



Dr. Roberta Bondar Public School

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T: 905.417.8046 F: 905.417.8492

October 2017

From the Administrative Team

As we head into October, the signs of students settling into routines, persevering with new learning and becoming involved in various activities is evident everywhere. September was a busy month at Dr. Roberta Bondar with the reorganization of many classes and changes in the office staff. We thank both the students and parents for their flexibility and understanding as we readjusted class sizes to meet compliance with the Ministry expectations and to support student learning. Seeing our students and staff demonstrate resiliency and maintain a positive attitude, proves why Dr. Roberta Bondar P.S. is a great place to be.

Our goal and campaign of improving students' punctuality has been a success. With the School Council's help of providing many incentive prizes, like passes to the Cineplex or Funtastic Forest and gift cards for Tim Horton's coffees to parents who bring students to school on time, we have seen a significant change in our morning "on time" attendance. Way to Go DRB!! Let's keep it going!

Creating a safe and welcoming learning environment for our students, staff and visiting parents is one of our top priority at Dr. Roberta Bondar. You can help us do this by remembering to leave lunches on the front table for your child, to drive and park carefully in our parking lot and side streets, to use the front door for entry into the school and to sign in at the office if you are volunteering or helping in the school. Also check out the important dates for the month and see the different opportunities that students and families can participate at Dr. Roberta Bondar.

Wendy Howes
Principal

Ruth Walker-Rosewood
Vice Principal

CONTACT



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[@DrRBondarPS](https://twitter.com/DrRBondarPS)

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Important Dates at DRBPS

October

- 2 Lice Check Day
- 2 School Council Meeting and Election - 6:30 pm.
- 5 Bus Safety for all grades
- 6 Bus Safety for all grades
- 6 Grade 7's - Hep B & HPV immunizations AM
- 6 Popcorn Sales begin
- 9 Thanksgiving Holiday - School closed
- 11 Grade 3 Dairy Farmers Presentations
- 12 Cross Country Areas
- 13 Grade 8 to Cold Creek
- 17 Cross Country Regionals
- 18 Divaldi
- 19 Photo Day for Bondar
- 20 PA Day - No school
- 25 Arts Performance:
A Capella Time Machine
Grades 1 to 4 (9:30 am)
Grade 5 to 8 (11:00 AM)
- 30 Character Assemblies - Focus: Responsibility
Grade 4 to 8- 8:35 am; K to 3 - 9:10am

Upcoming Dates at DRBPS: November

- 6 School Council Meeting 6:30 pm.
- 12 Tea and Chat: Information Session for New Canadians 6 - 7 pm.
- 13 Dental Screening JK/SK
- 14 Dental Screening 2 & 4
- 15 Dental Screening 6 & 8

Inside this Month's Dr. Roberta Bondar Public School Newsletter

Click each of the following to access the timely and thought-provoking information contained within this newsletter:

- School Council News
- Terry Fox Run
- Combined Grade Classes
- Library Corner
- Information Session For New Canadians
- Math Anxiety

Lunch Programs

Great Programs to sign up your kids for a lunch time activity.

Tuesdays October 3 to November 21: **Bricks4Kidz** - located in the Library

Friday October 6,12, 27, November 3,10,17, 24, December 1, 8, 15:
Chess'N Math - located in Room 235



POPCORN SALES

Starting Friday, October 6, 2017 popcorn will be sold at first recess for \$1.00 per bag as a fundraising effort for Grade 8 graduation. Thanks for your support!!

Halloween

A reminder to parents and students that Halloween is approaching. On Tuesday, October 31st students may be involved in a variety of activities. Teachers will be sending home additional information indicating what they have planned. **We ask that you please do not send Halloween treats or any food items for the entire class.** Our teachers will be planning alternative active activities.



A reminder to parents to pay close attention when packing lunches with Halloween treats! Please remember to pack lunches that are healthy and nut free!

A friendly reminder that students celebrating this occasion in costume at our school must comply with the 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.o.

Parents and guardians of all students are asked to look out for more detailed information from their child's teacher about expectations for that day.

School Council News

Welcome back to school!

