



Principal
Lindsey Rhamey

Vice Principal
Alex Pasta

Superintendent
Peter Tse

Trustee
Billy Pang

Lead Caretaker
Sebastian Dignoti

Office Administrators
Sunitha Krishnan
Joyce Chin

Character Matters!

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Respect | Honesty |
| Empathy | Fairness |
| Initiative | Courage |
| Integrity | |
| Optimism | |
| Perseverance | |
| Responsibility | |



BERCZY BANNER

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ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2017

From the Administrator's Desk



Dear Families,

We are looking forward to our upcoming Winter Break. If all goes well, we should be able to use our gym once again in January. Our staff and students have been very good about having gym classes outdoors; however, the opportunity to use the Markham Pan Am Centre indoor facilities was uplifting and just what our school needed in order to cope with the colder weather outside and lack of indoor gym time.

Here is a recap of some of the highlights of November and December at William Berczy: our own Mrs. Talwar and the Art Club were selected by the Quest Conference to facilitate a self-portrait art project for attendees. The project asked participants to explore their identity and express something important about themselves in a painting, drawing, or collage. We are beyond excited to share a video that was created at the Quest conference showcasing the projects of various schools, including that of our very own Berczy. Check out the video which highlights their work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5MtlpXmRWU&feature=youtu.be>

Berczy was also chosen by the Quest organizers to host a group of visitors from the Netherlands. These educators were interested in Berczy's well-being and what makes Berczy a good school. Students from grades 5 to 8 acted as tour guides and ambassadors for our school and also sat on a panel to field questions from our visitors. We were very proud of our staff and students and the Netherlands visitors left us with many accolades and positive comments about our school.

Winter is finally upon us and we want to remind all of our children to please dress warmly. We will be going outside to enjoy the season and all that it has to offer. **When temperatures approach -15 degrees we will reduce outdoor recess times and stay indoors when temperatures reach -20 degrees.** Hats, scarves, boots, mittens or gloves, snow pants and winter jackets are most appropriate for these seasonal temperatures. Please ensure that your child leaves home dressed for the weather outside.

Our staff, supported by our families, is committed to creating a welcoming and caring learning environment in which students can thrive and succeed. Our entire school community works hard to give our students the best education possible and our staff is prepared to help our students and families. Staff and students are proud of William Berczy and are eager to make it a vibrant part of the larger community.

We want to wish our families a wonderful upcoming holiday season and Winter Break and look forward to learning together in the New Year!

Sincerely,

Ms Rhamey
Principal

Mr. Pasta
Vice Principal



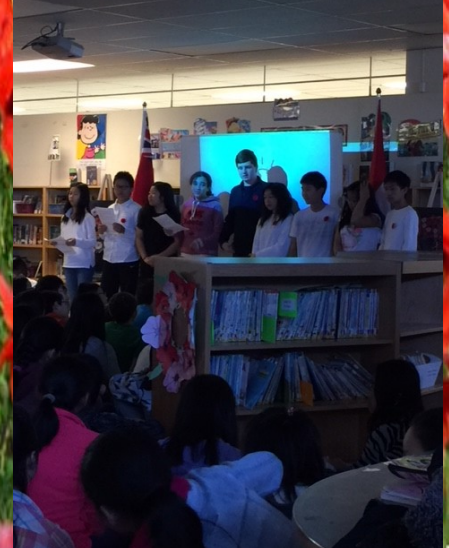
WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Berczy Students Reflect on the Meaning of Peace

On Thursday November the 9th, Berczy was honored to welcome Sergeant Colin Mason of the Canadian Forces. Sergeant Mason delivered an inspirational presentation that highlighted some of his experiences serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. His message to students was to remember the Veterans who served and sacrificed for their country.

On Friday November the 10th, Berczy held its annual Remembrance Day ceremony. Beautiful poems were read and songs were sung in commemoration of our Veterans' service. Student presenters challenged the audience to think about what they can do to bring peace to our world.



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

BERCZY STUDENTS IMPRESS AT QUEST! Artonomy Self-Portrait Project Pushes Creative Envelope

Written by: Jasmine Fu,
Grade 8 Student

Last month, a few eighth graders, including myself, were given the opportunity to collaboratively create and display a collage at the YRDSB Quest Conference for Mental Health and Well-Being. Each pair of Berczy students created their own individualized stations to get the participants involved in the making of our collage, and I can say that we are very proud of the result. The part belonging to my partner and I were the clouds cut out of paper, and we had the audience write their dreams and aspirations on them. I asked one of the participants about the experience. "It was a very unique experience, and it's nice to work on a big project with everybody," they said. Being given such an opportunity to go to the conference and give people a chance to create Art was truly an unforgettable experience, and I hope to have more opportunities to display our artwork in the future.



