



The Black River Bear Weekly



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Fall Fun: The 2020 Version...

The initial challenges and realities of this most fascinating school year are behind us and we move into October. Together we have faced these realities safely and successfully. Time for a little break over the Thanksgiving long weekend- a break that all our students, families and our hardworking Black team has earned.

This week our staff continued to take advantage of the wonderful fall days to get our students outside for safe and healthy outdoor learning experiences out on the forest trail system across from the school. Some of you may remember that last year our Black River team made a collective commitment to increase the opportunities for our students to learn in an outdoor setting. We knew then that the research said that when children participate in regular outdoor learning experiences it would have a positive impact on their physical, emotional and academic growth and development. What we didn't know then was that outdoor learning would become an important part of our plan to keep students and staff safer at school during the pandemic.

It's great that we can take advantage of the beautiful mixed woodland that borders our school and the large open spaces we have on school property. With that in mind, staff members set out learning spaces and walking trails of varying distances and helped our students, young and old, develop the skills and knowledge to safely engage in outdoor learning. We are excited about the opportunities that our outdoor learning will offer through the fall, winter, spring and into next June. We do want to apologize, in advance, for the muddy shoes and boots you may have cluttering up your front hallways.

On behalf of our Black River PS family we would like to wish all our students and families a restful and relaxing Thanksgiving long weekend!

Brian Harrison

The Week Ahead...

Mon. Oct. 12th Thanksgiving Day Holiday	No classes today- Happy Thanksgiving!
Tues. Oct. 13th Day 5	
Wed. Oct. 14th Day 1	
Thurs. Oct. 15th Day 2	IPRC's
Fri. Oct. 16th Day 3	

Quick Hits...

Planned Absences...we appreciate how supportive and proactive families have been when our students have become ill- either before school or once they are at school. When your child is going to be off school for a planned absence, either illness, an appointment or family commitment we ask that you please let us know. Parents and guardians have a few options to do so; they can leave a voicemail message (905-722-5889), use the attendance feature in EDSBY or send us an email (black.river.ps@yrdsb.ca). Our Safe Arrival Protocol requires us to contact the parents of all students who are absent without notification and, if we are unable to reach the parent or guardian, we then must contact the police.

COVID-19 Update...As we move into our second month under the COVID-19 protocols we can see that students are doing their best to stay safe and follow the routines we have put in place to keep us all healthy- we thank them for this and are really proud of them! At those times when students forget, whether it is not wearing their mask inside and on the bus, or getting too close to their peers, we simply remind them that all of these rules are designed not just to keep our students and staff healthy; but to make sure they do not bring the virus home. Some of our students live with medically fragile family members, others live with grandparents who are much more vulnerable to this illness. As the year goes on we promise not to let the routines we have put in place slip and continue to remind our students to wear their masks, sanitize their hands often and maintain physical distance at school.

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	31 Halloween

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