

# THE BERNARD BULLETIN

March 2015

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

“Warm Wishes” from Bernard!

As we move into the spring and dream of warmer weather, we are very excited about some developments at HG Bernard. Our Student Council and Parent Council worked together to organize our first Movie Night. Many families from the community came to the gym and enjoyed a showing of ‘Big Hero 6’ - before it was released on DVD!!

Our students and staff have started a new “Choose Kind” campaign. This is built on our Open Mindsets and we hope to highlight the kind acts that are already happening in and around the school. We also hope to encourage more acts of kindness, as every helpful action improves the lives of everyone involved. If you see or hear of a student or staff member doing something kind, please let the school know, so we can recognize it.

This month we are focusing on Grit. We define grit as the combination of perseverance (how long we stay with a difficult task) and resilience (do we try again when things don't work out). Almost every great accomplishment has occurred, only after someone has shown incredible Grit. Please tell your children when you see them (or someone else) demonstrating Grit.

Hopefully you have been receiving our weekly ‘Community News’, and it has been helpful. We are emailing it out every Friday, with a few notes and a summary of school events for the coming week. If you are not receiving this email and want to, please ‘subscribe’ on the school website (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/hgbernard.ps>), just above the “Report It”. If you have any thought on how we can improve our ‘Community News’, please let us know.

Thank you for your partnership in our journey...

Stephen Hopkins  
Principal

Megan Roberts  
Vice-Principal

## **STILL ACCEPTING KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS**

**We are still accepting registrations for September, 2015. Eligible children will have been born in 2011 (JK) or 2010 (SK).** If you know of anyone in the community with kindergarten-age children please share this information with them.

Please come to the school office to pick up a registration package for your child.

Students currently in our Junior Kindergarten classes do **NOT** need to register for Senior Kindergarten.

**NOTICE:** Students new to Ontario must first make an appointment to visit the Board's Reception Centre before registering at our school. Please call them at 1-888-811-0229.

## **INDOOR SHOES**

Our caretakers do an outstanding job of maintaining the clean and polished look of the floors in the school. Please support their efforts by ensuring that your children have indoor shoes for use in classrooms and in the gym—no black soles please, due to the stubborn marks they leave on the floors. This is particularly important during wet weather when boots and shoes track a great deal of dirt, snow and water into the school.



## **CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AT SCHOOL**

Birthdays are important for children and they enjoy celebrating with their friends at school.

Unfortunately, sending in a food treat to the classroom is problematic for students with allergies or other dietary restrictions. We have a variety of ways to celebrate a student's birthday without food.

Please do not send food into the school for your child's birthday.

Speak with your child's teacher about alternatives to food treats for your child's celebration at school.



## **MARCH BREAK**

**March 16th - March 20th**

This is a reminder to all families that the March Break will take place from March 14th to March 20th. There are no classes for students during this week



## **EARTH HOUR 2014**

On **Saturday, March 28th, between 8:30 PM – 9:30 p.m.**, millions of people will participate in Earth Hour. Will you be one of them? Earth Hour brings together communities from across the world celebrating a commitment to the planet by switching off lights for one designated hour. The HG Bernard students will participate in Earth Hour by turning off lights, computers, and all other non-essential electrical devices for the Lunch recess on Friday March 27th, 2014.

### **York Region District School Board Student Surveys**

In order to provide information for Board and School planning, York Region District School Board students in Grades 5 to 12 will be invited to participate in a school survey. The survey, which is anonymous and confidential, will be conducted from **April 7 to May 15, 2015** and will take place at school. The information from this survey will be used to identify areas to be addressed, monitor progress and plan strategies to support student achievement and well-being. Aligned with Board priorities, the survey will address topics including equity and inclusion, school safety, learning environment, student well-being and other priorities. If you have questions, please contact the school office.

### **York Region District School Board School Climate Survey for Parents Key Findings**

In May and June 2014, parents were invited to complete a questionnaire to collect perception data about their child's school environment and learning. The survey addressed topics including equity and inclusion, school safety, learning environment, student well-being and parent engagement. More than 14,000 parents participated in the survey.

Overall, parents tended to have positive perceptions of school safety, the learning environment at their child's school, and reported that the school environment was welcoming, equitable and inclusive. Parent responses indicated some areas for attention, specifically in areas related to parent engagement, the provision of information related to mental health supports and community agencies and services, and the steps taken by the school to prevent and address bullying.

Thank you to all who participated. Information gathered from this survey will support school and Board planning processes.

# GRADE ONE

## Grade Ones Had a Visit From their Engineer-in-Residence

At the end of January, the Grade Ones were excited to have another visit from their Engineer friend, Fabio Saposnik. For an entire morning, they explored different materials and their properties as part of their new science unit, "Materials, Objects, and Everyday Structures". The children learned new vocabulary such as shiny and dull, rough and smooth, absorbent and non-absorbent. They sorted and classified objects according to whether they were made of plastic, metal, wood, or cloth. They learned so much, and had fun! For more information about the Engineer-in-Residence program, please go to <http://>

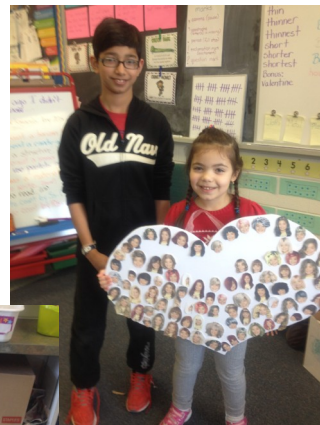
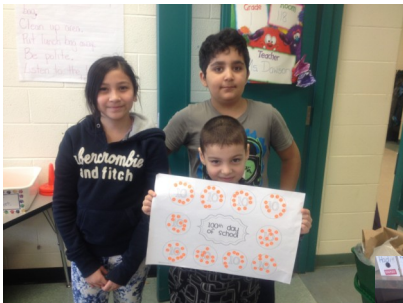


