

# BERCZY BANNER



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Ontario

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ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2019

**Principal**  
Lindsey Rhamey

**Vice Principal**  
Alex Pasta

**Superintendent**  
Peter Tse

**Trustee**  
Ron Lynn

**Lead Caretaker**  
Sebastian Dignoti

**Office Administrators**  
Sunitha Krishnan  
Joyce Chin  
Wynne Chan

## Character Matters!

Respect Honesty  
Empathy Fairness  
Initiative Courage  
Integrity  
Optimism  
Perseverance  
Responsibility



## From the Administrator's Desk

Dear Families,

Just before the Holiday break we were fortunate to hold an assembly and a Primary Holiday Concert, and both events were occasions to celebrate the accomplishments and talents of our Berczy students.

The Primary Holiday Concert was a wonderful evening of singing and dancing showcasing our Kindergarten to grade 3 students. They performed exceptionally well under the direction of their fabulous teachers. Many thanks to families who were able to attend the evening and for our Primary teaching team for organizing the event. It was a resounding success.

At our December well-being assembly, we were honoured to have Jackie Silver, Diane Talbot-Shoenoff, and Thea Kurdi, from the Rick Hansen Foundation, to present our very own grade 8 student, Ben Nanderam, with the Rick Hansen Difference Maker Award. Ben received the award in recognition of the accessible playground he designed last year. At the assembly, Jackie Silver spoke eloquently about the importance of being inclusive and challenged students and staff to work at removing barriers for people with visible and non-visible disabilities.

We are very excited about the upcoming February Family Festival taking place on Thursday February 21st. We are grateful to have Yo-Yo and Robert Ruan who have so graciously volunteered to produce *Seussical: The Musical* in collaboration with about seventy of our students and other parent volunteers. Yo-Yo and Robert, their daughter Julianne, who is in grade 3 at Berczy, and their two teenage daughters provided Berczy students with a sample of what to expect, at the December assembly, when they performed a beautiful musical number as a family. We are grateful for our School Council who helped to initiate and further support what will be an incredible evening on the February 21st. We thank our staff and students and Mrs. Talwar for creating artwork that will be auctioned off in a Silent Auction at the festival. All fundraising from the evening will be going back to support our music and visual arts programs.

Most recently our staff have been learning about Indigenous Education and Equity. We have been collectively called to action and are working collaboratively to learn about how we can educate Berczy students about the contributions made by our Indigenous people, land treaties, and residential schools, but most importantly about how we can be inclusive of all peoples.

February looks like it will be another month filled with engaging activities for our students. We will be having a Valentine's Day dance for all students, taking place on the 14th, and Pink Shirt Day, will be happening on the 27th, to raise awareness about anti-bullying efforts and the importance of being inclusive.

We thank you once again for all of your support.

