

The Bernard Bulletin

May 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

In May and June, we will be working to develop tentative classes for the 2014-15 school year. Current homeroom teachers, in consultation with receiving teachers, resource staff and school administration, work to develop balanced classes that strive to best meet the needs of all of our students. When we prepare classes, we consider such factors as:

1. Gender balance
2. Balance of academic abilities in each classroom
3. Some grouping of Special Education and ELL students to facilitate withdrawal
4. Matching student learning styles with teaching strategies where possible

Our primary goal is to develop balanced classes that reflect the diversity of our community and allow the variety of abilities, interests and talents of our learners to emerge and be appreciated. We value the input of parents into these decisions. If parents have any suggestions about how the above factors might apply to their son or daughter, please give the suggestion in writing to Ms. Prince by Thursday, May 8th. We ask that your letters not request a particular teacher, since changes to staffing frequently happen at the last minute and teacher assignments do change based on shifting enrollments, staffing models and a variety of factors. Class placement meetings are scheduled shortly after this time. Please note that requests for specific teachers by name will not be accepted.

We are looking forward to a sunny and warm month of May with many outdoor learning opportunities planned for the students. Please join us on Friday, May 2 at 1:25 for our Earth Assembly. Many classes will be performing and the ECO Team will be sharing their learning.

Kathryn Prince
Principal

Andrea Welburn
Vice-Principal



WE ARE SILENT

Please watch this emotional and inspirational video so we can change the world together, one good deed at a time. We learned a lot about altruism (doing good for others without expecting a reward). We think in the end, the man's reward was someone else's happiness. Our goal is to remember to show more empathy towards others and help people who are in need.

<http://www.upworthy.com/this-guy-was-really-nice-to-a-homeless-little-girl-and-got-best-reward-ever-in-return?g=2&c=ufb1>



BRUCE'S MILL

On Friday April 11th, Ms. Cross' and Ms. Paré's classes went to Bruce's Mill for the Maple Syrup Festival. The weather was



beautiful! We learned about three different ways to make maple syrup; the hollow log method used by the First Nations people, the cauldron over a hot fire method, used by the pioneers and the modern method with an evaporation tank. The students also got to go on a wagon ride and have a delicious pancake lunch with maple syrup!



THE SNOEZELEN ROOM

On Friday, April 25th, Ms. Kieser's class went to the Snoezelen Room at the Holland Bloorview Hospital. The Snoezelen room is a room that provides a



relaxing environment for children; it is a multi-sensory environment that offers a place for children to seek leisure and have fun. The students

engaged in a variety of activities such as watching the water tanks filled with bubbles and fish, looking at mirrors which they were surrounded by, listening to calming music while laying on the vibrating mats, playing at the light and sound stations, and relaxing on bean bags while being in the presence of "slow in the dark lights". The students enjoyed exploring through the room and had lots of fun in the Snoezelen room.



PITCH -IN WEEK – EARTH DAY

Last week, the students at HG Bernard participated in the "30 Minute Makeover" where they cleaned up the litter that had accumulated in our school yard and beyond over the winter. The students



collected many bags of garbage and the yard looks much better.

In the fall, all of the students from Ms. Dawson's class & Mrs. Hanson's class participated in a yard clean-up with Mr. Roy & Mme Los. In recognition of their participation in this event and their efforts to keep the schoolyard clean, this month each student received a small notebook and pen from York Region as a token of appreciation. The students will be decorating these notebooks in French class as a memento. The hope is that they will be inspired to be environmental stewards each time they look at it.



For more information on waste disposal in York Region, go to www.york.ca/waste.

Remember, you too can put garbage in its place!

SKIPPING TEAM

Since September, over 40 students from Gr. 3-8 have been practicing their skipping skills at least once a week as members of the Skipping Team.

Having learned new tricks with both long and short ropes, the team presented their final routine in front of the whole school at the kick-off assembly for Jump Rope for Heart in April.





Their coaches, Ms. Maxwell, Ms. Payne, and Mme Los are very proud of their hard work, dedication, and cooperation.

If you didn't get a chance to see the Skipping Team in action, come join us on Friday, May 2 from 8:30-12:20 for our Jump Rope for Heart event. Members of the team will be acting as helpers and showing off their skills.



EQAO

May 26 – June 5, is the range of dates set aside for this year's Primary and Junior E.Q.A.O. assessments. Parents are asked to please not book any appointments or vacations during this week as it is important that students attend school and participate in EQAO.

SEPTEMBER PLANNING

Our planning for the 2014-2015 school year has started! If you are moving out of the HG Bernard area and won't be attending our school in September please let the office know as soon as possible.

