

THE BERNARD BULLETIN

April 2014

Bernard Avenue Public School

245 Bernard Ave.

Richmond Hill, Ontario L4S 1E1

Phone: (905) 508-7009

Fax: (905) 508-0047

Email: h.g.bernard.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Web: www.hgbernard.p.s.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

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Principal: Kathryn Prince
Vice Principal: Andrea Welburn
Superintendent: Clayton LaTouche
Trustee: Diane Giangrande

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

As we welcome the month of April, the snow and thick layer of ice in the school yard is finally beginning to melt. We are all looking forward to trading in our snowsuits for rain boots. Despite the challenging weather, the teachers and support staff at HG Bernard continue to engage students in wonderful learning opportunities.

One of the things that we have been working on as a school is helping students develop a growth mindset. The concept of the growth mindset is based on the belief that your basic qualities are things that you can cultivate through your efforts. Although people may differ in many ways – in their initial talents and aptitudes, interests, or temperaments – everyone can change and grow through application and experience (Carol Dweck, 2006). Students with a growth mindset are able to stretch themselves and stick to it even when it is difficult or not going well.

A growth mindset is important for students because it changes what they strive for and what they see as success. Students with a growth mindset are able to convert academic setbacks into future successes by seeking out feedback and persevering with difficult concepts.

Carol Dweck's research has helped us learn that some of the praises that we used in the past actually decreases motivation and performance. For example, "You learned that so quickly! You're so smart!" can make children think, *If I don't learn something quickly, I'm not smart.* Dweck recommends that we teach children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning. This results in children not being dependent on praise; they will have a way to build and repair their own confidence.

This doesn't mean that we are not praising students with enthusiasm. It simply means that we are thinking carefully about how we praise – avoiding praise that judges intelligence or talent. Instead we are focusing on what students accomplish through practice, study, persistence, and strategies. For example, "I like the way you tried many different strategies on that math problem and persevered until you finally found a way that worked."

With the right mindset we can help our students reach their goals and build resiliency. We look forward to your continued support with your child's learning and seeing you at our next School Council meeting.

Kathryn Prince
Principal

Andrea Welburn
Vice-Principal

BLADES OF GLORY

On Thursday, March 27th, Ms. Dawson and Mrs. Hanson's grade 4/5 classes, as well as Mrs. Zekry's grade 4 class, were excited to attend the "Blades of Glory" presentation in our gym to support their Early Civilizations social studies unit. Through special lighting, costumes, props, and music, history was brought alive for the children, as they participated in a unique presentation about the Ancient Romans, Egyptians, Native People, Aztecs, Incas and Mayan. At the end of the show, the students were allowed to touch the displays and ask questions about the real and museum replica artifacts that were available. For further information about Blades of Glory, please go to www.bladesofglory.ca.



READING BUDDIES



On March 3rd Ms. Kieser's class started a Reading Buddy program that happens every Tuesday and Thursday. Students from Ms. Keith's class partner up with Ms. Kieser's students and take turns reading to each other. It is a great opportunity for all students

to enjoy reading in a relaxing and casual environment. It also allows students to improve their literacy and social skills and their self confidence. A special thanks to Ms. Keith's class for joining us.



2013/14 SCHOOL COUNCIL

Executive: Chair: Allyson Theodorou

Treasurer: Roxanne Petroff

Secretary: Christina Miller

Fundraiser: TBA

Members: Annie Tam, Danay Brown, Daniela Law, Farheen Zaidi, Gladys Baglione, Ruqqaiya Naqvi

Council would like to thank all those who came out to Movie Night on March 26th. It was a very busy night for us and we hope everyone enjoyed the showing of "Frozen"! We are in the process of planning Family Activity Night for later this Spring

and are looking forward to seeing everyone. We will keep you posted.

Given the success of the Dance-a-thon/Play-a-thon we are happy to report that the school is in the process of requesting proposals for the new sound system for the gym. We are all looking forward to a new and improved sound system for our school!

Please join us for our next council meeting on April 16th at 6:30pm. We need your input!



Support Our Fundraiser!

As a way to target the problem of lost belongings and a large lost and found closet, H. G. Bernard Public School is fundraising with Mabel's Labels, a company with all types of labels that are colourful, indestructible, easy-to-use and fun! Great for anything that you may send to school, camp, activities & more!

