



## The Black River Bear Weekly



Vol.1.3 September 21st- 25th, 2020

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

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

Telephone 905.722.5889

Principal: [brian.harrison@yrdsb.ca](mailto:brian.harrison@yrdsb.ca)

Superintendent: [drew.mcNaughton@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drew.mcNaughton@yrdsb.ca) ph. 905-895-5155

Trustee: [cynthia.cordova@yrdsb.ca](mailto:cynthia.cordova@yrdsb.ca) ph. 905-722-5889

### Safe@School...

Next week has been designated **Safety Week** in schools across York Region. Over the course of the week in our classrooms and across the school we will engage in some activities to raise student awareness of safety and ways that they can ensure that they make choices that keep them safe- both in school and in the community. Unlike previous years, we will defer holding our actual fire and school lockdown drills during the week (ironically for safety reasons) but will review these procedures with students in class. We will also continue to remind our students about our [Caring and Safe Schools](#) policy and school behaviour expectations.

Of course we don't just focus on safety with our students during safety week; ensuring that we work to keep our students safe at school is a daily focus for us. Across the curriculum our staff focus on a wide range of topics like bullying awareness and prevention, the risks of substance abuse and safe use of online tools and social media. We also work closely with our community partners from the [York Region Police](#), [Georgina Fire & Rescue](#) and [York Region EMS](#); both with educational programs as well as direct support and involvement when required. I am impressed and proud of the commitment that our staff have to student safety; this year more than ever. I am also very proud of the cooperation and support our students have demonstrated as we have set out our COVID safety protocols and routines. I know that the grown ups at home have been instrumental in helping our students understand and follow these routines and we are all grateful for this support!

Our schools are actually very safe places; between St. Bernadette's and Black River, we have almost 500 children in our building every day with very few safety issues and when incidents do occur, we have trained and skilled adults to ensure that the incidents are addressed appropriately and our students understand that the adults are here to help them. Ultimately, we all want the same thing- a caring and safe learning environment where every child has a sense of belonging, feels safe and is learning- this is important not just this year but every year!

*Brian Harrison*

## The Week Ahead...

Mon. Sept. 21st Day 5	
Tues. Sept. 22nd Day 1	
Wed. Sept. 23rd Day 2	
Thurs. Sept. 24th Day 3	
Fri. Sept. 25th Day 4	School Council Nomination Forms due

### Quick Hits...

**Staffing Change...**Our shared Vice Principal, **Christine Smith**, is leaving us effective **Monday, Sept. 21st**, to assume an Administrator's role at the North Area Elementary Virtual School. We wish Christine all the best and want to thank her for her contributions to BRPS during her time with us.

**School Council...**the Ministry of Education has directed that **School Council meetings** may occur in a modified format, through virtual meetings and email consultations. Though many of the traditional activities of the council will not be possible this year; it will still be important for us to involve and consult with our School Council in its advisory capacity. For those interested in serving on the School Council this year I have included a fillable electronic School Council nomination form-or you can just email me at [brian.harrison@yrdsb.ca](mailto:brian.harrison@yrdsb.ca) to let me know.

**Covid 19 Update...**We are required to report all student and staff absences daily to the Ministry of Education for tracking purposes (just the numbers not the names). This information is made available to the public on the Ministry's [website](#) along with a handy [COVID-19 Screening Tool](#) that parents can use in the morning. Families need to know that when a child discloses that they are not feeling well, or becomes sick at school, we will contact the parent for immediate pickup- it is critical that each family have a plan to keep your child out of school if they are sick and pick up your child when we call. When a child is ill we will advise you to contact your doctor for follow up and request a doctor's note prior to return to school. We are educators, not doctors; it is not our role to direct families to seek a COVID 19 test. If a staff member or student is diagnosed with COVID 19 the case will be disclosed to the school community but not the identity of the individual.

# September @ Black River Public School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	August 31	1 PA Day	2 PA Day	3 PA Day	4	5
6	7 Labour Day	8 Day 1 No classes for students	9 Day 2 No classes for students	10 Day 3 School for students in SK and Group A (Gr.1-8)	11 Day 4 School for students in SK and Group B (Gr.1-8)	12
13	14 Day 5 School for students in SK and Group A (JK- Gr.8)	15 Day 1 School for students in SK and Group B (JK-Gr.8)	16 Day 2 School for all students	17 Day 3	18 Day 4	19 Rosh Hashanah
20 Rosh Hashanah	21 Day 5	22 Day 1	23 Day 2	24 Day 3	25 Day 4	26
27	28 Day 5 Yom Kippur	29 Day 1	30 Day 2	Oct. 1 Day 3	Oct. 2 Day 4	Oct. 3

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