

THE EBSAC JOURNAL

A Monthly Newsletter for Earl Beatty Parents



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Welcome... Winter?

Well, it seems that Winter is finally here! After a cold but mostly dry December and January, February has brought our kids some much-anticipated snow. We hope you have had a chance to make the most of the weather with your family. Along with the change in weather, there has been much change happening in the education system across the province. While our kids have inevitably felt the effects of the labour action, we know Earl Beatty's school administration and teachers are doing their best to minimize the impact on their students. We hope for a fair and quick resolution so that teachers across the province can get back to what they love—nurturing young minds. We wish the Earl Beatty community a great Family Day long weekend!

Extracurricular Activities

A reminder that all extracurricular activities have been paused until the labour action is resolved. This includes the swim team and trips and assemblies, which are cancelled until further notice. However, chess, Arts Express and ukulele are still running as they are not staffed by ETFO members.

Labour Updates

Families can find up-to-the-minute updates on labour negotiations and labour action from the TDSB at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Labour-Negotiations>



A Note from Earl Beatty's Teachers

The teachers at Earl Beatty would like to thank the Earl Beatty families for their support during our strike. The hot drinks, snacks, signs, honks and many visits were much appreciated. We appreciate your solidarity as we fight for the public education system your children and our students deserve.

"...we fight for the public education system your children and our students deserve."



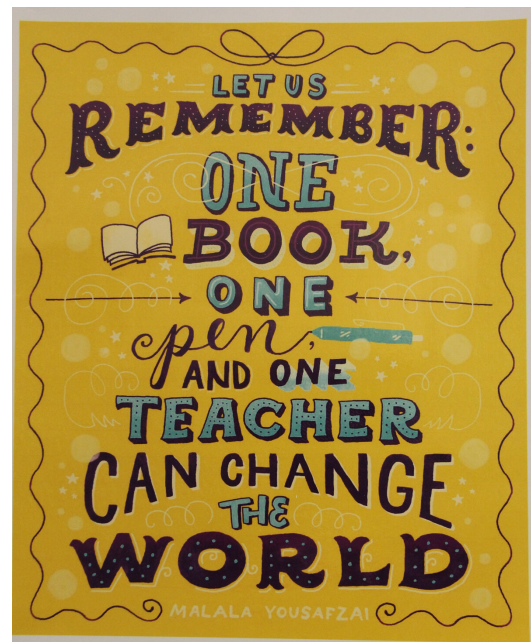
Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2020-2021 school year is now open. Parents and guardians are able to register online or in person at the school. See www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for details on the registration process and what documents are required. If you register online, you also need to make an in-person appointment at the school. Earl Beatty is now making appointments for dates starting February 14.

