

Boxwood Broncos



October 2018



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

Principal: Dane Prince
Trustee: Juanita Nathan (416) 885-3479
Superintendent: Peter Tse (905) 940-7800



Principal's Message

Focusing on the Fundamentals of Math, Grades 1-8

The Ontario government recently released a [parent fact sheet](#) and a [teacher's guide](#) on *Focusing on the Fundamentals of Math in grades 1 to 8*. In the guide, teachers are asked to focus attention on expectations from the **Number Sense and Patterning** strands of the current math curriculum and are also asked to focus on student understanding and sense-making before formal methods, such as using traditional formulas, are introduced.

York Region teachers have always worked to develop strong number sense, computational fluency and automaticity with math facts while supporting student understanding of underlying concepts. All educators in our board continue to support students in becoming confident problem solvers who use mathematical knowledge, skills and processes to be contributing members of a changing society.

In order to support your child with math at home and in day-to-day life, the [math page on our board website](#) lists useful websites, activities and games that you can reference and use. Thank you for the important role you play in the creation of confident problem solvers.

Math is everywhere!

The beginning of the school year is a great time to start building routines at home which can support children in developing a positive disposition towards math. Providing opportunities at home that promote math talk can support a child's mathematical knowledge and understanding. Whether you are, shopping, cooking, playing a game, organizing, taking a walk, or reading, there are many opportunities to highlight math in different ways.

Please look further in this newsletter for some activities that you can do at home to support your child in math!



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.

Board Policy Items

CONCUSSIONS

Recognizing the serious effects that concussions can have on student learning, achievement and well-being, we are committed to working with parents/guardians and community partners to provide appropriate support to prevent and minimize the risk of concussions.



Please inform the school if your child has a concussion or is experiencing symptoms of a concussion. You will be contacted by school staff if your child has a suspected concussion.

HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS)

Head lice or pediculosis is common in school-aged children. It is not a communicable disease and does not cause illness. All families can help to decrease head lice in our school communities by performing regular **head checks** of your children and treating the head lice if found. Checking for lice takes patience, diligence and plenty of time.



When head lice are identified at school, parents/guardians are contacted so a recommended treatment can start right away. It is recommended that you always be sensitive to a child's feelings around this topic. Head lice can happen to anyone regardless of socioeconomic factors or level of personal cleanliness.

ALLERGIES

We have a number of students and staff in our schools that have life-threatening allergies. If some of these people are exposed to an allergen, they may go into anaphylactic shock – a potentially life-threatening condition. Medication must be administered by injection within minutes to those individuals to keep them safe. You can help us keep our students safe by not giving your child any food that includes nuts, including Nutella.

Please help us ensure the health and safety of all of our students:

- ◆ Let the school know immediately if your child has a life-threatening allergy or medical condition and complete the appropriate forms.
- ◆ Ensure your child carries their epinephrine auto-injector medication, if needed.
- ◆ I will inform the parent community if there is a particular life-threatening allergy (e.g. nuts, eggs, dairy) at the school. Our staff follow recommended procedures for avoiding anaphylactic reactions to ensure the school environment is a safe



Board Policy Items

Please refrain from wearing
perfume, cologne or body spray
to school.



SCENT SENSITIVITIES

Many people have allergic reactions or sensitivities to scented products like perfumes, deodorants and other fragrances. All staff, students, and visitors are asked to refrain from or minimize the use of scented products.

EVERY STUDENT COUNTS SURVEY (ESCS)



In November 2018, all York Region District School Board students in Grades 7 to 12 and parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be invited to participate in a system-wide census entitled, the **Every Student Counts Survey** (ESCS). This census is part of our Board's commitment to create equitable and inclusive learning environments to meet the diverse needs of our students and families.

Copies of the census will be sent home with students in Kindergarten to Grade 6, to be completed with a parent or guardian. Students in Grades 7 to 12 will be invited to complete the census at school. The confidential and voluntary census will be available online or in paper format. Further information about this survey is on the board's website: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/equity/Pages/Every-Student-Counts-Survey.aspx>

PICTURE DAY

It was great seeing all of our students looking their best today for **Picture Day**!



CURRICULUM NIGHT

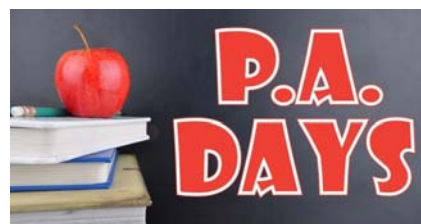
We look forward to seeing our Boxwood families soon for our Curriculum Night. This is an opportunity for parents to visit their child's classroom and to get information about what your child will be learning this year as well as school and classroom procedures.



