



Eaton Arrowsmith School E-letter October 8, 2010

From the Principal

Dear Eaton Arrowsmith School Parent and Friends,

October is now upon us and I have been pleased with the first 6 weeks of this school year. As I greet students each morning, I continue to be impressed with how ready our students are to take on each day given how much effort is required in our classrooms.

At the end of this month, I am looking forward to reviewing all of our students first cognitive progress reports. You should receive this report by the middle of November. In the meantime, if you have any questions about your child’s cognitive or academic progress, please do not hesitate to contact one of your child’s teachers and they would be willing to discuss this with you.

A couple of updates for October:

- 1) October 13th at 9:15am we will be having the second PEAS meeting for this school year. For the first time this school year we will be offering parent education as a part of this meeting. Our topic at this meeting will be **Observable cognitive changes in students**. Sarah Cohen and I will discuss this topic. We hope that many of you can make it.
- 2) October 15th will be our amazing VP’s last day for this school year as she will be leaving on maternity leave. Sarah Cohen will be missed by all of the EAS community! However, we are all very excited for Sarah and her husband Dan and look forward to meeting the newest member of the Cohen family when their child is born in the coming weeks. Starting on October 18th, Howard Eaton will be taking on many of the Vice Principal duties which is also exciting for our community.
- 3) Daniela Francis, Cognitive Teacher at EAS is expecting her first child and is planning to be with us until the end of October. Daniela has been providing extra support to all of the teaching

Upcoming Events

Monday, October 11:

NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Day

Wednesday, October 13:

9:15 PEAS Meeting – at EAS

Friday, October 15:

Safeteen at EAS

Wednesday, October 20:

Parent Orientation for the Academic Program – 7:00PM

Friday, October 22:

NO SCHOOL – PD Day

Monday, November 1:

NO SCHOOL – PD Day

Wednesday, November 10:

PEAS Meeting – 9:15 at EAS

Thursday, November 11:

NO SCHOOL – Remembrance Day

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staff for the first part of this school year. We are looking forward to hearing about Daniela and her husband Jake's exciting news about the arrival of their child in the coming weeks.

- 4) October 22nd is a professional development day at EAS and there will be no school on that day.

Have a great week and thank you again for your involvement in our community.

Best,



Mark Watson

Principal

mwatson@eatonarrowsmithschool.com

Transitions procedure for students at the Eaton Arrowsmith School

Students at the Eaton Arrowsmith School stay at our school for an average of 3-4 school years. When students initially enroll at our school our Admissions Director works with these students and their families to help to make them a comfortable transition to the school. The Arrowsmith Program can seem rather abstract to new parents and students, so there is usually an adjustment period once entering the school.

As students progress through their cognitive programs they will be preparing for a transition away from EAS. The school staff is with our students and their families throughout the transitions process. Here is how EAS supports those students who have completed their full time program throughout the transitions process:

- 1) Our staff will determine if your child will be a full-time program completion candidate by December 1st of the current school year. If your child is a candidate for completion then we will schedule a time to meet and begin planning the transition from EAS.
- 2) At our first transition meeting we will discuss your wants and needs for your child's education following EAS. We will work together to come up with options for after EAS that will meet your needs. A staff member will liaise with these "new" schools and will provide the school with learning profile information for this child.
- 3) If requested, a staff member from EAS will visit the new school and meet with the appropriate staff members.
- 4) To accompany the Permanent School Record for that child, EAS will provide the new school with a detailed overview of your child's learning profile.
- 5) Our staff will continue to be available to the families of students that transition from EAS whenever support is necessary.

If you have any questions about the transitions process please do not hesitate to contact me (mwatson@eatonarrowsmithschool.com).

EAS Orientation Nights

Parent Orientation for the Academic Program, Wednesday, October 20th. This event begins at 7:00 and is expected to end around 8:30.