As we get back into the school year routine, School Council is excited for another amazing and exciting year. First, we would like to thank all the parents, volunteers, and staff that helped out last year as we held so many fun programs and events, culminating in our 2nd Annual Fun Fair which was tons of fun and a huge success once again! All these efforts have supported our students in ways such as new technology for the school and classrooms, a school agenda for each student, performing arts presentations for the upcoming school year for all students, and the amazing new score clock in the gym, making our school available to host sports games and tournaments for students!

Our next School Council Meeting will be held on Monday, November 6, at 6:30 PM in the school library. We encourage all parents to attend the meeting to learn more about what the school and council have in store for the year. Remember, you can come to the meetings to learn and listen...even if you may not be able to volunteer. We welcome all parents!

Please note that pizza and sub lunches are starting up from October. Pre-orders will be available on School Cash Online from the 1st-10th of every month for orders for the FOLLOWING month (eg. November pizza and sub orders will be available to be pre-ordered October 1-10)

- **Pizza Lunch Thursdays** - Pizza lunch will be offered every Thursday from Little Caesar's by pre-order only. Please check "School Cash Online" for order and payment details.
- **Sub Lunch Wednesdays** - Sub lunch will be offered every Wednesday from Mr. Sub by pre-order only. Please check "School Cash Online" for order and payment details.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To support our fundraising and community events, we need volunteers! If you have an hour to spare, even once this school year, we would appreciate your help. Here are the times we specifically need help:

- Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30am-12:30pm to help with Sub and Pizza Lunch

If you are able to help or have any questions, feel free to contact School Council at: bondarrocketsschoolcouncil@gmail.com

It is only with the help and participation of everyone that we can do more for our kids at the school. We are looking forward to another fantastic year!

Thank you and we look forward to another great year at Bondar!

Priya Pillai
School Council Chair

Appropriate Clothing for the Weather

This is a reminder that all students are required to go outside twice a day.

Please make sure your child comes to school dressed to go outdoors. Extra sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves, etc. are needed.

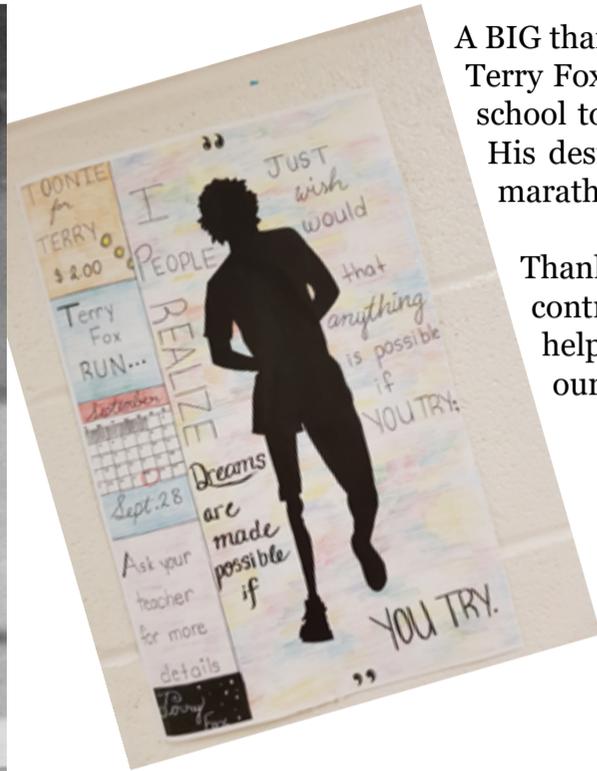
Please also ensure that your child has appropriate footwear: an outdoor pair of shoes or boots as well as an indoor pair of shoes for classroom and physical education use.

Children go outside for all recesses.

Children who are ill should remain home until completely recovered as indoor supervision is not provided during recess.

