

The Bernard Bulletin

November 2013

Bernard Avenue 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

Web: www.hgbernard.p.s.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Inside this issue...

- ✓ Message from the Administration
- ✓ Tips for the Parent-Teacher Interview
- ✓ Roots of Empathy
- ✓ 360° Kids After-School Program
- ✓ Grade 7s Visit the Outdoor Resource Centre
- ✓ Secondary School – Information Nights
- ✓ Bus Loop and Student Drop off
- ✓ Bus Behaviour
- ✓ Dressing for the Weather
- ✓ Volunteer Opportunities
- ✓ The Kindergarten Trip to the Farm
- ✓ Library News
- ✓ 2013/14 School Council
- ✓ Looking Forward to...
- ✓ Ms. Kieser's Class Trip to the Farm



Principal: Kathryn Prince
Vice Principal: Andrea Welburn
Superintendent: Clayton LaTouche
Trustee: Diane Giangrande

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

It is hard to believe that we are already in November! Our students and teachers have been working very hard and a great deal of learning has been taking place in all classrooms. Teachers are preparing to communicate with you about your child's progress through the Elementary Progress Report which will be sent home on November 13. Parents of Junior Kindergarten students will have the opportunity for an Observation visit in their child's classroom during the week of November 18. Parents of Junior Kindergarten students will receive the Progress Report Card at these visits. The purpose of this Progress Report is to inform you of the progress your child is making towards achievement of the curriculum expectations and to show your child's development of the learning skills and work habits. Curriculum expectations will be evaluated using the following designations: Progressing With Difficulty; Progressing Well; or Progressing Very Well.

The Ministry recognizes that the development of learning skills and work habits is an integral part of a student's learning. Teachers are expected to instruct, assess, evaluate and report on the following learning skills and work habits: responsibility, organization, independent work, collaboration, initiative, and self-regulation.

On the evening of November 14 or the morning of November 15, you will have an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher(s). During your scheduled interview, teachers will explain the information on the Elementary Progress Report Card and describe how your child is progressing academically. Teachers will show you examples of your child's work and discuss components of assessment. Teachers will also discuss your child's learning skills and work habits. Your child's teacher may give you some suggestions about how you can help your child at home. See the Tips for the Parent-Teacher Interview section for strategies that will help you get the most out of the Parent Teacher Interview.

We wish you all an excellent month of November!

Kathryn Prince
Principal

Andrea Welburn
Vice-Principal



TIPS FOR THE PARENT-TEACHER

INTERVIEW:

- ✓ Talk to your child before the interview to find out what they enjoy about school and what is difficult.
- ✓ Considering in advance what you want to ask the teacher. It is a good idea to keep notes to help you remember your questions.
- ✓ Finding out if the school can provide an interpreter, if you need one. If a school interpreter is not available, you may want to bring a friend or family member (not a child).
- ✓ Ensuring that you are there at least five minutes early so you can have your full scheduled time with the teacher. (Interviews are usually scheduled every 15 minutes.) Sometimes parents and teachers need to meet again or talk on the phone to follow up their conversation. You or the teacher can suggest a time for another conversation.
- ✓ Afterwards, it is a good idea to discuss the interview with your children. You can emphasize the positive things that were discussed and be specific about any concerns that were raised. You can also explain any plans that were arranged in order to address the concerns.
- ✓ It can be helpful to stay in touch with the teacher even if things are going well. This sends a positive message to your children about your interest in their learning.

➤ *Adapted from The Newcomers Guide to Elementary Schools in Ontario, 2012*

ROOTS OF EMPATHY

Are you a proud parent with a new baby?

Is your baby 2 – 4 months old?

You and your baby could be a *Roots of Empathy Family*.

Roots of Empathy is a program for elementary school children. The program's aim is to increase empathy - the ability to understand how another person feels.

Children learn to care for and respect each other, and there is less bullying and aggression. Be a Roots of Empathy Family.

- ✓ A baby with one or both parents visits a local classroom over the course of a school year with a Roots of Empathy Instructor.
- ✓ The visits are about 30 minutes long, once a month starting in November.
- ✓ The program helps children to learn about a baby's needs and how babies develop and lets children observe the loving relationship between a parent and baby.
- ✓ Babies must be between 2 and 4 months old in October.

"Roots of Empathy is about changing the world, child by child." - Mary Gordon, Founder/President

For more information please contact:

Einav Fridlander at 905-508-7009 x 513

360° KIDS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The 360Kids After School Program, formerly known as the Pathways After School Social or P.A.S.S. program, is a free after school program offered to students in grades 6-8. The program focuses on promoting healthy and active lifestyles amongst students through cooking and nutrition lessons, sports and games, and healthy snacks that are provided each day. In October, the students at H G Bernard Public School participated in various co-operative and team building games such as capture the flag and discussed the importance of nutrition and making healthy meal choices. Next month the students are looking forward to enhancing their soccer skills and participating in an end of month soccer tournament! The 360Kids After School Program meets in the special needs room every Monday, Wednesday and Friday after school until 6pm. If you are interested in joining the program you can pick up a registration form in the office or stop by the program and talk to Matt during program times.



GRADE 7S VISIT THE VIVIAN OUTDOOR RESOURCE CENTRE

Map in hand, what could be better than a day in the woods exploring a variety of ecosystems and learning how to work more effectively as a group member? The morning started off with a series of team building activities to highlight the importance of cooperation and collaboration. We quickly discovered that we only win when *we all win*. Carrying these lessons into the afternoon the students strategically planned how to find the ten secret locations marked on the map by sharing "intell" and "divide and conquering".

