

Boxwood Broncos



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Boxwood Public School
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Principal: Catherine Arnold
Vice Principal: Ruth Carmichael
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Principal's Message

On Thursday, February 13, your child will receive his/her report card based on the Ministry's "Growing Success" (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/success.html>) assessment and reporting document. The report is four pages, with ample room for teacher comments on the learning strengths and next steps for your child, as well as their achievement levels. Learning Skills take front page on this report card format. The ability to succeed in these skills / habits is critical to growth and development in school and in life.

Developing learning skills and work habits is a vital part of each student's success. The staff at Boxwood Public School is helping students develop the learning skills and work habits needed for success in school and adult life: responsibility, organization, independent work, collaboration, initiative, and self-regulation. The development of these learning skills and work habits begins early in a child's education. As students get older and advance through the grades, they develop these skills and work habits in preparation for post secondary education and life in the work force. Teachers assess, evaluate, and report on the achievement of curriculum expectations and on the demonstration of learning skills and work habits separately. This allows parents and students to receive information that is specific to the two areas of achievement. As we approach the end of Term 1, staff and students will be working hard to consolidate the learning that has taken place during the first half of the school year. We will begin Term 2 in February with end of year learning targets in mind. Teachers will be focused on helping students monitor their progress toward achieving their learning goals.

Remember parents play a crucial role in their child's education. Many educational researchers have confirmed the link between parental involvement and academic success. Parents can extend the learning in the classroom by reading together at home, discussing the success criteria for homework assignments, and demonstrating an interest in their child's learning.

When you receive your child's report card please review all letter grades and comments carefully with your child. Please take the time to complete the student / parent feedback sections and return that portion to the school. We value your input. If you want to further discuss your child's report with the teacher, please check the box in the parent feedback section or call the teacher to arrange an appointment.

Your Child's Agenda

One of the most important methods of communication between home and school is through the agenda. Teachers at Boxwood P.S. use this tool everyday to communicate learning goals, upcoming events, homework, and other information items with you at home. The agenda is also a venue for you to communicate with the classroom teachers. Please remember to read and sign the agenda each day confirming that you have looked at the agenda and that the homework is complete.

Our Boxwood Touchstone

At Boxwood, we are active participants in our own learning and we persevere to reach our goals. We recognize our own success and the successes of those around us. We are responsible for what we say and how we act. We treat others the way we want to be treated. We celebrate the diversity of our community. At Boxwood, every voice is heard.



Front Doors will be locked as of February 3rd

As you are aware beginning on February 3rd all school doors, including the front doors will be locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the day.

If your child is late for school please do not drop them off and leave them to enter by themselves. Please come to the front door with them so that you can ring the bell and make sure they safely gain entry to the school

We appreciate your patience when waiting for us to answer the doorbell. At times we may be helping a child who is hurt or sick.

We encourage parents to send lunches with your child(ren) first thing in the morning, before school starts. If you need to drop your child(ren)'s lunch off at school you can do so however you will still need to buzz in. JK/SK parents who pick your kindergarten child(ren) up for lunch please go through the kindergarten fenced play area and knock on your child's classroom door. The teacher will dismiss your child from this door. At 3:25 dismissal, Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to agree to a meeting spot with your child outside the building, or wait for them to come out of their appropriate exit door.

Our school continues to be a safe place where we welcome and encourage parent and community member involvement. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place for student and staff safety, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office.

If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact the office at 905-294-5563.

York Regional Elementary Enrichment Bank

On February 27, 2014, auditions will be held at John McCrae Public School for students wishing to be part of the York Regional Elementary Enrichment Band. Any experienced Grade 6/7/8 student interested in being included in this music enrichment activity should discuss it with his/her music teacher. More information is available at our website www.yreeb.ca.

Jill Morrison, David Hipperson, Cathy Kloefer, Sarah Ewing
York Region Elementary Enrichment Band Committee

School Council News

This winter will go down as one of the coldest in recent decades. Of course, winter apparel companies are all smiles, while the rest of us must grin and bear it. Of special recognition for those who brave the cold wintery weather are our volunteers at Boxwood. We especially would like to thank some awesome people for their continued support through hail, sleet, snow, cold and all other elements that have been thrown at them this past year. **Taranpreet Sandhu** and **Ajnur Asimi** have been the towers of strength for our Pizza Days. Without these two ladies, pizza day would not survive and with more than half of the school participating in this program, that would be a lot of disappointed kids! Once again, our sincerest Thanks, **Taranpreet Sandhu** and **Ajnur Asimi** for your unwavering support.

