# **Boxwood Broncos**



November, 2014

Boxwood Public School 30 Boxwood Crescent, Markham, Ontario L3S 3P7 (905) 294-5563 fax (905) 291-1452 www.boxwood.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Principal: Catherine Arnold Vice Principal: Dane Prince Trustee: Juanita Nathan (416) 885-3479 Superintendent: Dr. Lisa Walsh (905) 940-7800



#### Principal's Message



You may be hearing your children talk about *learning goals* and *success criteria*, and if this is unfamiliar language to you, the following information may be helpful. Learning goals are brief statements based on the Ontario Curriculum that explain to students what they should know and be able to do by the end of a period of instruction. To be successful learners, our

students need to understand the learning goals and what successful achievement looks and sounds like. Teachers take time during instruction to build a clear and transparent vision of what students are to learn (learning goals), and what the learning looks like and sounds like (success criteria). The success criteria give students and teachers a common understanding about the quality of student learning. Students assess their work against the success criteria to monitor their progress and learning while teachers use this same evidence to provide feedback and determine next steps for instruction. At home, you might be teaching your child to pack his/her own lunch. Then, the learning goal might be, "I can pack a nutritious lunch for school." A checklist to help your child meet the success criteria for packing a nutritious lunch might include: pack food from all 4 food groups in reusable food containers, water, milk or fruit juice, and a cloth napkin. Your child can compare if the lunch contents meet the criteria, and whether they are achieving the goal of packing a nutritious lunch. If you have any questions regarding learning goals and success criteria please do not hesitate to contact the office.

#### **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.

#### **Spirit Wear**

It's here! Boxwood spirit wear and gym clothes are on sale from Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Each order will help raise money for Boxwood's Active team to support the replenishing of recess play equipment for each classroom.

We are offering a wide variety of clothing for your child(ren). T-shirts will be available in White, Navy Blue and Gold, while sweatshirts and hoodies are available in Navy Blue and Gold and finally, track pants, shorts, and bags will be available in Navy Blue.

Sample sizes are available in the office for you to look at or have your son/daughter try on to ensure you order the right size. They are available each day and the evening of November 13<sup>th</sup>.

The clothing will be available to try on in the library on Parent/Student/Interview Night on November 13th!



## Peace Tree Conference

On October 21 six lucky representatives went to the 9th annual Peace Tree Conference. We had amazing experiences such as playing games to learn about human rights, and workshops about character traits, feelings and self esteem. D O Gibson is a celebrity rapper who entertained us by rapping and talking about persevering, and surrounding yourself with positive encouraging people so that you can achieve your goals. He told us never to listen to people who crush your dreams. His initials stand for Defy the Odds - or overcome obstacles and keep your eyes On the prize.

We feel privileged that we could represent Boxwood and hope to inspire change in our school.

The Boxwood Peace Tree Committee

Danish M.

Arush K.

Karina D.

Abishek N.

Arvind A.

Tavishi T.





## **EQAO** Results

Our EQAO results have been published on the EQAO web site. Our work continues as we learn from our results and take direction from the Ministry from one year to the next. To view Boxwood's results please refer to <a href="https://www.eqao.com">www.eqao.com</a>.

#### **Dates to Remember**

November 11	Remembrance Day Assembly
November 11	Milk Program
November 12	Grab and Go Breakfast
November 13	Grab and Go Breakfast
November 13	Photo Retakes
November 12	Progress Reports go home
November 13	Pizza Day
November 13	Milk Program
November 13	Parent/Teacher Conferences
	(by appointment only)
November 14	Professional Activity Day
November 14	Sr. Kindergarten to Grade 8
	Parent/Teacher Conferences
	(by appointment only)
November 18	School Council Meeting 7 p.m.
November 18	Milk Program
November 18	Cookie Dough Pick Up
November 19	Grab and Go Breakfast
November 20	Grab and Go Breakfast
November 20	Milk Program
November 21	Pizza Day
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November 25	Milk Program
	Grab and Go Breakfast
November 25	
November 27	Milk Program
November 27	Grab and Go Breakfast
November 28	Character Matters Assemblies
November 28	Pizza Day

## Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thursday, November 14 from 3:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. & Friday, November 15th from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon

(BY APPOINTMENT ONLY—watch for further information)

#### Our Provincial Progress Report Card, Grades 1-8

The Ministry of Education introduced a new progress report, for students in Grades 1-8, which has several new features compared to previous report cards. These features are intended to facilitate better communication among parents, teachers, and students, and encourage students to set goals, and assist parents in supporting learning at home.