The Finished Collage, on display in our school

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

ARTONOMY PROJECT Cont'd...



The Berczy Art Club and their Fearless Leader, Art Teacher, Mrs. Talwar

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

WELKOMEN! WILLIAM BERCZY WELCOMES VISITORS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

Written by : Annie Yu, Grade 7 Student



On November 14th, William Berczy Public School welcomed honorable Principals, Vice-Principals, and Educators from the Netherlands. Many Teachers and Student Tour Guides watched a slideshow presented by Ms Rhamey and Mr. Pasta in the Learning Commons that shared important information about our school.

After watching the welcoming presentation, the Student Tour Guides took the guests to explore our wonderful school. During the tour, many guests took photos of student work to share with their colleagues back home in the Netherlands. The guests were surprised to learn more about some of the differences between their school system and the Canadian one. For instance, we have more extra-curricular activities such as band, choir, etc. Moreover, only one teacher is assigned to a class in the Netherlands. There is no rotary and no teacher assigned to teach a specialist subject.

Later that day, the Student Tour Guides and the guests held a Question and Answer conference. William Berczy students shared what they love about Berczy and also learned more about education in the Netherlands. For instance, we learned that Dutch High School students do not face the same level of anxiety as students in the rest of the world.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY



Berczy students and the Netherlands visitors pose for a group photo

Finally, the moment the Student Tour Guides had all been waiting for. After the Q & A panel discussion, pizza arrived! After a lovely pizza lunch filled with happiness, the student tour guides presented parting gifts to the Netherlands guests, who were delighted to find a Berczy pin and other items that represented Canada in their gift bags. After a special thanks to the guests, the morning came to an end. We will cherish the chance we had to share all about Berczy with our Netherlands visitors and will always remember this great learning opportunity.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCY

THE GRADE 6 PERSPECTIVE ON THE NETHERLANDS VISIT

Written by : Rishi, Daniel and Robert– Grade 6 Students

On November 14, 2017, William Berczy had the privilege to show visitors from the Netherlands around our school. A group of twenty students from junior and intermediate classes were selected to introduce them to our school, take them on a tour and share what William Berczy means to us. The students were divided into groups of two or three. Every group had someone from the Netherlands and each group took their assigned person from the Netherlands on a tour of almost all the classes in the school. We had until morning recess to show them around our school. There was so much to talk about from each class that it was hard to finish all the classes in around an hour and twenty minutes! Each group commenced at a different class from the others until all the classes were visited .

When we arrived at a class, we would commonly tell our guests the grade of the class and introduce them to the teacher and students. All the students learned so much about the Netherlands, and that was thanks to our wonderful guests from the Netherlands who were willing to share so much with us.



Our Netherlands visitors learning more about William Berczy P.S.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCY

NETHERLANDS Cont'd...

Written by :
Rishi, Daniel and Robert

We finished as many classes as we could, then returned to the Learning Commons at morning recess. Some of the students prepared short, but meaningful speeches on what William Berczy meant to them. The students who presented did not only present about what the school meant to them but also talked about why they look forward to coming to school every day. Those who presented could not stop talking about our amazing school staff who support all students needs. Another common theme was how our school wants each and every student to be the best they can possibly be. After everyone presented their speeches, the visitors asked questions about our school in detail and were asked about their lives in the Netherlands.

To end our time with our wonderful guests from the Netherlands we had a pizza party. This was a chance to informally ask our esteemed guests questions that we did not have the opportunity to ask before. Right before we left to return to our classes and back to our normal schedule, we presented our Netherlands visitors with gifts from Canada and thanked our guests for visiting our school.

By the end of the visit, we all left from the Learning Commons with knowledge of each others' homelands and education systems. I sincerely hope that we have another occasion like this to be part of a cultural exchange experience. We truly cherished the time we spent with our Netherlands visitors and each other. I am reminded that one should keep in mind what ask stands for: Always Seek Knowledge.



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

GYM CLASS AT THE PAN AM CENTRE!

Because our gym renovations were delayed through the month of December, our school managed to schedule gym time at the Markham Pan Am Centre. This state-of-the-art facility was able to temporarily house our gym classes every Tuesday and Thursday. Students were bused from Berczy on those days and while at the Centre, students participated in basketball, dodgeball, badminton and pickleball. Mostly, students were just excited to run around in a gym, which they hadn't done since last June! We want to thank the Centre for their generosity and flexibility in accommodating our Berczy Bears.



