

THE EBSAC JOURNAL

A Monthly Newsletter for Earl Beatty Parents



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Goodbye 2019, Hello 2020!

There will be a special electricity in the air at Earl Beatty this month as our kids get ready for a much-deserved break (for themselves, their teachers and administration). Given the predilection this time of year for reflection and the current climate regarding education, it seems appropriate to voice our appreciation for the teachers a little louder this month. So, thank you! Thank you for helping our kids learn and nurturing their minds. And thank you for continuing to do so with positivity amid uncertainty.

For Earl Beatty families, this month may mean a chance to spend time with family and friends. Some of us will dust off our ice skates and go outdoors, while others will curl up on the couch for a favourite holiday movie. We hope that however your family spends winter break, that you share the treasure of time spent together creating memories. See you next year!

P.S. Watch for exciting events we're planning for 2020, including a boardgames night and an April read-a-thon.

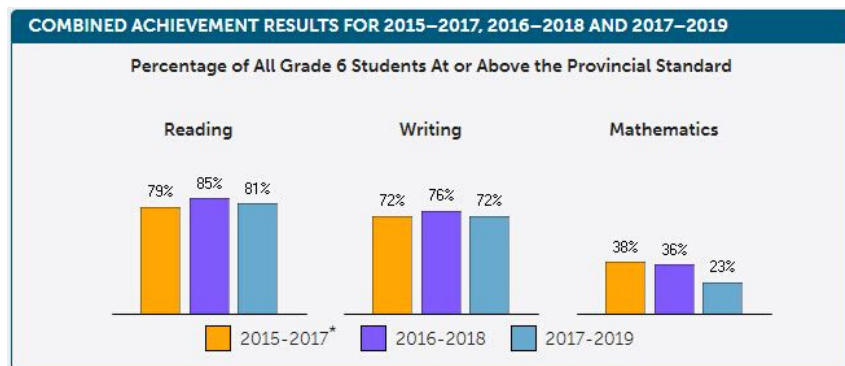
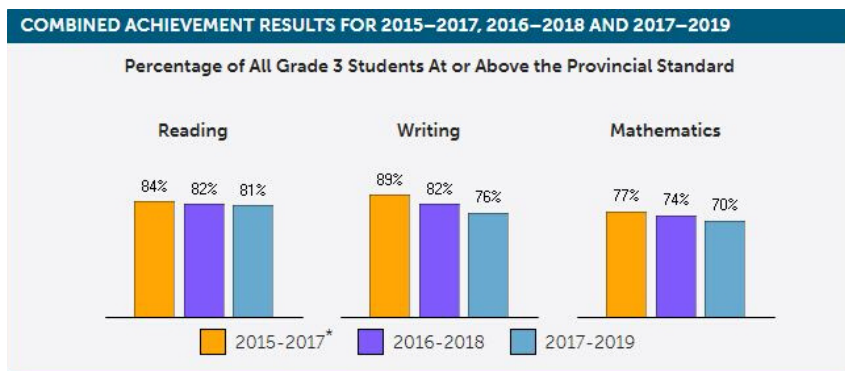
Principal's Corner

A Letter from Principal Kiki Karailiadis

Every fall since 1996, Ontario students in grades 3 and 6 have written in-class literacy and mathematics tests designed by the Education Quality and Accountability Office, an arm's-length agency of the provincial government. EQAO testing is mandatory. Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Act states that all students in publicly funded schools must participate in these tests. Students don't need to study—they are simply asked to demonstrate what they already know. The purpose of EQAO tests is to ensure accountability between publicly funded schools and school boards. Educational accountability is important to three key stakeholders: taxpayers, elected officials and teachers. The grades 3 and 6 tests do not count as part of a student's mark and do not affect their progress or future opportunities in school.

Earl Beatty's EQAO Results

We had 57 English and French immersion students write the grade 3 EQAO math assessment. We scored above board and provincial results. Our 23 English students wrote the grade 3 reading and writing test, and again scored above board and provincial results. While the grade 6 scores fell below the board and provincial results, the small class size of 10 students makes the results less credible. Our junior and intermediate teachers continue to focus on student achievement, while meeting students' individual needs. One of the foci we have for Earl Beatty around achievement is working on further developing our math programs. We have had professional development around our instruction and assessment. We are closely monitoring student success and are proud of how well our students have done. Keep up the great work!



"[We] continue to focus on student achievement, while meeting students' individual needs"

Earl Beatty's full EQAO School Report is available on the EBSAC website, earlbeatty.ca.

