

THE BERNARD BULLETIN

January 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

Welcome back! We hope that all HG Bernard families enjoyed the winter break and survived the ice storm with minimal disruption. A new year is a great time for reflection and fresh goal setting with your children. Developing learning skills and work habits is a vital part of each student's success. The staff at HG Bernard PS is helping students develop the learning skills and work habits needed for success in school and adult life: responsibility, organization, independent work, collaboration, initiative, and self-regulation. The development of these learning skills and work habits begins early in a child's education. As students get older and advance through the grades, they develop these skills and work habits in preparation for postsecondary education and life in the work force. Teachers assess, evaluate, and report on the achievement of curriculum expectations and on the demonstration of learning skills and work habits separately. This allows parents and students to receive information that is specific to the two areas of achievement.

Parents play a crucial role in their child's education. Many educational researchers have confirmed the link between parental involvement and academic success. Parents can extend the learning in the classroom by reading together at home, discussing the success criteria for homework assignments, and demonstrating an interest in their child's learning. One of the most important methods of communication between home and school is through the agenda. Teachers at HG Bernard use this tool everyday to communicate learning goals, upcoming events, homework, and other information items with you at home. The agenda is also a venue for you to communicate with the classroom teachers. Please remember to read and sign the agenda each day confirming that you have looked at the agenda and that the homework is complete.

As we approach the end of Term 1, staff and students will be working hard to consolidate the learning that has taken place during the first half of the school year. We will begin Term 2 in February with end of year learning targets in mind. Teachers will be focused on helping students monitor their progress toward achieving their learning goals. We wish you a healthy and happy new year.

Kathryn Prince
Principal

Andrea Welburn
Vice-Principal



LEARNING SKILLS AND WORK HABITS

The learning skills and work habits described below contribute to a student's success in school and the world of work. Parents are encouraged to discuss and model how these behaviours are linked to success so that students understand the importance of these skills¹.

Responsibility – the student:

- ✓ fulfils responsibilities and commitments within the learning environment;
- ✓ completes and submits class work, homework, and assignments according to agreed-upon timelines;
- ✓ takes responsibility for and manages own behaviour.

Organization – the student:

- ✓ devises and follows a plan and process for completing work and tasks;
- ✓ establishes priorities and manages time to complete tasks and achieve goals;
- ✓ identifies, gathers, evaluates, and uses information, technology, and resources to complete tasks.

Independent Work – the student:

- ✓ independently monitors, assesses, and revises plans to complete tasks and meet goals;
- ✓ uses class time appropriately to complete tasks;
- ✓ follows instructions with minimal supervision.

Collaboration – the student:

- ✓ accepts various roles and an equitable share of work in a group;
- ✓ responds positively to the ideas, opinions, values, and traditions of others;
- ✓ builds healthy peer-to-peer relationships through personal and media-assisted interactions;
- ✓ works with others to resolve conflicts and build consensus to achieve group goals;
- ✓ shares information, resources, and expertise and promotes critical thinking to solve problems and make decisions.

Initiative – the student:

- ✓ looks for and acts on new ideas and opportunities for learning;
- ✓ demonstrates the capacity for innovation and a willingness to take risks;
- ✓ demonstrates curiosity and interest in learning;
- ✓ approaches new tasks with a positive attitude;
- ✓ recognizes and advocates appropriately for the rights of self and others.

Self-regulation – the student:

- ✓ sets own individual goals and monitors progress towards achieving them;
- ✓ seeks clarification or assistance when needed;
- ✓ assesses and reflects critically on own strengths, needs, and interests;
- ✓ identifies learning opportunities, choices, and strategies to meet personal needs and achieve goals;
- ✓ perseveres and makes an effort when responding to challenges.

LOCKED SCHOOL DOORS

Beginning February 3, all school doors, including the front doors and doors to portables, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the day. Anyone arriving at the school after that time must buzz in and sign in at the main office.

Measures will also be put in place for parents/guardians to buzz in and pick up students participating in before and after school programs. More detailed information will be available soon. Measures will also be put in place to lock the portable doors.

Our school continues to be a safe place where parent and community member involvement is welcomed and encouraged. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office upon arrival.

