

# THE BERNARD BULLETIN

June 2015

H.G. Bernard 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](mailto:h.g.bernard.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

Web:  
[www.hgbernard.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.hgbernard.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

Inside this issue...

Message from the Administration  
Class Placements 2015-2016  
Moving  
Student Medication  
Kindergarten Registration  
Summer Institute  
Mental Health Mission  
Yard Clean Up  
Grade One Study Energy  
Athletic Corner  
Retirement  
Bag 2 School  
I Walk  
Looking Forward Too.....



Principal: Stephen Hopkins  
Vice Principal: Megan Roberts  
Superintendent: Rita Russo  
Trustee: Corrie McBain

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Happy June!

We welcome the warm weather and sunshine as we push through to the end of the school year. This year has seen many changes and we will continue to see things happening at HG Bernard.

The students have impressed us with accolades from the YRDSB and Province, while continuing to learn, be active and have fun at school. Track and Field was huge success with over 70 students going to the Area Track Meeting, representing Bernard.

The entire community continues to demonstrate a Growth Mindset, coming to school looking to get better and take some risks. Mistakes are part of learning!

Our Eco-team is active and has plans going right to the end of June. They are doing a wonderful job of setting us up for next year (read more about it).

With the end of the school year, we also have some staffing changes coming. We are working on those right now and will have official announcements at the end of the month. I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to all the staff and volunteers that continue to work hard and ensure our students are safe and achieving.

Stephen Hopkins  
Principal

Megan Roberts  
Vice-Principal

## **Class Placements – 2015-16**

Much of the planning for a new school year is under way! We are currently discussing organizational structures, special education delivery models, teaching assignments and timetabling. We are still taking registrations for all grades. As a note of interest, we will be waving farewell to 56 grade 8 students in June.

One of the most important tasks that will occur in June is the placement of students into new classes for September. Homeroom teachers in consultation with appropriate support staff and school administration devote much discussion time to the generation of classes that strive to best meet the needs of all of our students. Class placement is a complex process that takes many hours of thought and discussion. Decisions are made following careful consideration of a number of criteria: ***balance of student abilities, interests and talents, gender balance, learning style, learning partners, social factors, and legislated requirements.*** While friendship issues can play a role in the comfort level of some students, some friends learn best in separate classes.

Often parents have new and/or important information to share about their child which lends assistance to class placement decisions. If you choose to share information with us, please, in writing state your child's strengths and what teacher traits/styles would support your child's learning. Please do not identify teachers by name. Staffing can vary and will continue to change as our community fluctuates and we adhere to the Ministry cap of 20 students in our Primary classes and contractual averages and limits in the Junior/Intermediates. As a result there will be no mention of next year's teacher with your child's June report card.

Parent input that is received in writing to administration ***prior to June 5th*** will be considered (and shared) during placement meetings. We value the information you bring as parents and will include it in our decisions, however we must consider all aspects of the school organization and act ***in the best interest of all.***

Thank you.

Steve Hopkins

## MOVING?

If your family is planning to move out of the H.G. Bernard Public School area, please inform the office as soon as possible in order to help us plan for September 2015. It is important to have accurate enrolment projections. It would be helpful if you could give us your forwarding address and the name of the new school.



## LOST & FOUND

Once again we seem to have collected an incredible number of items in our Lost and Found box. Please have your child check for any articles of clothing he/she may have lost. Parents are also welcome to come and search for lost items.



## STUDENT MEDICATION

A reminder to parents to pick up your child's medication from the school office on the last day of school. New forms will have to be completed in September 2015 and medication brought in at that time. We do not hold medication over the summer.



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If you have a child who will be joining kindergarten in the fall of 2015, please make sure you complete a registration form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. All children who were born on or before December 31st, 2011 are eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten beginning September 2015. At the time of registration, a parent must provide a Birth Certificate and Proof of Residency (i.e., current Municipal Tax Bill, Offer of Purchase or Rental Agreement).

Please share this information with friends, neighbours or anyone else who may have kindergarten aged children.



