



The Black River Bear Weekly



Vol. 3.5 November 30th, 2019

Web <http://blackriver.ps.yrdsb.ca/>

Twitter [@blackriverps](https://twitter.com/blackriverps)

Telephone 905.722.5889

Principal: brian.harrison@yrdsb.ca VP: christine.smith@yrdsb.ca

Superintendent: drew.mcNaughton@yrdsb.ca ph. 905-895-5155

Trustee: cynthia.cordova@yrdsb.ca ph. 905-722-5889

Making Memories...

The calendar turns to December next week and our school year is approaching the halfway point (hard to believe). This is a busy time of year in our school; as we are sure it is in the homes of our families. This fact makes some of the events that we would like to acknowledge and highlight appreciated even more. We recently hosted many of our students and parents for interviews and conferences in the support of the sharing of student Progress Reports and there are some special activities and events being planned over the next few weeks; with class celebrations and integrated learning experiences connected to the many cultural highlights of the season.

Though a great deal of our focus continues to be on student wellness and academic learning; we also know that December is a time that allows us to create experiences for our students that go beyond academic learning and create lasting, fond memories.

We wish to highlight a few of these activities and events over the next few weeks while we acknowledge the efforts of the staff who have led them and offer our appreciation for the time they have freely given. Our **Student Leadership Team** has been working hard to create short classroom presentations on how to manage stress that they will be sharing with our younger students. Our **Junior Girls and Boys Volleyball Teams** are getting ready for their January tournaments with and our **Intramural Team Handball** league is underway. Lastly, staff and students are preparing for **Annual Holiday Concert** scheduled for an afternoon performance at **2:00 pm on Thursday, December 19th**.

We are looking forward to an afternoon filled with a wonderful range of artistic performances; highlighting the many talents of our students. We are proud of our students and the efforts they have put forth and truly grateful to our dedicated staff for sharing their time and talents!

Brian Harrison & Christine Smith

The Week Ahead...

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|
| Mon. Dec. 2nd | Day 1 | |
| Tues. Dec. 3rd | Day 2 | |
| Wed. Dec. 4th | Day 3 | |
| Thurs. Dec. 5th | Day 5 | Pizza Lunch Bus Safety Presentations |
| Fri. Dec. 6th | Day 5 | |

Quick Hits...

Lunch Procedure...the decision to allow a child to go off school property for lunch is one that parents make after considering several factors. The age and maturity of the child and the trust that the parent has their child can handle the responsibility. Though we do have a lunch time crossing guard on the corner, it is important that parents stress the need for their child to be safe when they are out in the community at lunch. We expect that students who go out for lunch will be respectful and responsible in the community and that they will be back at school in time for class (at 2:00). We also expect that parents will send in a note granting permission for their child to go out for lunch on those days (unless they gave permission for the full year back in September). For safety and liability reasons; **we do not allow students to make a phone call for permission to go out for lunch**, please make sure they bring a lunch note and hand it in at the office on the days you are given your child permission so we have written confirmation of your consent.

Council Corner...

School Lunchbox Orders...Our School Council has partnered with www.lunchboxorders.com as part of its ongoing fundraising plan. For every lunch or Booster Juice order placed a contribution will be made in support of school programs and enhancements. Lunchbox Orders is paperless and cashless.

Council Updates and information...Parents are invited to join our **Black River School Council**. Council members work together to support student learning and wellness, host events and enhance our school program. The council meets the **first Monday of the month (except December and March)**. Please follow our [Black River School Council Facebook Page](#) for more information on what we are planning and what is happening in the school.

December @ Black River Public School

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1 Advent Begins | 2 Day 1 | 3 Day 2 | 4 Day 3 | 5 Day 4 Pizza Lunch School Bus Safety | 6 Day 5 | 7 |
| 8 Booster Juice orders due @ 12:00 on Lunch Box Orders Manu Agiyaras | 9 Day 1 | 10 Day 2 | 11 Day 3 Booster Juice | 12 Day 4 Pizza Lunch | 13 Day 5 Birthday of the Aga Khan | 14 |
| 15 | 16 Day 1 | 17 Day 2 | 18 Day 3 | 19 Day 4 Pizza Lunch Holiday Concert-2:00 | 20 Day 5 Community Holiday Sing-along | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Christmas Break Chanukah Begins | 24 Christmas Break | 25 Christmas Day | 26 Boxing Day Kwanza Begins Death of the Prophet Zarathushtra | 27 Christmas Break | 28 |
| 29 | 30 Christmas Break | 31 New Year's Eve | Jan. 1st New Year's Day | Jan, 2nd Christmas Break | Jan. 3rd Christmas Break | Jan. 4th Welcome back! School resumes tomorrow morning @ 9:10 |

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

A Message from Our Trustee...

One of the top priorities set out by our school board is creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and being successful. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

- Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.
- Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.
- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.
- Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

This is in addition to the ongoing work taking place in our schools. It is also important that our families know and feel that they are valued, respected and are an important part of our school community. We recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region to learn and share together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and more. It was wonderful to see so many family members there.

The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Antisemitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

With the winter weather already upon us, I also want to remind families that school transportation may be cancelled on [extreme cold or inclement weather days](#), and there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions result in school closures. To ensure families are aware, last month, we tested a new system to send text messages to families in emergency situations only. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will also be available on Board and school websites, Board social media channels and local media.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Cynthia Cordova
Trustee, Georgina