

# The Bernard Bulletin

May 2015

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Happy Spring!

The warm weather is finally here. It is so nice to be outside with a light jacket or sweater enjoying the sunshine. Our students are excitedly running and playing. Some have questioned the closing of our field, so long after the snow has left. At this time, our field does not drain very well and remains quite wet and soft. There are a few very large pools of water. When students play on the grass in these conditions, we end up with a large number needing to call home for a change of clothing. This interrupts student learning and parents at work.

Very soon, we will be closing our field until September (at least) so it can be graded and proper irrigation installed. While it will be very inconvenient this year, it will allow for earlier opening of the field in years to come.

Wonderful things continue to happen at H.G. Bernard. The staff have organized basketball for grades 3 and 4, a "Boys Club", Intermediate representation at the 'Student Voice' Conference, Forest of Reading voting, Jump Rope for Heart and our continued focus on Grit, Curiosity, and Zest. We will be introducing Self-Control and Gratitude before the end of the year.

It's not just our staff that are getting noticed! In the next couple weeks we have some very exciting news coming about some of our student leaders. We are very proud of their accomplishments and recognition.

Enjoying our journey together,

Stephen Hopkins  
Principal

Megan Roberts  
Vice-Principal

## KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

We are hosting our Junior Kindergarten Orientation on **Wednesday, May 13, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** If you have registered your child to start Junior Kindergarten here at H.G. Bernard Public School in September 2015, please join us for an evening of educational information, and to help make the transition to school a smooth one. On that night, families will bring their new Junior Kindergarten child to school for a block of time to do some activities and to receive a package of educational materials to help them over the summer.



## GRADUATION

### ***Grade 8 Graduation 'Capture the Moment'***

It is hard to believe that Grade 8 Graduation is just around the corner. Our students have had a successful year and are well-prepared to move on to high school in September. Course selections have been completed and the students have had opportunities to visit their new schools. Grade 8 Graduation will be held on Tuesday, June 16th. The ceremony will be held at Oakview Terrace from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. We look forward to celebrating the successful completion of the students' elementary school education with them. Further details regarding the evening will be sent home with graduates in the near future.



Education Quality and  
Accountability Office



EQAO will take place at H.G. Bernard Public School between May 25 - June 4. If your child is in grade 3 or 6, please ensure that vacations and appointments are not booked during this time period.

## PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

If you are planning to move prior to the beginning of September 2015, please let the office know as soon as possible. We are in the process of planning for next year and this information is extremely helpful when we make enrolment projections.



## SUMMER INSTITUTE

The York Region District School Board's Summer Institute is a program for children and youth from Kindergarten to Grade 8 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".



### Student Bussing Eligibility

Did you know that students' bussing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school.

Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation

All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation

All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit: [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com).

### Environmental Corner

Walk or Bike! You can reduce your car use and get good exercise by walking or riding your bicycle rather than asking your parents for a ride in the car. The amount of toxic gas that a car ride would release into the air might be small, but lots of small actions can lead to big changes. When it comes to protecting the planet- and your health- every little bit helps.



### Playing on the Schoolyard After School Hours

With the warm weather here, we are noticing that many of the students are lingering at the end of the school day to play or just hang out with friends. It's wonderful that the students are spending time outdoors (far better for them than sitting in front of a screen), however, we need you to be aware that there is **no supervision outside at the end of**



**the day.** We have teachers supervising the Kiss and Ride and in the Bus Loop only, until 3:15. Children playing on the schoolyard after school are doing so at their own risk, but, hopefully with your knowledge and your permission.

# G R A D E O N E



The Grade Ones Visit with their Engineer-in-Residence  
In April, the Grade Ones were once again thrilled to spend the morning with their Engineer-in-Residence, Fabio Saposnik. As a culminating activity for their "Materials, Objects, and Everyday Structures" unit, the Grade Ones were given a CHALLENGE: build a model garage which would fit a miniature (lego) car and a miniature Fabio, and keep them dry. As a class, the Grade Ones decided that 15 sprays of a water bottle would be a fair trial. The students planned, designed, built and tested their garages, with the materials that were available: paper rolls, paper boxes, popsicle sticks, straws, egg cartons, tape, glue, and string. The students learned a great deal about materials, and their properties. For more information about the Engineer-in-Residence program, please go to <http://eir.ca>.





