



# Barbara Reid Public School

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Website: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/barbarareid.ps>  
905-591-3800

Week of February 5, 2024

## How to Reach Us

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**Trustee**

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## Touchstone Focus

We celebrate our diverse ideas. Collaboration helps us succeed.

## Important Dates

February 6: Robotics Area Competition at Maple Leaf PS  
Freshii lunch for those who ordered

February 7: Intermediate boys basketball home game vs.  
Glad Park P.S.

Pizza lunch for those who ordered

February 8: Intermediate boys basketball away game vs. Whitchurch  
Highlands P.S.

Sub lunch for those who ordered

February 10: Lunar New Year

February 13: Freshii lunch for those who ordered

February 14: Valentine's Day

Pizza lunch for those who ordered

Intermediate boys basketball home game vs.  
Ballantrae P.S.

February 15: Sub lunch for those who ordered

February 16: Family Movie Night

February 19: Family Day - no school

February 20: Freshii lunch for those who ordered

February 21: Pizza lunch for those who ordered

February 22: Sub lunch for those who ordered

February 23: Intermediate boys basketball Areas

February 27: Freshii lunch for those who ordered

February 28: Pizza lunch for those who ordered

February 28: [Pink Shirt Day](#)

February 29: Sub lunch for those who ordered

February is [Black History Month](#)

## A Message from the Office

We were thrilled to see so many families and students at BRPS's Family Literacy Night. We very much appreciate the leadership of the BRPS educators who led this event, and their commitment to student success. Thank you for all you do!

We also appreciate the support of our School Council and parent volunteers for their support in ensuring our parking lot is safe for all during pick-up and drop-off. We have seen significant improvement, and thank all community members for following the guidelines provided.

The BRPS Reflection Room and Multifaith Space is Room 104. Any students/families wishing to make use of that space, including for prayer, can contact Ms. Kaderdina to confirm the process.

Lunches for March and April are now available for purchase via School Cash Online. Please log in to your account for additional information at <https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

If you do not have a school cash online account, please contact the office at 905-591-3800 after 10 am Monday to Friday and we can help you.

The deadline to purchase is Sunday, February 25, 2024

### Resources

Special Education Information and translated versions of important documents can be accessed on the YRDSB page.

### Faith Accommodations

can be requested at any time. Please reach out to the school if you need to make a request.

Grade 8 – Open House Information Nights (including calendar) and

Transition Supports for Grade 8 to Grade 9

can be accessed on the YRDSB website.

### Reminders

Cell Phone Use during the school day, including at recesses is with teacher permission and for learning purposes only. Urgent messages can be conveyed between students and families through the office if necessary.

Kindergarten Registration for September 2024 began January 19, 2024. Children who turn four or five years old during 2024, live within the school boundary, and whose parents/guardians are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for Kindergarten.

There are several ways you can register for Kindergarten:

- Online at [www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten). It is recommended that families use a laptop or a desktop, rather than a mobile device to complete this registration.
- Download the [Elementary School Registration Form](#) at [www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten](http://www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten) and email the completed form to [barbara.reid.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:barbara.reid.ps@yrdsb.ca).
- Phone us at 905-591-3800. Families can request an interpreter, if needed, during this phone conversation.
- Visit the school office to drop off or complete a registration form.

Once you have completed your application, the school will contact you to make an appointment to review and verify the required documents.

You can learn more about the Kindergarten program at [www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten](http://www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten). We look forward to welcoming our new students and families to BRPS!

Allergies: Our school is nut-free, peanut-free, and sesame-free. Please ensure all food items are free of these ingredients.

### Mental Health Tip

Be kind to yourself. Consider taking time out for yourself to lessen your stress. Try taking breaks when needed, spend time with friends, and most importantly do something that makes you smile.

Thank you to the Mental health and Well-Being Committee for our tips!

### A Message from the Grade 8 Teachers

### Acts of Kindness Cookies!



Our Grade 8s will begin their grad fundraising by pre-selling "Acts of Kindness" cookies during lunch from **January 29th - February 9th**.

Cookies are \$2 each and students have the opportunity to send a personalized message with their cookie!

Cookies will be delivered **February 14<sup>th</sup>** to classes.

This year, the 8s will also donate a portion of the funds raised to [360° Kids](#) (selected as a 2023 Top 100 Charities in Canada!)

Get your **Acts of Kindness Cookies** and support the Grade 8s today!