Iron-Ons, Stickies, Bag Tags, Allergy Alert labels & more! Personalize your labels with names, nicknames, initials - whatever you choose. Cool icons help even little ones identify their own belongings. Dishwasher, microwave, laundry & kid tested! Dispatched within 24 hours right to you! Visit www.hgbernard.mabelslabels.com to place your order while helping our fundraiser!

BOYS BASKETBALL

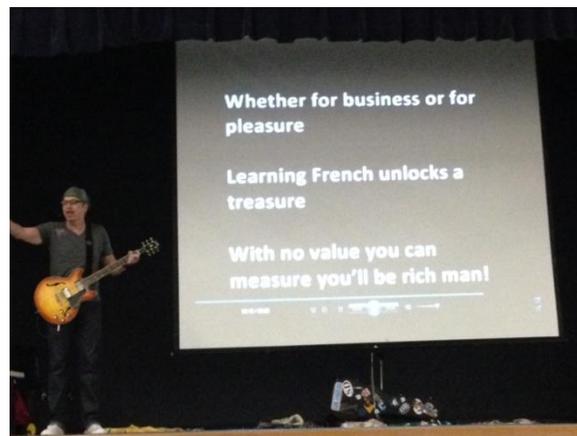
The Intermediate Boys Basketball team has just completed a very successful season. The team played very well and had an excellent record. At



the area tournament, the team finished in fourth place. The boys always played hard and played with great sportsmanship. They were commended by referees, coaches and parents for their consistently positive attitudes and skills. We congratulate and thank the boys for a great season!

GR. 4-8 FRENCH CONCERT: THE PERFORMANCE OF ROLAND BIBEAU

Roland Bibeau, the French rock artist came to our school on Monday, March 24 and performed a spectacular, educational show for Grade 4-8 students.



He sang covers of popular music in cleverly translated French and many of his sensational self-written songs. Mr. Bibeau plays his electric guitar with a rocking passion, and included the school in his performance by having students come onto the stage, and by having us sing along. The songs gave us a deeper insight into the French-speaking side of Canada, proving that learning could be musical and fun. We sang and danced to the beat, and even after the show, students couldn't get the songs out of their heads. Roland Bibeau's performance was a thrilling experience for the junior and intermediate students.

*By Jessica G.
& Anne Z.
(7 L-C)*



LE CONCERT DE ROLAND BIBEAU

Roland Bibeau est un bon artiste de la musique rock. Il chante en français et sa musique c'est très magnifique. Il peut chanter et enseigner tous les niveaux de 4-8 année. Monsieur Bibeau joue de la guitare électrique et danse avec les élèves.



Notre concert le 24 mars était une expérience spectaculaire et éducationnelle ! M. Bibeau a distribué beaucoup de prix et il a chanté les chansons populaires en français. Les chansons étaient extraordinaire et les étudiants ont bien aimé le concert de Roland Bibeau.

Par Anne Z. et Jessica G. (7e année)

WALKING TO SCHOOL

Now that spring is here, students can walk (or jog, skip or bike) to school as often as possible between Earth Week and Clean Air Day. Spring is a great time to promote:



- ✓ Daily physical activity;
- ✓ A healthier environment;
- ✓ Safer streets; and
- ✓ Making friends and having fun!

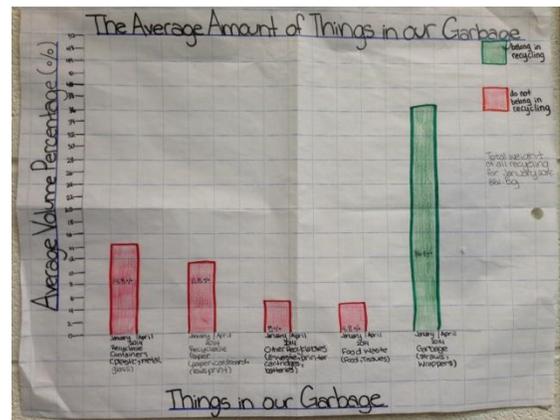


Walking is a simple and efficient physical activity that benefits people of all ages, helps to maintain good health, is environmentally friendly and fun.