At this event the academic teachers will:

- talk about the goals of the Academic Program
- how the academic program relates to the Cognitive Program
- introduce themselves and give some background information
- talk about their classrooms
- go over what curriculum will be covered and what materials are being used
- go over homework expectations, quizzes, tests, exams etc.
- ways that parents can help ensure success

This will allow the teachers the necessary time to address what they need to and allow parents to ask all the questions that they need to ask.



EAS PE News

Our annual Terry Fox Run was a great success! The Running Committee would like to thank Corinne Jefferson and all the parent volunteers who provided snacks and drinks and participated in the run. If the Terry Fox run inspired you to lace up your running shoes more often, you can still join Running Club on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7:45. We have a solid group of runners who have been great participants in Running Club and would love new faces if your child is interested in trying it out. Keep an eye out for notices about Yoga Club which will be starting up in November.

Starting in October, EAS has introduced physical education classes twice a week. These will be planned by your child's cognitive teachers and rotate so as to not affect the same cognitive/academic block each time. You will receive notice from your child's cognitive teachers about the PE schedule and activities. On these days, please send your child with appropriate clothing and footwear.

Stay tuned to this column for more PE news each month!

Terry Fox Run – September 30

On Thursday, September 30, EAS participate in the 30th annual Terry Fox Run. Both students and parents participated. It was a great turn-out and a beautiful day! A special thanks to the parent volunteers who make it all possible: Corinne Jefferson, Catherine Hawkins, Tina Kembi, Sue Hollis, Lorrrie Lucas, Chris Simons, Suzanne Oliver, Clara Lutz, Patricia Gorman, Louise Akuzawa, Brenda McAllister, Patti (Kieran’s Mom) from Magnussen School, and Vivian Jackson.



Note from PEAS

**The October PEAS meeting will be
Wednesday, October 13 at 9:15 am, in the Staff Room at EAS
Parent Education Presentation: Observable Cognitive Changes in Students**

Thank you to all the parents who came to our first PEAS meeting of the 2010/2011 school year! We had 22 parents and covered a range of topics. In addition, Mark Watson gave an update on the programs planned for the upcoming school year.

We have exciting news about our next PEAS meeting. Mark Watson and Sarah Cohen will give a special presentation on "Observable Cognitive Changes in Students." There is a strong demand for parent education, and the EAS staff is eager to meet this need. We will explore a variety of venues and formats through the year to find the most effective mix. In addition, we will provide a soft copy of next week's presentation on the PEAS Yahoo Group.

Thanks to Colleen and George Cotton for hosting the first PEAS social reception at their home on October 6. Fifteen parents attended and enjoyed good fellowship and a discussion of how they manage relationships between their EAS students and non-LD siblings. Future receptions will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 on the following dates:

- January 18
- March 15
- May 17

These receptions provide a great opportunity to share ideas about supporting children with learning differences.

A big thank-you to Corinne Jefferson for organizing volunteers for the Terry Fox Run on September 30 and to all who provided food, drink, and time to support the successful event.

Want to spend some time with your student's EAS class during lunch? Class parents for J-1 and J-2 are organizing volunteers to help the staff with lunchtime supervision. Just contact your class parent if you want to get involved.

If you have any questions, want to provide input, or would like to volunteer for any of the many PEAS activities, let me know. My e-mail address is below.

Peter Wicher, PEAS Chairman
pjwicher@gmail.com

Class Parents Announced

This year's class parents are listed in the table below.

Class parents play an important role in communicating with other parents in the class and ensuring that all get information on upcoming key events at the school and in the classroom. Please support them! As you can see, we still need one more class parent for the S-1 and J-2 divisions: let Peter Wicher know if you are interested!

Class	Parents	Contact
Junior-1	Anu Nadella	anunadella@hotmail.com
	Ian Goldman	Goldman@immigrationtocanada.org
Junior-2	Karen Salamon	ksalamon@telus.net
Senior-1	Hedi Thompson	chthompson@shaw.ca
Senior-2	Jana McLarty	jmclarty@juniper.net
	Joanne Maltby,	joanne.maltby@telus.net

Coming Soon: Brain School!

