

Uniqueness of autism is celebrated

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**
Special to the IFP

The uniqueness of individuals with autism was celebrated throughout Halton Hills in April as several local schools raised the flag in honour of World Autism Awareness Day.

Students and teachers were encouraged to wear red or blue one day earlier this month to mark the day designed to educate the masses on autism—a complex disability that impacts brain development in the areas of social interaction and communication skills.

“This event is important because autism affects our school community,” said McKenzie-Smith Bennett (MSB) Public School principal Lisa Serebrin. “We want to raise awareness, be inclusive of all students’ needs and celebrate our differences.”

The school in Acton also held an awareness assembly to help shed light on the often misunderstood disability that affects one in every 94 children in Canada, like Grade 7 M-SB student Jacob Canning.

“We (children with autism) are unique and special, and that’s fine,” he told his fellow students at the assembly.

M-SB was joined by Silver Creek,



Schools throughout the area celebrated Autism Awareness Day on Wednesday, April 2. The day was particularly meaningful for students with autism, like McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School students (left-right) Brayden Reed, Hayden Canning and Jacob Canning, who proudly display the Autism Ontario flag raised at the school following an awareness assembly.

Photo by Melanie Hennessey

Park and Holy Cross elementary schools, amongst others, in raising the Autism Ontario flag. McDonald’s Restaurant in Georgetown also joined in on the festivities.

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Renée Brown
Council and Committee Services Coordinator (Deputy Clerk)
Town of Halton Hills
1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2
Or
reeneb@haltonhills.ca

Applicants must ensure that no conflict of interest will exist with this appointment.

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