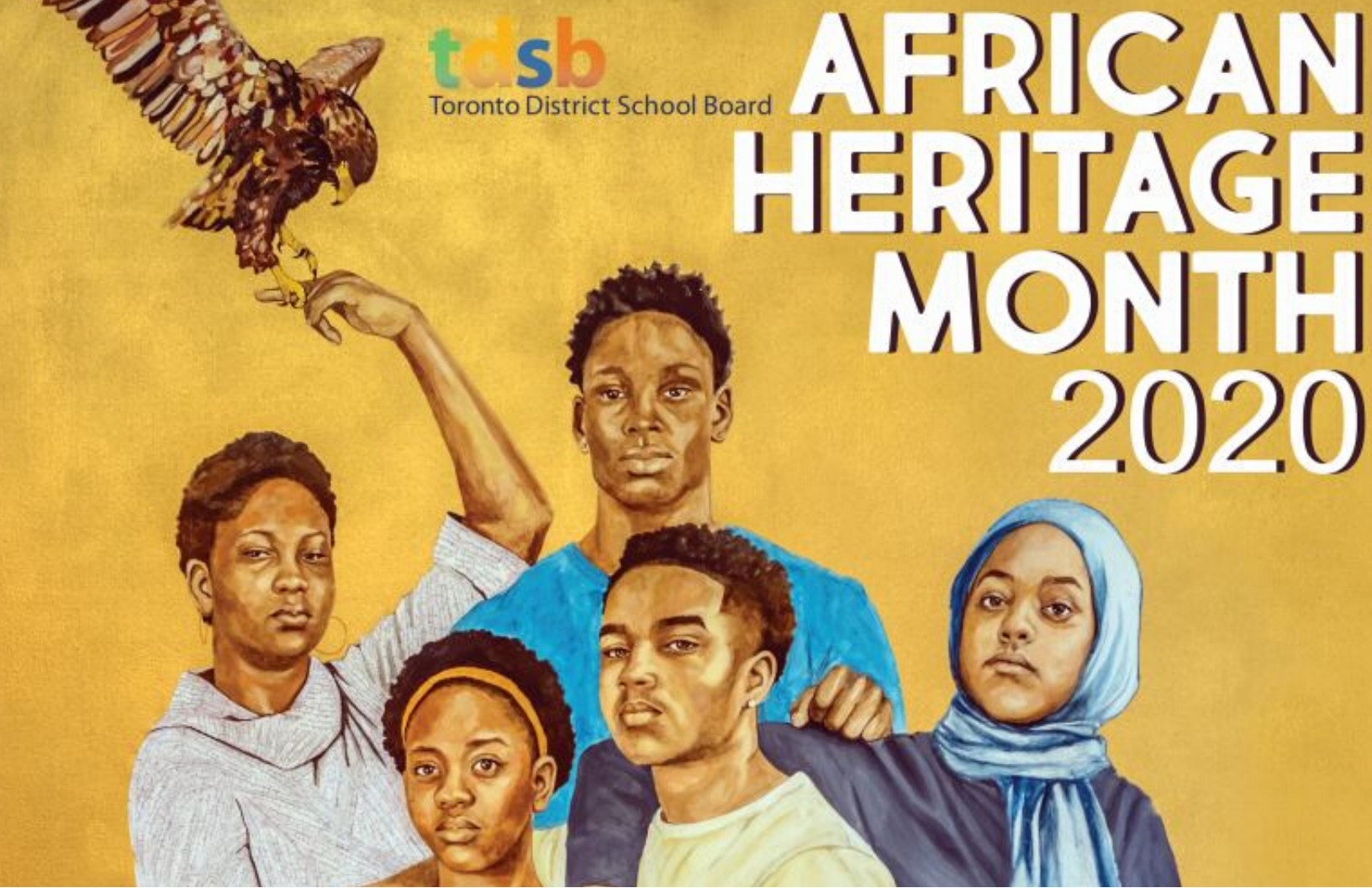
Mrs. Tirkos's February Book Picks

Earl Beatty's librarian Mrs. Tirkos curated two book lists that will interest children of all grades. Access both at the below links and "expand" each list in the top-right corner of the web page to view all of the books.

1. African Heritage Month:
<https://bit.ly/2HnzP2g>
2. "Fairness" is the character trait of the month: <https://bit.ly/31TgUGk>



AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2020



February is African Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board. The chosen theme for 2019-2020 is "UBUNTU: I am because we are." UBUNTU is a South African term that represents an ethic of African traditional life: The philosophy that everything is interconnected; "everything that I do has an effect on you and your well-being and everything that you do has an effect on me and my well-being." Visit the TDSB's African Heritage Month Guide to learn more about African Heritage Month and view a list of resources appropriate for all age levels: <https://bit.ly/2wgEvVx>

Chinese Heritage Month

Chinese Heritage Month at the TDSB also falls during the month of February and the theme this year is "Year of the Rat: Intelligent, Wise, Charming, Social and Ambitious." The Lunar New Year was celebrated on Saturday, January 25. Also known as the Spring Festival, the Lunar New Year begins with the first moon of the lunar calendar and ends on the first full moon of the lunar calendar 15 days later. During this month, the TDSB encourages the celebration of the energetic culture and traditions of the Chinese community with students, staff and community members (<https://bit.ly/2tUMUNw>). The Toronto Public Library (TPL) curated a list of children's books for their Asian Heritage Month celebrations last year that is still useful. You can access that list on the TPL site: <https://bit.ly/37pDcR9>.