905-508-7009 ext. 150

SCHOOL COUNCIL

With the success of our fundraising this year we are happy to announce that we have the funds to purchase a new sound system for our school. In addition we will be purchasing new outdoor play equipment for the Kindergarten yard, will be paying for the Grad DJ and we continue to support the redesign of the school's playground.

At our last meeting in April we had a request from one of the students for funds to purchase a ping pong table. Christina Miller was able to obtain a ping pong table for the school.

At the next meeting we will be discussing our Family Night and other fundraising activities. Your participation is greatly appreciated and we welcome all to attend. School Council Nights are open to all parents that would like to help build a great school and community. We look forward to seeing you there.

Next Council meeting is Wednesday May 21st @ 6:30pm.



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!

LET'S BE TOBACCO-FREE!

Ms. Dawson's grade 4s took part in a "Let's Be Tobacco-Free!" curriculum campaign offered by York Region Community and Health Services, and they won a draw prize for their classroom! Both the grade 4s and grade 5s received a "Tobacco-Free" fold-up frisbee and a skipping rope, and Ms. Dawson won a Starbucks gift card and a special canvas bag! Through this grade 4 health program, the students learned about the health dangers and addictive properties of smoking! They finished the



unit by demonstrating their learning through a Public Service Announcement (PSA) poster. Many thanks to Mme. Los for her participation in the Healthy Schools Committee, which enabled Ms. Dawson to find out about this campaign.

MS. BEATTIE'S CLASS TRIP

The students enjoyed writing a letter to thank the staff at Tim Horton's for generously donating cups to our class lounge. On the walk, we practiced community safety skills such as reading street signs and staying with the group.



TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER

On Thursday April 29, 2014, H.G. Bernard's student leaders had the wonderful opportunity to attend the annual Together We're Better Conference. Two groups of students attended the conference. Grade 7 students Kallen S., Anne Z., Jessica G., Sharon S. and Kito M. were able to attend various workshops and learn many lessons that will help them



build a positive climate in their school. These included a key note presentation by Itah Sadu on building empathy for others and a workshop on prejudice, equity and equality. Our second group of student leaders presented a workshop with Mrs. Ricketts and Mrs. Jessa. We were the only elementary school that brought along student presenters to lead a workshop called Passionate Pursuits. It was about inspiring student engagement and leadership at the school. Zehra B. (Grade 8), Maral M. (Grade 8), and Amir S. (Grade 7) were able to deliver the presentation with confidence and passion. Overall, the conference was a great success and will help us in creating the ideal environment in our school. The team is looking forward to bringing back the learning and continue supporting our positive school climate at Bernard.

BREAD AND BUTTER!!!

Ms. Zekry's grades 3's are learning about Early Settlers and First Nations in Social Studies. We made bread and butter to learn how Pioneers did it. We thought it was very fun. Making bread is easier than we thought. Butter is much easier to make than bread. We had lots of fun making the bread and butter, but it was messy. We all brought extra shirts and aprons. After we made it, we ate it. It was very tasty. We gave a lot of teachers our bread and butter. It is very easy to make butter. Making bread is very messy.



LOOKING FORWARD TO...

May 2014

- 2 Jump Rope for Heart
- 2 Earth Assembly 1:25 – all parents are welcome
- 7 Pioneer Village (Gr. 3)
- 7 FAST Program
- 14 Water Festival (Gr. 4)
- 16 Scientists in the School (Gr. 4)
- 19 Victoria Day – no school
- 21 Special Needs Track and Field
- 21 School Council Meeting
- 22 Track and Field
- 23 Rain Date for Special Needs Track and Field and HG Bernard Track and Field
- 26- June 5 Primary and Junior EQAO assessment

LEARNING ABOUT ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS IN MS. DAWSON'S CLASS

On Thursday, April 17th, Ms. Dawson's class was very excited to invite family and friends to the "Ancient Greek Agora" or marketplace (H. G. Bernard Library). The "Ancient One" (Ms. Dawson) welcomed the guests and introduced the presenters. Students who were in role as representatives of their Ancient Civilizations, presented information about their food, clothing, housing, religion, innovations, male and female roles, and government. Through oral and written presentations, the groups taught everyone about the Aztec, Mayan, and Inca cultures and Ancient Egyptian, Chinese and Roman civilizations. Food samples and period costumes brought the presentation to life. Grade 8 volunteers videotaped the presentations, so the students were able to watch themselves at a later date. It was a wonderful learning experience!