PA DAYS

Throughout the year, schools have PA Days (Professional Activity Days). These days provide staff the opportunity to engage in professional learning (e.g., math), work on our School Improvement Plan (SIP), work on assessments (i.e., report cards), receive specific training (e.g., lockdown, anaphylaxis), or engage in parent teacher interviews. The dates for our PA Days this school year are as follows:

- ♦ **October 22nd**
- ♦ **November 23rd**
- ♦ **January 18th**
- ♦ **February 1st**
- ♦ **June 3rd**
- ♦ **June 27th (afternoon)**
- ♦ **June 28th**



Boxwood EQAO Results

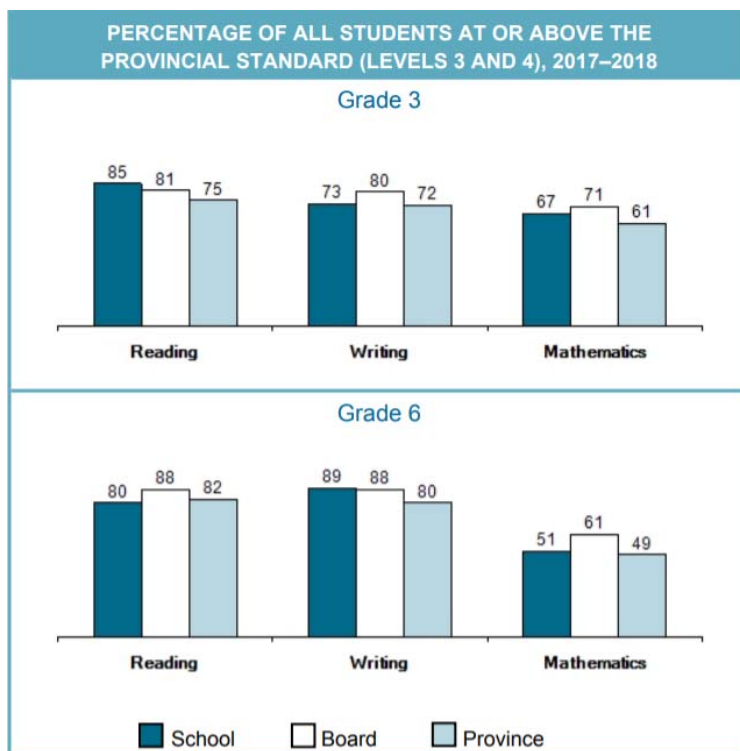
EQAO is an independent agency that creates and administers [large-scale assessments](#) to measure Ontario students' achievement in reading, writing and math at key stages of their education. All EQAO assessments are developed by Ontario educators to align with [The Ontario Curriculum](#). The assessments evaluate student achievement objectively and in relation to a common provincial standard.

EQAO provides results to each student who writes an assessment. Its personalized reports help support individual student learning. The agency provides schools and school boards with detailed reports about their students' achievement, as well as contextual, attitudinal and behavioural information from questionnaires, in an interactive online reporting tool. These data are used to improve school programming and classroom instruction.

Our results demonstrate a clear focus for our school, Math! While our school is doing well in reading and writing in our recent grade 3 & 6 assessment, our data shows that an area of growth for us, like the province, is in **math**. More specifically, we want to support our students to be better **problem solvers** as we have found that some of our students struggle in this area.

Improvement in mathematics is one of our key goals in our School Improvement Plan. We have and will continue to engage in professional learning about how to better support our students in math and monitor the progress of our efforts. A part of our effort is to continue to work with parents and provide them opportunities to learn how to support their child(ren) at home (e.g., Math Night).

We will continue to put our collective efforts to support our students to be more proficient in mathematics.



Education Quality and Accountability Office



Home Math Tips



Activities:

Primary - Grocery Shopping

Ask your child to estimate how many of a grocery item (for example, a type of fruit or vegetable, bread or pet food) your family will need for the week.

Ask, “Why do you think that amount will be needed?”

At the end of the week, have your child count the number actually used.