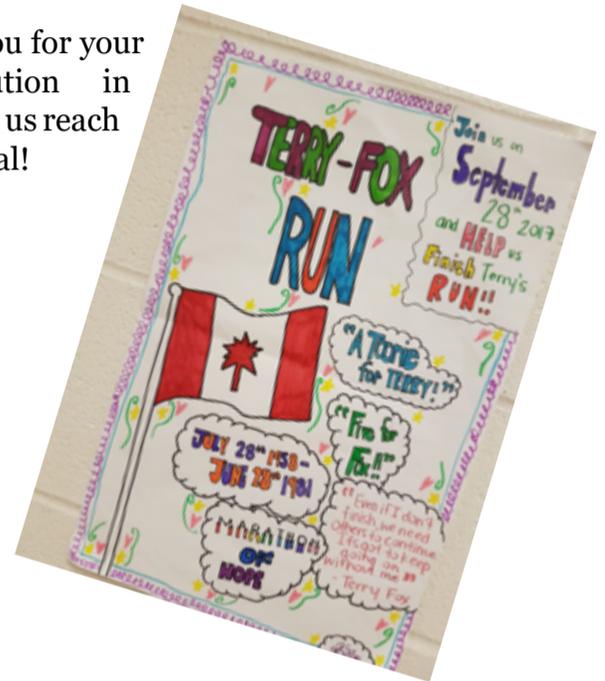


Great Participation at Dr Roberta Bondar in the Terry Fox Run/Walk



A BIG thank you for all those who ran, walked or rolled on the Terry Fox Walk. It was a great time of coming together as a school to learn about and celebrate a great hero in Canada. His desire to raise money for cancer research through his marathon run has inspired many over 30 years.

Thank you for your contribution in helping us reach our goal!



Grade 5 Primary Travellers

On September 15, our Grade 5 students had the chance to see safety in action on our streets in front of Dr. Roberta Bondar. As part of their learning with Office Robin and Toni, Grade 5's learned about why laws about traffic safety, such as no texting while

driving and no speeding through school zones are important to everyone. With homemade tickets and signs in hand, students had a chance to talk to drivers about safe driving practices and why they are needed to keep everyone safe.



Combined Grade Classes

A class of combined grades is composed of students from two or more adjacent grades who are grouped with one teacher for instruction. In all classrooms, no matter how they are organized, teachers need to provide for the individual needs of students. To achieve this, they use a variety of methods on a daily basis to assess the needs of each student, and then adjust the focus of instruction for skill development accordingly. The focus of instruction for all subjects is on helping students to advance regardless of age, grade, or current level of performance.

Within a class of combined grades, students work towards the achievement of their **grade-specific curriculum expectations**. When common “big ideas” or skills are involved, all students in the class often work together, but at other times, instruction may be specific to each grade. Assessment, evaluation and reporting are grade-specific.

Why do you have classes of combined grades?

Most classes of combined grades are created to accommodate students in a school where it is not possible to create only single-grade classes. For example, if there are thirty Grade 2 students, thirty Grade 3 students, and three teachers, the only way to organize the children into smaller classes is to combine some students from both grades in one class.

What are the benefits of placement in a class of combined grades?

There are many socio-emotional benefits for students who are in classes with students of various ages. For example, in such classes peer interactions have been shown to be very positive; students have opportunities for greater development of social skills and cooperation skills and students often develop a feeling of comfort and security, a positive self-concept, and a sense of satisfaction with their achievements. There are also significant opportunities for development of leadership skills and for learning from peers. In studies measuring academic achievement, students in classes of combined grades were found to perform as well as students in single grade classes.

Why was my child chosen to be in a class of combined grades?

When placing students in all classes, we consider a variety of factors, including number of students, number of boys and girls and students’ interests, strengths, needs, learning styles, motivation, work habits, emotional development, maturity and cooperation. We also consider student academic achievement. The placement of your child in the higher grade of a split class does not mean that your child has not met curriculum requirements. If your child is in the lower grade, they are not necessarily ahead of their peers in a straight grade.

Will the teacher have as much time for each child in a class of combined grades?

The amount of time for an individual student is not determined by the organization of classrooms by grade. In all classrooms, teachers employ a number of instructional strategies to address the needs of all students. On a daily basis teachers work with large groups, small groups and individual students.

(Ministry of Education, Combined Grades, 2007)

Lunches Available at Bondar

Need a break from making lunches?

You can now order pizza, submarine sandwiches, and Lunch Lady.

Check out School Cash Online.

We are Nut Sensitive. Please only send Nut Free snacks and lunches.

