



The Black River Bear Weekly



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One Week...

"You realized it's not my fault~not a moment too soon" Ed Robertson

As we move forward toward the month of November it is important for us to acknowledge and celebrate the little victories that have occurred over the days and weeks of the first two months of the school year. We know that province wide, and in particular in the GTA region, COVID -19 cases have made quite an uptick, resulting in a return to the more restrictive policies that were in place earlier in the year.. In spite of this, we have been able to maintain a school environment that is healthy and safe while we have managed to create a classroom and school experience that has been positive for our students and staff. This has required a great deal of open communication and collaboration between our families and our school- for this we are truly grateful and appreciative.

Of course, there are lots of aspects of regular school life that have been impacted by the current restrictions. While families have adapted to the first wave of restrictions; we are now getting questions about some of the other traditions that we have had to pause. Things like school photos, assemblies, concerts, field trips and fundraising drives; these have all been impacted significantly by the restrictions and are just not happening right now. When asked about these restrictions I tell parents we are taking the school year one week at a time, not focusing too much on the future. When we are able to return to the traditions of the past we will- in the meantime we will continue to accept things as they are.

We do hope that families can take some comfort in the fact that when they are here, our students are having a pretty good school year. We get outside a lot more than previous years, we have tightened our classroom focus on key social and academic learning for our students and the routines we have put in place have reassured our students that they are safe at school. There is lots of laughter and fun and our students are getting along better than ever; showing empathy and care for one another; and demonstrating a wonderful resilience as we take one week at a time. We hope that you are as proud of your children as we are. Challenges are also opportunities and our students are making the best of both.

Brian Harrison

The Week Ahead...

Monday, October 26th Day 4	Tuesday, October 27th Day 5	Wednesday, October 28th Day 1	Thursday, October 29th Day 2	Friday, October 30th Day 3
	Parent/Teacher Conference Booking opens in EDSBY		Spirit Day: Wear Orange & Black	Classroom Halloween Celebrations

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.

Halloween Happenings...together with Public Health we have developed the following protocols to ensure our Halloween will be safe for 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 simple costumes to school to wear. If your child's costume requires make-up or a costume mask please do not send it to school with your child. **Staff will not be able assist students with putting on or removing their costumes;**
- 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 will provide packaged treats

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. For most of our classes; families will be able to schedule their conferences using EDSBY. Families will receive a message that the EDSBY booking site has been opened up to take bookings on **Tuesday, October 27th**. Please feel free to contact us at the school if you have any questions or concerns with the booking process or need to activate or troubleshoot your EDSBY access.

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 EDSBY Parent/Teacher Conference Booking System Opens Day 5	28 Day 1	29 Day 2 Spirit Day: Wear Orange & Black	30 Day 3 Halloween Celebrations @ BRPS	31 Halloween

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