



The Black River Bear Weekly



Vol.1.1 September 9th- 13th, 2018

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Welcome Back...

As the sun dawned on the start of the school year our school yard filled with families; excited, anxious and happy faces clustered and spread out across our tarmac as students, staff and parents reconnected after the summer break. September...back to school...back to our Black River community of learners. Fall is a season of change and we experienced a few changes over the summer. Along with new staff; We welcome the following new staff members to our Black River community: **Dvina Vidakovic** (Gr. 3), **Andrew Halstead** (Gr. 8), **Jennifer Pinnegar** (Performance Plus) **Amanda Scott** (EA), and **Juanita Nicholson** (DECE), we invited new students and families into our community and warmly welcomed returning friends after the summer break.

Over the first week across our school and in our classrooms, our staff and students worked to build a sense of belonging and community, established learning routines and expressed our commitment to help make our school a safe, fun and engaging place of learning.

As your administrative team; our goal is to keep you informed while we strive to ensure that every family feels welcome and connected. Whether it is at school events, on our website, Twitter or this newsletter- we welcome all to participate fully as members of our community of learners.

With that in mind, we look forward to meeting with our parents and families next **Thursday, Sept. 12th** at our **Back to School/Meet the Staff Open House** from **6:00 to 7:00 pm**. We will be selling pizza slices from **6:00-6:30** for those who want to enjoy a pizza picnic dinner and staff will open up their classrooms and spaces from 6:30 to 7:00. We are excited about the opportunities we will have to work together with each of you over the rest of this school year.

Brian Harrison & Christine Smith

The Week Ahead...

Mon. Sept. 9th Day 5	
Tues. Sept. 10th Day 1	
Wed. Sept. 11th Day 2	
Thurs. Sept. 12th Day 3	Meet the Staff Open House- 6:00- 7:00
Fri. Sept. 13th Day 4	School Start Up Forms Due Date

Quick Hits...

The 2017-18 School Information Package was sent home this week. Please review the package, share the key points with your child and return all consent forms as soon as possible. Please make note of the **Safe and Caring Schools** and **Acceptable Technology Use** information and take the time to review these in an age appropriate manner with your child. Parents interested in serving on our **Black River School Council** are invited to return the School Council nomination form. Our Black River School Council is a welcoming and supportive group of parents and community members who share a common commitment to making our school a welcoming and supportive learning space for all!

School Cash Online...A reminder to families new to our community that we use a board-provided web-based payment system called School Cash Online to process all school-related transactions (field trips, pizza sales). Click [here](#) to access or set up your account. Please contact our office if you require any support registering.

EDSBY..All schools in the YRDSB now use a secure online parent communication and engagement platform called EDSBY. EDSBY is also used to manage student attendance- parents who have activated their account can even enter their child's absence using the EDSBY app (which means no more phone calls to report an absence). We are learning how to use the communication features of this tool to support effective and secure parent teacher communication and will be using EDSBY to schedule parent teacher interviews this coming November. If you have any questions; or need some assistance activating your EDSBY account, please give us a call or drop by the office.

Trustee Greetings...

I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families to another school year. As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The [Board of Trustees](#) makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#). We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

As we start the new school year, I want to highlight the importance of relationships. We want to build and maintain relationships with our families that are built on trust, respect and responsive communication. To support that, I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities, and I encourage you to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website.

In addition, I invite you to share your feedback on our Board policies. Policies govern everything from field trips, school volunteers, equity and inclusive education, student discipline and much more, and we greatly value input from families on these important matters. We regularly post on our website the [policies that are under review](#) and available for comment as well as information about how to share your feedback. I hope you will take a look.

I know school staff are excited to welcome back students, and I look forward to meeting more of our families throughout the upcoming school year. I encourage you to build a relationship with the staff members and community at your school. There are so many [different ways to get involved](#) and support your child's education. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Trustee Cynthia Cordova

September @ Black River Public School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labour Day	3 Day 1 Welcome Back!	4 Day 2	5 Day 3	6 Day 4	7
8	9 Day 5	10 Day 1	11 Day 2	12 Day 3 Meet the Staff Event 6:00-7:00	13 Day 4 School Start Up Forms Due	14
15	16 Day 5	17 Day 1	18 Day 2	19 Day 3	20 Day 4	21
22	23 PA Day	24 Day 5	25 Day 1 Intermediate 3 Pitch	26 Day 2 Junior 3 Pitch Terry Fox Run	27 Day 3	28
29	30 Day 4 Rosh Hashanah	Oct. 1 Day 5	Oct. 2 Day 1 Area Cross Country Gr. 7 Immunizations	Oct. 3 Day 2	Oct. 4 Day 3	Oct. 5

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