Sincerely,

Ms Rhamey  
Principal

Mr. Pasta  
Vice Principal



# WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

## FEBRUARY FAMILY FESTIVAL

February 21, 2019

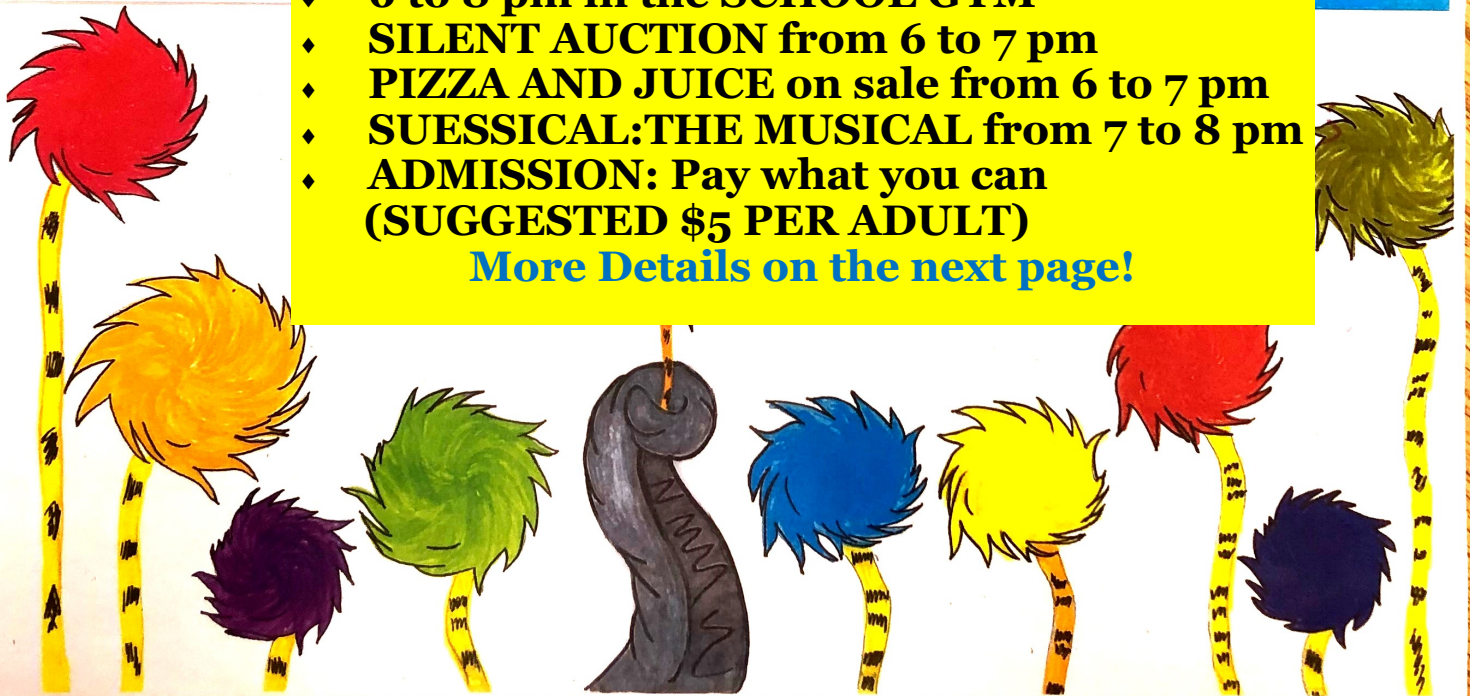
WILLIAM  
BERCZY

# Seussical the musical

### WBPS FEBRUARY FAMILY FESTIVAL

- ◆ 6 to 8 pm in the SCHOOL GYM
- ◆ SILENT AUCTION from 6 to 7 pm
- ◆ PIZZA AND JUICE on sale from 6 to 7 pm
- ◆ SUESSICAL: THE MUSICAL from 7 to 8 pm
- ◆ ADMISSION: Pay what you can  
(SUGGESTED \$5 PER ADULT)

**More Details on the next page!**



# WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCY

## COMING SOON: FEBRUARY FAMILY FESTIVAL

On Thursday February 21st, William Berczy Public School will be hosting an event that is sure to bring our community together in celebration of song, dance, and music. The February Family Festival will be happening in our school gym in two parts.

From 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., families will be able to bid on various donated and student created items in an exciting and sure to be competitive silent auction. Items being donated include: original pieces of art created by each homeroom class, gift cards, giftware, and many other exciting items.

The second part occurs from 7 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in the school gym. We are very proud to announce that approximately 70 Berczy students will be showcasing their talents in the production of *Seussical: The Musical*. Under the direction and guidance of Berczy parents Yo-Yo and Robert Ruan, our students have been rehearsing their musical, singing, and dance numbers for the past few months. We are so grateful to have Yo-Yo and Robert, who have given countless hours of rehearsal and preparation time to ensure the production will be a smashing success.

Pizza and fruit juice will be sold from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the gym. Tickets are pay what you can with a suggested donation of \$5 per adult. All proceeds go back to our music and visual arts programs.



Please save the date of Thursday February 21st. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mrs. Terzian and students from Mrs. Rhaman's and Ms Ricciardi's SK/1 class created a very special art piece. Wait until you see all the amazing artwork up for bidding at the Silent Auction!