One of the most noticeable differences is that **there are no achievement grades on the progress report card**. Instead, the fall progress report card places a strong emphasis on the development of students' learning skills and work habits. Students' achievement of six learning skills and habits will be shown on the front page of the progress report card. They are as follows: (1) Responsibility, (2) Organization, (3) Independent Work, (4) Collaboration, (5) Initiative, and (6) Self-Regulation.

The development of these skills and habits will be reported as "excellent", "good", "satisfactory" or "needs improvement" and a large space is provided for teacher

comments about students' strengths and areas for improvement.

The fall progress report card indicates for parents how well their children are progressing in all subjects and provides an early indication where the student may need additional help. For each subject, teachers will check whether the students are: Progressing With Difficulty, Progressing Well, or Progressing Very Well.

The progress reports are being sent home on Wednesday, November 13th.



## CHARACTER MATTERS



"Character education involves the preparation of learners to be responsible, caring and contributing citizens. Good character is a cornerstone of a civil, just and democratic society. Character education can be both taught and learned. It contributes to the development of safe, supportive schools, develops the emotional and social learning and enhances academic achievement. It contributes to the individual's personal well being." *YRDSB*.

Every month at Boxwood, students from each class are recognized for demonstrating positive character traits, academics and learning skills at our Recognition Assemblies.

Octobers character trait was Responsibility This month's recipients showed responsibility for themselves, others and their belongings. The learning skills focus for October was Mathematics.

Congratulations to the following people:

Aathirali Rajamohan, Joy Aguilar, Raya Ahmad, Shiyan Ajith, Rohan Batchu, Melody Chu, Makeen Darman, Mariam Darman, Gurjeev Gill, Noor Grover, Enzo Han, Aadel Hashmi, Phillip He, Joshua Hirji-Gliatis, Noah Hirji-Gliatis, Aisha Hussain, Nisha Kabilan, Tharmisha Kabilan, Angelina Kaspiris, Rida Khan, Arsalan Khan, Anthony Louie, Aaminah Memon, Keshi Muralitharan, Rishnil Navarupan, Efi Papadopoulos, Sanvi Patel, Kareena Pathak, Raveena Pathak, Aarabie Rajamohan, Eshan Rana, Shahana Raveendiran, Yusr Rehman, Madina Saberi, Karen Sandhu, Eashal Shaikh, Amaya Shan, Anjali Singh, Arjun Singh, Sarica Srishylan, Shveta Suresh, Kajen Thavaraj, Naira Woo, Haseeb Yaasin, Isra Yaasin, Jenusan Yogarajah & Phoebe Zeng and Isaac Alli, and Abhay Chawla

#### **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 of 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.



## Remembrance Day

Our Remembrance Day assembly was held on Monday, November 11th at 9:30 a.m. in the gym. At that time the students recognized the people who have fought in wars for peace.

Our students took part in a variety of performances and ways of recognizing the quest for peace in the world.

Thank you to our student council who organized and facilitated the assembly, the presentations were meaningful to all our students and staff members.

#### **School Bus Cancellation Notice**

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled 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.
- When bus service is cancelled all school tests and/or examinations will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- Student trips involving the use of school buses will also be cancelled.
- School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be 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



Please call the office for every student absence and/or late. This may include illness, appointments, personal reasons etc. Please call (905) 294-5563 and leave a message.

It is important to note that research indicates that significant absence from school has a detrimental affect on student performances. It is for this reason that we discourage extended holidays. If your child is away from school for an extended period of time this will undoubtedly create gaps in their learning. It is not expected that teachers provide work for students for extended periods of absence from school. As a result we would ask you to consider carefully when withdrawing your children from school.