Toronto District School Board Parent Conference

You are invited to TDSB's Parents as Partners Conference on Saturday, March 28, 2020. This all-inclusive conference is organized by TDSB parents for TDSB parents, guardians and caregivers. Participate in workshops, network with parents and community agencies, and learn new strategies to support your child's success. Register early as there is limited space in each workshop: <https://www.parentsaspartners.ca/>

Save the Date: Fun Fair is May 30

The date has been set and the planning has begun for our annual Fun Fair! Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 30. It will be a day of games, raffles, a silent auction, food and lots of fun. The Fun Fair is our biggest source of fundraising monies for Earl Beatty. In order to make the day a great success, we need you! We're looking for volunteers for the Fun Fair Committee. We promise you, it's not a huge time commitment—many hands make for light work. Please connect with Jaime (jaimeyama@gmail.com) to learn more about this volunteer opportunity.

Family Games Night Was A Hit!

On January 21, EBSAC hosted families in the lunchroom for Earl Beatty's first games night of the school year. There were a few dozen students and parents who spent some quality time playing boardgames, socializing and snacking on fruit. For the next games night (date TBD), we are seeking more parent volunteers. Volunteers set up the tables and snacks, gather games, and help support students as needed when they are playing the games. Please email ebsacinfo@gmail.com if you are interested.

January EBSAC Meeting

Thank you to those who attended our January meeting. We had some discussion around how the ETFO labour action is affecting day-to-day life at Earl Beatty, suggested topics and speakers that EBSAC can bring into the school for parent/guardian learning sessions, and spoke about our Fun Fair at the end of May. If you weren't able to attend, you can read the minutes and those of all of our meetings on our website at earlbeatty.ca.

Fundraising Updates

Student Council Bake Sale a Success

The student council organized and ran a very successful bake sale to benefit the Alzheimer's society on January 16. They raised more than \$750. Thank you to everyone who donated! The community support was phenomenal.

EBSAC Dance-A-Thon

After deducting expenses, the Dance-A-thon raised \$6,088. The monies raised will go toward classroom improvement (\$200 per teacher). Excess monies will be transferred to another school who has been identified as not having as much fundraising capabilities within their own school community. Thank you again to our volunteers, DJ Neil, all the dancing kids and, of course, all of the families for your generous donations.

Topham Park Minor Softball League

Earl Beatty is fortunate to be located near several great youth softball leagues. If you're still looking for a league for your child, Topham Park league is still accepting player registrations. The league has asked us to communicate the following to our community: We offer house-league softball for players between the ages of 5–22 at your local Topham Park! For more information and to register, visit our website www.tophampark.com. If you have any questions, please contact info@tophampark.com.

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count

A great outdoor winter family activity is the Great Backyard Bird Count. From February 14-17 you can help Cornell University and Birds Canada with their annual Citizen Science project by counting birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more of the days during the event.

Visit <https://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/> to register and for more instructions.





Artwork displayed outside the main office

Important Dates

- Friday, February 14: PA Day - No school today
- Monday, February 17: Family Day - No school today
- Thursday, February 20: Ward 15 & 16 Joint meeting - a Q&A evening with Director John Malloy - 6:30 p.m. at Earl Haig P.S. (Coxwell just south of Danforth)
- Monday, February 24: EBSAC Meeting – 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- March 16-20: March Break
- Tuesday, April 7: Grad photo day for grades 5 and 8

Contact Us

Are you interested in volunteering? Do you need help navigating EB school life with your child? Email us at ebsacinfo@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: Monday, February 24.