Junior/Intermediate - Budget Challenge

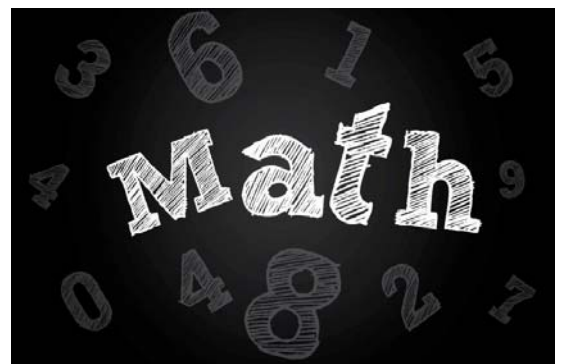


Give your child an imaginary budget to spend at his or her favourite store (flyers or online catalogues may be helpful). Without writing down the amounts, have your child choose items to purchase. He or she will have to use estimation to stay within the budget. Then, have your child add up the actual costs. Did she or he stay within the budget? For a challenge, help your child estimate any taxes.

Tips for Math

- Build strong, positive attitudes about math. When children feel positively engaged and successful, they are more likely to stick with an activity or a problem to find a solution.
- Begin with activities that meet your child’s level of mathematical understanding. Early success in solving problems will build your child’s confidence. Gradually move to activities that provide more challenge for your child.
- If you and your child are more comfortable in a language other than English, use it. Your child will understand concepts better in the language that he or she knows best

(Doing Mathematics With Your Child, Kindergarten to Grade 6: A Parent Guide)



Walking or Cycling to School



As we start the 2018-2019 school year, we would like to remind and encourage families to consider **walking or cycling with children to and from school**. There are many benefits to walking and cycling to school. It:

- ♦ Improves student academic performance by making children more alert and better prepared to learn.
- ♦ Contributes to the daily goal of 60 minutes of moderate or vigorous activity for children, improving their health and overall fitness.
- ♦ Reduces traffic congestion and improves safety for everyone in school zones.
- ♦ Promotes life-long habits that foster independence and active lifestyles, preparing children for their future.

For those who can't walk or cycle to school every day, choosing active travel once, twice or a few days a week can still provide benefits. You can also consider parking a block away from the school and walking the rest of the way. Include active travel as part of your daily routine!



ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH WORKSHOP

Discovering Islamic Art with Your Child

Workshop Description

In recognition of Islamic Heritage Month, parents/guardians with their children grades K to 12 are invited to participate in a free Art History Workshop facilitated by the Aga Khan Museum.

This workshop will consist of an introduction to the Aga Khan Museum and an understanding of the diversity and pluralism in Islam through the museum collection. Families will explore patterns from the art and architectures of the museum and Islamic artifacts.

Each participant will create and take home their own tile.

York Region parents/guardians can register at any of the school locations.

Registration will be confirmed via email from Inclusive School and Community Services.

Workshop Locations, Times and Registration

Teston Village Public School

80 Murray Farm Ln, Maple, ON L6A 3G1

Thursday, October 11, 2018

4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

[Registration Form](#)

Contact: Wahid.khan@yrdsb.ca

Donald Cousens Public School

315 Mingay Ave, Markham, ON L6E 1T5

Thursday, October 18, 2018

4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

[Registration Form](#)

Contact: Saheda.hafejee@yrdsb.ca

Sixteenth Avenue Public School

400 16th Ave, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7A9

Thursday, October 24, 2018

4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

[Registration Form](#)

Contact: Shila.mahdavi@yrdsb.ca

ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH – LITERATURE CAFE

In recognition of Islamic Heritage Month, AEMS welcomes staff, families and community to our Literature Cafe. This event will include readings and book-signings from our beloved YRDSB authors. We invite guests to share and read aloud texts featuring Islamic cultures, identities, forms, knowledges and authors of any language.

Guest Speakers

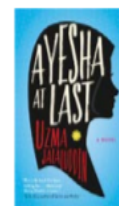
S.K. Ali

S.K. Ali is the author of American Library Association's 2018 Morris award finalist, *Saints and Misfits*. Her debut novel won critical acclaim for its groundbreaking portrayal of an unapologetic Muslim-American teen's life. She has a degree in Creative Writing and has written about Muslim life for various media, including the *Toronto Star* and *NBC News*. She lives in Toronto with her family and a very vocal cat named Yeti. Her second novel, *Love From A to Z*, a story about finding love in the time of Islamophobia, will be published in 2019 by Simon & Schuster. She can be found on twitter at @sajidahwrites and can be contacted through her website at www.skaliibooks.com.