# 100<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SCHOOL

On Tuesday, February 10th, Ms. Dawson's Grade Ones celebrated the 100th day of school with much fanfare! Special events included the following:

- 1) The students brainstormed many of the things that they didn't know 100 days ago - but do now! - in order to make a class book. The boys and girls know that now they can read, write, count by 10s to 100, count by 5s to 100, tell you about bats and other living things, and much more!
- 2) The students also met with their grade 5 reading buddies from Mr. Rosenberg's class, who helped them count 100 items in groups of 10, and glue them to a special page.
- 3) 100th Day crowns were made for the students to wear.
- 4) A digital safety presentation was given in the library for all the grade 1s and 2s.

What an exciting day! Please ask the Grade Ones to tell you all about it!



# GRADE TWO'S

Congratulations to Hesam and Tina for winning this months 10 Book Club draw. The grade 2 students are doing a fantastic job reading and growing their brains. Keep it up grade 2's!



This month the grade 2 students participated in a celebration of learning with their parents and peers. The students did a fabulous job singing, reading poetry and sharing various class work. Our journey of learning never ends and it was a wonderful way to share all that we have done.



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## ***SIMILES***

We are learning to use interesting, descriptive words in our writing. Enjoy our similes about colour and texture

The Leprechaun is as green as a three leaf clover.

The sun is as red as very boiling hot food cooking on the stove.

The snow is as soft and cold as very cold water.

The pig is as pink as chewy bubblegum.

The night sky is as black as the blackboard.

The cherry blossom petals are as pink as a pretty flamingo.

The sweet apple is as red as a newly planted poppy.

The shiny wet grass is as green as newly planted tree leaves.

An elephant is as grey as a wolf.

The evening sky is as purple as a fresh grape from the garden.

A fresh red rose is as red as a red shiny apple.

The new lit candle is as yellow as the morning sun.

The nail is as white as a diamond.

The clouds are as fluffy as a soft fluffy pillow.

The hot fire is as red as a beautiful rose.

Strawberry ice cream is as pink as fluffy cotton candy.

Metal is as hard as a hard, dry rock.

A volcano is as hot as the sun.

The night sky is as black as an electromagnet.

Snowflakes from the sky are as tiny as grains of sand.

Lemons are as yellow as a sparkly sun.

By Grade 3 Students (Mrs. Keith's)

Dear H.G. Bernard Parent Council,

We just wanted to let you know, we really appreciated all of you baking cupcakes for Valentine's Day! Your talents in baking were well treasured by the student council. They sold very well; both staff and students adored them.

The cupcakes were not only beautiful, but also absolutely delicious. Thank you for your time for both making and delivering the cupcakes. With your help, we were not only able to raise money for the school, we were able to bring H.G. Bernard's Parent Council and Student Council together to work as one.

We are so fortunate to have such great parents at H.G. Bernard P.S. Your help has really brought a lot more community into our school. Your generosity meant a lot to us, and your energy and positive attitudes motivated and inspired us to work hard and do the best job we can possibly do in anything we do.

We hope to work with all of you more in the future, to help make our school a better place.

With Thanks,  
The 2014/2015 H.G. Bernard Student Council

## Primary Sideline Soccer

The grade 1s, 2s, and 3s will finish up an exciting nine weeks of Sideline Soccer action during the week of March 9th! With the help of efficient and responsible grade 6 referees, the grade 1s and 2s have been playing Tuesdays at lunch recess, and the grade 3s have been playing Thursdays at lunch recess. Each game, the group is divided into two teams, and half the team plays goal, while the other half plays forward. Every two minutes, the positions switch. The children worked on their good sportsmanship, while getting some exercise and having a whole lot of fun at the same time! Ms. Dawson and Mrs. Keith would like to thank Marcus, Euleila, Mackenzie, Hamid, Yalda, and Jaeyong, for all their help with setting up and refereeing the games. They would also like to thank the primary children for their enthusiasm!



### SPRINGTIME is the PERFECT TIME for WALKING

It's free  
Its low impact  
Anyone can do it  
Can be done year round

### JUST A FEW of the BENEFITS of WALKING

Reduces stress and improves your mood  
Clears your head and improves your focus  
Helps you sleep  
Boosts your immune system  
Reduces the risk for diabetes  
Contributes to a healthy heart  
Slims you down  
Can be done as a family activity  
An excellent opportunity to chat casually with your kids

# LOOKING FORWARD TO .....

**2nd March : French Play Grades 4-6 (pm)**

**5th March : Vivian Outdoor Resource Centre Grade 2's**

**6th March : Vivian Outdoor Resource Centre Grade 4's**

**9th March : Vivian Outdoor Resource Centre Grade 4's**



**Richmond Hill Firefighter's Presentation  
Grade 1 (pm)**

**10th March : Curiosity Assembly in the Gym 9:45—10:10**

**11th March : School Council Meeting 6:30 — 8:00 pm**

**12th March : Vaughan Playhouse for kindergartens**

**13th March : P.A. Day ( No School)**

**16th March — 20th March — March Break**