Over the years computer technology has played a very important part of our lives. The ever-changing world of technology enables us to do things better, faster, more efficient and is a part of our everyday life. For these reasons, when it comes to investing in hardware for our school, we will continue to focus every year on obtaining equipment and associated training needed to keep our Boxwood students ahead of the curve. Your donations have helped to improve our position in the global understanding and advancement in technology through the purchase of newer and better computer equipment. Continued investment in technology will enable us to elevate our school's status in literacy and math as compared to the rest of the province. Let's pull together Boxwood!

Continuing to work together to create harmony and develop our young into healthy, productive members of the community...makes us all happier!

Curious about our next School Council meeting? Join us on **Monday, February 3rd** to connect with the heart of your community – Boxwood Public School.

For more information on Council activities or for feedback, we encourage you to visit the Boxwood school website, <http://www.boxwood.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/> or send us a message at boxwood.ps@sc.yrdsb.edu.on.ca or also in writing: Boxwood Public School – Attention School Council

FULL-DAY LEARNING FOR JK/SK STUDENTS AT BOXWOOD REGISTRATION BEGAN FEBRUARY 17th

Kindergarten registration began on Friday, **February 17th** for students entering JK and **new** SK in September 2014. Registration forms are available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.



Children living within Boxwood's attendance boundaries born in 2010 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten (age 4 by December 31, 2014).

Children living within Boxwood's attendance boundaries born in 2009 are eligible for Senior Kindergarten (age 5 by December 31, 2014)

Students currently in Junior Kindergarten at Boxwood Public School are not required to register for September 2014.

Parents must bring the following information to register: (between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

- Proof of child's age (birth certificate/passport/permanent residence card)
- Proof of residency: Official lease or Purchase Agreement and a 2012 residential house tax bill.
- Parents must be **Public School Tax Supporters** to be eligible to register for kindergarten. Parents will need to complete a Public School Tax Support form at registration.

A Junior Kindergarten Orientation Session for those who have registered at Boxwood will take place on Thursday, May 8th. (details will follow).

Help Us Keep Boxwood Safe, Supportive, and Child-Focused for All Students

- All students must arrive on time (8:50 a.m. or 12:45 p.m.).
- All students are required to enter and exit the school only through their assigned door.
- Parents are requested to meet their children at dismissal times outside their assigned entry/exit doors.
- Teachers' names are posted at each door to help students and parents know which door is assigned for their use.
- Parents visiting the school must register in the main office before moving through the halls.
- Lunches should be sent to school with children in the morning. Lunches that are brought to the school later in the day must be left in the main office. Please do not personally delivery lunches to classrooms.



Dress Warmly for Cold Weather

All our students will be expected to be outside before, during and after school in all weather conditions. Students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses. Boots (for rain or snow), rain jackets, hats, mitts, scarves and snow pants will help make recess an enjoyable time. To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the Lost and Found Bin, please be sure to label all articles of clothing.

Cold Weather is Coming!

Students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses (hat, scarf, gloves/mittens, boots, etc.). It is advisable for children to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet. Being physically active during winter is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle.

The school administration keeps a close eye on weather conditions, including wind chill. When conditions necessitate, students will remain inside for recess. When conditions allow, reduced outdoor recesses may take place. If a student is well enough to attend school, then he/she will be expected to go outside for recess. We would ask that parents send their children dressed for outdoor winter play.





CHARACTER MATTERS

The Arts



Our Recognition Assemblies were held on Friday, January 31st. Students who demonstrated the Character Trait of Fairness were given awards. These students demonstrated how to be sensitive to the needs of others and treat others the way they want to be treated. In addition, students received awards for the four areas of the Arts: Music, Visual Arts, Drama and Dance. Congratulations to all students! The award winners for the month of January are:

Fairness: Jade A., Sruthy P. Arissa S., Aahan D., Jasmeet M., Yaqoob D., N. Huang, Michael D., Krishni T., Nehyomi M., Neha A., Shumayal R., Sarica S., Aaran A., Naba A., Matt T., Aidan B., Saimon S., Arjun P., Kashif K., H. Dogra

Visual Arts: Shakira R., Ayush M., Madina S., Shayan A., Ajeesha O., Avery W., Eva H., Denoyaa R., Mariam D., Rajeev G., Aryan S., Sydney M., Anthony L., Shveta S., Christina W., Huzaifah M., Tamia W., Abdullah S., Maggie H., Amy L., Maggie H.,