**Pre-order for \$2 Each**

Cookies will be delivered February 14th

A Message from Mme Loconte

The BRPS Reach for the Top Team competed in the School Reach tournament at Oscar Peterson PS on January 16th. Despite being a new team, our grade 7 and 8 students advanced all the way to the quarter final round. Madame Loconte would like to thank all of the members of the team for their hard work this season and all of the families and friends that came out for their support.

A Message from School Council



The BRPS School Council is happy to announce a Family Movie Night on February 16th. Admission is free and snacks will be available for purchase. See the [flyer](#) for more details.

Contact [barbara.reid.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca](mailto:barbara.reid.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca) with any questions.

Please RSVP using the survey below so that we have an idea of numbers.

Register at <https://forms.gle/VB1vLiQ5EoSbkWDGA>

From the Board

[Celebrating Black History Month / BHM365 - Events 2024](#)

Celebration of Black History Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950s. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History Month in Ontario in 1993, and in 1995, the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Parliament in Ottawa.


These declarations set the stage for acknowledging the contributions of Black people of African Heritage to the cultural, economic, political and social fabric of Canada dating back to the early 1600s. They have also increased our awareness that people of African and Caribbean Heritage

| Celebrating Black History Month / BHM365 Events 2024                           |   |                                    |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| *Dates and times subject to change   |   |                                    |
| Student Events and Family Engagement (please share with your school community) |   |                                    |
| Date and Time  | Event Information/Details   | Location                           |
| February 8, 2024   | A Discussion for Families of Black Children on Pathway Opportunities for Students and Families<br><a href="#">Register Here</a>   | Dr. Betty Reid Room 113            |
| February 27, 2024<br>7:00-8:00pm   | Anti-Biasness in Schools - Virtual Affinity Session for Black Students, Families and Black Staff with Presenters Duane Spencer and Dr. Karli L'Abbate<br><a href="#">Register Here</a>  | Online<br>Register to Receive Link |
| February 29, 2024<br>5:00pm - 6:30pm   | Family Cookout with Chef Maurice Knight - Open to All Student & Families<br>Light refreshments will be served.<br>Register to gain access to the event<br><a href="#">Register Here</a> | Dr. Betty Reid 113                 |


are an integral part of Canadian history.

During the month of February, we deliberately reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its diversity, and we join all Canadians in celebrating Black History Month. During this month we are able to appreciate the significance of African people in world history by centering people of African, Caribbean, and Canadian heritage, famous and not so famous, who have influenced the nation and the world through their ideas, words and actions.

All are welcome to participate in this celebration!



**York Region District School Board**  
**UBUNTU HEALING CIRCLE**  
**Winter/Spring 2024**



A virtual healing circle for Black identified students across YRDSB to join together in an inclusive affinity space, focused on supporting emotional well-being. This space is one that has been created to promote healing, wellness and resilience for Black identified students.  
The group will be facilitated by members of the School Social Work Team.  
Students in grades 7-12 are invited to attend and participation will occur virtually.

**Grades Served:** Grade 7 to Grade 12 students from schools across YRDSB  
**Modality:** Virtual offering  
**Language of Service:** Services will be offered in English.  
**Total sessions:** 8 sessions  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**Time:** 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm (Weekly)

For more information, or to sign up: Please ask your Teacher, Guidance Counselor, SEWT, Student Success Teacher, Principal, or Vice Principal to contact either: Melanie Beckford, RSW or Tracy Thomas-Eaton, RSW  
at the following email address: [communitycareteam@yrdsb.ca](mailto:communitycareteam@yrdsb.ca)

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Beginning Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for a total of 8 weekly sessions

### [Tamil Heritage Month](#)

The York Region District School Board recently commemorated Tamil Heritage Month. In this special episode, Initha Subramaniam, Vice Principal at Legacy Public School, led the discussion, shedding light on the origins of Educators for Tamil Student Success (ETSS). Formed in 2009 amidst the aftermath of the Sri Lankan conflict, ETSS emerged as a beacon of support for Tamil students grappling with the traumas of war. ETSS has grown into a dynamic community of advocates within the YRDSB.

Over the years, ETSS has organized a plethora of initiatives, including the Uukkamathu Kaividaale Awards, which celebrates Tamil student achievements across various schools in the York Region. ETSS fosters community engagement through workshops, events, and collaborations with culturally responsive partners. Their efforts extend beyond the classroom, as they actively work with senior leadership and diverse departments to co-create supportive frameworks for Tamil students and staff alike. Integral to their mission is the celebration of Tamil Heritage Month, a testament to their grassroots activism in advocating for its recognition at the provincial level.