The musically talented Ruan family performs at our December Well-Being assembly. Julianne, in grade 3, sang while her family accompanied her on cello, keyboard, and violins.

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## IMPORTANT SAFETY UPDATE AT BERCZY

It is our goal at William Berczy to protect the physical and mental well-being of our students. Therefore, we would like to share some important safety information with you so that you are aware of how we are keeping your children safe when they come to school.

We have been monitoring the bus loop and parking lot for various safety concerns. Based on our observations, we are taking the following actions:

**The parking lot to the west side of the school building will be closed off to families at 8:30 a.m.** Please continue to use the Kiss and Ride lane to drop off your children. Rosa Christopoulos, our incredible School Assistant, will walk your child across the crosswalk to the front of the school. Kindergarten children will be escorted by our ambassadors to their classrooms.

**The same parking lot will be closed off to families at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon.** Please refrain from double parking and blocking other cars if you are in the parking lot before this time. If you do so, you will be asked to move. **As well, please pick your child up from their exit doors and walk them (holding hands) to your car. Do not let your child wander into the parking lot unattended!**

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to more safe days at Berczy!

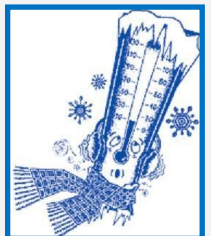


## COLD WEATHER POLICY EXPLAINED

Our school board protocol is to have indoor recesses if the temperature dips below  $-20$  degrees (with or without the wind chill). Ms Rhamey and Mr. Pasta have been testing the weather out before recess time by going outside first. The temperature where Ms Rhamey and Mr. Pasta have noticed discomfort has been around  $-15$  degrees, give or take a degree.

The tarmac and field was recently covered in a sheet of bumpy ice, and as a result, we had to have indoor recesses to keep students and staff safe from slipping and falling on the ice.

We encourage staff to have more frequent Daily Vigorous Physical Activity throughout the days with indoor recesses to promote physical and mental well-being and we have been walking and dancing indoors for our Walking Wednesday until the weather and conditions are more tolerable.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

## DECEMBER ASSEMBLY WAS AMAZING

By: Daniel Long and Rishi Mehta, Grade 7

On the afternoon of December 7th, our school had our Well Being Assembly. Since our school began holding these assemblies, they've always been an event to remember.

First, we had Rishi and Megan read the Land Acknowledgment. This is a tradition we do at every assembly to acknowledge the Indigenous peoples who graciously share their land with us and thank our partners in education.

Next, we had an inclusivity video, produced by grade 7 students Rishi, Jamie, and Nuha, which explored what inclusivity means to people at Berczy. There was a lot about positivity and inclusion, and we celebrated how Berczy is an inclusive and welcoming place.

To make the message of the assembly even more impactful, our school had the privilege of welcoming Diane Talbot-Shoenoff, Jackie Silver, and Thea Kurdi from the Rick Hansen Foundation to present to us all about what it means to be inclusive. They also presented Benjamin Nanderam, a grade 8 student in Mr. Spencer's class, with the Rick Hansen Difference Maker Award. Benjamin researched and designed an inclusive playground that ensured anyone could use it. He was recognized by the foundation and thanked for his work in making the world more inclusive. Benjamin is a perfect example of how the students at Berczy are inclusive and respectful towards others.

*Continued on the next page....*



Jackie Silver, spokesperson for the Rick Hansen Foundation, shares about she overcame barriers in her life to make a difference in the lives of others.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

## December Assembly Continued...

In addition, Mrs. Jaatinen & The Kindness Club shared what they will be doing to spread kindness and inclusivity throughout the school. This included a really cool Berczy Kindness handshake! Immediately after the Kindness Crew presentation, the slideshow team presented the monthly slideshow, which contained photos of all the events that had happened since the last assembly. Second to last, we had Ms Rhamey and Mr. Pasta give a presentation about the upcoming February Family Festival. The Ruan family, including grade 3 student Julianne, gave a musical presentation to promote the event. They left everyone in the gym astonished with their talent.

