

THE BERNARD BULLETIN

March 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

Throughout the school year staff at HG Bernard PS work to improve outcomes for students in the areas of literacy, numeracy, and school climate. This work is ongoing and is reflected in our School Improvement Plan. The plan reflects our focused and intentional work which builds on the system's work and aligns with the Board Improvement Work Plan, the Director's Annual Plan and the Trustees' Multi-Year Plan. Our plan at HG Bernard has three key areas: Literacy, Numeracy, and School Climate. Within each area we have identified needs, goals, strategies, and professional learning. This plan helps us identify where we are on the continuum toward addressing student needs and achieving school developed targets.

Our school's Literacy goal is to further develop our students' ability to engage in 'purposeful talk'. Purposeful talk is defined as 'coming to an intellectual exchange willing to see and hear something new in the exchange, and actually creating a newer, stronger understanding because of the exchange.' (Comprehension Through Conversation. Maria Nichols) Purposeful talk supports the development of critical thinking, and helps children learn how to analyze and synthesize information; it improves reading comprehension and writing skills.

In Numeracy our goal is to ensure students develop both conceptual understanding and fluency and flexibility with numbers. Students need to be able to problem solve, and explain and justify their solutions. Engaging in problem solving also helps students understand the relationship between numbers, and allows them to choose strategies and models to support their thinking.

Our Positive Climates goal is to create a school climate in which all students and staff feel a sense of belonging, and are able to take risks and participate fully. We know that if staff and students have a Growth Mindset (as opposed to a Fixed Mindset) and if students are praised for hard work and perseverance, instead of 'being smart', they have a greater potential for success. Through many initiatives we continually work to create an environment in which all students and staff feel welcome and included, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, language, grades, appearance, religion or faith, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status (SES), physical/intellectual ability, or gender identity.

We use a variety of data sources to inform and revise our School Improvement Plan. We analyze report card data, Reading assessments, Mathematics assessments, surveys, incident reports, EQAO results, and other classroom-based sources. Professional learning strategies for staff at HG Bernard PS align with the student learning needs in the school. Monitoring of our progress toward the attainment of our goals and targets is ongoing. Our School Improvement plan tightly aligns with the York Region District School Board's objectives for increased student achievement and well being. We'll keep you posted on our progress.

Kathryn Prince
Principal

Andrea Welburn
Vice-Principal

STILL ACCEPTING KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS

We are still accepting registrations for September, 2014. Eligible children will have been born in 2010 (JK) or 2011 (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.

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.

SCIENCE FUN

As part of their science "Light and Sound" unit, Ms. Dawson's grade 4s designed and created original musical instruments that were either percussion, string, wind, or a combination! Each instrument had to be able to produce a sound that could change in either pitch or volume. In this photograph, you can see the entire band! Well done, grade 4s!



MARCH BREAK

March 10th - March 14th

This is a reminder to all families that the March Break will take place from March 10th to March 14th. There are no classes for students during this week.

CELEBRATING OUR UNIQUENESS

The students in the Junior Autism Community Class have been busy learning curriculum, life skills and exploring our community. We enjoyed our walk to the grocery store to purchase food. We look forward to our walks to other community sites. We are taking on a leadership role within the school by running the school store. Each week our students are responsible for labeling and sorting snacks for delivery. They count the money received and deliver snacks to various classrooms.



Thanks to our intermediate helpers for all their hard work and dedication to help promote inclusion through reverse integration by modeling skills.

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

The School Council would like to thank all those who participated in the Dance-a-thon/Play-a-thon fundraiser in support of the new sound system and other council projects. We are thrilled to announce that the students raised a total of \$3710.57! It was great to be with the students as they had a great time dancing, showing off their moves and playing. Congratulations to the top fundraisers for each division: Angus (primary), Matthew and Julie (junior-tied), and Jahmieka (intermediate) who will each receive 2 tickets to Rainbow Cinemas and a limited edition HG Bernard Sweatshirt. Also, keep an eye out for our \$100+ fundraisers who will be sporting their limited edition HG Bernard t-shirts very soon! The winner of the 'Principal for a Day' Draw was Jordan in Ms. Downing's class.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Rainbow Cinemas at 10909 Yonge Street for donating movie passes for this event.

Our next movie night is tentatively scheduled for March 26th. We will gladly accept volunteers to help with setup/cleanup and food. Please speak to the office or a council member if you are able to help.

Please join us for our next council meeting on March 19 at 6:30pm. We need your input!



mabel's labels™

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!