Be active, safe, and have fun!

OUR INITIAL WASTE AUDIT & THE NEXT STEPS TO SUCCESS

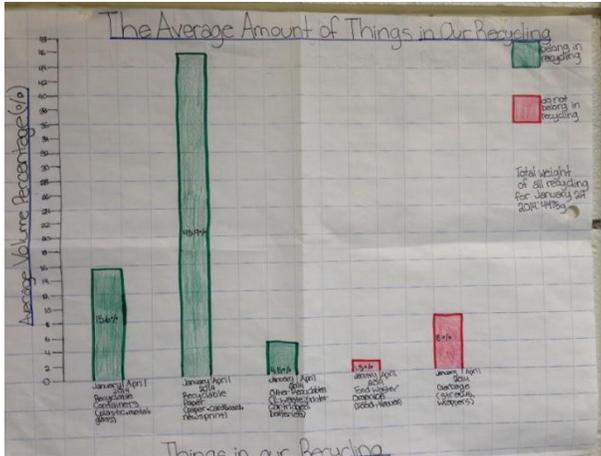
Over the past several months, the H.G. Bernard EcoTeam has been gathering data on what our students, teachers, and staff have been putting in the recycling bins and garbage cans.



In January, Ms. Bratina's class, with help from Mme. Los and the EcoTeam, did a waste audit of ten rooms in the school. Here are the results of this initial audit. The contents of our recycling bins are made up of an average of 15.6% recyclable containers, 45.9% recyclable paper, 4.5% other recyclables, 1.5% food waste, and 8% garbage. Obviously, food waste and garbage don't belong in the recycling bins, so this is an area for improvement.

The contents of our garbage cans are made up of an average of 14.5% recyclable containers, 11.5% recyclable paper, 5% other recyclables, 4.8% food waste, and 36.8% garbage. It's good to see that garbage does make up the largest percentage, but we need to do a better job of making sure that the

recyclable things go in the recycling bins, and that the food waste goes in the green bins.



We did not examine the contents of the green bins, but H.G. Bernard is lucky to be one of the schools in York Region with a composting programme. The staff and students are able to leave food waste (banana peels, apple cores, tea bags, food that falls on the floor, etc.), tissues, and paper towels in the green bins for composting.

Our next steps to success are to sort our waste properly and to rinse recyclable containers, before putting them in the recycling bin.

By Hayley Z. & Jessica D. (6B)

LOOKING FORWARD TO...

April 2014 – Oral Health Month

- 1 Ms. Conner's class trip to the Ripley's Aquarium
- 2 Dairy Farmers visit Kindergarten
- 3 Kindergarten photo day (composite)
- 8 Jump Rope for Heart kick-off assembly
- 9 Richmond Hill HS drama presentation for Grade 7 & 8 students
- 14 Vaisakhi
- 15 Pesach
- 16 School Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- 17 "Ancient Civilizations at the Agora" Ms. Dawson's class – parents are welcome to attend from 8:45-10:00 am
- 18 Good Friday – no school

- 21 Easter Monday – no school
Ridvan
- 22 Earth Day
- 23-25 Grade 8 Ottawa Trip
- 24 Together We're Better Conference

THE AIR PROJECT

From March 17th to March 21st, Ms. Downing's, Mrs. Jessa's, and Mrs. Shadrack's class were given the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Artist in Residence (AIR) program with Newmarket artist Janine Zeck. This project was sponsored by the York Region Board of Education and the Ontario Arts Council.

The experience involved all three classes collaboratively crocheting rag and mesh mosaic rugs in the traditional American Pioneer style. Through making a form of textile art, students were experimenting with the concepts of empathy, perseverance, and above all, unity. The students found the different crocheting and tying techniques difficult at times, yet as they kept working at it, it became easier. At the end of the week, students were left with beautiful, radiant rag and mesh rugs. Some groups went as far as creating a design such as a rearing horse, lily pads in a pond, and a Ying Yang symbol. The students say this process was hard, but to quote Janine, "Our hearts sure felt good."







Artist in Residence

We were making unity rugs with an artist named Janine. Janine came, she taught us how to make unity rugs. Then we made paintings on the day she was about to leave, with the grade 8's. Everyone loved everything!

Kayla + Ariana grade 1