Berczy classes enjoying the Markham Pan Am Centre



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

A CHAPTERS SHOPPING SPREE

Written by : Nuha Zawahir, Grade 6

On November 23rd, 2017, the winners of the Chapters writing competition took a trip to Chapters to purchase books for the school library. Students won the Chapters contest by writing a letter to Ms Rhamey and Mr. Pasta about why they should be the ones to visit Chapters and spend the \$1012.48 raised at our Chapters Night earlier in the year.

Eight students from grades 1 to 8 participated in the shopping spree and it was a magical experience because of how enchanting it was to discover new books. It was also pleasant to scan through various books and ponder whether the books would be suitable for the Berczy school library. The trip took two hours and the group of students did a phenomenal job.

When all of the students were perusing through books, Holiday songs filled the air, and the peaceful aura of the store was very relaxing. Moreover, the experience was accentuated by the presence of warm hot chocolate. It was a truly inspirational experience.

The students returned to Berczy with boxes and boxes filled to the brim with books. The receipt was one meter in length!

To conclude, the Chapters contest winners did a phenomenal job purchasing books for our school library.

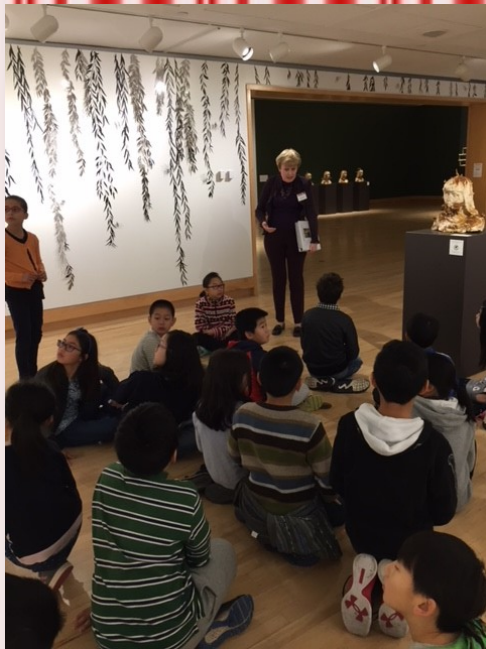


Hot chocolate and a metre-long bill = many awesome new books for our Learning Commons!

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

A TRIP TO THE VARLEY ART GALLERY Students of All Ages Enjoy Breathtaking Sculpture Exhibit

On various days over the course of this past month, William Berczy students got to visit the Frederick Varley Art Gallery down on Main Street in Unionville. Students participated in a guided tour of the gallery and viewed the exhibit entitled, "*Out from among the tranquil woods and Present | Perfect | Continuous.*" Students were astounded by the beauty and intricacy of the artwork and their feedback about the trip was extremely positive. Special thanks to Mrs. Talwar for organizing the trip!



GREETINGS FROM OUR TRUSTEE

Dear Berczy Families:

In November, about 1,000 students, staff members and community partners came together from across the Board to form a [Ring of Peace](#) and stand together against hate, discrimination and intolerance. The student speakers at the event shared meaningful messages about the importance of feeling welcome, valued and respected.

At York Region District School Board, we are committed to listening to the voices of our students and communities. We will continue working with our school communities to ensure our schools provide safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone.

Last month, our annual [Quest conference](#) brought together educators from across Ontario, Canada and around the world to share, learn and discuss how to foster well-being in schools. Some of the themes covered included equity and inclusivity, and safe and caring environments.

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about some of the positive things happening in our own schools and other districts. In recent months, we have had several international visitors come to our system and schools to learn more about the work in our system to support student achievement and well-being, including Qatar, the Netherlands, Texas and the United Kingdom.

We are pleased to have these opportunities to continue highlighting and sharing the great things happening in our schools thanks to our outstanding students, staff members, families and community partners. Your engagement makes a difference in our schools and I encourage you to continue getting involved in the life of your child's school.

As we enter the holiday season, I am once again impressed by the generosity of our school communities and our students' commitment to helping others.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2018.

Billy Pang
School Trustee



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

LUNCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED!



If you are interested in working as a School Lunch Assistant at our school, please contact the school office at 905 477-2047. **We currently need Lunch Assistants!**

These are paid positions and require one hour a day, over our lunch hour which is from 12:50-1:50 pm. A Police Vulnerable Sector Check will be required.

