



# BEYNON FIELDS P.S.

Community Newsletter

September 29, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please review below some important updates and reminders.

## **Volunteers Wanted**

We are looking for volunteers to help with pizza lunch distribution here at BFPS. Pizza days are Thursdays this year. If any parent/guardian is willing and interested in volunteering, please email [rose.kipling@yrdsb.ca](mailto:rose.kipling@yrdsb.ca) to be added to our list.

## **Renewed Computer Technology (RCT)**

Families with children enrolled in our Board have the opportunity to purchase quality refurbished computers at a reduced cost. Applicants must live in Ontario, have a student enrolled at YRDSB and either receive government assistance payments or qualify as a limited income earner under the limited income cut-off standards. For more information, please see the [RCT Letter to Families](#).

## **Photo Day - October 11**



Wednesday,  
October 11, 2023

- ☀️ Class Group Photos & Individual Photos will be taken on this day
- ☀️ Proof Cards will be delivered to the school 3-5 days after Photo Day with all ordering information



### **Lunch Monitor Program 2023/2024**

Today we hosted an information session for students in grade 6, 7, 8 who were interested in the lunch monitor program. Your child may be coming home with an application form that will need your approval. This program is a great opportunity for students to take a leadership role within the school.

### **International Walk to School Day-October 4**

October is International Walk to School Day and Month (IWALK). It's an annual global celebration of active transportation. Students, parents, teachers, and the school community are encouraged to get walking, wheeling and rolling on the journey to and from school. October is a great month to spend time outdoors while the seasons are changing. Students will get the health benefits that time in nature provides, while also enjoying the beautiful colorful leaves and migrating birds.

When walking to school, here are some important safety tips to remember

- Look all ways before you cross the street. Always STOP, LOOK and LISTEN before crossing.
- Cross at intersections and crosswalks, when possible.
- Always make eye contact with drivers before you cross the street.
- Obey traffic signals and signs.
- Use a sidewalk if there is one.

For anyone who can't walk or cycle to school every day, we encourage you to try choosing an active mode of travel two or three times a week, or consider parking and walking a block to

decrease the pollution and improve safety around your school. If you choose to drive, please be mindful of students who walk and cycle, drive slowly and be highly vigilant of your surroundings.

Benefits of Active School Travel:

- Improves student academic performance by making students more alert and better prepared to learn.
- Improves both physical and mental health.
- Reduces traffic congestion and improves safety for everyone in school zones and around our school community.
- Improves air quality.
- Encourages social interaction and improves social skills.
- Promotes life-long habits that foster independence and active lifestyles, preparing children for their future.
- It's fun!

For more information about IWALK, please see the [Ontario Active School Travel Website](#)

### **Startup Forms**

Startup Forms are due to the office. If you haven't submitted them yet, you can find everything you need at <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/>.

### **Lunchtime Chess**

Beynon Fields is proud to offer a lunchtime chess program through Chess n' Math Association beginning this November. Families can register their child for the 7-session program which carries a cost of \$112.

Registration and payment go directly to the Chess n' Math Association. For more information and to register please visit this website: <https://chess-math.org/beynon-fields-fall2023>

### **Islamic Heritage Month - October**

Beynon Fields PS and the York Region District School Board proudly recognizes Islamic Heritage Month during the month of October and honours Muslim identities all year round.

The Government of Canada declared the month of October as Canadian Islamic History Month in 2007. In 2016, Ontario passed the [Islamic Heritage Month Act](#) to recognize, celebrate and affirm the significant contributions that Muslims continue to make as part of the vibrant social, economic, political and cultural fabric of this province.

Islamic Heritage Month (IHM) is an opportunity to reflect on and highlight the rich histories and diversity of Muslims in all aspects of society across Canada and around the world. In education, it is critical to represent the historical and contemporary excellence of Muslims through literature, the arts, math, science, and all other areas of the curriculum as part of our unwavering commitment to equity and inclusion. Affirming Muslim identity through the curriculum is

foundational for creating inclusive educational environments that centre humanity, value authenticity, and nurture belonging and joy for Muslim students.

