

Boxwood Broncos



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Principal's Message

As I reflect upon the accomplishments of Boxwood students since September, I am so proud of the leadership, initiative and teamwork they have demonstrated. Our annual food drive was an amazing success with our students and parents donating over 500kg of food to the food bank which supports our Markham Community. Due to the incredible generosity of our students and community we have created a partnership with our local firemen who assist our students' efforts by delivering the food on their behalf. Our children always enjoy a visit from our local firemen and a chance to get their pictures taken standing by the fire truck.

Our student council worked diligently, giving up their recesses and lunch hours to create bracelets made from elastics to generate funds in support of the families and children from the Philippines. The school's collection of milk bags which are recycled to make mats for children in Haiti continues to overflow on a weekly basis. Our students, your children, are generous, globally aware and are the foundation and driving force of so many wonderful programs that are part of our day at Boxwood. I could not be prouder of our students or of their accomplishments.

Most recently, it was wonderful to see such an overwhelming turnout to this week's *A Long Winter's Night the* holiday concert. Certainly, the hard work and dedication shown by so many students, staff members, resulted in a very successful and enjoyable evening. I am sure you will agree that it was amazing to watch so many talented students performing. The junior and intermediate students will be showcasing their musical talents near the end of January and we are all looking forward to this wonderful event.

As always, we would like to thank our parent community for their continued and ongoing support as we move forward with new initiatives and renewed energy in the New Year.

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.



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.

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.



Empathy

CHARACTER MATTERS

Language

On December 19th students were given awards at our Recognition Assemblies. Students from each class were given awards for their efforts in Language and consistent demonstration of Empathy.

Congratulations to the following students:

Empathy: Prithika J., Gavin M., Manaal T., Shayani V., Ishaan C., Magdalene, K., Adil M., Allen W., Arthy G., Aaron S., Asritta S., Amandeep M., Subithiran S., Ifra M., Omar K., Ishaandeep J., Nimal M., Faraz M., Rishni N., Arden J., Lakysa M., Rachel M., Brianna P., Nandhitha K., Jessica J., Khadijah H., Deepikaa J., Naira W., Christina P., Kashif K., Nevetha B., Sujeeka Y., Nilal S., Akeesh K., Keshanah R., Christopher W., Ramon K., Neha B.,

Language: Angelina K., Jayden B., Alyssa W., Kylie O., Kansiga S., Haadiyah R., Ajina A., Harini T., Ramsey L., Aaron S., Karen S., Gurjeev G., Shiloh S., Daniel C., Rithija B., Ajeesha O., Sandeep D., Murtaza P., Isra Y., Ramanjot S., Arden J., Sydney M., Michael L., Aaminah M., Tavishi T., Jesmeen G., Aaron C., Arvind A., Megan Y., Tamia W., Jovan R., Pooja K., Nicole C., Mehrissa L., Abigail W., Jennifer C., Abdul O., Aishvine S., Sabeeh S.,

In January we will be focussing on Fairness. A person who is fair is sensitive to the needs of others and treats others as they want to be treated. A fair person interacts with people without stereotyping, prejudice or discrimination. Our Academic focus for January will be The Arts: Music, Visual Arts, Drama and Dance. Students will be receiving awards for demonstrating excellent skills, appreciating the efforts of others and expressing their ideas and opinions in each of the four academic areas. .



Golden Dust Pan

Congratulations goes out to the students in Mr. Levine and Ms. Romanese and Mr. Kitching's classes for winning December 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.

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.

Dates to Remember

January 6	Jack and the Giant 2-2:45 (gym)
January 7	Lunch Ladies
January 8	Lunch Ladies
January 9	Milk Program
January 10	Pizza Day
January 13	Dagmar Ski Trip
January 14	Milk Program
January 14	Lunch Ladies
January 15	Lunch Ladies
January 16	Milk Program
January 16	Pizza Day
January 16	Grade 3's to Markham Heritage Schoolhouse
January 17	PA Day (no school)
January 17	Kindergarten Registration Begins!
January 20	Dagmar Ski Trip
January 20	Dental Screening JK/SK, 2's & 8's
January 21	Dental Screening JK/SK, 2's & 8's (a.m.)
January 21	Lunch Ladies
January 21	Milk Program
January 22	Lunch Ladies
January 23	Milk Program
January 24	Pizza Day
January 27	Dagmar Ski Trip
January 28	Lunch Ladies
January 28	Milk Program
January 29	Lunch Ladies
January 30	Milk Program
January 31	Character Matters Assemblies
January 31	Pizza Day

Professional Activity Day

January 17, 2014

School is closed

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.

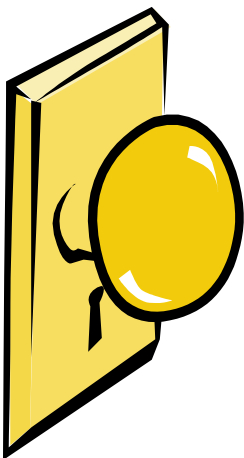
Kindergarten Registration Begins on January 17th

Locked School Doors Beginning February 3rd!

Beginning February 3, all school doors, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the day. Anyone arriving at the school after that time must buzz in and sign in at the main office.