School Re-organization

As a result of the changes that have taken place between June and September in our school’s enrolment and in order to comply with the Ministry’s Primary Class Size Reduction Strategy, the following modifications have been made to our classroom organizations. All changes took place on Tuesday, September 26th, 2017.

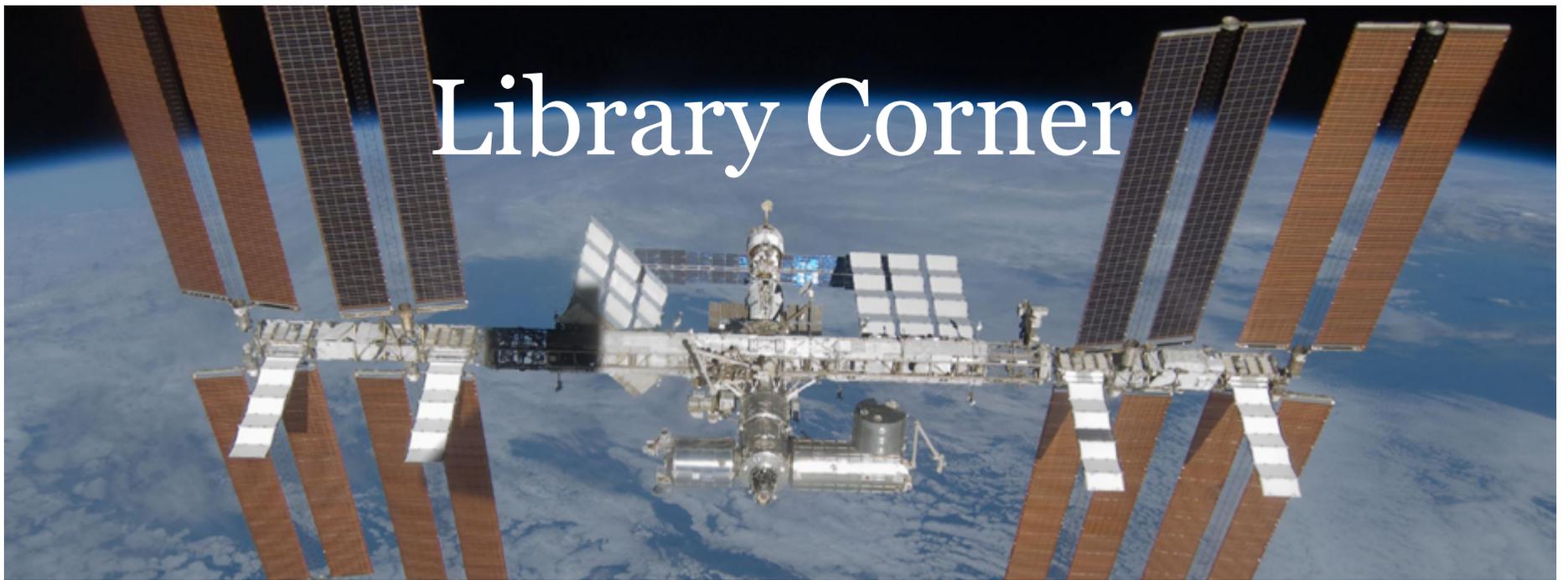
In order to support a positive learning environment for our students, we have reorganized our primary, junior and intermediate divisions. Thank you for your support.

Grade	Teacher	Grade	Teacher
JK/SK	Ms. Salituro	2	Ms. Stamkos
	Ms. Alexeeva	2	Ms. Purewal
JK/SK	Ms. Bruk	2/3	Ms. Shufman
	Ms. Weiss	3	Ms. Garner
JK/SK	Mr. Hunt	3	Ms. Davis
	Ms. Ferdous	3/4	Ms. Brett
JK/SK	Ms. Navarro	4	Ms. Belanger
	Ms. Finn	4/5	Ms. Bravos
JK/SK	Ms. Giordmaina	5	Mr. Dias
	Ms. Iaboni	5	Ms. Balche
JK/SK	Ms. Berger	6	Ms. Voskakis
	Ms. Kerimli	6	Ms. Murdoch
JK/SK	Ms. Nagra	7	Mr. Jerzak (Bressi)
	Ms. Sharma	7	Mr. Gabriele
JK/SK	Ms. Thurley	7/8	Ms. Bagg
	Ms. Palmateer	7/8	Ms. Nattrass
1	Ms. Del Priore	8	Ms. Phan
1	Ms. Murdoch	8	Ms. Canton
1	Ms. Cundari	M/E room	Ms. Martin
2	Mr. Szpirglas		

Rest assured that in all of our classrooms, our teachers differentiate the instruction, assessment, and expectations based on each student’s individual strengths, needs and interests.