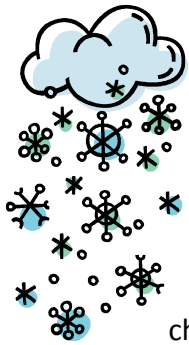
¹ From Growing Success, Ministry of Education, 2010, p. 11

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Being physically active during winter is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle and recess is one opportunity for students to be physically active. Students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recess (hats, neck warmers, gloves/mittens, boots, etc.). It is advisable for children to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet. The school administrators keep a close eye on weather conditions, including wind chill. When conditions necessitate, the principal may decide that students will remain inside for recess or may go out for a shortened recess.



All students are required to go outside for recess times, unless there is a note from a medical doctor explaining why being outdoors may be hazardous to a child's health. Colds and flu are not made worse by being outside. If your child is too sick to go outside for recess, he or she is likely too sick to be productive and comfortable at school.



We ask that parents be sensitive to the demands placed on our administrative assistants and *not* call the school to inquire about indoor recess, but send their children dressed for outdoor winter play. Often the decision is made just prior to the recess as we observe changing weather conditions.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 17, 2014 for the 2014-15 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Children born in 2010, live within the school boundary, and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring.

STUFFIE DAY

Ms. Zekry's Grade 3/4 class celebrated "Stuffie" day after earning all of their mystery numbers to solve the mystery class reward. Their stuffed animals were the audience as students practiced their performance for the holiday concert!



BUS CANCELLATION INFORMATION

If the road conditions force the cancellation of school buses, local radio stations will be notified by 6:00 a.m.

A bus cancellation message will be available at: 1-877-330-3001 and press #8

Or

www.schoolbuscity.com

ROOTS OF EMPATHY

This past November our school was introduced to a new, exciting program called *Roots of Empathy*. This evidence based classroom program is for children from kindergarten age through grade 8 and it is aimed at "building caring, peaceful, and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults" (Roots of Empathy, 2000). The chosen class for our program was Ms.



Maxwell's grade 3 class. Throughout the year, the students will interact with the Williams family which includes baby Jasline and her mother, Janis. Through these visits, the students will get to see how baby Jasline reaches certain milestones, learns new things, and how the relationship between the baby and her mother influences everything from decision making to interactions with the students. So far the class has been able to play, sing, measure, and weigh baby Jasline! We are looking forward to spending more time with our Roots of Empathy family and learning more about babies, feelings, and empathy!



ARTS @ BAYTHORN PS

Does your child enjoy learning through the Arts? Students currently in grades four and five who are interested in learning through the Arts (Drama, Dance, Music, Visual Arts) are invited to audition for the Integrated Arts Program at Baythorn Public School located in Thornhill.

Please call Baythorn Public School at 905-889-7992 if you have any questions.

www.baythorn.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Arts @ Baythorn

Arts Information Evening

Jan 16, 2014 @ 6:30pm

Sat Feb 22/Sun Mar 2

Workshops for acceptance to the program



Is your child in grades 7 to 10? Does he or she need help with math homework? Then why not get live, online math tutoring from an Ontario teacher? It's free and easy to sign up.

Setting up your account

To log in and register, you'll need your Ontario Education Number (OEN), found at the top of your report card near your name.

Note: Homework Help is offered in English and is only available to students at publicly funded schools.

Sign In or Register for Homework Help at the Independent Learning Centre

Homework Help is run by TVO's Independent Learning Centre with support from the Ontario government. Students can log in between 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday for one-on-one tutoring. Students can also join their grade's tutor room to see what questions other students are asking and then watch teachers walk through problems on the group whiteboard. Only the tutor sees your username so no one will have to know who you are!

<https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/secure/login.php>

STORY TELLING

Ms. Dawson's grade 4/5 class has been learning the fine art of story-telling! After choosing "Just Right" picture books, the boys and girls created props and settings to help them retell the stories in their own words, with expression and enthusiasm! Just before the holidays, the students presented their "Story Boxes" to Mrs. Downing's grade ones, who listened with rapt attention. It was a great opportunity for the Juniors to practise in front of a younger appreciative audience before presenting to their peers.



