

Earl Beatty Jr & Sr Public School
55 Woodington Ave, Toronto, ON
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Vicky Branco, Superintendent

Sheila Cary-Meagher, Trustee

Alicia Fernandez
Principal

Sherry Cavanaugh-Bell
Office Administrator

From the Office

Recent discussions at SAC meetings made clear the need for re-assessing the safety of the students in our school. This includes not only safety within the classroom, hallways, and other spaces in the school, but also safety in our playgrounds and the immediate vicinity. It takes all of us, the community, the parents, the staff and the students, working together to keep one another safe.

What do we have in place so far?

The second floor washrooms were reconfigured to accommodate a kindergarten washroom, a girls' washroom, a boys' washroom, and a staff washroom. (The primary students used to go all the way to the basement to use a washroom.) A buddy system is in place when students have to leave their classroom whether to go to the washrooms or to the office.

A school buzzer equipped with camera was installed. Now, there is more control of who comes into the school. All visitors must report to the office first. If allowed to go to the classrooms, visitors must be wearing a visitor's pass. It is important that parents, students, and staff do not open the doors for anyone. Also, staff

have been reminded not to prop the doors open when their class is outside.

The doors on the first and second floor on the south end of the school are locked to prevent anyone from getting in without a visitor's pass. Signs have been placed everywhere, to encourage parents/caregivers to go to the office and not directly to their children's classroom during entry time. This is not only for safety reasons, but also to teach the primary children to be more independent.

At 4:00 pm, the main entry door at the south end is unlocked to allow daycare parents to pick up their children. At this time, there is no buzzer system for the daycare. The caretakers lock entries to the 2nd and 3rd floors. However, students and parents sometimes ask to go back to classrooms if they forget something. ALL must go to the office to request a visitor's pass or have staff accompany them to the classrooms or lockers.

There is supervision in the schoolyard from 8:30 to 8:45 (2 staff), 10:05-10:20 (4 staff), 12:15-12:30 (3 staff), 1:50-2:05 (4 staff), 3:00-3:15 (Kindergarten – 2 staff), and 3:15 to 3:30 (2 staff). Every staff on supervision wears an orange vest. Each one takes an area in the playground to monitor.

There is a lunchroom supervisor in each kindergarten classroom. There are two lunchroom supervisors in the big lunchroom and one supervisor in the adjacent lunchroom reserved for Grade 6 to 8 students. There is a code of conduct enforced in the lunchroom. Each student and parent signs the agreement regarding proper behavior and anyone who consistently breaks the rules is excluded from the lunchroom.

Our school Code of Conduct, distributed to students and parents every September, states the expectations very clearly. Students and parents are asked to sign the Code of Conduct form and they are kept in our student files. Please take time to re-read them.

We have 2 lockdown practices every year: one in the fall and one in the spring.

We have 6 fire drill practices: 3 from September to December and 3 from January to June.

We augment all these safety protocols in the school with:

- a) Teacher presentations in class of code of conduct, safety in the schoolyard and other issues of safety around the school and in the community.
- b) Presentation by the police liaison officer on street proofing, traffic safety, Internet safety, bullying, youth violence and gangs, drug awareness, youth and the law.
- c) Establishment of our positive space committee, which conducts regular discussions and also spearheads initiatives such as the Pink Day.
- d) The office is welcoming and open to all students, staff and parents. Each and every concern is taken seriously. The office phones

parents when a student is hurt or sick.

- e) A recent mandate from TDSB will require all volunteers, whether it be accompanying students on a trip or actually working with students in the classrooms, to get a police check. Forms will be available in the office and a letter will be going out this week.
- f) Many visible signs for ALL VISITORS TO REPORT TO THE OFFICE are posted. It only takes a moment to drop in and state your purpose at the office.
- g) Parents and the Earl Beatty School Advisory Council have sent numerous letters to the police and to Councilor Janet Davis voicing their concerns about traffic safety around the school at drop off and pick up times. To date, Councilor Davis has promised to help.

There is more that we can do, but we have to do it together. Any safety practice is useless unless we all take ownership of the safety of our children. This means heeding the protocols that are already in place. Some inconveniences will happen at times, but we have to be proactive and think ahead. Our strength is that we are a close-knit community and we should build on that strength to keep working at SAFETY FOR ALL.

Ms. Fernandez

Traffic Safety

You may have noticed that parking enforcement officers were recently targeting the streets around Earl Beatty. This is part of a study by police to see if the intersection of Woodington and Glebeholme is suitable for a crossing guard, as requested by Ms. Fernandez after several incidents raised concern about children's safety. Councilor Janet

Davis is also involved in an assessment of traffic in the blocks around the school, to determine how to best manage the traffic and ensure the safety of children coming to school.