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**ASSEMBLY**

## Waste Audits: How are we doing?

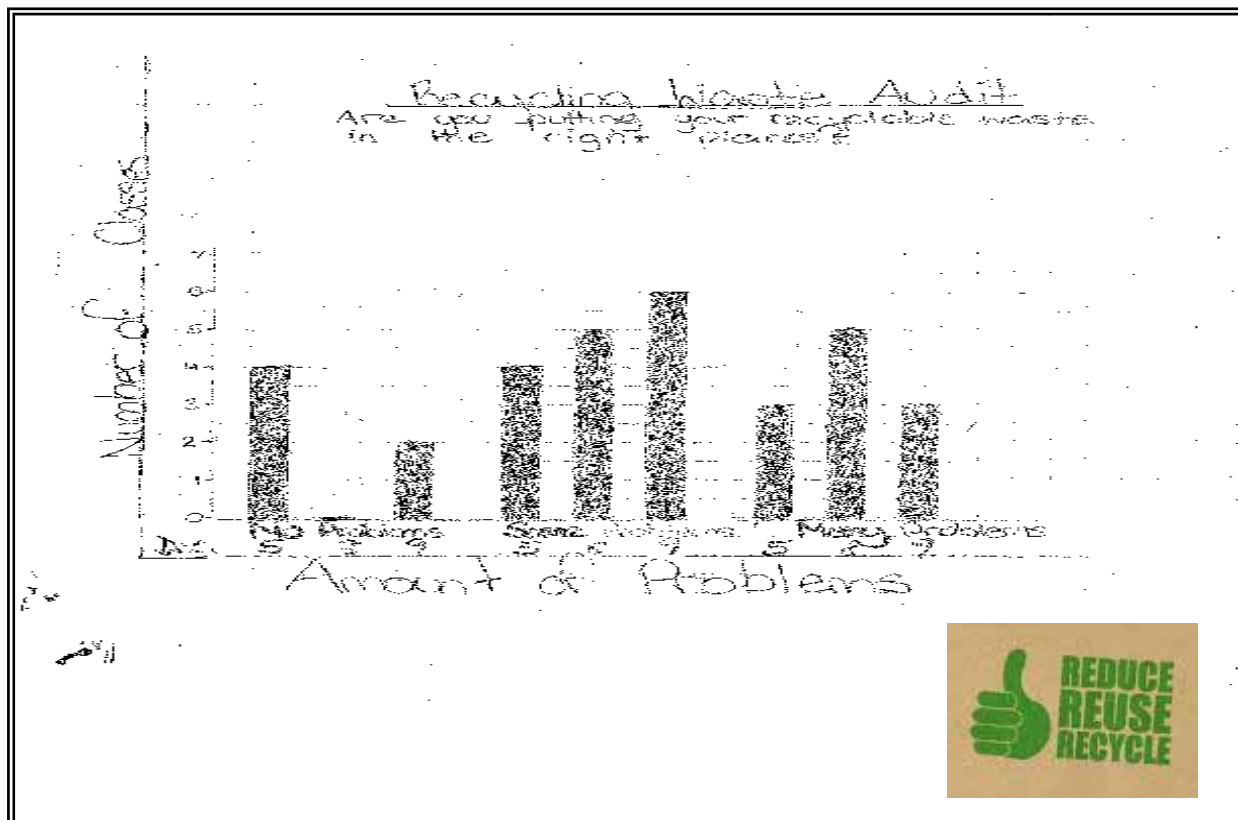


This year the Eco Team is once again trying to make sure that all your waste is going in the right bin. Many classes this year have done an excellent job in placing their different types of waste into the different bins. Earlier this year, members of the Eco Team did a week-long waste audit of the classroom recycling bins. There was also a whole-school garbage & recycling audit performed by the students of 7S under the supervision of Mme Los. Although there have been some problems in some classes on some days, the results have been good to excellent in other classrooms with the help of announcements, assemblies, and reminders from classmates and staff.