As the discussion unfolds, panelists further delve into their experiences and contributions, exemplifying the spirit of unity and empowerment ingrained in the Tamil Heritage Month celebrations.

[Listen to the podcast episode](#)

(Click on image for link)



Do you need a computer?

Renewed Computer Technology (RCT) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with increased access to information and communications technology (ICT), skill development and learning opportunities, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

Working with York Region District School Board we are offering affordable, renewed computer packages.



- 1. Scan QR code or phone
- 2. Visit website at [www.rct.ca](http://www.rct.ca)
- 3. Click on the application and review

You can apply for this program if you are:

A resident of Ontario and you are unemployed with limited income.

Parents or legal guardians may apply on behalf of a child or youth under the age of 18.

We offer 1 computer, per family, with a limit of 2 per household per year.

For more information, please contact:

Alexander Oliver  
RCT Community Engagement Lead  
AOliver@rct.ca

All systems include our  
**STANDARD 1 YEAR DEPOT WARRANTY**

\*Batteries not covered by warranty

We have Desktop Packages from \$795.00 to \$1450.00.

Plus \$60.00 to ship the computer to your home.



You get a desktop complete with Windows 10 and MS Office 2019 - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and OneDrive plus learning software, monitor, keyboard and mouse.

We have Laptop Packages from \$1400.00 to \$2550.00.

Plus \$40.00 to ship the computer to your home.



You get a laptop complete with Windows 10 and MS Office 2019 - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and OneDrive plus learning software.

\*Computers may not appear exactly as shown

with funding from  
Canada

Visit Us Online @ [www.RCT.ca](http://www.RCT.ca)



(Click on image for link to flyer)

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See the [letter from the Board](#) for more information.

Learning about Mental Health Presentation Series (LAMPS)

The YRDSB Central Mental Health Team is proud to be offering the *Learning about Mental Health Presentation Series (LAMPS)*.

The objective of the series is to promote and enhance mental health literacy. The first session is “Anxiety in School-Aged Youth, a Presentation for Parents and Caregivers” and will occur virtually on February 28 from 6 - 7 p.m.

The presentation will focus on the characteristics of anxiety, and some general strategies that may be beneficial in supporting your children and their anxiety.

These sessions are offered to any parent/guardian. Translation will be provided in a limited number of languages.

Please [Register](#) by February 27, 2024

Tips for Winter Walking

The YRDSB encourages families to [choose active travel](#), like walking or biking whenever possible all year round. Active school travel benefits student mental health, well-being and academic performance, builds social connections and reduces traffic and pollution around schools.

Here are a few tips to help you stay safe and enjoy winter walks to school.

1. Dress for the weather. Wear layers. Don't forget your hat and mitts.
2. Protect your feet. Wear warm socks and winter boots. They will protect your feet from snow, rain and cold and have good grips.
3. Be visible. Wear bright clothes, stay on the sidewalks and make sure cars can see you when you cross the road.
4. Allow a little more time. Prepare your winter gear the night before, and give yourself a little more time to walk to school.
5. Try walking like a penguin. It's fun and practical.
6. Enjoy the snow. Catch snowflakes, talk about what you love most about the winter.
7. Obey road signs. The seasons change but road safety rules remain. Stop at roads and crosswalks. Cross with a crossing guard where possible. Look out for cars.

It's never too early to start to teach road safety. Your child will become a safe, responsible and independent pedestrian by experience and practice. Starting them as young as kindergarten will equip them with the skills they need to walk on their own in all seasons at an earlier age.

Working together, we can all help to keep students safe. For more information about how you can help to create a safe school transportation zone, please visit our [website](#).

Monthly Math

Please visit the [board's math page](#) for useful information about what students learn in school and for resources to support math learning at home.

Thank you to the YRDSB Math Consultant Team for our Monthly Math!

Krypto

Krypto is a card game designed by Daniel Yovich in 1963. This game is a great opportunity to build flexibility with numbers and operations.

Goal: Be the first player to create a sequence to achieve the target card value.

How to Play: The [Krypto deck](#) consists of 56 cards: three each of numbers 1-6, four each of the numbers 7-10, two each of 11-17, one each of 18-25.

Six cards are dealt: a common target card at the top and five other cards below.

Each player must use all five of the cards' numbers exactly once, using any combination of operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), to form the target card's number.



The first player to come up with a correct sequence wins. Order of operations matters!

This can be played collaboratively with the same five numbers for all players or each player can have their own different set of five cards.