SECONDARY SCHOOL – INFORMATION NIGHTS

For September 2014 Enrolment

Richmond Hill HS
January 9, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Alexander Mackenzie HS Arts Program
@ The Richmond Hill Performing Arts Centre
November 12, 2013 at 7:00 pm

Bayview SS
January 16, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Bill Crothers SS
November 7, 2013 at 7:00 pm

BUS LOOP AND STUDENT DROP OFF

In an effort to improve student safety, the bus loop continues to be closed to all vehicles (except busses) between 8:15 am and 8:35 am, and again in the afternoon between 2:45 and 3:15. Thank you for parking at the tennis courts or using the north side of Bernard Avenue to let your children off at the sidewalk. Please avoid making 'u' turns as this interferes with the flow of traffic. By-law officers will be watching for cars making 'u' turns and issuing tickets accordingly during the next 6 weeks.

BUS BEHAVIOUR

Each year, our students participate in an educational program with our bus company where children learn the safest way to walk to the bus, wait for the bus, how to cross the street to board the bus, how to sit in the seats, how to behave on the bus, and how to leave the bus safely. It includes a video, an actual ride on a school bus, hand-outs and demonstrations. Riding the bus is a privilege. Students are expected to adhere to the code of conduct on the bus which includes: stay seated, be respectful to the driver, use appropriate language, and no eating or drinking on the bus. Bus privileges will be withdrawn from students if they do not adhere to the rules established during Bus Safety Day.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

So far we've had lovely weather, but it will become cold and snowy soon. Please be sure that children have the proper outdoor clothing so that they can enjoy recesses comfortably. Students are outside



for 30 minutes in the morning and 40 minutes in the afternoon. A warm coat, boots, mittens, and hat are necessary. Please label all outerwear so that we can identify lost items.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Parent volunteers offer a huge resource and support base for the school community while showing their kids the importance of participating in the larger community.



Not only will the school reap the benefits of your involvement — you will, too. By interacting with teachers, administrators, and other parents on a regular basis, you'll gain a firsthand understanding of your child's daily activities. You'll also tap into trends and fads of school life that can help you communicate with your kids as they grow and change (all without intruding on their privacy or personal space). (www.kidshealth.org)

Even if you haven't been involved in the past, it's never too late to start. Please join us on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20th** at 2:15 for our *Volunteer Information and Orientation Session*.

THE KINDERGARTEN TRIP TO THE FARM

On Halloween, the Kindergarten students visited Round the Bend Farm. We walked into the vegetable field and helped to harvest beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, and celery. We saw many farm animals including cows, goats, pigs, turkeys, kittens, and many fowl such as chickens and turkeys.



The bumpy wagon ride through the mud into the cornfields was a highlight for many students. We learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin. At the end of the visit, each student chose his or her own pumpkin and gourd to take home. It was a great experience and students now have a better understanding of where our food comes from.



LIBRARY NEWS

Bookfair update

Once again, our school book fair was a great success! We raised over \$500. Thank-you to everyone who participated. We're considering using some funds for an author visit, as well as purchases of library books. If you have suggestions, please forward them to Miss Ricketts.

At our local library

There are many upcoming events at our Richmond Hill Library. Many of these events have free admission. Here a few upcoming events and programs:

- ✓ *Holocaust Remembrance Week*: Join Guest speak Professor Mladen Vranic on Thursday, November 7 as he shares his story of hope and inspiration
- ✓ *Tech Tutor Class*: Teen volunteers work with adults interested in learning basic computer skills
- ✓ *Children's Programs*: The library offers a variety of classes including chess, reading, French and math
- ✓ And more!

For additional information contact the Richmond Hill Public Library at:

<http://www.rhpl.richmondhill.on.ca/RHPL/>

or call the central location at 905.884.9288

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

Please join up for our next Council meeting on November 20th at 7:00pm.

Pizza Lunch

The first pizza lunch happened on October 21st, grade 3 to 8 students could purchase slices for \$2. There will be more pizza lunches in the future, watch for the flyer and emails to come home.

Sub Lunches

The first sub lunch was on October 28th, remaining sub lunches are on November 11, 25, December 9. If you would like to order sub lunches please watch for the new order form that will be sent home in December.

Movie Night

The first movie night will be on December 4th, more information to follow.



Some of the things that the money raised by Council has and is being used for:

- ✓ Supporting the development of the outdoor classroom
- ✓ Supporting the grade 8 graduation dance
- ✓ Helping to purchase a new PA system for the gym
- ✓ EQAO treats for grade 3 and 6 students
- ✓ Sports equipment to be used at recess and lunch

LOOKING FORWARD TO...

November

- 4 Ms. Pare's class trip to VORC
- 8 HPV Immunization for Gr. 8 girls
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 11 Sub Lunch
- 13 Progress Report Cards go home
- 14 Parent-Teacher Interviews (pm)
- 15 PA Day (no school) and Parent-Teacher Interviews (am)
- 20 School Council Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm
- 22 Picture Day Retakes
- 25 Area Volleyball – Intermediate Girls
- 25 Dental Screening
- 25 Sub Lunch
- 26 Area Volleyball – Intermediate Boys
- 27 Dental Screening Continued
- 28 Chanukah



MS. KIESER'S CLASS TRIP TO THE FARM

On October 21st, Ms. Kieser's class went to Round the Bend Farm. The students had a lot of fun harvesting vegetables, looking at the animals and going through the hay maze. Their favourite part of the trip was going on a bumpy wagon ride. They had a lot of fun and wanted to go again the next day. Instead, they enjoyed making a yummy vegetable soup from the vegetables that they harvested from the farm.