EARTH RANGERS

On Wednesday, February 26 Earth Rangers came to H. G. Bernard. The students in Kindergarten to grade six participated in an interactive presentation focused on conservation. Students were

encouraged to **take action** to help protect endangered animals and their homes. By doing small things, such as turning off the taps when brushing their teeth, or turning the lights off when they leave the room, students can take steps to improve the environment. Earth



Rangers brought four guests with them to help deliver this very important message. They were Fantom (a black Pine Snake), Linus (a Harris Hawk), Sonic (a barn owl), and Dale (a Pine Marten). It was very exciting when Linus and Sonic swooped across

the gym and almost touched the heads of some of our staff and students. Dale demonstrated his ability to climb branches on a tree when he walked across a rope suspended across two poles. Finally, students loved to see some of their teachers participate in an interactive drawing game to support the students understanding of how humans disrupt the habitat of some of these amazing animals. If you would like to know more information about Earth Rangers and their conservation initiatives you can visit their website (www.earthrangers.com).



INVITE YOUR KIDS INTO THE KITCHEN!

When is the last time you cooked with your kids? It's never too late to start! When families have fun cooking together and developing food skills, they tend to eat together more often.



Research shows that children and youth who eat with their families are more likely to have healthier eating habits and better nutrition, be a healthy weight and have less chance of developing eating disorders. Eating together not only provides an opportunity to teach manners and social skills but it's linked to better language and literacy development as well as improved school performance. Teens are less likely to participate in risky behaviours such as smoking and drinking when they eat with their families more often.

The **Cook Up Some Fun!** campaign provides how-to information, tips and resources to help families with children plan, shop, cook and enjoy eating meals together. **Register** today at www.york.ca/nutrition to be part of **Cook Up Some Fun!** and enter to win a \$200 grocery store gift card by completing a quick and confidential survey! You'll also receive healthy and tasty recipes, tip sheets and activity ideas.

For information about creating a healthy school nutrition environment, visit www.nutritiontoolsforschools.ca

For health-related information call **York Region Community and Health Services Health Connection** at 1-800-361-5653; TTY: 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools





Health = Success in Learning Take the challenge!

Students at HG Bernard are participating in the Health = Success in Learning challenge. **Please see the attached chart so that your family can be ready for the challenge.**

Healthy daily habits and routines can help improve classroom learning, test scores and overall student success and well-being. The Health = Success in Learning chart can help parents and students track and enhance their healthy habits. **During the month of March, students with help from their parents** are asked to track their healthy habits and work to increase the number of checkmarks on the chart every week.

How to help support Health = Success in Learning

- ✓ visit the York Region website to learn more about healthy family habits
- ✓ encourage your children to complete their chart each day for a month

To learn more contact your public health nurse, visit www.york.ca/healthyschools or call York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933



GEOMETER'S SKETCHPAD

It's been a cold February outside, and the Intermediate ELL students have been busy at work inside! Students have been working together and sharing their understanding of



the text they are reading during Language, or working on Geometer's Sketchpad during Math. Through collaboration and partnership, students are building strong oral language skills and strengthening their understanding of Literacy and Math.



2014 SOCHI WINTER OLYMPICS AT BERNARD

Students at Bernard were excited to watch the Winter Olympics unfold at Socchi. Students in Ms. Paynes' class had the opportunity to use the Winter Olympics for their learning in the classroom – from mathematics and literacy to the arts. Over one hundred students watched the Winter Olympics highlights on Monday February 24 in the gym to celebrate Canada's fabulous display of sportsmanship and athleticism. A special thanks to Grade 7 students Reza, Amir, Kallen and Amir who brought this idea to fruition.



EARTH HOUR 2014



On **Saturday, March 29th**, 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 entire day on Friday March 28th, 2014.

www.earthhour.org



FREE THE CHILDREN ASSEMBLY

Students in Grade 4-8 participated in a Free the Children assembly by Caro Kingston. She introduced HG Bernard students to how Free The Children started and what global initiatives they are currently involved in including the ME to WE movement. She motivated them with her personal stories of volunteering and making a difference in different countries around the world. Students were engaged and sat rapt with attention when she spoke to them about the value of an education



and how we can all make a difference. Before she left, Caro spoke to the Spirit Club about all the initiatives they have supported to make a difference in their school and local community. Many students were energized and started brainstorming ideas on what to do at our school to make a difference.



To find out more about *Free The Children* visit www.freethechildren.com

LOOKING FORWARD TO...

March 2014

- 7 PA Day – no school
- 10-14 March Break – no school
- 21 Nowruz – Persian New Year
- 24 French Concert Gr. 4-8
- 25 Hepatitis B & Meningitis Immunization (Gr. 7)
- 25 HPV Immunization - Gr. 8 Girls
- 26 School Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- 27 Ancient Civilizations Presentation Gr. 4
- 28 Earth Hour – Power Down Day