



The Black River Bear Weekly



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

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

Telephone 905.722.5889

Principal: brian.harrison@yrdsb.ca

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

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

Halloween...

As the end of the month approaches and Halloween creeps up on us, I would like to share the happy news that Halloween will not be a victim of the COVID-19 pandemic! Though we will have to make a few alterations to how we celebrate this calendar event- we are delighted that we will be able to do so this year.

As we would with a school-hosted Halloween event in any school year; we do want to address an issue that relates directly to the well being and safety of our students. We remind parents that we have children as young as three years old in our school and expect that any costumes that are worn at school will not portray characters that are too violent, frightening or have replica weapons. We also respect the cultural practices of all our families and wish to note that these considerations will be included as decisions are made about classroom celebrations. Costumes that depict cultural groups do not reflect the goals we have set to make all our students feel they belong and are respected-regardless of their cultural heritage. Together with Public Health we have developed the following protocols to ensure that our Halloween celebrations will be safe for us all:

- Celebrations will be held in the classroom only (no parades) and teachers will inform parents of the time and nature of the celebration
- Teachers may permit students to bring their costumes to school to wear; **costume masks will not be permitted**- if your child's costume includes a costume mask **please do not send it to school with your child**
- Students will continue to follow our existing COVID-19 protocols (protective masks, hand sanitizing and physical distancing)
- Parents **will not be asked** to provide any snack or food items to share with classmates- teachers may provide packaged treats

We know this won't be a typical Halloween-it is 2020 after all. We do hope that our students and families will embrace the spirit of this celebration in spite of the challenges and make the most of it. As a minimum, it should serve as an interesting Halloween memory to this most fascinating of school years!

Brian Harrison

The Week Ahead...

Monday, October 19th Day 4	Tuesday, October 20th Day 5	Wednesday, October 21st Day 1	Thursday, October 22nd Day 2	Friday, October 23rd Day 3

Quick Hits...

School Council...our next **Black River School Council** meeting has been scheduled for **Monday, November 2nd at 6:15 pm**. The meeting will be hosted using a YRDSB provided video conferencing platform. Parents interested in joining us are asked to email brian.harrison@yrdsb.ca to confirm their interest in attending. We will send out the link to the meeting in advance of the meeting.

Parent Teacher Conferences & Progress Reports...as we move into the third month of the school year our educators have begun the process of preparing Kindergarten Learning Summaries and Progress Reports- time flies! These reports will be shared with parents the week of November 16th. Over the first two weeks of November our educators will be reaching out to parents and guardians to arrange either telephone or video conferences; including those that will occur the evening of November 12th and morning of the November 13th PA day. Due to Ministry of Education, YRDSB and Public Health mandates; parents and guardians will not be able to attend in-person conferences as they have in the past. Your child's teacher will inform you on how the conferences will be scheduled; some will be using EDSBY to book times, others will contact parents directly. Information on how to access booking using EDSBY (for those who will be using this tool) will be shared next week.

Farewell...we will be saying farewell to **Juanita Nicholson**, one of our **Designated Early Childhood Educators**, as her term assignment with us will end on Tuesday, Oct. 20th. Juanita has been a valuable member of our Kindergarten team, working alongside Karen Limb and Dawn Vardy. We wish Juanita all the best and want to thank her for the many contributions she has made to our school community the past two years.

October @ Black River Public School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 27	September 28	September 29	September 30	1 Day 3	2 Day 3	3
4	5 Day 3	6 Day 1	7 Day 2	8 Day 3	9 Day 4	10
11	12 Thanksgiving Day	13 Day 5	14 Day 1	15 IPRC's Day 2	16 Day 3	17
18	19 Day 4	20 Day 5	21 Day 1	22 Day 2	23 Day 3	24
25	26 Day 4	27 Day 5	28 Day 1	29 Day 2	30 Day 3 Halloween Celebrations @ BRPS	31 Halloween

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