EBSAC Family Survey Results

Every fall EBSAC asks the Earl Beatty community to fill out a survey that will inform our fundraising and project efforts for the following school year. The survey link was sent to families in October via our EBSAC email subscriber list, through Earl Beatty's Friday Flash email and was advertised on our Facebook page and on earlbeatty.ca. We received 125 survey responses, which represents approximately 170 students. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond and share ideas with us.

We asked respondents a total of 16 questions. The results show that families are most

interested in educational opportunities for supporting reading, writing and mathematics. Families also suggested specific topics for educational opportunities, including well-being, staying connected to your children, and digital safety. Families' suggested other key fundraising priorities, including: capital improvements of outdoor space and library, supporting teacher projects and activities, field trips, and community building by fostering a sense of belonging and safety among students. You can read the executive summary of the results at earlbeatty.ca.



Beatty Buddies' New Playground

Beatty Buddies, the non-profit daycare located inside Earl Beatty since 1987, is getting a new playground. Currently 182 children from the Earl Beatty community attend the toddler, preschool, and before- and after-school programs. Beatty Buddies management, in collaboration with Earl Beatty's principal, facility manager, parent representative and Beatty Buddies staff, met with a planner from the Toronto District School Board and Evergreen to design a plan to revitalize and update the Beatty Buddies toddler playground and the preschool/kindergarten shared space in the northwest corner of Earl Beatty's outdoor yard (where Woodington Ave. and Glebeholme Blvd. intersect). Improvements will include additional shaded areas, a music wall, softer playing surface, a new climber and another storage container for the toddler play equipment. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in spring/summer 2020. Construction plans will be shared with the community in the new year.

December Fundraising

We know there are a lot of asks in December from work, school and sports teams. The following is a list of fundraising activities going on at Earl Beatty during this month so you and your family can plan how you would like to give of your time and money this holiday season.



Be a Santa to a Senior (cash and in-kind donations)

Deadline: Thursday, December 5

Hosted by teachers and staff, each classroom will be given a senior in the GTA who they can support with in-kind donations such as socks and chocolates, or with cash donations which the teacher will use to purchase items on that senior's wish list. For a list of items, please ask your child's teacher. For more information visit: <https://www.beasantatoasenior.com/>

YWOTM Donation Box (cash and in-kind donations)

Deadline: Friday, December 6

Hosted by Young Women on the Move (an Earl Beatty student committee), donations will be accepted for local women and children's shelters in the GTA. New items such as toys, baby items, clothing and food are all welcomed.

Bake Sale (volunteer bakers and cash donations)

Deadline: Wednesday, December 11

Hosted by Student Council, the bake sale will raise funds for Alzheimer's Society. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to donate nut-free baked goods and each student is encouraged to bring a toonie to buy treats.

Dance-A-Thon (cash donations)

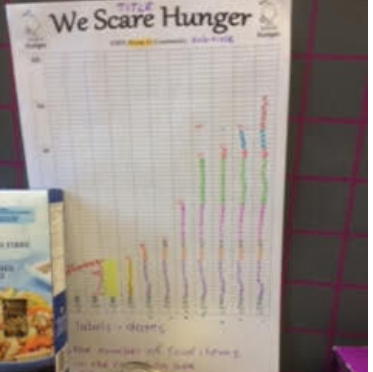
Deadline: Thursday, December 19

Hosted by EBSAC, the dance-a-thon is an annual fundraiser in support of classroom improvements. Kids will dance away in the gymnasium on December 19 with the goal of raising \$5,600 (\$200 for each classroom) to spend on academic achievement. In the past these funds have paid for things such as Scientists in School, art supplies, STEM equipment and field trips. All funds raised beyond \$5,600 will be anonymously donated to a local school in our district which does not have the capacity to fundraise at the same level as Earl Beatty.

Giving Tree (in-kind donations)

Deadline: Thursday, December 19

The Giving Tree has been set up in the office and anyone is encouraged to bring in new socks, underwear, hats and mitts for donation to a local shelter.



Student Council Update

Earl Beatty Student Council is continuing to grow. We have many new members and ideas, and we are excited to build on last year's initiatives and introduce new and exciting projects. Firstly, we have selected a president (Kara), vice president (Claire), and treasurer (Andreas). We have started a new program of lunchtime hall monitors, called prefects. Members take weekly shifts in the basement hall from 11:30-12:00 and we have successfully reduced the amount of silly behavior in the hallways. In addition, we enjoyed our presentations to students in primary classes about our lunch duty rules and goals, and they were very helpful as kids have remembered to walk and we almost never have to give reminders. Our food drive has been going very well and we have many donations. Classes have been great at bringing only non-perishable food items. We now have a bulletin board on the first floor and we have started to post important information to keep the school community up to date with all our activities and initiatives. Finally, we have chosen all of our Spirit Days and set a date for each of them. For November the spirit day theme was "Literary Characters" to promote the love for reading at Earl Beatty.

