

# THE BERNARD BULLETIN

February 2014

## Bernard Avenue Public School

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

The cold winter weather has impacted outdoor recess, but it hasn't slowed down the learning inside the school. As we visit classrooms each day we can see that the HG Bernard staff remains passionate and dedicated in their efforts to support student achievement and well being. The students are working hard and remain committed to their learning. Together, staff and students exemplify our renewed Mission, Vision, and Values statements (see page 2) and our commitment to "**Inspire Learning!**"

Students will be bringing their term 1 report cards home on Wednesday, February 12. The report card provides students and parents with achievement levels for curriculum expectations and learning skills taught from September to February. The first section of the report card provides information about the Learning Skills and Work Habits that are needed for success in school and adult life: responsibility, organization, independent work, collaboration, initiative, and self-regulation.

The second section of the report card provides achievement levels, areas of strength, and areas for improvement for each of the subject areas. The two areas are separated so that parents and students are given a more accurate picture of a student's level of achievement. Not completing homework or handing in an assignment late would be reflected in the Learning Skills and Work Habits section of the report card, not in the subject area. This ensures that the grade in each subject represents a student's true level of achievement.

Please set aside time to review the report card with your child. Complete page 3 and 4 together, establishing areas for improvement and setting attainable goals for term 2. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's report card, please speak with the teacher.

We thank you for your continued support with your child's learning and special events at HG Bernard PS. We look forward to working together with you in Term 2.

Kathryn Prince  
Principal

Andrea Welburn  
Vice-Principal

## **YRDSB's RENEWED MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES**

### **Mission**

To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

### **Vision**

To be a leader in public education by empowering all students to become engaged and caring citizens of the world.

### **Values**

Our School Board operates based on a set of values which guides our actions:

#### ***Inclusivity***

We demonstrate inclusivity in all that we do. We demand an environment in which all students, staff, parents, and our community feel valued and have a sense of belonging. We expect empathy, mutual respect and understanding to be demonstrated in our words and actions.

#### ***Relationships***

We value positive, meaningful relationships with students, staff, parents, and our community. We value diversity of opinion, sincere dialogue and community engagement.

#### ***Innovation***

We continuously strive to provide the best educational programs for all students. We empower staff and students to take initiative and to be innovative leaders.

#### ***Engagement***

We encourage active participation in all learning and activities by creating an environment that engages students, staff, parents, and our community.

#### ***Responsibility***

We are individually and collectively responsible for creating the best possible school community to

support the achievement and well-being of all individuals. We are responsible for the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs and stewardship of Board resources.

#### ***Optimism***

We approach all situations with optimism. We cultivate confidence and resiliency in all students and staff.

## **FRONT DOORS LOCKED**

Beginning Monday, February 3, our school doors, including the front door, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning bell rings. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the school day. All visitors, including Board staff, parents and guardians, will be required to buzz in and sign in at the main office.

While we want to maintain a welcoming school atmosphere, we also want to be sure our staff can remain focused on their important jobs and are not taken away from the students to help us manage the new system at the front door.

It is now increasingly important that your children arrive on time. Students can arrive as early as 8:00 to attend the breakfast club. Instruction begins at 8:30. Students arriving after the doors are locked will have to wait to be buzzed in by the office staff.

In addition:

- ✓ To access before and after care programs, parents/guardians will access the program through the childcare centre doors.
- ✓ To avoid waiting outside to be buzzed in, parents are encouraged to send a lunch with their children in the morning.
- ✓ Portable and port-a-pack classroom doors will be locked.

Our school continues to be a safe place where we welcome and encourage parent and community member involvement. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place for

student and staff safety, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office.

If you have any questions, please contact our main office.

## **BUS LOOP AND STUDENT DROP OFF**

Student safety is our priority. As a result of a joint-safety review between the Town of Richmond Hill, the Transportation department, and the Board of Education, the bus loop continues to be closed to all vehicles (except busses) between 8:15 am and 8:35 am, and again in the afternoon between 2:45 and 3:15.

We encourage parents to:

- ✓ drop off children at the tennis court parking lot;
- ✓ avoid doing u-turns; and
- ✓ have children use the sidewalks and never allow children to cross the road or walk on the side of the road.

## **FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Registration for September 2014 began on January 17 for eligible children born in 2010 (JK) or 2009 (SK).

If you know of anyone in the community with Kindergarten-age children please share this information with them. Students currently in our Junior Kindergarten classes do NOT need to register for Senior Kindergarten.

Important Dates:

- ✓ May 21 - Welcome to Kindergarten Information Night 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- ✓ May 26-30 - Kindergarten Classroom Visit and interview (Please call Mrs. Aleyassin to schedule an appointment time 905-508-7009 ext. 150)

## **NOTICE: New to Ontario?**

Students new to Ontario must first make an appointment to visit the Reception Centre before registering at our school.

FAMILIES AND STUDENTS WILL BE SEEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Call or email to schedule an appointment:

Telephone: 905-883-5241 or 1-888-811-0229

Email: [reception.centre@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:reception.centre@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

## **SEPTEMBER PLANNING - ALREADY!**

Our planning for the 2014-2015 school year has started! If you are moving out of the HG Bernard PS area and won't be attending our school in September please let the office know as soon as possible.