Pink Shirt Day and International Day of Pink

On February 26th, Earl Beatty students and staff celebrated the first of two Pink Days on the calendar. Canada's first pink day was organized by Nova Scotia high school students David Shepherd and Travis Price in support of a grade nine classmate who was bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. They felt the best way to support the schoolmate was by organizing dozens of students to wear pink to school and send a message to the bully.

For our first Pink Day, teachers and students were encouraged to decorate classroom doors with anti-bullying messages and to wear pink to school. This is a warm-up to the International Day of Pink on April 9th, 2014.

Students from Earl Beatty's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) will be visiting classrooms in the school, encouraging staff and students to create their own anti-bullying messages. Every student, staff member, parent and visitor will have the opportunity to be photographed holding his or her customized sign, which reads, "I stand up against..." or "I stand up for..." Day care staff and students will be invited to participate as well. The photographs will be mounted on pink paper and placed all around the school for staff, students, and visitors to enjoy.

Parents and guardians wishing to contribute are invited to photograph themselves holding a sign that begins, "I stand up against..." or "I stand up for..." You can email your pictures to Gordon.Nore@tdsb.on.ca.

Earl Beatty's GSA, which is supervised by Ms. Zaret and Mr. Nore, meets at school over lunch hour. Student participants discuss ways to make our school more inclusive, safe, and welcoming for all.

For more information of the International Day of Pink, visit www.dayofpink.org.

Eco Club

The Eco Club had a very special guest speaker visit us at our Eco club meeting on Feb 19th. Our guest speaker, Myrica, taught us many things about our environment. She spoke about water and different ways to save water. Myrica also told us some important information about water treatment systems. We had the chance to taste test different types of water and also to become mini water testers. Did you know that water can have different acidity levels?

Myrica had a discussion with our Eco Club about recycling, reducing, and reusing. She gave us the challenge to sort different materials into recycling, garbage, compost, and hazardous waste categories.

Myrica also shared information with us about how items (like cans) are recycled and the energy required to recycle.

We think the highlight of her presentation was when she showed us a cockroach and explained their role in composting!

The Earl Beatty Eco Club wants to say a BIG thank you to Myrica for taking the time to come and visit us. We really learned a lot and enjoyed her experiments and presentation!!

Spring Concert

Earl Beatty's Spring Concert will be held on Wednesday, May 14th. It will feature a Kindergarten concert from 6:00-6:30

pm and a Grades 1-8 performance from 7:00-8:00 pm.

The Primary Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesdays at lunchtime (in Room 21) starting April 2nd until the Spring Concert.

The Junior/Intermediate Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursdays at lunchtime (in Room 21) starting April 3rd until the Spring Concert.

Ms. Donovan

Core French

Greetings from the French class! Visit our class website regularly at www.madamemercier.weebly.com to see what is going on in our classes and to help your child develop their language skills at home.

Our teacher candidate, Ms. Jang-Naruse, will begin her teaching block with us on April 9th and will teach classes for 4 weeks.

In Mr. Briggs' and Ms. Kostro's classes, we are presently beginning our unit on FAMILIES. It will provide the opportunity to explore many exciting things about our family and learn that families come in all shapes and sizes. You can help make this unit special for the whole class by sending some family photos for your child to contribute to our Galerie des familles. During the unit, students will be creating a family scrapbook and a Powtoon presentation (an animated video program).

In the other junior/intermediate classes, we are completing a month long unit on the Winter Carnaval in Quebec. In alignment with the new French Curriculum, which stresses intercultural awareness, we have been enjoying the joie de vivre of our French Canadian counterparts during the winter months. Students have been busy improving their

oral and reading skills by filming simple dialogues with their partners and reading more complex texts. Our final activity will involve learning how to read a simple recipe for making crêpes followed by a cooking session. Bon appétit tout le monde!

Other important news in the French core program is the release this year of a new French Curriculum. Please visit the parents' page on my website to access the new curriculum. Implementation of the new Curriculum starts in September 2014.

Un gros merci!

Mme Mercier

Earl Beatty Garden

Spring is here and it's time to dig in! Volunteers are needed to keep our school garden beautiful this season. We'll be weeding, watering, mulching, and planning for the future. You don't have to have a "green thumb" -- all are welcome. Contact Karen Diakun at kdiakun70@gmail.com.

Celebrate World Autism Awareness Day on April 2

Autism, also called Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), is a developmental disorder that affects the way a person's brain functions. These differences can affect the way a person thinks, speaks, behaves, and/or how they play or build friendships with others. These differences aren't wrong, they are just differences. You can learn a lot by taking the time to see the world through the eyes of a person with autism.

