

Boxwood Broncos



February 2020



Boxwood Public School
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Principal: Dane Prince
Superintendent: Becky Green
Trustee: Juanita Nathan (416) 885-3479



Principal's Message

Parent-Teacher Communication

As you know, Term 1 report cards are not being given to parents this year due to the labour situation. In-classroom teacher assessment and evaluation is an important part of teaching and learning and will continue. **We know that it's important for you to get feedback regarding your child's education. While specific marks will not be shared, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher directly if you have questions about your child's education and progress.**

We appreciate that this is disappointing, but the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) is in a legal strike position and has directed teachers not to write report card comments or participate in the inputting and verification process of marks. Without teacher participation in this process, it is not feasible for me to provide you with marks.

That being said, the report card is only one source of information regarding your child's progress in school. It is good to be in regular contact with your child's teacher throughout the school year. Besides report cards, other types of communication include parent-teacher or parent-student-teacher conferences, interviews, phone calls, checklists and informal reports.

How do Teachers Determine my Child's Grades?

Teachers look at assignments, tests, exams, demonstrations and projects for evidence that your child is learning the curriculum.

This learning means more than just knowing the facts. Students must also show an understanding of what they are studying by communicating and applying (e.g., problem solving) what they have learned. They must also demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

As well as looking at tests or assignments, they also talk to and observe your child in the classroom to gather as much information as possible before making a decision on the final grade.

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.

Boxwood School Council News

Every third Tuesday of the month, we have our School Council meeting. At these meetings, we discuss school related matters that affect your children. In terms of student learning, we have recently discussed different ways that teachers assess our students, our work in math, and the EQAO assessment.

Along with providing feedback about school matters, another important function of School Council is fundraising. Council has consistently used funds that are generated from their lunch programs (e.g., Pizza Pizza, Boston Pizza, Paramount, Subway) to purchase a variety of supplies for Boxwood. Some of these items include: technology, audio-visual equipment, science equipment, math manipulatives...

This year council has continued to support our students. We thank council for completely funding the cost (approx. \$4000.00) to replace our pads in the gym. In order to meet our safety standards, we needed to get thicker and longer mats (see the pictures below). We also thank council for supporting our technology needs as they have contributed \$2000.00 to purchase 10 iPad minis (for classroom assessment) and 2 Chromebooks (classroom use).

On behalf of the Boxwood community, we would like thank School Council for their efforts to support our school and our Boxwood families for supporting our fundraising efforts!



Boxwood Fundraising Plan 2019/2020

As previously shared with you, our School Council supports our school with our lunch programs. These funds are used to support our students in a variety of ways. In order to be fully transparent with you, here is our plan of how we are going to use (the green checkmark indicates that we have already directed funds to that area. As always, thank you for your support.

Boxwood P.S. Draft Fundraising Plan			
SIPSA/DAP <i>(School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement/Director's</i>	Draft School Fundraising Plan	Timeline	Amount
Provide comprehensive math programs that reflect students' identities, lived experiences, needs and interests.	Jump 2 Math Family Night (Supported by PRO Grant)	SPRING	\$459.37
Technology (Cost Sharing Program)	IPads, Chrombooks (laptops)	WINTER/SPRING	\$2000.00 ✓
Build safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environments where students and staff feel they matter and belong	Gym Padding	WINTER	\$4043.14 ✓
	Financial Support for In-School Trip/Experience TBD	SPRING	\$TBD
	Financial Support for Grade 8 Graduation	SPRING	\$720.00
	Financial Support for Bus-sing	SPRING	\$TBD
Current Total			\$7222.51



Message from Our Trustee



As we enter another month of winter, this is a good time to be thinking about our health, well-being and the importance of self-care. We know that, like all of us, our students can focus better when they feel better. Our schools play an important role in health and mental health promotion and education, and fostering well-being and mental health is one of our [priorities as a school board](#).