905-508-7009 ext 150

Or email us at:

[h.g.bernard.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:h.g.bernard.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

## **BERNARD BRUINS BASKETBALL**

The Intermediate Basketball Team has been practising diligently to prepare for upcoming games and the Area and Regional Tournaments. The members of

the team are: Coby, Jason, Muhammed, Mohammed, Usman, Adeel, Cade, Yusef, Sarugan, Emran, Matthew, Ken, Jordan, Zach and Jayden. Congratulations to Jayden who was elected Captain by his teammates. Thank you also to Mr. Campbell for his help.



## **360° KIDS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The 360°kids After School Program,

formerly known as the Pathways After School Social or P.A.S.S. program, is a free after school program offered to students in grades 6-8 that promotes healthy and active lifestyles amongst students. In January, the students at H G Bernard Public School learned a new sport called Tchoukball which combines elements of Handball, Volleyball and Squash in one fast paced competitive team game! This month, the students are looking forward to a Valentine's Day treat as the Real Food 4 Life Education Foundation will be hosting a cooking workshop with the students! The group will bake sweet potato chocolate chip cookies with professional chefs and learn more about healthy living and nutrition. The 360°kids After School Program meets in the lunch room every Monday, Wednesday and Friday after school until 6pm. If you are interested in joining the program you can pick up a registration form in the office or stop by the program and talk to Matt during program hours.

## FIELD TRIP TO THE ROM



ROYAL  
ONTARIO  
MUSEUM

The Multiple Exceptionalities class had the

opportunity to travel to the Royal Ontario Museum on January 21. Despite the cold weather, we had a great trip and were able to tour the Egyptian Gallery and part of the European Gallery. It was interesting to see the progression of Egyptian art and of the Armour and Armouries. A very special thank you to Maral and Zehra from Mrs. Shadrack's class for their help on the trip. Without our wonderful volunteers, the trip would not have been possible.

## THE FOREST OF READING PROGRAM



Our Forest of Reading book clubs began in January. Students are reading wonderful stories,

participating in a variety of literacy activities and sharing their thoughts and opinions about books. Once they've read at least 5 books in each program, participants will vote for their favourite book in the spring. They will join more than 250,000 other readers in casting their vote and sharing their voice! Our reading clubs meet at lunch in the library.



On Tuesdays, our Grade 1 and 2 students join Ms. Ricketts, Stephanie M. (parent volunteer), and our library helpers to read picture books and develop a love of reading.



On Wednesdays, our Grades 3 – 6 students participate in one of three Silver Birch Reading Clubs. Grade 3 and 4 students read books of various genres: picture books, nonfiction, and chapter books. Grade 5 and 6 students have a choice of reading 10 fiction books or 10 nonfiction books.



The Grade 7 and 8 students meet on Thursdays for the Red Maple online reading club, where they share their thoughts about the novels. Ms. Dionne and Ms. Ricketts facilitate these discussions in a blended-learning environment (e.g., online discussions, face-to-face books suggestions). It is password protected and students are enrolled by the teachers.

All 50 Forest of Reading books will be added to the library collection in May.

*Happy reading!*

## SUPPORTING THE PHILIPPINES

The Bernard Spirit Club's fundraising team worked very hard to raise money to support the typhoon victims in the Philippines in December. The team ran a pancake lunch, hot



chocolate sales on PJ day, and “Helping Hands” ornaments fundraiser for our tree. The money raised by the school will be sent to the Canadian Medical Assistance Teams. Thanks to everyone who participated.

## 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

The HG Bernard School Council is pleased to announce our Dance-a-thon/Play-a-thon on February 14th as a fundraiser for our School. Students will have the opportunity to dance or participate in skipping, obstacle courses and games. We will be sending home sponsorship forms and hope that each student will be able to raise at least \$25 to help support H.G. Bernard Public School. The main project for this fundraising effort is the new sound system for the gym! Every student who raises over \$100.00 will win a limited edition, unique Bernard Bruin t-shirt. The student who raises the most money in each division wins a special edition, unique Bernard Bruin sweatshirt.

Our next movie night is tentatively scheduled for March 26th. We will gladly accept volunteers to help with setup/cleanup and food. Please keep an eye out for more information in the next newsletter.

Please join us for our next council meeting on February 12th 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](http://www.hgbernard.mabelslabels.com) to place your order while helping our fundraiser

## LEARNING ABOUT THE SEASONS

Ms. Kieser's class has been learning about the different seasons. What better way to learn about how the different season change in our environment than by watching a tree. We have chosen to watch a tree in front of the school. The students have called it the “Big Tree”. Once a week, throughout the seasons, we have been able to visit, take a picture of the tree, and watch the changes occur. We recently took a picture of our winter tree. The students noticed there weren't any leaves on the tree, but some snow on the branches. As a class we talked about the changes we see in the tree and the clothing that we wear during winter. The best part of our latest visit to the tree was that the students got to go sliding down the hill and play in the snow. As a class we look forward to the changes that the tree will bring in Spring.





## LOOKING FORWARD TO...

### February 2014

- 10 The American Civil War Play for Gr. 4-8 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts
- 12 Term 1 Report Cards go home
- 12 School Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- 14 Dance-a-thon for Kindergarten – Gr. 8
- 14 Candy-grams distributed (for sale Feb.10-14)
- 17 Family Day – no school
- 19 Parent Information Night for Gifted students
- 25 Early Years Session: Learning to Play and Playing to Learn
- 27 Free the Children Outreach Speaker, Caroline Kingston

### March 2014

- 7 PA Day – no school
- 10-14 March Break
- 19 School Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- 21 Nowruz – Persian New Year
- 25 Hepatitis B & Meningitis Immunization (Gr. 7)
- 25 HPV Immunization - Gr. 8 Girls