If you have any questions regarding the Primary Class Size Reduction strategy, please visit the Ministry of Education’s website at: www.edu.gov.on.ca and search for “Primary Class Size.”

For more information regarding the Ministry of Education commitment to reduced class sizes: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/cst/>



Library Corner



This September has been a month of unpacking and rearranging of the school Library after the summer construction. Our school library now has a ramp and door that connects to the stage in the gym.

How wonderful to have an accessible stage in our school! Thank you to everyone who helped and pitched in to get the Library set up! It is a huge task to pack up and unpack the Library. So many people came, pitched in, and helped and I can't thank you enough! A special thank you to Mrs. Vacca, Ms. Navarro (and family), Ms. Martin (and family), Mrs. Walker-Rosewood and Ms. Howes for unpacking and shelving boxes and boxes of books. Thanks to our parent volunteers Mrs. Kline and Mrs. Kim for their work the first few weeks of September. A huge thank you to the caretaking staff for their work to get the space set up and clean!



Grades 1 and 2 Class visits

Grades 1 and 2 have started their class visits to the Library. The classes come with their teachers and sign out 4 books (2 Borrow-A-Books and 2 choice books). Borrow-A-Books allow students to read and a just right level, practice their reading and develop reading skills. Please take time to listen to your child read each day. Borrow-A-Books can be read each day. Remember to support your child keeping their library books in a safe place and support your child return their library books using their book bags. Your child will visit the library each week.

Kindergarten Visits

Kindergarten classes visit the Library each week. They have an opportunity to sign out 2 books from the school library and participate in a library program. Please return your child's library books the day before their class visit so library books can be checked in before their library visit. If your child visits the library on **Tuesday**, please return books on **Monday**. If your child's library visit is on Monday, enjoy the books for the weekend and return them on Monday. The day the class visits the library will change as the school has PA Days and Holidays. Please refer to your child's classroom calendar for library dates.

Library Orientations

Library Orientations took place for Grades 3 to 8 and now these classes have begun Library book exchange. Students in Grades 3-8 can exchange books 4 days a week during Open Book Exchange. Students can check out 2 books and can have the books for 2 weeks.



Students reading on the new ramp after their library orientation.



Our school Library is a MAKERSPACE environment, where students can come and design and build with a variety of materials such as K'Nex, knitting, circuit kits, Lego and play games. Makerspace Monday's will be starting in October for Junior and Intermediate students at lunch recess 11:55-12:25. A schedule will be posted outside the Library. Grades 4 & 5 one week and Grades 6,7&8 the following week.

Tea and Chat



Information Session for New Canadians

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are planning an **Information Session for New Canadians** and other parents or guardians interested in finding out more about the Canadian Education System. The session will take place on **Thursday, November 9, 2017, 6:00-7:00 pm.**

The following topics will be discussed at the Information Session:

- ***Understanding the Canadian Education System***
- ***How you can help your child at home***
- ***Any questions you have about education or community resources***

Please let us know if you would like to attend this Information Session by completing the form below and returning it to your child's teacher or by calling Ms. DiGregorio , Ms. Politis or Ms. Tobin at 905-417-8046.

Please return this form or call by October 16, 2017.

If you need an interpreter, please let us know and we will do our best to provide an interpreter who speaks your language and is available.

If you are interested in discussing other topics, please indicate this as well.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you,

Ms. DiGregorio, Ms. Politis, Ms. Tobin (ELL Teachers) 905-417-8046.