Our future goals include the bake sale on December 11 to raise money to fight Alzheimer's disease. Each item will cost \$1 so please consider this if you would like to help with the bake sale. We also have a sock and mitten fundraiser for our Giving Tree located near the office.

– Kara, Student Council President

Ward 16 Update

At this month's TDSB Ward 16 meeting, Trustee Michelle Aarts made a presentation entitled "Navigating the Education System." The full presentation can be seen here: <https://bit.ly/35MfCOx>. Of particular interest would be the mention of the TDSB Virtual Library, which has a variety of resources and apps available to parents to support learning at home. Check it out here: <https://bit.ly/2XVz3kt>. Also discussed was the TDSB's ongoing review of the optional attendance policy for elementary and high schools. The policy amendment is open to public consultation and opinion. Find more information and read the draft policy here: <https://bit.ly/2QXoBaY>. Take the online survey to have your voice heard on the matter.



In Our Classroom

Getting to Know Ethan

Mme Campbell, one of our French ECEs, is doing a Roots of Empathy program with a few of our classrooms while she is on maternity leave. She visits with her seven-month-old baby, Ethan, and the students see him grow over time and learn about empathy. He will visit four classrooms during the year. Prior to his first visit to our classrooms, the students discussed what a seven-month-old baby can do. Many students shared their thoughts. For example, the baby sleeps, cries, is learning to play and drools. The students were excited about his visit, especially because they know his mother very well. Here are some pictures of his visit to Mme Land's SK class.

Birds, Migration and Observation

Ms. Melino's JK/SK class in Room 5 has been working on an ongoing inquiry about what happens to birds in the winter. It began just after Thanksgiving, when we saw a flock of birds fly over our school. "Where are they going?" we wondered. After reading several books and watching a video, we learned that birds migrate. "When it's cold, the birds go somewhere warmer," said Milo. "The birds eat fish, but when it's winter, they're under the ice so they can't get them," said Lily. "They fly to warmer places, to get fish and other food," Riley added. After our first snowfall, we wondered if all of the birds would be gone. We used our bird observation centre and noticed that some birds were still here. We learned that some birds and other animals adapt to winter. We will be continuing on with this interest to learn more about how animals adapt and hibernate in the wintertime.





Learning About Environmental Impact

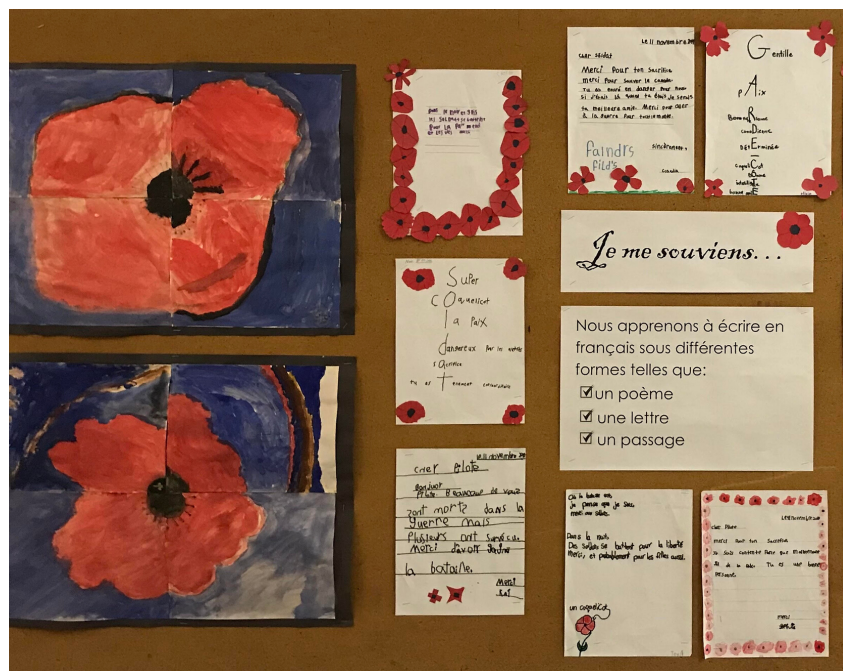
Over the past several weeks, Mme Loubier's grade 3/4 students in Room 30 have been exploring the impact the natural environment has on their lives, and what their collective responsibility is to the environment and its inhabitants. As part of their unit of study, the children have been studying the needs of plants and animals, have explored different animal habitats in our community with a visit to Monarch Park and even made a worm composter for their classroom organic waste.