Finally, the student council gave a speech about their upcoming initiative about social identity. This assembly was one to remember as always and we eagerly await the next one in February.

## BEN NANDERAM IS A DIFFERENCE MAKER

### Berczy Student Receives Important Award

Congratulations are extended to Grade 8 Student Ben Nanderam who received the Rick Hansen Foundation Difference-Maker Award at the December Assembly. Jackie Silver, Diane Talbot-Shoenoff, and Thea Kurdi from the Rick Hansen Foundation were on hand to present Ben with the award. Ben was nominated last year as a result of his design for an accessible playground that was inclusive of people of all abilities. Ben consulted Thea Kurdi when planning his project and as a result, has made a difference in the lives of his peers at school in that they have a better understanding of how we can make our world more inclusive for all. Congratulations once again Ben! Berczy is very proud of you.



Diane Talbot-Shoenoff and Thea Kurdi present Ben Nanderam with the Rick Hansen Foundation Difference Maker Award.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

## THE KINDNESS KREW UPDATE

**By: Kate Tang, Grade 5, Kindess Krew Member**

Every Berczy student tries their best to be kind, inclusive and respectful. It was no surprise when last year, Mrs. Jaatinen's class came up with so many ideas on how to spread kindness throughout William Berczy Public School. And this year Mrs. Jaatinen followed that up by starting a Kindness Krew. At our first Kindess Krew meeting, we brainstormed about how can we spread kindness, just like her class did last year. We actually had a lots of ideas such as the Berczy Hi-Five, that we showed at the Well-Being Assembly. Mrs. Jaatinen loved our ideas so much, she even made a Berczy kindness poem and we presented it at the Assembly! Now we are looking for some new ideas about how spread kindness. If you have one that you think is brilliant, share it with us and you can even join the Krew. We are looking forward to collecting all of them and putting them into action so William Berczy will become an even kinder place. We can't wait to hear your great ideas!



Our student ambassadors show kindness every day by holding the door for fellow students in the morning and greeting them in a kind way.

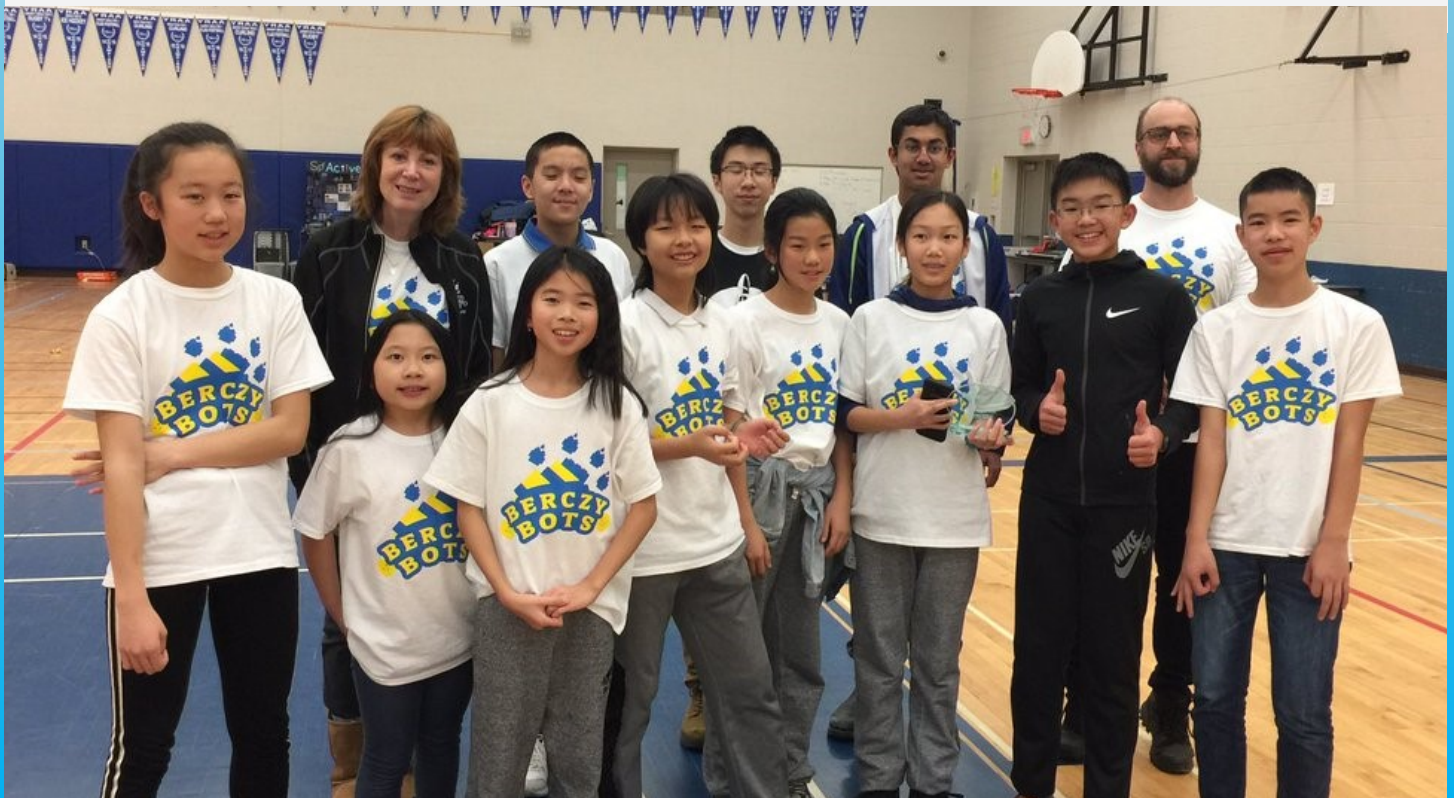
# WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