-
- I will attend the Information Session on Thursday, November 9, 6:00-7:00 pm.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Child's name: _____

- I would like also be interested in discuss/learn about: _____

- I would like an interpreter, if possible. Language: _____



IB INFORMATION NIGHT

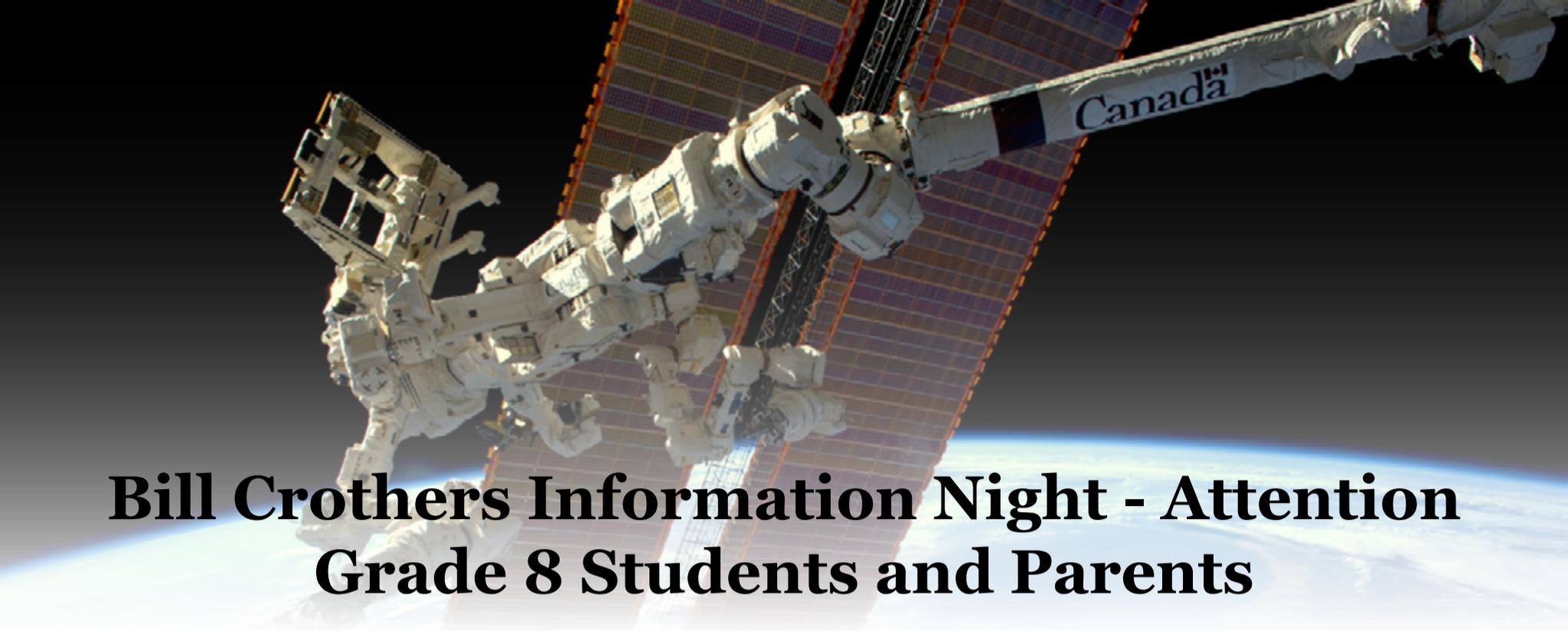
October 17, 2017

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme is student-centred with a focus on developing intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills for students who live, learn and work in a rapidly changing world. The program emphasizes critical and compassionate thinking, community involvement, and intercultural understanding. It is founded on international standards and assessment. Students who complete the Programme earn both an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and an IB Diploma.

Current Grade 8 students and families interested in the Programme are invited to attend an information session at the school offering the IB Programme in their area. During each session, information about the Programme and the application process will be shared. To determine your area please visit the YRDSB [school locator](#).

Alexander Mackenzie High School	@ 7:00 p.m.
Bayview Secondary School	@ 7:00 p.m.
Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School	@ 6:30 p.m.
Maple High School	@ 6:30 p.m.
Milliken Mills High School	@ 7:00 p.m.