To further explore plants and soil, on November 21 the class visited a greenhouse run by the Toronto Urban Studies Centre. In the morning, they learned about the components of soil and its importance in the health of plants. In the afternoon, students learned about soil erosion around the world. They then planned, designed and built structures to stop soil erosion and tested the effectiveness of their structures. What a great way to consolidate their learning.



Writing Letters So We Never Forget

In honour of Remembrance Day, Mme Lenehan's grade 2/3 class acknowledged the veterans who sacrificed their lives in the service of our country. Students recognized those who fell to protect our freedoms by writing letters (e.g. to pilots) and poems (e.g. about soldiers), as well as describing what peace looks like, sounds like and feels like to them. All students collaborated on paintings of poppies to give thanks to the heroes who served Canada so that peace could be achieved.



Indigenous Statement for Remembrance Day

Mr. Rumball's grade 6 class writes:

Every morning at Earl Beatty, we acknowledge that our school is built on traditional Indigenous land. On this important day of remembrance, we come before you to acknowledge the sacrifices made by Canadian Indigenous people in times of war.

Before we talk about the sacrifices made by the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people, we should acknowledge the contributions they made to Canada's war effort. More than 7,000 Indigenous people fought for Canada in the First and Second World Wars. First Nations communities donated money to wartime relief and some allowed their territory to be used to grow food for the war effort. Cree people worked as "code talkers" to send important secret military messages.

Like many others, First Nations people sacrificed by leaving their homes and families behind to fight for Canada. More than 500 Indigenous soldiers died in battle in the World Wars. They were more likely to be involved in very dangerous missions, working behind

enemy lines as scouts. Indigenous women supported the war effort at home and worked overseas as nurses. Though they made the same sacrifices as other Canadians, Indigenous peoples had fewer rights and received fewer supports from the Canadian government compared to other soldiers when they arrived home. Some Indigenous soldiers lost their Indian Status and the rights that came with it because they were overseas for more than four years, fighting for Canada. Indigenous people were not allowed to place a Remembrance Day wreath at the National War Memorial in Ottawa until 1995. While adult members of their community were sacrificing for the war effort, Aboriginal children were forced to go to residential schools. Today, let us remember our brothers and sisters in the Aboriginal community, who were willing to make the greatest of sacrifices to protect and defend Canada, without being granted the respect and recognition they so clearly deserved.

Holiday in the Hood A Success

Thank you to all the families and community members who supported our Holiday in the Hood maker and baker event on Saturday, November 30. It was great to see so many of you on a Saturday (and a bit less rushed than during a school day) and the day was a great success! The maker space hosted more than a dozen local artisans and their wares, including both established and up-and-coming artists. In the bake sale room we sold samosas, pizza, and a variety of delicious treats from our volunteer bakers. There was also a kids'-only craft sale where products were made, sold and bought by EB kids. Santa even stopped by and posed for pictures in the library! And a big shout out to the Young Women on the Move club who collected donations for the Red Door Shelter. Visit us on Facebook (@EarlBeattySchoolAdvisoryCouncil) to see all the photos from the day.

Important Dates

December 6: P.A. Day

December 19: Dance-a-thon

December 20: Last day of school before Winter break

January 6: First day of school after Winter break

January 20: Ward 16 meeting at Kew Beach JPS, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

January 30: EBSAC meeting, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the library

How to Get Involved

Can you volunteer on December 19 to help make the Dance-a-thon a success? We need a few people for each of the below time slots. If you can volunteer, please email ebzacinfo@gmail.com and let us know what shift(s) you are interested in.

DANCE-A-THON VOLUNTEER SHIFTS

SHIFT	TIME	GRADES DANCING
Set up	7:30-9:00 a.m.	Parents warm up the dancefloor
Before a.m. recess	9:00-10:30	Junior and Senior Kindergarten
Between a.m. recess and lunch	10:00-11:30	Grades 1-3
Between lunch and p.m. recess	12:30-2:00 p.m.	Grades 4-5
After p.m. recess (includes clean up)	2:00-3:30	Grades 6-8

Contact Us

Are you interested in volunteering? Do you need help navigating EB school life with your child? Email us at ebzacinfo@gmail.com. You can also sign up to our mailing list and view our calendar of events at earlbeatty.ca, and like and follow us on Facebook @EarlBeattySchoolAdvisoryCouncil.

EBSAC Meetings

Every month EBSAC meets in the library to discuss current and upcoming school issues. We would love for you to join us! Pizza dinner and childcare (in a nearby room) are provided. Meeting dates for the rest of the year and previous meeting minutes are posted on earlbeatty.ca.
Next meeting: Thursday, January 30.