## BERCZY BOTS ARE RISING STARS!

### Berczy Robotics Team Receives Rising Star Award at First Lego League Competition

By: Jessica Jung, Grade 5

On Saturday December the 8th, our school robotics team, the Berczy Bots, competed at the First Lego League competition for the first time! Our team of ten had been working very hard every week in preparation for this event. It was a whole day competition filled with fun and many challenges in friendly competition with fourteen other schools. The events were: Project, Core Values, Robot Design, and of course, the Robot competition. Each year, First Lego League (FLL) has a real world challenge topic, and this year, it was to do with space. Our robot had to complete some of the tasks on a mat that simulated a space station. We attempted space travel, moving a solar panel array, extraction, lander touch-down, and even food production. Our project poster was very exciting! We had to identify a problem with traveling to space and we selected the topic of "keeping healthy in space". We made a skit on red blood cell deterioration and to help research, we interviewed Mr. Spencer as our professional consultation. We even had a sample pill made of Vitamin A, B12, C (and spinach juice) to help prevent blood cell deterioration which happens in space. Our problem poster expanded upon the solution to this problem. We also did very well on our core values presentation and even got a callback, which meant the judges were impressed by what we had to say.



Members of the Berczy Bots: Jessica Jung, Anna Wei, Violet Xu, Jessica Chen, Michelle Wan, Bonnie Wen, Ethan Huang, Di Hu, Dylan Yao, along with Mr. Pasta, Ms Rhamey and their high school mentors.