BUILDING A Reader At HOME

Explore Books!

Give your child an opportunity to explore books. **Visiting a library or bookstore** gives your child a chance to find topics and books that interest them.

Read, Read, Read!

Make sure to read for at least **30 minutes per day!** Students can read independently, aloud to an adult, or back and forth with a partner.

Ask Questions!

- Predictions
- Characters
- Main Idea
- Problem
- Solution
- Retell Story
- Genre
- Moral

Make it Fun! Reading shouldn't be a chore.

Intentionally read with your child/discuss books but also research topics and do book activities together.

Be an example!

Children learn by example, so **let your child see you read** whether it be a book, newspaper, cookbook, etc.

Pick Good Fit Books!

A book that is a **good match for your child** should meet the following requirements:

- Purpose for reading
- Interest
- Can they understand what they are reading?
- Can they retell the story?
- Do they know most of the words?

For Beginning Readers:

- Point out and read words in natural settings – stores, streets, etc.
 - Memorize sight words
 - Visualize the story in your head
 - Ask questions before, during, and after
- Don't immediately tell an unknown word to your student.** Instead, ask them to:
- Sound out the word
 - Break the word into parts
 - Try a different vowel sound (long/short)
 - Use illustrations for clues
 - Skip the word, re-read sentence, and go back – what word would make sense?

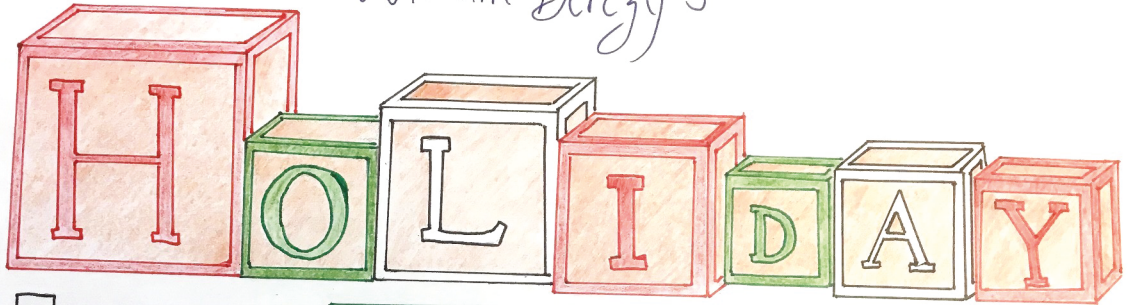
For Advanced Readers:

- Notice interesting, new vocabulary words, and make it a challenge to use them in conversation
- Read with expression
- Explore non-fiction books and their text features (diagrams, table of content, etc.) along with other genres as well
- Compare and contrast books
- Discuss connections to literature
- Think of new titles for books
- Explore multiple books from the same author



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

William Berczy's



HERO TOY DRIVE

November 27-December 16

Help local families in need have a Christmas!

The class that brings in the most toys, in each division will win a FREE period!



Bring in any new or unwrapped toys to the pit before school or at morning recess.

For each toy you bring in, you will get a ballot for a chance to win 50 dollars for your classroom to spend on books!

IMPROVED COMMUNICATION COMING YOUR WAY!

More Edsby Coming to Berczy!



Edsby

For those who are new to our school, Edsby is an intuitive, cloud-based platform that is designed to improve parent engagement in school life through better, more efficient communication between home and school. This year, we have been using Edsby to take attendance and have also used it to schedule Parent-Teacher interviews. We will also be piloting Kindergarten registration through Edsby. As well, we are working with the Edsby team and will have a few classrooms that will be piloting the use of Edsby to communicate important announcements to Parents and Guardians. Lastly, starting in January, we will be using Edsby instead of emails to blast messages to Families. Look for an email indicating you have a new message in Edsby.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DREAMBOX LEARNING PROGRAM! Intuitive Software Aims to Improve Student Math Achievement

William Berczy Public School has purchased a six-week trial to DreamBox Learning's Math Program, an online, Intelligent Adaptive Learning(tm) program that helps all students achieve better, faster math proficiency. We have purchased the trial for our grade 3s and grade 6s and if we receive positive feedback about the program from students and staff, we will be looking to purchase more licenses in other grades.

Your student can access DreamBox Learning from any computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week using this link: <https://play.dreambox.com/login/pwte/ajtw> They received their usernames and passwords in class this afternoon.