While exploring and reflecting on Islamic history and the diversity of Islamic heritages, we must also intentionally disrupt harmful biases, deficit-based ideologies and dehumanizing narratives about Muslims.

Challenging and combating Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate and discrimination in all YRDSB schools is necessary to create safer and more inclusive learning environments for all.

### **Islamic Heritage Month Launch Event**

Join us on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at the Islamic Heritage Month Launch Event to celebrate our rich heritage and diverse cultures. For more information and to register, please see [the event flyer](#)

### **Latin Heritage Month - October**

Throughout Canada, in each and every year, the month of October is to be known as “Latin American Heritage Month”. This Act may be cited as the [Latin American Heritage Month Act](#).

Latin Hispanic Canadian Heritage Month is observed in October. It is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of Hispanic people in the province.

Ontario is home to more than 400,000 first-, second- and third-generation Canadians of Hispanic origin. As early as 1914, Canadians who originated from 23 Hispanic countries began immigrating to the province and today the Hispanic community is one of the fastest growing in Ontario.

Hispanic-Canadians represent a dynamic community that has made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario.

### **Latin Heritage Month Meet-and-Greet**

The York Region District School Board's Latine Educators Network is hosting its first meet and greet for all Latine/o/a/x families and staff. For more information and to register, please [see the event flyer](#).

### **The Centre for Black Student Excellence Newsletter | October 2023**

The Centre for Black Student Excellence newsletter is dedicated to educating families about resources in York Region District School Board in alignment under the Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy Implementation Plan. You can [read it here](#).

### **International Baccalaureate Information Night - Thursday, October 12, 2023**

The International Baccalaureate (IB) aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end, the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Students in York Region have the opportunity to earn the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma in addition to the Ontario Secondary School Diploma at the following schools:

- Alexander Mackenzie High School
- Bayview Secondary School
- Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School
- Maple High School
- Milliken Mills High School

To learn more about the IB programme, students who started Grade 8 in September 2023 and their parents/guardians are invited to attend an International Baccalaureate Programme information session on Thursday, October 12 at one of the schools listed above.

#### **GIVE - Get Involved. Volunteer in Education.**

Develop Skills to Support School Communities. This free information session is organized by York Region District School Board in partnership with Catholic Community Services of York Region. For more information and to register, please [see the flyer](#).

#### **Crossing Guard**

After a great deal of lobbying from the school and families in the community, the Town of Richmond Hill has agreed to place a crossing guard at the corner of Selwyn Rd and Tower Hill Rd. They are expected at this intersection before and after school. The placement began on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

#### **Professional Activity Day - Oct 20**

Students have a PA Day on Friday, Oct. 20. The focus of the October 20, 2023 Professional Activity Day is Student Mental Health and Well Being and Curriculum Implementation. [This document](#) outlines the format and expectations for staff in Elementary schools.

#### **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day 2023**

Every year on September 30, Canadians observe National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. It is a day to educate and promote awareness of residential schools and their lasting legacies of trauma, suffering and genocide of Indigenous Peoples. These institutions were designed to assimilate Indigenous children and to eradicate Indigenous cultural practices.

The topic of residential schools first appears in the newly revised Social Studies curriculum in Grade 1. Given the observance of Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, many Educators K-12 will take on this topic as part of their instructional program.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, observed on September 30th in Canada, is a solemn occasion dedicated to acknowledging the historical and ongoing injustices faced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit. It serves as a vital step towards reconciliation and understanding, providing an opportunity to learn about the painful legacy of residential schools and the enduring trauma experienced by Indigenous communities. On this day, schools across the country also recognize Orange Shirt Day, which specifically remembers the story of Phyllis Webstad, a survivor of the residential school system, who had her new orange shirt taken away on her first day at school. These events in schools take on a solemn tone as students and educators engage in activities and discussions that foster empathy, respect, and awareness of the hardships endured by First Nations, Métis and Inuit, promoting a more inclusive and equitable society for future generations. We encourage YRDSB staff and students to wear an orange shirt on Friday, September 29, 2023, to recognize the resiliency, bravery and survival of Residential School Survivors and those who did not come home.

Sincerely,

BFPS Administration