Drama & Dance: Layla N., Anam R., Jahiysa M., Munam H., Safa S., Saarujaan S., Varun S., Ricardo H., Justin R., Eshaa C., Gayah P., Kareena J., Trinity P., Janelle E. William G.,

Music: Rejeevan O., Vincent Q., Shayani V., Jiya P., Dilshan Supenthiran, Shayana D., Tiana A., Asritta S., Omid F., Ramanjot S., Emily L., Nirujan V., Lacshan S., Christopher W., Christine S., Sarah C., Methurshiga K., Joshua H.,

February is Initiative month! People who show initiative look for and act on new ideas and opportunities for learning. They demonstrate curiosity and interest in learning and they approach new tasks with a positive attitude. Our Learning Skills focus for the Primary students is Independent Work. Students demonstrate independence when they use class time appropriately to complete tasks and monitor, access and revise plans to meet their goals. The Junior/Intermediate Academic focus for February is French. Students will be receiving awards for showing a keen interest in the language, communicating in written form and attempting to speak in French. Our Recognition Assembly will take place on Friday, February 28th.

Golden Dust Pan



Congratulations goes out to the students in Ms. Forth, Mr. McQuirter and Mr. Sharma's-classes for winning January Golden Dust Pan Award. **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Limited Class Interruptions

We value instructional time at Boxwood P.S. Our office staff has been instructed not to interrupt classes unless there is an emergency situation. Please make arrangements, in advance, if your child is to be picked up for an appointment and provide a note to the teacher. As well, please make sure that any arrangements made for lunch or after school are done with a note so that calls do not need to be made into the classroom.

Your support in protecting instructional time for our students is most appreciated.

Dates to Remember

February 3	Ski Club
February 3	School Council Meeting 7:00 pm
February 4	Milk Program
February 4	Lunch Ladies
February 4	Berkeley Street Theatre Gr. 4 & 5 and Ms. St. Jean's 6's
February 5	Lunch Ladies
February 6	Milk Program
February 6	Junior/Intermediate Concert 7 pm –8 pm
February 7	Pizza Day
February 10	Ski Club
February 11	Milk Program
February 11	Lunch Ladies
February 11	Ripley's Aquarium Trip - Kitching/ Fitzgerald/McCall/Brown & St. Jean's Gr. 6's
February 12	Ripley's Aquarium Trip - Sharma/ Royce/Ursi
February 12	Lunch Ladies
February 13	Milk Program
February 13	Report Cards Go Home!
February 13	Caroline Higgins/Markham Library Intermediate Assembly @ 2:00 pm
February 14	Valentine Dance (pm)
February 14	Pizza Day
February 17	Family Day (no school)
February 18	Milk Program
February 18	Lunch Ladies
February 19	Lunch Ladies
February 20	EQAO Night 7-8 p.m.
February 20	Milk Program
February 20	Grade 8 Grad Photos
February 21	Pizza Day
February 25	Milk Program
February 25	Lunch Ladies
February 26	Lunch Ladies
February 26	Spirit Day - Tie Day
February 27	Milk Program
February 28	Character Matters Assemblies

Family Day, Monday,
February 17 - (no school)

A reminder to all parents/guardians that February 18th is Family Day, an observed holiday by the Ontario Government and therefore the school will be closed that day. Please take the time to enjoy and spend time with your family.

Report Cards
go home on
Thursday, February 13th

School Council
Meeting
Monday, February 3rd
7:00 p.m.

Attendance & Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality is
expected of all
Boxwood students.

Triple P Tip of the Month

Bullying is common in elementary school children; as many as one in seven children are bullied at least once a week. Most children will experience bullying at some time. Boys are more likely to be bullied or bully others. Bullying is usually hidden from adults and can be a traumatic experience that can affect your child's self-esteem.

KEY STEPS:

- If bullying is occurring, take action right away.
- Talk to the adults in charge of the place where the bullying occurs.
- Calmly listen to your child and find out exactly what has been happening.
- Summarize the problem and tell your child possible reasons for bullying.
- Ask your child's opinion on how to deal with the problem.
- Act out the solution with your child before they try it out.
- If bullying occurs at school, make sure the school is aware of the problem.



Hand Washing



Children share many items throughout the school day and at home including books, puzzles, computers, water bottles and sports equipment. During the cold and flu season, this sharing can spread germs that can cause sickness. Correct hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of infection.

