



The Black River Bear

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Principal: George Vellathottam

Vice Principal: Jennifer Burt

School Office Administrative Assistants: Jackie Low and Lianne McAndrew

School Website: www.blackriver.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Superintendent: Dianne Hawkins 905-895-5155

Trustee: Nancy Elgie 905-476-4184

From The Administrative Team

Happy New Year! On behalf of all Black River staff, we hope you had a restful winter break and would like to welcome you all back. Looking back over the past few months at Black River students and staff have been busy with numerous activities such as sports teams, recess clubs, a Unity Charity presentation, a food drive, a series of parent evening information sessions, play leader programs, swimming lessons and professional development sessions connected to Primary Math, EQAO, First Nation Metis Inuit connections, Adolescent literacy, equity and the inquiry learning process. We are also thrilled to announce that our Martial Arts sessions will begin in February and our Grade 7's will be participating in a region wide cardboard boat race design challenge. There are so many exciting things happening at Black River!

We wish to remind students and parents at Black River that we believe that children learn better when they receive regular intervals of exercise and fresh air. Please note students do go outside for a shortened recess when we have inclement weather. We keep a close eye on all weather conditions, including wind chill before making our decisions. When conditions necessitate, we may decide that students remain inside for recess.


We ask that children are appropriately dressed for the weather: warm hat, gloves, scarf, coat, pants and boots at this time of year.

Our school year seems to be moving along quickly as Term 1 Report Cards will go home on February 20th, 2015. Please feel free to contact the office or your child's teacher if you have any questions about the reporting process for this school year.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment in helping prepare your child for learning in a safe, comfortable and enjoyable manner. We would like to thank Ms. Longland for her many years of teaching at Black River. We welcome Mr. Trace who has joined our Black River Staff as the long term occasional teacher for French

George Vellathottam

Jennifer Burt

January 	
Jr. Girls Volleyball	20
Jr. Boys Volleyball Tournament	21
Cardboard Boat Races	27

February	
PA Day	2
Grade 2 to Sibbald Point	13
Grade 4 to Sibbald Point	17
Scholastic Book Fair	23 - 27
EQAO Parent Night	25
Celebration Assembly (day time)	26
SK and Grade 8 Grad Photo Day	27



York Region Mission:
Visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

Karate

Karate will be starting for students in February. For Kindergarten to Grade 3 lessons are every Wednesday starting on February 4th and every Friday for Grades 4– 8 beginning February 6th. Students will have an opportunity to participate in ten sessions for the purpose of learning a skill, getting exercise and building self-esteem.

Parent Volunteers Needed

The PLAY Program is coming to your child's school

*"Only 7% of Canadian children and youth are meeting the new Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines of at least 60 minutes of MVPA per day"
(2012 Active Healthy Kids Canada Report Card)*

Parent Volunteers Needed

Therefore, there is a need for students to be more active everyday. An active playground is one great way for them to get moving!

The **PLAY Program** is a peer-led physical activity program to keep students moving at recess while also creating opportunities for leadership and skill development in grades five to eight students. Fun and cooperative activities are led by grades five to eight **PLAY** leaders, who are trained to lead the kindergarten to grade three students in active games at recess.

Your role as a PLAY Program Volunteer:

- Support the students who are PLAY leaders
- Be familiar with the games and rules of play
- Help run the PLAY leader training workshop
- Support PLAY leaders who may come to you on the playground



If you are interested in being a PLAY Program Volunteer please contact: Whitney Castator

FRENCH IMMERSION

For information about the French Immersion (FI) program please call Keswick Public School. FI registration will begin January 16, 2015. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2015, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to Keswick Public School to register between January 16 and February 13, 2015. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

3D Printing now at Georgina Libraries

Georgina Public Library is pleased to announce that our 3D printer is finally open to the public to use. In October, Children's Services came out and visited with our students and sparked excitement about our brand new 3D printer. Everyone was very enthusiastic by the prospect of being able to make their own creations, and now they finally can! All the information is also available in more detail on our website [here](#).

We have a famous author, Eric Walters, coming to visit students in grades 4 -8 at Black River P.S. Parents are welcome to attend the presentation from 2:15-3:15.

Our Scholastic Spring Book Fair is coming Feb. 23rd - Feb. 27th!

3D Printing has Arrived!

At Georgina Public Libraries

Beginning **January 6** at the **Keswick Branch** we will be offering 3D printing to our library patrons for a small fee.

Keep your eyes on our website for details on when the printer will be "touring" to the Peter Gzowski (Sutton) and Pefferlaw branches. Every branch will have a turn!



Come in to your local branch today and **pick up a copy of GPL's Guide to 3D Printing** and learn how you could print some exciting creations like these!



Georgina Public Libraries

Keswick
905-476-5762

Sutton
905-722-5702

Pefferlaw
705-437-1514

www.georginalibrary.ca
Opening Doors and Minds



Character Community
Live with character
Change our world

Shine a Light on Character
Nominate someone deserving today!

9th Annual York Region Character Community Awards

Wednesday, April 29, 2015
Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts

Categories for 2015:

Business Person of Character	Change our World - Environmental
Organization of Character	Change our World - Community
Citizens of Character	Character Through the Arts
Educator of Character	Character Through Sports
School of Character	

Nomination deadline: February 9, 2015
or when theatre capacity has been reached

Nomination forms and additional information available at:
www.charactercommunity.com
or call: 905 895 5155 ext. 134

Character Community Foundation of York Region
Registered charity 488722 / 436 RR0001

f t in You Tube

NEW!!!! SCHOOL CONNECTS

Black River Public School is pleased to announce our subscription to SchoolConnects Automated Notification Service provided through SynreVoice Technologies Inc. SchoolConnects can quickly deliver a wide variety of messages by phone call, email, and text messages to parents and our staff. It will enhance communication within our school community and improve our emergency preparedness.

We will be using SchoolConnects to send messages regarding activities that will be happening at school such as Parent Nights, Report Cards going home etc. We will also be using SchoolConnects to send emergency messages as required. These messages may go out at any time. If you have a cell phone, you can have SchoolConnects call your cell to ensure that you personally get the messages. Please make sure your contact phone numbers and email addresses are up to date.

When you receive calls from the system, Call Display shows the phone number for either the school or the School District office.

When SchoolConnects reaches an answering machine, it plays the message twice in case the beginning is cut off.

If you do not want SchoolConnects to call or send email messages to you, please notify your child's school. We will take you off the distribution lists.

We are excited about using SchoolConnects to enhance communication and improve the quality of education for your child. We would like to hear your feedback on this new initiative.

Black River Public School

Movie Night at Gem Theatre

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 6:30 pm

Tickets \$3



Please detach and send to the School Office by February 6th, 2015.

Name: _____

of Tickets: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____

ORDER EARLY! Tickets are sold on a first come, first serve basis.

There may be tickets available at the door.



FREE Triple P

Triple P Stands for Positive Parenting Program

Join us for a Triple P discussion about:

Self Esteem

Learn about helping your child:

- Set goals and do things for themselves
- Solve problems for themselves
- Manage their feelings, think realistically and be optimistic

Date: Thursday February 12th, 2015

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Location: Fairwood P.S. - Library
201 Fairwood Drive Keswick, ON

Free Pizza dinner, snacks and drinks will be served

Free Child Minding Available

Triple P offers strategies that encourage positive behaviour in children. Everyone can help, whether you are a parent, teacher, coach or a family member by using the same positive message with children and youth.

Please RSVP to Fairwood P.S. by
Friday February 6th/15 905-476-5447.