Closures During Severe Weather

Severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel transportation or, in extreme conditions, close schools. The decision to close schools is made by the Director of Education. In the event transportation is cancelled or schools are closed, the local media will be informed before the beginning of the school day. Tune in to your radio and television news stations for the latest information or visit [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca).

If weather conditions become extreme after students are in school, a decision to close schools will be made by 11:00am

and broadcast by noon. In this case, elementary students will remain in the school until they are picked up by a parent or parent designate. If there is no announcement about school closing by noon, schools will remain open for the day.

## Important Dates

Jan 6 to 30 <sup>th</sup>	Registration for SK French Immersion Program
Jan 16	Prologue presentation of Little Red Riding Hood in French
Jan 24	P.A. Day (Report card writing for teachers)
Jan 30	Pizza Lunch
Jan 31	Deadline for optional attendance applications
Feb 5	Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 to Toronto Marlies game
Feb 7	EB Olympics
Feb 10	Report cards go home
Feb 13	EBSAC Meeting
Feb 17	Family Day Holiday
Feb 18-21	Kindergarten registration (make an appointment)
Feb 25	Prologue presentation of Macbeth

**Keep up to date on what's happening in the school!**

**Come to School Advisory Council meetings, and add your email address to the SAC distribution list by sending an email to: [epsacinfo@gmail.com](mailto:epsacinfo@gmail.com).**

**Subscribe to the Earl Beatty blog at: [earlbeatty@blogspot.ca](mailto:earlbeatty@blogspot.ca).**

**And don't forget about the Twitter feed and new website!**

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