To help keep the people in your home healthy, take these steps:

- Encourage children to sneeze into the bend of their arm rather than into their hands.
- Make time for hand washing, especially before eating.
- Always have soap, paper or hand towels within easy reach.
- Remind children (and adults) to wash their hands:
 - before eating, preparing food or visiting someone who is sick
 - after using the bathroom, blowing their nose, sneezing or coughing, handling garbage, touching animals, playing outdoors or visiting someone who is sick
 - when they look or feel dirty

Together we can make the healthy choice the easy choice!

For health-related information call York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools.

Winter Weather Reminder

Although children need an opportunity to get exercise and free play time outdoors, weather conditions sometimes warrant that indoor recesses, lunch periods and pre-entry periods be considered necessary for student and staff safety.

Environment Canada has produced cold weather guidelines which York Region District School Board endorses and follows when making decisions about how long students are outside on extremely cold days.

Cold Weather Guidelines Warranting Indoor Recesses

When the temperature and/or windchill factor drops **below -25 C children will remain indoors** due to risk of frostnip and frostbite.

When the temperature and/or wind chill factor indicates **-18 C to -25 C, recesses may be shortened to 10-20 minutes**, depending on specific conditions.

There is usually no change to the length of recess and time spent outdoors when temperature and/or wind chill are above -18 C.



Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education and certification program for grades K-12 that helps school communities develop both ecological literacy and environmental practices to become environmentally responsible citizens and reduce the ecological footprint of schools. The EcoSchools program focuses on 4 components: Ecological Literacy, Waste Minimization, Energy Conservation, and School Ground Greening.

In York Region, we currently have 147 certified elementary schools, secondary schools, and Outdoor Ed Centres. Each year, the number of certified schools in York Region grows and we get closer to our goal of "Every school an EcoSchool".

Boxwood is Thinking Green!!!

Our school has been registered as an eco-school! This program challenges our school and students to become more eco-friendly. We are taking small steps at our school to help the environment. Our students at our school are beginning to make small changes to becoming greener such as turning off lights and becoming more aware of what goes in the garbage bin and the recycling bin. These are some minor changes that we are taking to become greener.

Pop Tabs for Wheelchairs

We ask that all of our student collect pop can tabs this year. What do pop can tabs have to do with wheelchairs? Here's how it works: Pop can tabs are made from pure aluminum, which is valuable to the metal recycling depot, which will pay for them by the pound. Proceeds from this are sent to the **President's Choice Children's Charity** which buys wheelchairs and related equipment for children and families in need. All you have to do is remove the tab from your can of pop and save it. Ask your family, friends, and co-workers to help you collect! This can also be a great project for Kindergarten and Primary students who are learning how to count to high numbers. Our goal is to collect 30,000 tabs by the end of June. Together, we can achieve anything! So, show some Boxwood spirit and help support this worthy cause!



Thank you in advance, and we look forward to receiving all of your tabs!!

Reduce Energy Consumption during the Winter Season!

With the onset of winter we need to be aware of our carbon footprint. Our Board's footprint increases in the winter time due to our boiler plants consuming fuel. To **Reduce** energy consumption during the winter season and stay warm we recommend the following actions:

- Keep heat in the building by ensuring exterior windows and doors are kept closed.
- Ensure that all weather stripping is in place around doors and windows. If it is damaged, please let your caretaking services team know so they can have it repaired.
- The use of personal heaters is discouraged (the use of electric heaters in rooms that already have heating systems offsets any savings that might be achieved through energy initiatives and programs such as the "Lights Out" program).
- Ensure that all heating and cooling vents and radiators are clear of obstructions.
- Wear fall/winter appropriate clothing to work in layers to keep warm and comfortable.
- Use your blinds to assist with heating and cooling classrooms and offices.

School Bus Cancellation Notice

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following;

A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.

School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather is not affecting all municipalities in York Region. Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.

Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM 1050 AM
1540 AM 1580 AM

88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 FM 94.9 FM
95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM
101.1 FM 102.1 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM 107.1 FM

TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CFTO TV CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YCDSB and YRDSB on twitter.

Please note that school bus charters will not operate when home to school bus service is cancelled.



Boxwood Chess Club



Maanik G. is a very busy young man. He runs the Boxwood Chess Club in room 201 on day 2 and day 4 every week.

" Chess improves your brain, by improving your thinking, attention, and reading skills," states the Grade 5 student.

Over 30 students bring chess boards or go online to play chess for morning recesses. They all listen very carefully while he uses the LCD to explain a new move or strategy for the chess club members then GAME ON!

If you have any chess expertise or would like to help, we need you! Please contact Ms. St Jean at the school if you would like to volunteer with the Chess Club.