The caretaking staff in particular, have been helping to ensure that garbage, recyclables and organic waste are disposed of properly. Every day at 1:20, student helpers take their bags of recycling and compost to the gym lobby where the caretakers are waiting. This new system allows the caretakers and students to have a useful chat about which items go where. We're confident that this new system, together with the commitment of staff and students, will result in improved results with regards to waste management.

Remember to always put your waste in the right bin to help our beloved environment!!!! If you notice someone putting compost in the recycling bin, remind them of the correct container. We hope that all classes will continue to dispose of their trash in the right place which will ultimately help our environment!

**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RETHINK – AND  
COMPOST!!!**



# BAG 2 SCHOOL: An HGB EcoTeam

## Fundraiser



([http://www.bag2school.com/can/about\\_us/](http://www.bag2school.com/can/about_us/))

This simple fundraiser teaches students about the importance of recycling and re-using, and it fosters environmental awareness at a young age. The students and their families will be making a positive impact by reducing the amount of textile waste in our landfills.

The only thing families need to do is to donate clothing that is no longer of use to them. Bag2School will come here to collect the donations and will give a cheque to the school based on the quantity of textiles collected. The more you give, the more we get! **The funds raised will go towards a water-bottle filling station for the school.**

### How it works:

**Re-using:** More than 65 lbs. of clothing and textiles are discarded each year by the average person in North America. Most of the discarded textiles still have 75% wear left. Extending the life of clothing by just 3 months of active use would lead to a 5-10% reduction in each of carbon, water & waste.

**Recycling:** Clothing that can't be re-used can be recycled. The textile recycling industry turns old clothes and other textiles into insulation, upholstery stuffing and ingredients for paper products without producing any new hazardous waste or harmful by-products.

Please look through your closets and set aside clean clothes, soft toys, belts, purses, shoes (tied together) and boots (tied together) that you no longer want. Special bags from Bag2School will be available soon, but you could put the items in a plastic bag (e.g., shopping bag or garbage bag) for now. Items may be left in the front lobby of H. G. Bernard P.S. starting Monday, May 5. *The last day to drop off your donations at the school is Monday, May 25.*

*Thank you for supporting this EcoTeam fundraiser!*

## H.G. Bernard Outdoor Classroom

Here's an update on our outdoor classroom. As you may already know, we have a lovely space next to the library at the back of the school with large rocks for sitting arranged in a semi-circular pattern. Five large deciduous trees were added last summer for shade. In between those trees, we have room for **shade-tolerant plants in the garden beds** which were dug last year, and we are in need of **perennials**. Please keep us in mind when working in your own gardens and dividing **shade-loving plants** such as hostas this month. **Donations of plants can be left at the front office**. Your support is needed to bring this project to completion.

For more information, and if you can support in any other way, please contact the school at (905) 508-7009 to speak to Madame Los (Extension 325), or send a note with your child that includes your contact information.





# Looking Forward to .....

*May is Asian South Asian Heritage Month*

May 4 — Play for Primary Division at Richmond Hill Centre (pm)  
Production of Junie B. Jones



May 6 — Primary Spring Concert (6:30 -7:30 pm)

May 7 —  Grade 7 Hepatitis B & Grade 8 Girls HPV

May 12 — Self-Control Assembly (2:10—2:30 pm)

May 13 — School Council meeting (6:00 — 7:30 pm)  
Welcome to Kindergarten Night in Gym (6:00 — 7:30 Pm)

May 20 — Open Gym Night (6:30—8:00 pm)

May 25—June 4 —  EQAO (Grade 3 & 6)