Measures will also be put in place for parents/guardians to buzz in and pick up students participating in before and after school programs. More detailed information will be available in January.

Our school continues to be a safe place where parent and community member involvement is welcomed and encouraged. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office upon arrival.



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.

Triple P Tip of the Month - January - Chores

Responsibility for chores helps children learn self-discipline, how to apply themselves to a job and how to help with the running of a household. You will find that you have more time with your child and yourself if you give your child chores.

KEY STEPS:

- Explain why it is important for everyone to help around the house
- Decide on a list of chores and who will do them
- Draw up a job roster
- Let your child know when their chores must be finished
- Tell your child exactly what needs to be done for the job to be satisfactory
- Talk about rewards and consequences
- Praise and reward your child for completing their chores
- Apply a consequence if your child does not complete their chores satisfactorily





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.



Long Winter's Night

On Wednesday, December 18th from 7—8 p.m. the primary division and special guests had an evening of music, poetry and dance!



Boxwood Sing Along



The Boxwood Sing-A-long is a traditional Boxwood assembly where we sang carols, enjoyed the melodious music of the school band, school intermediate choir and had our very own Drumming Circle. It took place on Thursday, December 19, 2013, also known as the last day before Christmas break. The sing-a-long had lyrics on the screen. It took place in our school gymnasium. It was run by Pooja, the public relations rep of student council. The band was organized by our wonderful music teacher, Mrs. Turcotte. It played great songs such as, Frosty The Snowman ,I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas, Jingle bells, Jingle bell rock, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and The twelve days of Christmas. The drumming circle was organized by Mr.Ursi. It was pretty amazing if you ask me. The drumming circle practised for two weeks during morning recess. They also performed at the Long Winter's Night Concert.

We had a choir sing Mr. Frosty Winter and the band playing many of the songs listed above. It was truly an event to behold. The teachers went to the front of the room for The Twelve Days of Christmas and guided the students through the song. The kindergarten kids really loved that! *Written by Student Council*

Student Council



December was a busy month for Boxwood's student council. Once again Boxwood continues old traditions, as well as introducing new ideas. Over the course of this month Boxwood had many different events planned. We set up a Christmas tree, and to include classes we asked them to make an eco-friendly Christmas ornament to put on the tree. Student Council also sold brackets to raise money to help support the Philippines.

Popcorn days are back at Boxwood. The flavours this year are amazing!

Student Council also helped prepare for the school sing along, where the intermediate band played as well as the drum circle, run by Mr. Ursi and Ms. St. Jean.

Student Council would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe during the holidays!

Boxwood Food Drive

Boxwood continued the annual tradition of donating non-perishable food items, for the people in need. Every class participated in a little friendly competition, which is always fun. Classes brought in non-perishable food items. Then every Tuesday and Thursday, with the help of Ms. Royce and student council, all of the class boxes were weighed, and packed into boxes near the Christmas tree. For the past few weeks each class' weight was recorded and graphed. Boxwood students went above and beyond this year. Our school's annual holiday food drive brought in over 4200 pounds of food. Congratulations to Mr. McQuirter's class for the most food brought in by one class! Mr. McQuirter's winning class received a hot chocolate party on the last day before winter holidays!



This was the perfect way to support important causes like world hunger. At this time of the year it is wonderful to see the care and generosity of our school community going to help others.

Thanks again to the Markham fire fighters for picking up the food. A big thank you goes out to all of the students and families at Boxwood!



Way to show support Boxwood!

Spirit Day
Dec. 19

The Mustangs

1st place!

Spirit Day
Pyjama Day

The very first spirit day of the school year was held on Thursday, December 19th. Pyjama Day was a great success! Staff and students dressed in their pyjamas and some even carried teddy bears. Congratulations to the Mustangs who came in 1st place. Be prepared for some awesome spirit days ahead!

Lake St. George



Once again the grade 7's went on an overnight trip to Lake St. George. As always we had a great time! There were activities that taught us techniques on how to survive in the wilderness. We learned how to build stable shelters, boiled water over fire to make cedar tea. We learned about food webs and the huge impact that humans have on animals. We also learned how to navigate through the forests with GPS and maps. On the last night we sat at a fire pit and roasted marshmallows to make s'mores. After long days in the snow we all came inside the lounge and hung out until we had to go to bed. All these activities were carefully planned out so that we had fun but at the same time it was educational.

Our four instructors (Raja, Nicole, Jenn, Denise) and our 3 teachers Mr.Sharma, Ms.Royce and Mr.Kitching devoted hours and hours planning out this special trip that all grade 7's will remember for a long time.

Written by our Grade 7 Adventurers!!!



arts@baythorn

Would your child enjoy learning the Ontario curriculum through the Arts?

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an Elementary integrated Arts program at Baythorn Public School. Students currently in grades four and five may apply for the arts@baythorn program, where they will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music while meeting the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum for grades five, six, seven, and eight.

To learn more about the arts@baythorn program, students and their families are invited to attend an information evening **at Baythorn Public School on Thursday, January 16, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Applications will be on line via the school website and available after January 16, 2014.

www.baythorn.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Please call us at Baythorn Public School (905) 889-7992, if you require further information.

Jacqueline Linton
Principal

Jennifer Rosenberg
Vice-Principal