Autism is very common. In Canada, one child in 94 is diagnosed with ASD. In Ontario, there are more than 100,000 people with ASD.

There are many ways we can help to make our school a friendlier place for students with ASD:

- Take the time to say "hi"
- If you see a classmate being teased or bullied, get help
- When in class or outside, sometimes it might help to show your classmate what to do rather than explain it in words. They might learn faster if they are able to watch you do something.
- Be aware that some people with ASD might be sensitive to certain textures, sights, sounds, or smells
- Sometimes your classmate may behave differently. This can be their way of telling you that something is wrong. Try to figure out what the problem might be. If you don't understand, ask your teacher to help.
- Invite your classmate or friend with autism to play/hang out with you and your other friends. Share the games you like to play with one another. People like to belong.
- Remember that your classmate may have wonderful skills, special knowledge and talents that they can share with you and your class

Silent Auction

On Saturday February 22 we held our third annual Earl Beatty Silent Auction! The evening was put together by the auction committee, parent, teacher, and student volunteers, and many generous donors. With the theme of the Olympics we gathered together to connect as a community while raising funds for our school! Money is still rolling in from people picking up their auction wares but we have raised over \$10,000 so far! Well done Earl Beatty!

There were many awesome things to bid on in the silent and live auctions. Mr. Nore

was our distinguished auctioneer who kept things humming! Ms. Brown organized EB students to make colourful decorations to make our venue patriotic! Our DJ kept the party hopping as the laughter and socializing continued through the evening.

The raffle prizes were won by Spencer Thomason, Rebecca Lam, and Dale & Jenn Beesley. The lucky winner of our Men's Hockey Gold Medal Prediction was Kevin Way. Congratulations!

Thank you to everyone who helped out, came out to the auction, cooked something for the event, donated an item to be auctioned or bought raffle tickets! Every little bit counts and the result was very successful! Way to go Earl Beatty! You made it a gold medal night!

Auction Committee:

Zenobia Homavazir	Carla Eastwood
Claire Vowles	Marie Bohlender
Martha Brown	Helen Antoniadis
Jen Thompson	Caroline Riley
Nancy Lalicon	Krista Faddies
Sheila Philcox	

Volunteers:

Blair Beesley	Neville Beesley
Sherry Bell-Cavanagh	Keith Bohlender
Alicia Fernandez	Kendra Gadzala
Myrica Gration	Natasha Granatstein
Dee Hutton	Izzy Heim
Zoe Heim	Christina Koulakis
Claudia Leavens	Scott Lucas
Gordon Nore	Jody Parekh
Kathy Palmer	Kato Perdue
Steven Philcox	Chris Pyzer
Mike Riley	Marnie Rubio
Giuliana Rubio	Marco Rubio
Manal Russel	Ali Squires
Jennifer Stokes	Jamie Stiff
Greg Vowles	Anna Tirkos

Decorations coordinated by Ms. Brown and the students in:

Ms. Brown's Class	Ms. Wren's Class
Ms. Henry's Class	Ms. Gerencser's Class
Mr. Nore's Class	Mme Deda's Class
Mr. Drew's Class	Ms. Kostro's Class

Special thanks to our raffle prize donors:

The Vowles Family
Sol Smart Energy Solutions
Gunn Carpentry

TDSB at the Marlies

On Wednesday, February 5th the students from Mr. Briggs, Ms. Harrison, and Mr. Clarke's classes went to Ricoh Coliseum to see the Toronto Marlies play the San Antonio Rampage. It was a lot of fun. We all had very good seats behind a net and close to the front. It was easy to see the action on the ice.

As well as enjoying the hockey game, we were also able to go to the snack bar and buy junk food, which was really fun.

The Marlies won the hockey game 5-4 in a shoot out. It was a really great day!

Sean Masson

Hot Lunch Program

At the March SAC meeting, a parent brought up the idea of introducing a hot lunch program at Earl Beatty, using the company Real Food for Kids. There was enough interest from the parents at the meeting that a representative from Real Food for Kids will be at the April meeting to give more information and answer questions.

Important Dates

April 1	Brush-a-mania, JK – gr 3
April 9	Pink Shirt Day
April 10	EBSAC Meeting
April 11	Puppet Show of "The Nightingale"
April 18	Good Friday Holiday
April 21	Easter Monday Holiday
April 24	Pizza Lunch
April 29	Kids Have Stress Too, Parent Workshop

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.

Subscribe to the Earl Beatty blog at: earlbeatty@blogspot.ca.

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