



June 2017: For immediate release

“Changing the world child by child.”

Roots of Empathy Baby Celebration

This year’s annual Roots of Empathy Baby Celebration will be honouring the world’s youngest teachers - the Roots of Empathy babies. For the past 10 months, approximately 2,000 children across the region in the Niagara Catholic District School Board as well as the District School Board of Niagara and Ontario Early Years Centres have been shown, through the actions of an infant, how to be more empathetic. The event will take place on Tuesday June 13th at the District School Board of Niagara at 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines. The doors will open at 9:45 a.m. with the celebration ending at 11:30 a.m.

The Roots of Empathy Baby Celebration recognizes the families who participated in the program and their dedication to the mission. It recognizes the children who received the program with such pride, eager to take part in such an amazing experience. It also recognizes the instructors delivering the Roots of Empathy program with such passion and care and last, but not least, it recognizes the schools in seeing the great importance and benefit of hosting such a program for our future generation.

Approximately 150 guests will attend this year’s Baby Celebration which is hosted by the District School Board of Niagara. Guest speakers will include John Dickson, Superintendent of the District School Board of Niagara and John Crocco, Director of Educator for Niagara Catholic District School Board.

In addition, a representative from Roots of Empathy International office will be in attendance - Sheree Wells, Ontario Provincial Manager.

The Roots of Empathy Baby Celebration is the culmination of a year of impact. In Roots of Empathy programs, respectful and caring relationships are fostered, leading to decreased levels of bullying and aggression and increased levels of social and emotional competency in children. Long term, Roots of Empathy also strives to promote responsible citizenship and responsive parenting through the program.

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre is pleased to be the Coordinating Agency for Roots of Empathy in Niagara.

The ECCDC is an independent charitable organization dedicated to providing Niagara’s early learning and care program providers with affordable access to the specialized learning resources, training and supports they need to deliver high quality care. Among the ECCDC’s services are the operation of a lending library of classroom resources and learning equipment, a workroom for educators to research and develop new learning activities for the children in their care, and professional development programming for both centre and home based child care providers. The ECCDC’s services are available to all Niagara ECEs and teachers, as well as others involved in the care of education for children.

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