



The Black River Bear Weekly



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In the Isolation Room...

I'm happy to share that we have launched into the school year safely and with a great deal of happiness and excitement (for both students and staff). Over the summer months, at the board level and at the school level; we consulted with medical experts and our colleagues at York Region Public Health to prepare for a safe return to school. One of the key areas of focus was the process for safely managing those times when students would become ill at school.

Obviously kids are going to get sick (at home and at school) and, most of the time, they won't be ill with COVID-19. Because of the pandemic, Public Health has directed us to follow enhanced safety precautions when a child becomes ill at school to ensure that other students and our staff are not unnecessarily exposed to illness. In our case this means students who disclose that they are sick are walked down to our Isolation Room while we contact parents for pick up. A staff member stays with the child for the entire time they are in the room (most of the time it is me) and, even though we are in full medical personal protective equipment (PPE), we do our best to reassure the child and keep them calm. Public Health has provided us with a one page information sheet that advises families on the steps they need to take once they have picked up their child based on the symptoms the child is showing.

We know this is all stressful for families- it's stressful for us too. We also know that the *best* place for our students to be this year is at school and the best way we can make that a reality is to make sure we are careful and thorough. This means we wear our masks, keep our distance, sanitize/wash our hands and stay home when we are sick. Schools and families, now more than ever will need to trust each other and work together- if we can do this we have a fighting chance of staying safe, staying healthy and staying open.

Brian Harrison

The Week Ahead...

Mon. Sept. 28th Day 5	
Tues. Sept. 29th Day 1	
Wed. Sept. 30th Day 2	Orange Shirt Day
Thurs. Oct. 1st Day 3	
Fri. Oct. 2nd Day 4	

Quick Hits...

Terry Fox...the Terry Fox Run is a long standing tradition for both Black River and St. B's. It's a tradition that we have modified this year to ensure that we keep our students in their cohorts. Next week, teachers will share the powerful story of Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope with our students. Since we are not collecting money this year, those families that are able, are encouraged to make a donation to the [Terry Fox Foundation](#). There is a link on the website home page that allows you to make a donation in our school's name if you wish.

Orange Shirt Day...Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission Residential School (1891-1981) Commemoration Project and Reunion events that took place in Williams Lake, BC in May 2013. The events were designed to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation. The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. As a school community we are humbled and proud to acknowledge this spirit and the hopes for continued reconciliation by wearing orange on Wednesday, September 30th.

September @ Black River Public School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 30	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 Orange Shirt Day	Oct. 1 Day 3	Oct. 2 Day 4	Oct. 3

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