Bill Crothers Information Night - Attention Grade 8 Students and Parents

Bill Crothers Secondary School (BCSS) is a system-wide school with a focus on healthy active living and sport. The school is open for Grade 9 to 12 students. Students and parents from across the region are invited to attend an information evening. Information will be shared regarding the vision, mission, schedule, programs, the transfer policy, and application process.

We will be accepting approximately 400 grade 8 students for the 2018 - 2019 school year commencing the first week of August 2018 (to be approved by Ministry). The application assessment process will take approximately six to eight weeks. We will contact successful applicants mid-January 2018. Elementary schools will be provided with a list of students who have been accepted after students have been notified.

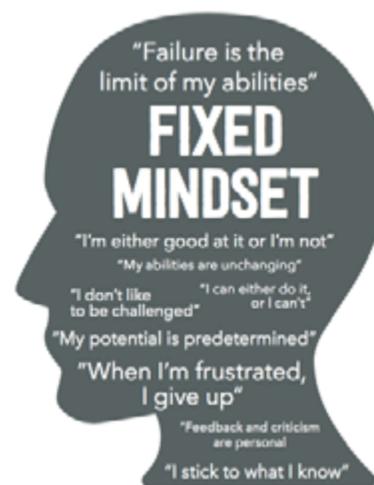
Information Nights at: Bill Crothers Secondary School, 44 Main Street, Unionville, Ontario.

Tuesday October 3rd, 2017 – Students in the East and North area of York Region
Thursday October 12th, 2017 – Students in the West and Central area of Region

Information sessions will be from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the school cafeteria and/or Gym A

Applications will be available from the Bill Crothers school website: Friday, October 13th, 2017.
Applications are due: Friday, November 3rd, 2017.

Math Learning



As educators we are trying to create engaging and safe environments for students to learn. When studying math, we notice that because of the hard work involved, students really need to have a Growth Mindset (Carol Dweck) to persevere and practice concepts that need deep learning. In Carol Dweck's book, "Mindset: The New Psychology of Success", she explains that students need to have a growth mindset to be successful. They have to understand and believe that their abilities are not fixed, but that with hard work and practice students can reach their

goals and solve problems that they once found difficult. When students believe that everyone can reach high levels of learning, then their attitudes change.

Our goal is to help ALL students understand that they can learn and reach their highest potential. This means that they will need to face challenges in their daily work and make mistakes, before they may succeed, however this is necessary for them to develop a growth mindset within themselves.

How You Can Help a Child Who Has Math Anxiety

How parents can help a child who feels stress about learning math in school

By Katherine Lee
Updated April 17, 2017

As early as kindergarten, kids are introduced to math. As they progress in grade school, children will learn math skills such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and more.

While math can be fun and challenging for some children, it can be a very different experience for others. For many students, working with numbers and math concepts can lead to math anxiety, in which they can develop a fear and stress about math.

They can feel anxiety about not getting the answers right and not understanding what is being taught. They may feel frustrated and upset about not doing well in math and may develop a dislike for the subject, making the development of math skills even more difficult.

Common Causes of Math Anxiety

Often, children develop math anxiety when they don't master early math skills, and then are continually expected to learn additional math when they haven't yet gained the fundamental knowledge.

Just as a solid building cannot be erected upon a shaky foundation, expecting a child to gain new math skills when they haven't mastered the basics can lead to a lack of confidence and anxiety about math. But this is precisely what can happen when children try to struggle to find the correct answers to math problems without understanding the concepts in the first place.

School-age children may also see peers excelling in math and develop a belief that they are not as "naturally" good at math as these other children are.

This can lead to self-doubt and a reluctance to try harder at improving their own math skills.

How to Handle Math Anxiety

Parents can help a child overcome math anxiety by offering reassurance, practical assistance, and by making it fun. Most of all, they can set the tone by developing a positive attitude toward math themselves, and try to find a way to use numbers as much as they can with their child in everyday life.

Here are some ways parents can help their child avoid stress about math.

1. Play math games. Whether you play [math games online](#), get out some number-centric board games such as Monopoly or Double Shutter, or use some [common kitchen items to play with numbers](#), playing games that are math and numbers oriented is an excellent way to make math fun and get children interesting in doing the math.