## SUMMER INSTITUTE

The York Region District School Board's Summer Institute is a program for children and youth from Kindergarten to Grade 9 and offers Academic, Recreational and Athletic programs and activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum. More information can be found at [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca) and click on "summer programs".





THE EDUCATION CENTRE - AURORA

60 Wellington Street West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 3H2

**Tel:** 905.722.3201 905.895.7216 905.727.3141 416.969.8131

**Fax:** 906.727.1931

**Website:** [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca)

June 1, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As a result of the current job action affecting elementary schools across the province and in York Region, the planned early release for students on June 25 is cancelled. **On Thursday, June 25, 2015, schools will be open and classroom instruction will continue for the entire normal school day.** Friday, June 26, 2015 will remain a PA Day.

If your child is eligible for school transportation services, school buses and taxi services will continue according to the typical full day schedule. The school board has communicated this scheduling change to in-school child care centres, including before and after care providers. Please check with your provider directly to confirm arrangements for this date.

We recognize that this may cause some inconvenience. Please be assured that we continue to have your child's achievement, well-being and safety in mind.

Sincerely,

J. Philip Parappally Director of Education

## Mental Health Mission... Let's Talk About It!

Bernard and its' **Healthy Schools and Workplaces Team** has been on a mission this year to create awareness and understanding about Mental Health. The fact remains that mental illness affects 1 in 5 people in Canada over a lifetime. Learning to balance mental, physical, emotional and physical (holistic) health is an important part of learning to deal with daily stressors.

We have enjoyed several activities in the school to help us find this balance. Bringing in **Zumba** for the students has brought awareness about different ways we can use physical activity to calm our minds and keep our bodies fit.



As a staff, we have participated in **Yoga FIT** and have taken on the challenge from the **Bell Let's Talk About It** initiative to share our feelings with each other, comfortably. By wearing "mood describing" stickers, we had the opportunity to understand how important it is to share how we feel with each other and to accept and empathize with the way others may be feeling on a daily basis.



Over the month of May, Bernard has also taken part in the **Just Notice, Listen and Connect Campaign** to raise awareness and create crucial discussions as a whole school community. Placing a variety of posters around the building has reinforced important messages regarding mental health and what we all can do to support one another's mental state.



Just telling someone they matter can make a world of difference to that person. Let's all take the steps to make a significant difference in someone's life and recognize that we all have mental health, and are all critical components in assisting the stopping of the stigma attached to mental illness!

Thanks so much for all of your valued support and contributions to our various campaigns throughout the school year and beyond!

**~The Healthy Schools and Workplaces Committee~**





# YARD CLEAN UP







## **Grade Ones Study Energy**

At the end of May, the Grade Ones learned about different forms of energy with their Engineer-in-Residence friend, Fabio Saposnik. First, Fabio demonstrated an airplane that used muscular, wind, and chemical energy (a battery) to fly! Next, each table group explored a toy that used a different type of energy, including wind, muscular, solar, chemical, and elastic, to make it move. After all the groups had investigated all the toys, Fabio showed them a car that used salt water as a fuel to move! In the afternoon, the students made their own windmills. It was a very exciting day! The students will be learning more about "Energy in Our Lives" at the Kortright Centre for Conservation in Kleinburg on June 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information about the Engineer-in-Residence program, please go to <http://eir.ca>.





# ATHLETIC CORNER



## **Team Members from left to right:**

Andy L, Joshawa L, Henry Chan, Jason W, Jessica G, Anne Z, Kiyosha A, Donia Z, Jessica W, Jeffew C, Catherine L, Kailey T, Matthew F, Chadwin N, Hailey Z.

We went to the Area Badminton Tournament at Longstaff Secondary School on Thursday, May 14th. The 11-team doubles tournament featured three categories: Boys Doubles, Girls Doubles and Mixed Doubles. We had two teams play in each category and one of our Boys Doubles teams (Jason Wang & Henry Chan) and Girls Doubles teams (Jessica Gao & Anne Zhang) made it into the Tournament semi-finals! Go Bruins!!!