There is a lot of work taking place in our schools and board to create [healthy schools](#) and promote [mental health](#) and well-being, including:

- Providing training and resources for educators on strategies to support mentally healthy classrooms for all students, including holding a mental health conference.
- Hiring identity specific mental health workers and developing partnerships with [community partners](#) to serve the diverse needs of our students.
- Developing a [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol](#) to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions.
- Educating students about the risks of [substance use and misuse](#), including [vaping](#) and [cannabis](#).
- Providing strategies and supports for students in [preparing for exams](#) and [managing stress](#)

This commitment is also reflected in Board policy like the [Healthy Schools and Workplaces](#) policy and procedures. Setting policy, which governs the operation of the Board, is one of the [roles of trustees](#), and we greatly value the input provided by students, staff members, family and community members. I encourage you to look at the [policies under review](#) and share your feedback.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2020. At the Board meeting in December, trustees unanimously approved the addition of [new permanent Indigenous Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee positions](#). We are committed to Indigenous Education in our Board and it is important that these voices are represented at the table. We hope to fill the positions as soon as possible and will share more information as it becomes available.

A [message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees](#) is also available on the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca.

Juanita Nathan
Trustee, Markham, Wards 7 and 8

Family Day-Monday February 17th

A reminder to all parents/guardians that Monday, February 17th is Family Day, an observed holiday by the Ontario Government and therefore school will be closed that day. Please take the day to enjoy and spend time with your family.



School Council Meeting — Tuesday, February 18th

Education is a partnership involving parents, students, teachers, principals, community and school boards. All members of the school community are welcome to attend council meetings. Parents/guardians and community members are key to a successful school council. Our next School Council Meeting will be held on: Tuesday February 18th @ 7:00pm in the library.



ETFO Bargaining and Work-to-Rule Update

We have received notification that next week's full two strike days by ETFO will occur on Tuesday, February 11 and Thursday, February 13. Similar to this week, if no agreement is reached between ETFO and the province, elementary schools will be closed to students on Tuesday, February 11 and Thursday, February 13 and you are encouraged to begin making alternate arrangements for your child.

For up to date information, please visit www.yrdsb.ca and the Board's twitter feed @yrdsb. We know this situation is difficult. Please be assured we are making decisions in the interest of student safety.

February Character Traits

This month we are focusing on students taking initiative. Some ways students can demonstrate this is to look for and act on new ideas and opportunities for learning. They can approach new tasks with a positive attitude and advocate for themselves and for others. Lastly, students can ask for their homework after an absence or ask for work in advance when they know they are going to be absent.



The learning skill focus for this month is on Independent Work. Students can demonstrate this by using class time appropriately to complete tasks, following instructions with minimal supervision, and monitoring their plans to complete tasks in order to meet deadlines.

Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 17, 2020

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 17, 2020 for the 2020—21 school year. **Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website:** www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2020, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact our school office.



School Cash Online & Edsby

Approximately 75% of our school population is on School Cash Online. This is the easiest and safe method for school transactions (e.g., paying for school lunches). We encourage all of our families to register for this safer and more secure way to make school transactions. In order to sign-up, **you will need your child's student number**. If you need this, please contact our office.



We have two ways that you can notify our school if your child is absent from school. You can call the school before 8:55am or you can use the **Edsby application. This is a convenient way to put in your child's absence.** You can even put in future absences. If you need help to use this very convenient option, please contact our office.





As we generally go outside for our recesses, students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors during recess and after lunch. As per our **YRDSB** policy, when temperatures and/or wind chill reach between **minus 18-20** degrees Celsius, we keep the students in for an indoor recess. When the temperatures reach **minus 16-18**, we shorten the recess to give the students some fresh air.

Children need to be dressed properly for our invigorating winter days. It is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. To avoid adding to the clothing collection in the Lost and Found, it is recommended that parents/guardians should be advised to label all articles of clothing, including but not limited to boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, and snow pants.

Milk Orders

We apologize for the delay with our milk orders. We have not been getting our order on time, and we have been working with the vendor to address this. To make up for the lost day last week, we will be giving out milk on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Our apologies for the inconvenience





Dates to Remember

February 2020

Monday	Tuesday MILK DAYS	Wednesday SUBWAY LUNCH-DAYS	Thursday MILK DAYS	Friday PIZZA DAYS 
3	4	5 Gr 3 - Fire School Program	6 Strike Action	7 Strike Action
10	11 Possible Strike Action	12	13 Possible Strike Action	14
17 FAMILY DAY— HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL 	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

Upcoming Dates:

- March 11— Daylight Saving Time starts
- March 16th - 20th -March Break
- March 24th- School Council Meeting
- April 10 – Good Friday (holiday)
- April 13— Easter Monday (holiday)