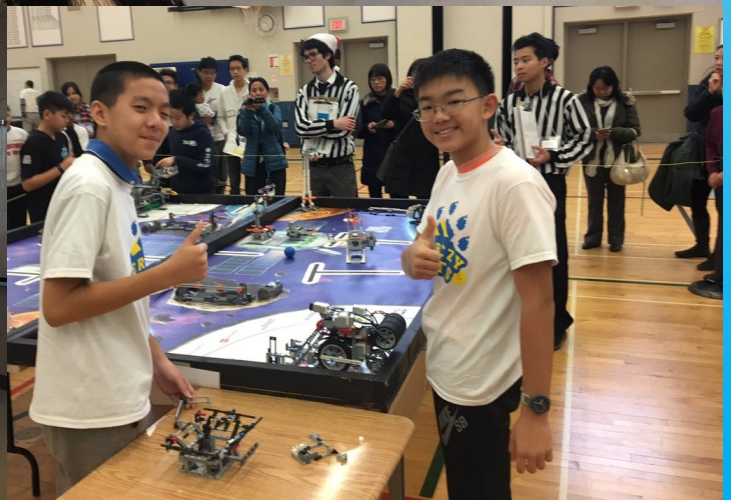


# WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

## Rising Stars continued...

By: Jessica Jung, Grade 5

The final event was the robot competition. Our coding didn't work on the practice rounds, but that made us work harder and all teammates encouraged each other. No one was lackadaisical, by any means. By the last round, our robot completed several tasks and everyone was electrified. Although we didn't come in first place, it was a great and memorable experience. We ended up getting the Rising Star Award! Thanks to our high school mentors, Michael, Aranesh, and Balaji, and Mr. Pasta and Ms Rhamey for their support. We learned a lot and had a lot of fun! Good luck to Berczy Bots on the next competition in February!



# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MONTHLY MATH CHALLENGE

### Questioning

Using effective questions when talking about math, supports the development of your child's mathematical reasoning. The use of questioning provides children with opportunities to share and clarify their ideas, draw conclusions, and explain and explore new strategies. With good intention, we often rush to provide our children all the information they need to solve a math problem. By giving your child this information too quickly, they may not think deeply about the problem or engage in [mathematical thinking](#).

Here is a list of questions you can ask to support your child's mathematical thinking:

- How did you solve the problem?
- What did you do?
- What strategy did you use?
- How did you estimate what the answer could be?
- What would happen if ...?
- Tell me what is the same? What is different?
- How do you know?
- How did you know where ...?
- How did you know which ...?
- How did you know when ...?
- How do you know your/our answer is reasonable?
- Would this work every time? Can you/we think of any examples that don't work?
- Have you/we found all the possibilities? How do you/we know?
- What have you/we discovered about \_\_\_\_\_ while solving this problem?
- What have you/we learned?

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

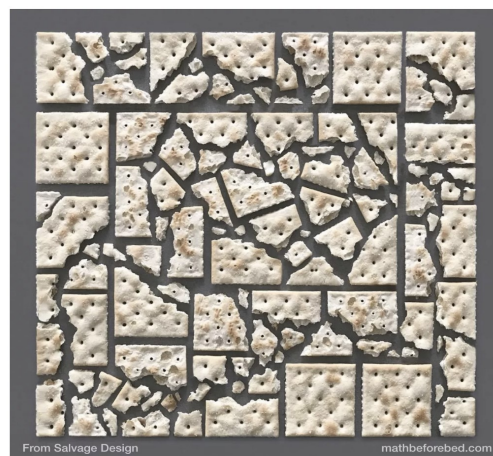
## MONTHLY MATH CHALLENGE

Continued...

### Activities:

#### Primary/Junior - Math Before Bed

On [Math Before Bed](http://mathbeforebed.com) there are a variety of images that promote mathematical thinking. Show your child an image and ask them "what do you notice? what are you wondering about?". This promotes mathematical thinking - and then you can have them investigate one of their wonderings and come up with a solution. What a great time to ask them the questions above to really uncover what they are thinking!!



What do you notice? What do you wonder?

What do you notice?  
What do you wonder?

<https://mathbeforebed.com/>

#### Junior/Intermediate - Would You Rather Math

On this site, there are a variety of scenarios that your child will be able to make a choice and use reasoning skills to justify their mathematical thinking.

Whichever option is chosen, justify your reasoning with math!

<http://www.wouldyourathermath.com/>


**Would you rather...**

Roll two dice 10 times and...