For example:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Target Card: 20</i><br><i>Playing Cards: <b>2, 1, 2, 2, 3</b></i><br><br>$2 + 1 = 3$<br>$3 \times 3 = 9$<br>$9 \times 2 = 18$<br>$18 + 2 = 20$ | <i>Target Card: 1</i><br><i>Playing Cards: <b>24, 22, 23, 20, 21</b></i><br><br>$22 + 24 = 46$<br>$46 \div 23 = 2$<br>$2 + 20 = 22$<br>$22 - 21 = 1$ |
|---|--|

Primary Version: To modify this game you can use a set of [Primary Krypto](#) cards in which the deck has three of each of the numbers from 1-10.

Please visit the [board's math page](#) for useful information about what students learn in school and for resources to support math learning at home.

Problem of the Month

When a number is multiplied by itself, the answer is a perfect square. For example, 25 is a perfect square because 5 x 5 is 25. In how many ways can the number 1764 be written as the product (multiply) of two perfect squares?

*Look for the answer in our March newsletter!*

From our last Newsletter:

In how many ways can 15 identical red blocks be put into four piles so that each pile has at least one block and no two piles have the same number of blocks? (The order of the piles does not matter).

Answer:

There are 6 ways to create four piles with 15 objects and no piles have the same number of objects.

1 2 3 9

1 2 4 8  
1 2 5 7  
1 3 4 7  
1 3 5 6  
2 3 4 6

## From the Community



Shared from the Newmarket  
African Caribbean Canadian  
Association (NACCA)

Disrupting the tenets of Euromodern colonialism has been a central practice among Black scholars, writers, community leaders and artists for decades.

When we look across our community, province and country, we see that Black Canadians everywhere are telling their stories and reshaping Canadian history.

This Black History Month, we will delve into conversations about how Black Canadians are using storytelling as a mode of resistance to counteract the systemic erasure, silencing, and marginalizing of Black Canadian history and experience. Storytelling, in all its forms, presents a counter-narrative in the change movement. Black Canadians are “talking back” to large narratives of benevolence.

[Register](#) for a variety of events taking place throughout February.

## [Standing in the Doorway: Lived Histories & Experiences of the Chinese Community](#)

縈繞中華文化: 華人社區歷史和生活展覽

萦绕中华文化: 华人社区历史和生活展览

Home. Place. Belonging. Throughout Canadian history, people of Chinese descent have contributed to the development of our nation. They resisted and persevered, overcoming stereotypes, labels, and racist policies. They created homes and built places and spaces to foster connection and community.

Now, we commemorate and remember the contributions of Chinese Canadians over the past 100 years since the Chinese Exclusion Act. Markham Museum and the York Region District School Board Museum & Archives have worked in conjunction with YRDSB students, and the University of Toronto Museum Studies program to develop this exhibit. It is on display at Markham Museum from September 28, 2023 to February 25, 2024, and is available as an online exhibit [here](#). The exhibit will then travel to public venues and schools in York Region.

Explore, learn, and listen to the stories, traditions and knowledge of the diverse Chinese Canadian community from Markham and York Region.



### Literacy Glossary for Parents and Caregivers

At our school, we are deeply committed to supporting every child in learning to read. We are on a collaborative journey to provide the best possible instruction for all students, and we value our partnership with you. Please see below for some literacy terms you may hear or see us use.

**Phoneme**

A phoneme is a **sound** in a language. In English, there are around 44 sounds or phonemes that make up our spoken language. We use these sounds when we speak.

**Phonemic Awareness**

Research on how children learn to read shows that phonemic awareness is incredibly important in predicting which students will learn to read easily, and which will have difficulty. Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and work with the phonemes, or sounds, of language.

We teach students to:

- Identify the sounds they hear in words
- What is the first sound you hear in 'cup'?
- Blend individual sounds together to make a word
- What sounds are in 'cup'? - push them together, and what is the word?
- Split a word into its individual sounds
- What are the sounds you hear in the word 'truck'?

**Grapheme**

A grapheme is the **letter** or **combination of letters** that represent phonemes, or sounds.

Some graphemes are single letters, like 'c' or 'g', but some are combinations of more than one letter, like 'ch' or 'igh'.

**Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondence (Phonics)**

Reading and writing is like cracking a code. When students read, they are translating symbols on a page to oral language. When they write, they are translating oral language to print.

To do this, students need to know the relationships between letters and sounds. We teach these relationships clearly and directly, and give students lots of practice with them, so they develop strong reading and spelling skills.

ONit

This [resource](#) may be useful for families as we partner to support student learning.