



The Black River Bear Weekly



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Bright Lights, Gratitude (and time for a break)...

"There is no joy without gratitude." Brene Brown

We've almost made it to Christmas! A school year that began with a staggered, uncertain September is now racing towards the halfway mark. The fall term is the longest continuous stretch of school time in the school year and, after an eventful and challenging term, we have reached the longest break of the school year. Over the past few weeks our staff and students have been embracing the excitement that this time of year brings with classroom activities designed to brighten our spirits and celebrate all we have accomplished together as a school community.

It is not a coincidence that in our northern climate, our families, diverse as they may be, choose to brighten the dark days of early winter with colourful lights and the company of those we cherish. The warmth of these celebrations helps take the sting out of our cold winter nights. After a challenging year we will have the chance to reflect and celebrate; we hope you are able to do both, safely, peacefully and with joy!

During the month of December you may be celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Aga Khan, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, or marking the death of the Prophet Zarathustra. Perhaps you will be celebrating your faith with the lights of Chanukah, your freedoms on Kwanzaa; or the ringing in the beginning of the New Year. Whatever your beliefs and, however you choose to celebrate them, our Black River staff wishes you all the joy of this season. We are proud to work in a community that values and celebrates our growing diversity.

The Black River Bear Weekly will be taking a break over the next few weeks and will not publish next Friday. This will be my final edition as I slide into my retirement years; the next edition of the Weekly will not be penned by me but by our incoming principal in January. I will send out a note introducing the new principal of Black River on Wednesday, December 16th.

I will leave our school for the last time next Friday afternoon filled with happy thoughts and fond memories. I want to express my gratitude to all our families for three wonderful years and wish each of you a joyous, peaceful holiday and a Happy New Year!

Brian Harrison

The Week Ahead...

Monday, December 14th Day 3	Tuesday, December 15th Day 4	Wednesday, December 16th Day 5	Thursday, December 17th Day 1	Friday, December 18th Day 2
	Favorite Holiday Character Day		Virtual Holiday Performance Pajama Spirit Day	Happy Holidays! See you on January 4th, 2021!

Quick Hits...

Congratulations...the YRDSB Board of Trustees selected the officers of the board this past week and have elected our Georgina Trustee, Cynthia Cordova, to serve as Chair of the Board. Along with her continued service to the students and families in Georgina, Cynthia will also assume a prominent leadership role at the board and provincial level. We'd like to offer our congratulations to Cynthia and wish her all the best in this exciting opportunity.

Little Feet/Big Steps...Kindergarten registration **for the 2021-22 school year** will commence in January (details to follow). Registration may be completed online or by downloading the registration forms from the YRDSB website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2021, live within our school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. Details on the online registration process will be available in January.

Winter Break Planning...in order to prepare for any possible changes to school access after Christmas; we are suggesting that students make sure they bring home any important materials and possessions when they depart from school for the holiday break next Friday. Our staff will make sure that students bring home their indoor shoes and winter clothing items with them before we break for the holidays.

Virtual Holiday Performances...our staff and students have been hard at work preparing safe, socially distanced performances to share with our community next week. We were hard at work recording and editing the class presentations this week (thanks to Christine Ford and Andrew Halstead) and will have details on how families can safely and securely access these 'Corona Christmas' performances online early next week.

Holiday Greetings...as our hard working Black River staff gets ready for a well-deserved holiday break we would like to wish all our students and families a peaceful, safe and healthy holiday season. We truly appreciate the cooperation you have shown during this difficult fall term and are grateful for your continued support. Wishing you all the best and looking forward to welcoming you all back in January after our winter break!

January @ Black River Public School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 Day 3 Welcome back!	5 Day 4	6 Day 5	7 Day 1	8 Day 2	9
10	11 Day 3	12 Day 4	13 Day 5	14 Day 1	15 PA Day No classes today	16
17	18 Day 2	19 Day 3	20 Day 4	21 Day 5	22 Day 1	23
24	25 Day 2	26 Day 3	27 Day 4	28 Day 5	29 Day 1	30
31	Feb. 1 PA Day No classes today	Feb. 2 Day 2	Feb. 3 Day 3	Feb. 4 Day 4	Feb. 5 Day 5	Feb. 6

Please remember to check our school [website](#) calendar for current updates and details on school events.