2. Be aware of your own attitude toward math. Have you ever said things such as, "I'm not good at math," or "I just don't like math"? If so, consider changing your attitude, or at least not voicing such negative ideas about math out loud. Your child is watching and learning from you, and if you express negative feelings about math rather than talk about the fun and important aspects of math, then you are doing your child a disservice.

3. Practice with your child. When it comes to math skills such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, nothing beats practicing. And learning multiplication facts is a matter of drilling. Practice multiplication tables on the way to school, while your child is having a bath, right before story time at night -- whenever you can squeeze it in. Print out math worksheets and practice doing math problems, making things fun and challenging by using a timer or giving your child a treat for finishing the problems and getting faster doing them.



Making math fun and having a positive attitude about it are just two of the many ways parents can help their child avoid math anxiety. Matthias Tunger/LOOK-foto/Getty Images

4. Ditch the idea that some people are not good at math. This is a particularly important message for girls, who may pick up the misconception prevalent in the world today that boys are better at math than girls. While some experts have asserted that a math gender gap no longer exists, other researchers have argued that it does; the reason for those differences are likely complex and varied, including parents' and educators' failure to nurture girls' confidence in math, societal pressure for girls not to succeed in math, and parents' and teachers' failure to spot girls' early struggles with math, which can then worsen over time.

5. Get help early. And while we're on the subject of a math gender gap, a fascinating study from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign found that the math gender gap between girls and boys widens between kindergarten and 5th grade. Moreover, the study determined that many teachers may mistake girls' attentiveness in class and completion of assignments as indicators that they understand the material, when in fact, they may not. To make sure that a child -- boy or girl -- really does understand the material, teachers and parents should go over the material with the child, and if necessary, give him or her some extra help as soon as possible.

6. Help your child shake off mistakes. One of the best things you can do as you help your child develop math skills and learn other academic and life lessons is to assure him that mistakes are something that will happen and that they are learning opportunities. If you can help your child put math mistakes into perspective and remind him that they are what will ultimately help him learn, your child will be less likely to develop anxiety about math.

Source: <https://www.verywell.com/how-you-can-help-a-child-who-has-math-anxiety-620833>

German Mills Public School

Invites all parents and caregivers to join us for a free parent presentation

Parenting Traps and Strategies For parents of children birth to 12 years of age

This session explains how parents may get “trapped” in escalations and power struggles. It explains why parents experience “defiance and non-compliance” when they ask or request their children to do something. Understanding various traps and help parents learn ways to avoid these traps and develop age appropriate and do-able strategies.

Location: German Mills Public School
61 Simonston Blvd. Thornhill 41 Porterfield Crescent
Thornhill, L3T 4R5

Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Free child minding will be available

To register please contact:
Oksana Majaski, Community & Partnership Development Facilitator
Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca or 416-568-2252

This presentation is brought to you by German Mills P.S. in partnership with Blue Hills Child and Family Centre and York Region District School Board



Ready for Success Tutoring Program

Free math and English tutoring program for students in grades 1 to 6.

Every Tuesday starting October 17, 2017

Grades 1 to 3: 3:30pm-4:30pm

Grades 4 to 6: 4:45pm-5:45pm

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM: Tutoring and program activities are provided by York University's Teacher Candidates and VCHC staff. Through group tutoring (1 tutor to 5 children), children and tutors focus on improving literacy and numeracy skills. Children also participate in fun, educational group activities that promote cooperation, time management and problem solving skills.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY: The program is free of charge and is offered to families with a gross annual household income of \$70,000.00 or less (based on a family of 4). Caregivers will be asked to provide a notice of assessment with proof of income.

Caregivers must contact the Program Supervisor to obtain AND complete the registration package before September 29, 2017. Please contact

Kelly at 905-303-8490 Ext. 153 or klo@vaughanhc.com

Location: Vaughan Community Health Centre

9401 Jane Street Suite 106, Vaughan ON, L6A 4H7

www.vaughanhealthcarehc.com

**Please let us know if you need any specific accommodations
This flyer is available in an alternative format**



www.vaughanhealthcarehc.com



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