They will have the opportunity to use Dreambox in the classroom environment to supplement their teacher's in-class math program. DreamBox is an online program - there's no software to download! All you need is a high-speed Internet connection and Adobe Flash. Adobe Flash is free and is included with many Internet browsers.

To access DreamBox on an iPad, go to <http://www.dreambox.com/ipad>, or search for "DreamBox Math" in the App Store. Download DreamBox Math Green and DreamBox Math Blue to ensure your student has access to the full catalog of DreamBox Learning Math lessons.

When prompted in the app, use this School Code: pwte/ajtw

Review your student's academic progress with a DreamBox Parent Account.

Please follow these steps to create your free Parent Account:

1. Go to <https://play.dreambox.com/login/pwte/ajtw>
2. Have your student login to their profile just as they would at school.
3. Click Setup Parent Access at the bottom of the page.
4. Follow instructions to create a new login and password.
5. Read Terms of Use and Privacy Policy.
6. Click "Submit".

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALLERGY ALERT!



It is very important that we keep William Berczy a “nut-safe” school, as we have students and staff with serious, life-threatening, allergies to products containing nuts. Avoidance is the key to prevention! We ask that you avoid sending any products containing nuts or nut oil.

This includes “NUTELLA”, almond butter, hazel nuts, almonds, peanuts, walnuts, pecans and pistachio nuts.

FACTS:

- Anaphylaxis is the most serious form of an allergic reaction; only a tiny amount of nut products (such as the oil from a peanut butter cookie on a person’s hand) can cause a life-threatening reaction to a child who is allergic.
- Isolating children for lunch/snacks does not work as crumbs may be left on carpets, desks, etc, even when they have been cleaned.
- Students will not share food

Students who are anaphylactic are encouraged to understand their allergic condition, do everything possible to avoid the allergen, tell others about their allergy, and have an up-to-date EPI pen available at all times.

WINTER DRESS BRRRR!



Although we have had a mild Fall, the cold weather and snow is on its way! We would like to remind parents and guardians **if a student is well enough to attend school, then they will be expected to go outside for recess. We do not keep students indoors—if they are not well, they should not be at school.**

Students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses (hats, scarves, gloves/mittens, boots, snowpants, etc.) ***It is advisable for children to bring extra pants and socks in case they become wet.*** Being physically active during winter is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle.

The school administration keeps a close eye on weather conditions, including wind chill, and sun/cloud conditions. When conditions necessitate, students will remain inside for recess. When conditions allow, reduced outdoor recesses may take place. Students will be supervised in their classrooms during recess and lunch hour whenever an indoor recess is necessary.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

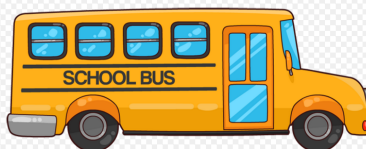
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



If you can spare any time during the instructional day, our teachers are in desperate need of parent or community volunteers to read with students and assist in the classroom with other jobs. If you are not able to volunteer during the day, consider volunteering for field trips if you can or helping with other jobs that can be done at home.

School Bus Cancellations

On occasion, bus service cancellation due to inclement weather conditions may be required. A decision to cancel school bus transportation will be region-wide, meaning all buses, vans and taxis will not operate. Parents, students and school staff are asked to access local radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information. A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and 1-877-330-3001 or by following the YRDSB on Twitter. Please note that school bus charters will not operate when regular home to school service is cancelled. In addition, if buses are cancelled in the morning they will not be operating at the end of the day either. Should you decide to drive your child to school you must make arrangements to pick them up at the end of the day.



SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Wednesday
February 21st, 2018
at 7:00pm – 8:00pm

School Council Meeting

Please mark your calendars!

All parents are welcome, and encouraged to attend; babysitting services will be provided if requested.

Upcoming Dates... Mark your calendars!

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Monday December 11 | DECA Student Speaker Kelly Hu, for Grade 7 & 8s |
| December 12-14 | Ripley's Aquarium Adventure for Grades 6-8 |
| December 13-14 | Dental Screening JK, SK, Grades 2 to 8 |
| Wednesday December 13 | Pasta Lunch |
| Friday December 22 | Last Day before Winter Break |
| December 23—January 7 | Winter Break |
| Monday January 8 | First Day Back to School |
| Wednesday January 17 | Dagmar Ski Trip Day 1 Grades 4-6 |
| Wednesday January 17 | Pasta Lunch |
| Friday January 19 | P.A. Day |
| Wednesday January 31 | Dagmar Ski Trip Day 2 Grades 4-6 |

York Region Mission:

To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

Inspire Learning!