As many of you have heard, Howard Eaton's new book, **Brain School - Stories of Children with Learning Disabilities and Attention Disorders Who Changed Their Lives by Improving Their Cognitive Functioning** – will soon be published. As a special thank-you to Eaton Arrowsmith School parents, books can be pre-ordered before the general public. (Think about that list of holiday gifts – this would make a fantastic stocking stuffer for those friends and relatives who want to know more about Eaton Arrowsmith and the Arrowsmith program.)

See the next page for the order form. Please complete and return to the school before November 2nd. Orders can also be placed at the front desk.

Books will be available for pick-up at the Brain School Book Launch party or, after the party, at the school. Stay tuned for more details on upcoming book launch!

- P R E - O R D E R F O R M -

Brain School will be available for pick up at the book launch (date coming soon)

BRAIN SCHOOL

HOWARD EATON, ED.M



STORIES OF CHILDREN WITH LEARNING
DISABILITIES AND ATTENTION DISORDERS
WHO CHANGED THEIR LIVES BY
IMPROVING THEIR COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING

Brain School

Stories of Children with Learning Disabilities
and Attention Disorders
Who Changed Their Lives by
Improving Their Cognitive Functioning

Howard Eaton, Ed.M.

Glia Press

Vancouver, B.C.

Reading this was very moving for me. These children are in my office often and I see their strengths and feel very sad that we do not give them specific help during their crucial developmental years. Medications may be necessary at times, but they are not addressing the underlying issues.

I imagine a time where all of our education is better matched to children, and applies the exciting emerging information from neuroscience research on attachment, emotion regulation, motor development and cognition.

Many thanks.

E. Jane Garland MD, FRCPC

Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry,
University of British Columbia
Clinical Head, Mood and Anxiety Disorders Clinic,
British Columbia's Children's Hospital

Name:

Number of Books:
(cost: \$22.00 each plus HST)

Address:

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

Email:

Telephone #

The PEAS – Vancouver Yahoo Group

What it is, how to sign up, where to find it and how to use it



The PEAS - Vancouver Yahoo Group is a new project for the 2010-2011 academic year. We already have over 20 families signed up and contributing! Don't miss this easy way to share book references, ideas, and articles related to the EAS program, neuroplasticity, and special education in general. Through the PEAS Yahoo Group, all EAS parents have an electronic forum to easily ask questions of other parents, find and disseminate information, and discuss topics of mutual interest.

Two of the most important features of the Group are these:

- **Our Group is private:**

The PEAS - Vancouver group is not included in the Yahoo Groups directory. Access to all group content is limited to invited members. Only EAS parents and staff receive group invitations. In short, to find the group you have to already know about it and to access any of the group content, you have to be an invited member.

- **Our Group is managed:**

PEAS - Vancouver is co-managed by EAS and PEAS to ensure that content is accurate and appropriate. However all invited members have the ability to post files and comments and to start discussion threads.

Want to sign up? Here's all you need to do:

If you **DO NOT** have a Yahoo login:

- Go to www.groups.yahoo.com
- Click on "Register" or "Sign Up" (upper left corner)
- Fill in the brief information on the screen that pops up to create a Yahoo account/login
- Continue with the steps below

If you **DO** have a Yahoo login:

- Go to: <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/PEAS-Vancouver/>
- Click on "Join this group"

Accessing and using the Group is also straightforward. The easiest way to find the PEAS – Vancouver group is through the EAS homepage. On the top bar just click "Parents," then "Parent Login." You'll be taken directly to the PEAS - Vancouver group where you can sign in using your Yahoo login.

Because the PEAS – Vancouver group is a brand new project there are sure to be many opportunities to improve it. Feel free to post your questions and recommendations in a message to the group. PEAS is excited to bring this new communication tool to our school community!