**Option A:** Receive \$5.00 every time you get a double.

**OR**

**Option B:** Receive \$5.00 every time you get any 2 even numbers.



#### Would You Rather...

Whichever option you choose, justify your reasoning with mathematics. h/t @hallumclass

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LUNARFEST 2019 COMING SOON

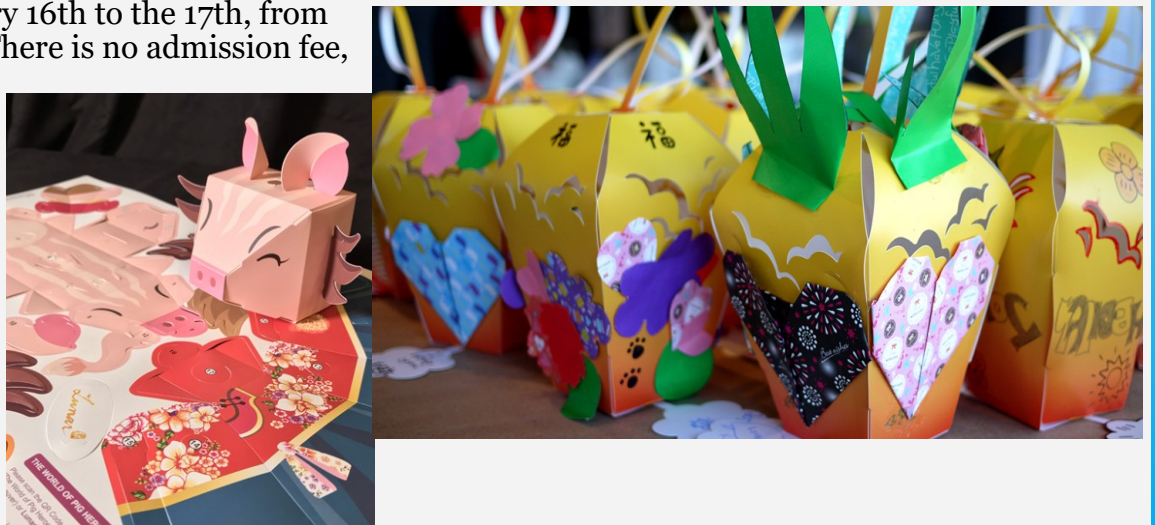
### Berczy Students will light up the Varley Art Gallery

This year, the Varley Art Gallery asked students of William Berczy to complete an extremely special task. The special task? To create lanterns for LunarFest 2019. The students were also encouraged to be incredibly creative with their lanterns. But, there was one restriction—not to make it too scary. The classes and the Art Club's creative lanterns will be showcased in the annual event, LunarFest. They are also encouraged to incorporate a few elements from Lunar New Year, which is the Year of the Pig. For example, some elements they could include were colour, form, shape, space, etc.



LunarFest will be held at the Varley Art Gallery, and it will have a lot of entertaining activities for everyone. The event is also held in partnership with the National Palace Museum in Taiwan. This festival will also host a very informative session about Giuseppe Castiglione, who was an Italian painter who became one of the beloved artists for three emperors in the Qing Dynasty. Some other activities include making your own lantern, a money bath, and a gong for a 'fortune'. If you want more details, go to the [lunarfest.com/varley-art-gallery/](http://lunarfest.com/varley-art-gallery/) for more information.

LunarFest is on February 16th to the 17th, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There is no admission fee, and this event is for all ages. Parents and students are strongly encouraged to attend this special event. Lunarfest will be at the Varley Art Gallery (216 Main Street Unionville). Special thanks to the Varley Art Gallery for inviting Berczy students to participate!



# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HAPPY YEAR OF THE PIG!

**Celebrate Lunar New Year at the Varley Art Gallery**

### What is LunarFest?

**LunarFest** is an annual event across Canada that celebrates the Lunar New Year through Arts and Culture. The focus for 2019 is the Year of the Pig : a symbol of great fortune. An auspicious symbol, it hopes to inspire people to not only save money, but to also save and treasure their dreams.



### 2019 LunarFest - Year of the Pig (Toronto)

Feb. 16-17 11:00am-4:00pm  
@ Varley Art Gallery, Markham

Feb. 18 11:00am-4:00pm Family Day  
@ Living Arts Centre, Mississauga



2019  
YEAR OF THE PIG

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HAPPY YEAR OF THE PIG!