Uzma Jalaluddin

Uzma Jalaluddin writes "Samosas and Maple Syrup," a culture and parenting column for *The Toronto Star*. Her debut novel, *AYESHA AT LAST* (HarperCollins Canada 2018, Berkley Books U.S.A 2019, Atlantic Books U.K, 2019) is a revamped *Pride and Prejudice* set in a close-knit Toronto Muslim community. The book has been featured in the *Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star*, *Post Media*, *Chatelaine*, *Toronto Life*, *Quill and Quire* and *The New York Times*. She has also been a guest on television shows *Cityline*, *CTV Your Morning* and *The Social*, as well as *CBC Radio*. In addition, *Ayesha At Last* was optioned for film by Pascal Pictures and Sony. Uzma is a high school English and Science teacher with the York Region, and lives in the GTA with her husband and two sons. Find out more at www.uzmajalaluddin.com.



Agenda

5:30 p.m.	Refreshments
5:45 p.m.	Opening Remarks by Cecil Roach, Superintendent of Education, Indigenous Education and Equity
6:00 p.m.	Guest Author Readings
6:30 p.m.	Cafe Guest Read-Ins
7:00 p.m.	Book Signings

Location, Registration and Contact details

Middlefield Collegiate Institute, Library
525 Highglen Ave, Markham, ON L3S 3L5
Tuesday, October 30, 2018
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

[Registration Form](#)

Contact: ayesha.syed@yrdsb.ca or saheda.hafejee@yrdsb.ca



Each year, our students celebrate the long-standing tradition of Halloween. Students celebrating this occasion in costume at our school **must comply** with the ***Safe School's policy***. Costume accessories including, but not limited to, toy guns, knives, axes, swords, etc. are not in compliance with York Region District School Board's Safe Schools Policy #668.0. Please **DO NOT** send these accessories to school with your child. Please note that this policy applies to all students at all levels, including Kindergarten. In the interest of student safety (restricted student vision), we do not encourage masks. Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to having a safe and enjoyable Halloween. ***Dressing in a costume for Halloween is voluntary!***



As a healthy school, we have to ensure that healthy food choices are offered or sold wherever food is available, such as catered lunches, fundraising, school milk program, school events, and classroom celebrations,. This being said, students are **not to bring food to school** (e.g., chocolates, candy...) to celebrate events (e.g., Halloween, Valentine's Day, birthdays). We encourage other items such as books, pencils, and erasers. Thank you for supporting our healthy school.

Safety Tips for Children Before Trick-or-Treating this Halloween

- Wear a properly fitted costume that is bright and non-flammable.
- Use reflective tape on your costume so you can be seen in the dark.
- Use face make-up or enlarge the eyes on your mask so you can see well.
- When wearing a mask, push it up on your head while walking.
- Visit the front door of well-lit homes and never go inside.
- Plan a route close to home and a time to be home.
- Have a trusted adult check your treats before eating them.





Dates to Remember

OCTOBER 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			4 Picture Day  12:45pm - Cross Country Practice 6:30pm -Curriculum Night	5
8 Thanksgiving *No School 	9 12:45pm - Cross Country Practice	10 10:35am - Cross Country Practice 1:05pm - Boys V-ball Practice	11 10:35am - Grade 6-8 House league 12:45pm - Cross Country Practice 3:30pm - Boys V-ball Practice	12 Dental Screening Grades JK, SK, 2, 7, 8 10:35am - Gr. 6-8 House league
15 Dental Screening Gr. JK, SK, 2, 7, 8 12:45pm - Cross Country Practice 3:30pm - Boys V-ball Practice	16 Regional Cross Country	17 1:05pm - Boys V-ball Practice	18 10:35am - Grade 6-8 House league 1:05pm - Boys V-ball Practice	19 Regional Cross Country Rain date 10:35am - Grade 6-8 House league
22 P.A. Day *No school	23 Boxwood Olympics (tentative)	24	25 3:30pm - Boys V-ball Practice	26 10:35am - Grade 6-8 House league 1:05pm - Boys V-ball Practice
29 10:35am - Grade 6-8 House league 3:30pm - Boys V-ball Practice	30 1:05pm - Boys V-ball Practice	31 Halloween @ Boxwood <i>(students can wear their costume if they wish)</i> 		

Upcoming Dates:

November 9th - Remembrance Day Assembly

November 21st - Report Cards go Home

November 22nd & 23rd- Parent Teacher Interviews

November 29th - Photo Retakes