Following a 29-year career with the YRDSB, I have chosen to retire from full time teaching at the end of June. I have taught students in JK to Grade 8 at three different schools. A special passion has been working with our newcomer English Language Learners and their families. It has been my pleasure to serve the Bernard community for 19 years. I opened the school when it was brand new and I look back with numerous fond memories of students and their families and a multitude of activities. I am very proud of Bernard's students and am always happy to hear of their successes in various endeavours after they leave our school. I know that the students of H.G.Bernard will continue to have a strong influence in the community and I wish to thank you for the opportunity to work with you and your family.



Carol Lake



Here's a photo of EcoTeam members digging up the shade garden in preparation for new plants. Thanks go out to Mrs. Miller and Ms. Adderley who donated plants for our shade garden and outdoor classroom.



4/5 Tessier planted tomatoes and red peppers in the raised garden beds at the beginning of June.



Students from 7 Shadrack set up the raised garden beds last week and filled them with soil. Planting will take place this week. We are looking for volunteers from the neighbourhood who can help with weeding and watering over the summer. **WE REALLY NEED HELP FROM THE COMMUNITY WITH THIS GARDENING PROJECT.** Please email Mme Los at [eliza-beth.los@yrdsb.ca](mailto:eliza-beth.los@yrdsb.ca) if you can commit to a week or more of watering.

At the start of June, the students from 4/5 Tessier did the final preparations of the raised garden beds by adding additional soil.



# ECOTEAM

Gr.7 EcoTeam members complete the set-up of the raised garden beds by drilling holes and putting in screws. We're excited about our "Eat it! Don't eat it!" project. Please contact the school if you can help maintain our flower and vegetable gardens over the summer.



Thank you to all the families and staff of H. G. Bernard who donated clothing to our EcoTeam fundraiser! Together we collected 680 kg of clothing that will be re-used or re-purposed. With the funds raised, we are one step closer to getting a water-bottle filling station at our school. **Reduce, re-use, recycle, RETHINK!**



**Madame Los accepts a cheque on behalf of H. G. Bernard P.S.**



**Members of the EcoTeam with the many, many bags of clothing that were donated**





### Notice to Drivers: NEW "No Parking" Signs

There are four new "No Parking Signs" on the north side of Bernard Ave. These have been installed by the Town of Richmond Hill at the school driveway entrance and exit for the safety of all in the community. Having these areas clear of vehicles makes it easier for the school busses and other vehicles to safely enter and exit. Please note that by-law enforcement officers are handing out parking tickets (\$40 fine) to drivers who choose to park in one of these spots.

What's a good option? If you must drive to school, park at the tennis courts, and let your children walk from there.

*Walk with them if **you** wish.*

If you are driving and you need to change directions on Bernard Ave., please turn around at the tennis courts, or do a **complete loop** on one of the side streets. **NO U-TURNS**, please. As legal parking in front of H.G. Bernard P.S. is now very restricted (space for 2 or 3 cars only), we highly recommend that you park at the tennis courts if you must give your children a ride to school.

What is an even better option? ***Leave a bit earlier and walk from home to school with your children, or have them walk with a buddy. Walking is a GREAT way for everyone to start their day!***



## **Looking forward too .....**

**June 5th : PA Day ( No School)**

**June 8th : Grade 3 Swim to Survive Program  
(9:00—10:30 a.m.)**

**June 9th : Welcome to Kindergarten Open House  
8:45—9:45 am  
Gratitude Assembly 2:30 — 2:50 pm**

**June 10th : School Council Meeting 6:30 — 8:00 pm**

**June 11th : Area Track and Field**

**June 12th: Pride program Orientation 8:30 — 9:30 am**

**June 15th : Grade one trip to the Kortright Centre  
Grade 3 Swim to Survive program  
(9:00—10:30 a.m.)**

**June 16th : Grade 8 Graduation Oakview Terrace 6—10 pm**

**June 22nd :Grade 3 Swim to Survive program  
(9:00—10:30 a.m.)**

**June 24th: Reports Go Home**

**June 25th: Last day of school**