**Celebrate Lunar New Year at the Varley Art Gallery**

### 2019 Artistic Direction: *Saving the Moment*

Dreams are important for people. They are inspirations for the future. For most children, we grow up learning to save money with piggy banks; with every coin deposited to the piglet, there is always a goal in mind or a something to wish for. These wishes may include the birthday gifts from parents, dreams to start a business, a vacation with loved ones or a fund to get married. These are not just the moments to wish for greater future but also moments to savour with people who are most important to our lives. Saving these moments of love, courage, inspiration or friendship is similar to accumulating the invaluable fortunes of our lives; they will always be there to relieve the sufferings, challenges, bumps or bruises that we might encounter in our life's journey.

Pig is a symbol for great fortune and the piggy bank is also a world-wide phenomenon. 2019 LunarFest wishes everyone treasures every moment of love and happiness. The LunarFest piggy bank is not just about saving money – it is to save all those moments that we live for.



*Lunar* Fest

2019

YEAR OF THE PIG

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HAPPY YEAR OF THE PIG!

Celebrate Lunar New Year at the Varley Art Gallery

### Sky Lanterns



❖ Not just a source of light, lanterns have a rich cultural tradition and are an important part in celebrating the Lunar New Year.

❖ Students can try techniques learned in the workshop, or experiment on their own.

❖ Transform the lantern into something that lifts up your spirits, and brings you joy.

❖ Use the provided lantern to decorate and create a new spin on the lantern.

#### School Tour

Applications Open – Now to December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018

Sky Lantern School Tour – Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> 2019

*Lunar* <sup>Fest</sup>

2019  
YEAR OF THE PIG

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME TRUSTEE LYNN!

### A Message from Trustee Ron Lynn

Welcome back. I hope everyone is feeling refreshed following the winter break, and that you had a happy and safe holiday season. While the weather may be colder, I also hope that you had time to enjoy this beautiful season in Ontario.

It is my honour to serve as your school board trustee and to uphold the [values](#) of York Region District School Board. The new [Board of Trustees](#) was sworn in on December 3, following the October municipal elections. Together, we look forward to moving forward the four priorities outlined in the [Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#):

- Foster well-being and mental health
- Build collaborative relationships
- Champion equity and inclusivity
- Empower ethical leadership

There are a lot of exciting things happening in our schools and classrooms to foster and support student well-being and mental health. Ask your child what's happening in their school, and how they take care of themselves. As adults, we often focus on the health and well-being of the children in our lives, but it's also essential that we take care of ourselves. Taking time to do the things we enjoy and nurture our own health is also important and helps to model a healthy and active lifestyle for our children.

An important part of my [role as a trustee](#) is to listen, and I look forward to connecting with members of our school community in the coming weeks and months. We will continue working to build collaborative relationships with our communities and to keep you informed about the things happening in the school board. I wish you all the best as we enter 2019.

**Ron Lynn**

**Trustee – Markham Wards 2, 3 and 6**



# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DREAMBOX LEARNING PROGRAM

### Intuitive Software Aims to Improve Student Math Achievement

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William Berczy Public School has once again purchased DreamBox Learning's Math Program; an online, Intelligent Adaptive Learning(tm) program that helps all students achieve better, faster math proficiency.

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 December.

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 an Internet browser or iPad.

To access DreamBox on 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".



# SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Wednesday  
March 27  
7:00pm – 8:00pm

## School Council Meeting

Please mark your calendars!

All parents are welcome, and encouraged to attend.

### Upcoming Dates... *Mark your calendars!*

February 7	YRDSB Robotics Challenge
February 12	Report Cards go home
February 13	Graduation Photos for SK and Gr. 8s
February 14	Valentine's Day Dance
February 18	Family Day Holiday
February 21	February Family Festival
February 25	Grade 7 VIP
February 27	Pink Shirt Day
March 11 to 15	March Break
March 19	Gifted Information Evening
March 27	School Council Meeting

#### *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!