Written by: Ms. St. Jean

Concussions - not just a bump on the head!



A concussion is a brain injury that cannot be seen on routine x-rays, CT scans or MRI's. It is caused by any blow to the head, face, neck or any sudden jarring of the head (i.e. a ball to the head, playground fall or being checked into the boards in hockey). Children do not need to be knocked out (lose consciousness) to have had a concussion.

Children that may have a concussion should:

- Stop playing the sport or activity right away
- Not be left alone
- Be seen by a doctor as soon as possible

Anyone with a concussion should not go back to play that day, even if they say they are feeling better. Problems caused by a head injury can get worse later that day or night. The signs and symptoms of a concussion often last for seven to 10 days but may last much longer. In some cases, children may take many weeks or months to heal!

For more concussion information visit www.thinkfirst.ca

For health-related information call York Region *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools





JACK & THE GIANT

Presentation
January 6th



Shake the Winter Blues!



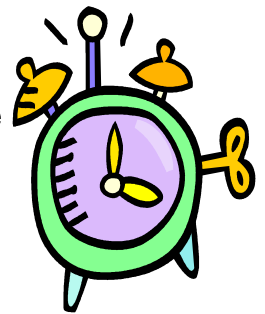
Boxwood Students "Shake" the Winter Blues Boxwood's Active Team has been getting Boxwood students up and active during the large number of indoor recesses we have had recently. From 20 minute aerobics routines, to DPA board games, students have had an opportunity to join Miss Smith and her Active team in the gym to be active. Did you know: For health benefits, children aged 5-11 years should accumulate at least 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily. The Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines by age group (source: CSEP9, 11, 12). *Written by Ms. Smith*

Attendance - Lates

If your son/daughter is absent from school, you **MUST** call to let us know before 8:30 a.m. We do have an answering machine, if you call during the evening hours. Please tell us their name, grade/teacher name and the reason why they are away!

Being on time and prepared for instruction not only supports student success and academic achievement, but it is also an expectation of the staff at Boxwood. The school times are included below as a gentle reminder to everyone.

Entry Bell 8:55 a.m. Lunch 12:45 p.m.-1:45 p.m. Dismissal 3:25 p.m.



Student Safety Comes First

If you are picking up or dropping off your child at the front of the school please follow the no U-Turn sign. U-turns in front of the school are dangerous for our children. Take the time to follow the road signs, avoid u-turns and make sure all our children are safe.



From the Desk of Student Council

On Friday, January 24th, 2014, Boxwood students showed their spirit by dressing up as either their homeroom or one of their specialized teachers. Many students dressed up just like their teachers do to earn a point for their spirit house, but four particular individuals surprised us all with their creativity and dazzling looks.

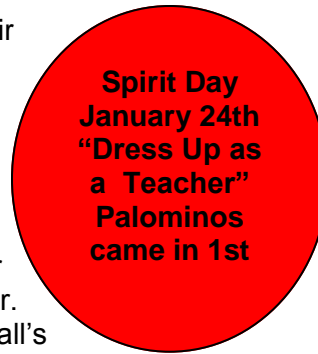
From the primary division, our best dressed up as their teacher winner was Cyanthan from Mr. Lam's class who dress up as Mr. Ursi. In the junior division, our winner was Kyria from Mr. McCall's class who dressed up as none other than Mr. McCall himself. From our intermediate division, we had a tie. We could not decide if Thomas, who was dressed up as his homeroom teacher, Mr. Ursi, or Rakaas from Ms. Royce's class who dressed up as Mr. Sharma, was dressed best.

We congratulate all of our individual winners, but a special shout also goes out to the Palominos, the winning spirit house of this spirit day!

Some of our staff like Mme. Owen and Ms. Breckenridge dressed up for the occasion in their own creative ways too.

With so much spirit at Boxwood, we are looking forward to the month of February that brings us our next spirit day, tie day.

On Valentine's Day, as an alternative to a dance, students will also be given the opportunity to make buttons to raise money for Free the Children. There are a variety of activities planned for the future at Boxwood and Student Council is eager to make them a reality! *Written by Stella S.*



Before & After School Programs Boxwood Public School

- For children JK-12 years
- Nutritious morning and afternoon snacks
- Programs that put your children first
- Qualified and caring teachers
- P.A. Day programs
- Subsidy accepted
- Operated by Family Day Care Services

Program Hours

- 7:15-8:50 AM and 3:25-6:00 PM



Call Family Day's Child Care Services at **416-922-3434** for more information or to enroll.