MATH SKILLS AT WORK

Ms. Zekry's grade 3/4 students worked in partners to redesign the classroom to accommodate their new carpet! After a lot of measuring, recording dimensions and mapping, they came up with a new design and they love it!



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

All of the School Council fundraising efforts are used to support our students and our school. We continue to work towards our fundraising goals which will support the school in purchasing new sound equipment for the gym, sports equipment, the outdoor classroom, and new technology for the school. The HG Bernard School Council has many events coming up, and to help make sure all parents are aware of these events we are changing the School Council board by the front entrance to reflect all upcoming events.

Our last Movie Night, held on December 4th, was a big success. We were able to help raise funds to put towards our many initiatives. The next movie night will be scheduled early in the New Year. Pizza, samosas and other treats will be available for purchase. We are still planning a Dance-a-thon for February 14th, this will be for all grades to participate in.

Please join us for our next council meeting on January 22 at 6:30pm. We need your input!

GRADE 5 HANDS-ON SCIENCE

As part of their "Human Organ Systems" unit in science, Ms. Dawson's grade 5 students built models of the digestive system in pairs. Problem-solving skills were necessary as the children chose what object should represent each part. When the models were completed, the students explained what happens when you eat a hamburger, from the time that it enters your mouth, until the waste product leaves your body. Do YOU know what happens when you eat a hamburger? How about a pita with hummus?



Many students brought their own mugs to show their support of the environment! A huge thank you to the staff and students for supporting a warm caring climate at Bernard!

Food Drive

The holiday food drive was a huge success at HG Bernard this year! This effort builds empathy in students for others in our community who may not have as much. Not only that, but students understand the value of working together to support a bigger cause in the community. Students brought non-perishable food items daily and delivered them to the front of the school.



Thank you to our school community for helping to



foster empathy, sharing and building our future global citizens! A great big thank you to Mrs. Blackburn for delivering the food to the Richmond Hill Food Bank!

POSITIVE CLIMATES FOR LEARNING

Pajama Day/Hot Chocolate

What better way to celebrate the beginning of the holidays than to have a Spirit Day filled with warmth and coziness! Students and staff arrived at school dressed in their pajamas and lined up for hot chocolate at recess.



Pink/Purple Day

As we continue our anti bullying initiatives, many students and staff participate in our monthly Pink and Purple Spirit Day. Taking a stand against bullying requires constant learning, understanding and building of relationships. Students are becoming equipped in the language of anti-bullying; standing up to a bully, standing up for a friend, and accepting and including students regardless of their background, gender or class. As we continue to develop strategies to develop a culture of acceptance and empathy at Bernard, our students develop their voice to build a community of caring and support throughout.

Loaded Language Workshop

Intermediate teachers planned and presented a “Loaded Language” workshop to Grade 7 and 8 students to promote a positive climate at Bernard. Careful thought was put into creating a workshop to bring awareness of negative loaded language. Videos “To This Day”, “Principal Kafele’s message – You are not the ‘n’ word”, a gallery walk with images from the civil movement and anti-bullying initiatives, and an explicit teaching of the loaded language terms were created for students. Intermediate students then participated in the loaded language workshop in December led by their homeroom teachers, Ms. Ricketts and Ms. Jessa. They participated in a gallery walk and three carousel activities where they learned what negative loaded language was, the consequences of using loaded language (both immediate and future) and the socio-emotional consequences of negative loaded language. Students were engaged and emotionally touched by what they had learned. Primarily their understanding of the use of negative loaded language was supported as well as the effects it has on others (intentional or otherwise). Students are becoming better equipped to deal with negative loaded language when they are faced with it. Students are also clear on the consequences at school if they use loaded language.

FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION SESSIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Michaëlle Jean PS on January 16, 2014 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 17, 2014. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2014, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an Office Index Card - short version. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to

Michaëlle Jean PS to register between January 17 and February 14, 2014. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register. YRDSB’s FI Accommodation Plan provides longterm consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enroll. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board’s website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

LOOKING FORWARD TO...

January 2014

- 17 PA Day – no school
- 17 Kindergarten registration begins
- 22 School Council meeting 6:30 pm
- 28 Area Volleyball
- 30 Rail Safety presentation

