



**BEYNON FIELDS P.S.
Community Newsletter
December 22, 2023**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please review below some important updates and reminders.

Winter Break

Beynon Fields PS is closed for the next two weeks (from December 25 - January 5) for Winter Break. The school re-opens and **classes resume on January 8, 2024.**

BFPS Student Spirit Wear now Available

Beynon Fields clothing, known as spirit wear, is now available for purchase. It can be purchased through the following link: https://stores.inksoft.com/beynon_fields_public_school/shop/home

Thank You Message from Student Council

This past month, Student Council organized a drive in support of The Richmond Hill Community Food Bank and the York Regional Police's Holiday Heroes campaign. We wish to express our sincerest gratitude to the entire Beynon Fields community for your generous contributions. The success of this initiative could not have been achieved without you. We are very excited to share that between the homeroom collections, staff versus student volleyball games, and gingerbread raffle, we were able to collect a very impressive amount of items, in addition to just over \$800. Your donations will go towards supporting those in need in our local community.

Way to go Coyotes!

Resources For Over the Break

For those looking for some resources to continue learning at home over the break, please see the chart below.



Learning over the Break

What is it for?	Resource	website	Info	Username password
Knowledge!	BrainPop	https://fr.brainpop.com/	Tons of curriculum related videos and activities. Also quizzes kids can do online!	Beynonfields pop1
	Encyclopedia Britannica	https://school.eb.com/	Learn something new every day! Access Multi-media, journal, news and magazine articles, biographies, compare countries, lesson plans, 3 learning levels with read-aloud functionality. Can change the language to French (but it is just google translate).	dsbyork dsby7692
Math	Knowledgehook	https://www.knowledgehook.com/	No need to sign up with a Classroom. Fun Math activities that are directly linked to the Ontario Math curriculum	Sign up with a google account (not GAPPS)
	Khan Academy	https://www.khanacademy.org/	Great interactive website that offers short tutorials but also activities.	You do not need to make an account but you can for free!
	Typing Games	https://www.typing.com/student/games	Now that you know how to properly use a keyboard here are some games to practice!	None!
	Sora	https://soraapp.com/library/yorkregionca	Read or listen to thousands of amazing books - all for free. Books available in French and English (but also other languages too!)	0 + Student number

	Storybooks Canada	https://www.storybooks.ca/stories/fr/0087/	“Storybooks Canada is a free open educational resource that promotes literacy and language learning in homes, schools, and communities. Part of the Global Storybooks project, it makes 40 stories from the African Storybook available with text and audio in English, French, and the most widely spoken immigrant and refugee languages of Canada.”	None!
	Indigenous Storybooks	https://indigenoustorybooks.ca/	“Indigenous Storybooks is a resource designed specifically for children, families, community members, and educators. Inspired by the open-licensed stories from Little Cree Books , this project aims to make the text, images, and audio of stories available in Indigenous languages as well as English, French, and the most widely spoken immigrant and refugee languages of Canada.”	None!
Sound work (in French)	apprendre à lire	https://apprendrealire.net/	All great websites with sound work and vocabulary! Great for our emerging readers!	None
	logiciel éducatif	https://www.logicieleducatif.fr/jeux/domaine/les-sons		None
	Clic! Ma Classe	https://clicmaclasse.fr/		None

French Immersion Registration 2024-25

Grade 1 French Immersion (FI) Information Sessions and Registrations

What is French Immersion?

- Provides opportunities for students to develop enhanced proficiency in French.
- Students receive instruction in French from teachers who are fluent in French.
- Begins in Grade 1 and is designed for children whose first language is not French.
- In Grades 1, 2 and 3, all subjects are taught in French. Starting in Grade 4, instructional time is shared equally between French and English.
- Program continues in secondary school.
- Secondary school students must earn at least 10 French Immersion credits to qualify for the French Immersion Certificate upon graduation.

Important Considerations

- Grade 1 is the only entry point into French immersion in YRDSB.
- Communication with parents/guardians is in English including, but not limited to, report cards, newsletters and parent-teacher interviews.
- For the first few months of Grade 1, children may not acquire skills identical to those learned by children in an English program as the focus is on learning in French.
- During the first few years of the FI program, students may not develop the same level of English proficiency as their peers in an English program, however children should acquire these skills by the end of Grade 8. Families are encouraged to continue to read to their children in their first language.

FI Accommodation Plan

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enroll. The FI program is offered in Dual Track or Single-Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools.

More information is available on the [Board's website](#). Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Information Sessions

This year, our Information session for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion program will take place in French Immersion schools on January 18, 2024, at 7 p.m. Program locations and additional information is available on [our website](#). If families are unable to attend the information session, they can hear about the French Immersion program on the [Tune In YRDSB: French Immersion Podcast](#).

Registration

FI registration will begin on January 19, 2024. Parents or guardians of Year 2 Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2023, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can email or call their home school office and indicate their intention to enrol. The home school will notify the French Immersion school, and the French Immersion school will contact families by phone or email to collect any necessary information. Families are asked to register by February 6, 2024. Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Late Registrations

Late registrations are those submitted after February 6, 2024. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

Christmas

December 25 is Christmas for most Christians in the West. Some Orthodox Churches, such as the Ukrainian or Greek Church, follow the Julian calendar and will celebrate Christmas on January 7.

For Christians, Christmas is a joyous religious celebration of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Christians recognize Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah, the Son of God, and accept him as their Saviour and Lord. Western Christianity celebrates Christmas on December 25 following the Gregorian calendar. Some followers of Eastern Christian churches follow the Julian calendar and celebrate Christmas in early January.

Christmas has a long tradition of gift giving which originates with the New Testament account of the Three Wise Men bearing gifts to the newborn baby. Many Christians acknowledge this aspect of Christmas on January 6th, known as Epiphany or the Day of the Three Kings. Christmas has also become a secular holiday enjoyed by many non-Christians. Many celebrate Christmas by exchanging gifts, singing, visiting with family and friends, and attending services in Church.

Kwanza

Created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga, a professor of African Studies, Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday that celebrates history, values, family, community and

culture. It is a seven-day cultural festival which begins December 26 and ends January 1. It joins communitarian values and practices of Continental African and African American culture.

The ideas and concepts of Kwanzaa are expressed in the Swahili language, one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa. The seven principles which form its core were drawn from communitarian values found throughout the African continent. These principles are: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith).

Kwanzaa gets its name from the Swahili phrase, “matunda ya kwanza” and is rooted in first fruit celebrations which are found in cultures throughout Africa both in ancient and modern times.

ROM Discount for Activities over the Break

Looking for activities to do over the break? Check out the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). ROM is offering 15% off admission to YRDSB students and their families. For more information, please [see the flyer](#).

Safety Courses for Students

There are two upcoming courses available for students.

Please note the target grade for each:

(1) **[Red Cross Babysitting Course](#)** (PA day)

Grades **5, 6, 7, and 8**

Date: Fri Feb 2 (PA day)

Time: 8:30am-3:30pm

(2) **[Red Cross Stay Safe Course](#)** (3-day session)

Grades **3, 4, and 5**

Dates: Mon Feb 5, Tues Feb 6 and Wed Feb 7

Time: (after school) 3:30-5:30pm

Registration is done online through the Stayin Alive's website. Click on the above links for more information.

Inclement Weather Days (Snow Days)

When the school board calls for “inclement weather days”, often referred to as “snow days”, it usually involves the cancellation of buses to school. Please note that on those days, paid lunch programs such as pizza, Subway, and Swiss Chalet are also canceled. In the event of an inclement weather day, please send your child(ren) to school with a packed lunch.

Student Mental Health and Addiction Newsletter - January

Student Mental Health and Addictions is pleased to provide monthly newsletters that focus on various pertinent mental health topics. Here is [January's newsletter](#).

We wish all our students and their families a safe and enjoyable winter break. Happy holidays and best wishes over this winter break.

Sincerely,

BFPS Administration