

THE BERNARD BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2014

A Message from the Administration

HG Bernard staff, students and community came together for a special opportunity to honour those who have fought for our freedom during the First and Second World War. Ms. Taylor led a poignant Remembrance Day Assembly paying tribute to our fallen heroes. Several classes created wreaths, and many classes participated in the touching and thought provoking assembly held on the morning of November 11.

Our staff and students continue to be actively engaged in Bullying Prevention. Our student leaders have been busy creating events and activities to highlight the need for inclusion, acceptance and are working to develop a learning community in which every Bernard student feels a sense of belonging. Our student council has been busy planning for upcoming spirit days—students are encouraged to wear orange, purple and blue to signify acceptance and inclusion. Many students demonstrated school spirit by participating in our recent ‘mustache day’. Our students are also learning about the role of the bystander and understand the importance of standing up to those who might bully.

Recently we hosted visitors from Holland who came to our school to learn about inclusive education, character building, and student centred instruction. Our visitors were impressed with our students and observed how they demonstrate respect for each other, how they deal with conflict and how they support one another to be successful both academically and on the school yard.

Kathryn Prince
Principal

Megan Roberts
Vice-Principal



Our student led conferences were a huge success. Thank you to our hardworking and talented students for sharing their successes and challenges with their parents.



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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 Bus privileges will be withdrawn from students if they do not adhere to the rules established during Bus Safety Day.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 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.



SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM



When your child will not be attending school or will be arriving late, please call the Safe Arrival line at 905-508-7009 ext. 2. Please take the time to leave a clear message that includes your child's first and last name, their grade, the teacher's name and the reason for the absence. It would be appreciated that you make the call as soon as possible, before 8:00 a.m. on the morning that your child will be absent or late. If your child has to leave before 3:00, you must come into the office and sign out your child. Following this procedure helps us ensure your child's safety.

BUS LOOP AND STUDENT DROP OFF

This year we have many more students who take busses attending HG Bernard. As a consequence our Bus Loop, and Drop Off Loop has become dangerously congested. Often busses cannot make their way into the Bus Loop. Also, parents and children are often in a hurry and do not see cars, or other children. We have had several 'close calls'. We have invited a team of experts to help us address these safety considerations. Their report will be shared this week. The loop will 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. There is ample parking at the tennis courts, and there is a safe walkway, away from traffic. Cars can also park on the north side of Bernard Avenue and let children off at the sidewalk. Please avoid making 'u' turns as this interferes with the flow of traffic.

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



SECONDARY SCHOOL – **INFORMATION NIGHTS**

For September 2015 Enrolment

Richmond Hill HS
January 8, 2015 at 7:00 pm

Bayview SS
January 22, 2015 at 7:00 pm

Richmond Green HS
January 15, 2015 at 6:30 pm

LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found boxes are full!! Often children loose mittens, boots, shoes sweaters, hats, and scarves during the school months. We place these lost items in the lost and found boxes. If your child has lost some clothing items please ask him/her to take a good look at the lost items in the lost and found. Any unclaimed lost and found items will be donated to a local charity by the end of December.



FAMILY VACATIONS

If you are taking your child(ren) on a holiday the office has a form that must be completed. You may also send a note to your child's teacher or directly to the office indicating your child(s) name, date(s) of absence and reason for absences.



Student Cell Phone Use

Cell phones and other communication devices are to be turned off and kept out of sight during instructional periods except with the explicit permission of the classroom teacher. Cell phone camera functions are not permitted to be used on school property. If students or parents/guardians wish to communicate with each other, please use the school phone lines instead.



SNOW RULES

Now that snow has landed in abundant quantities over our formerly green landscape, the time has come to review some of the rules around safety involving the snow.

Packed snow poses many hazards including embedded grit and loose debris which can cause injury. Heavy packed snow can also result in injury.

Our rules are few and simple:

All snow stays on the ground (no snowballs at all). Snow can be moved to create snow forts, snowmen and snow angels. The construction of structures will be respected by all. Knocking down or destruction of structures is not acceptable. These rules are reviewed on the morning announcements. If a child fails to comply with these rules, recess privileges may be revoked until



such a time that he/she shows that he/ she can act in a safe, responsible manner!

Halloween 2014 - A Spooktacular Time



Halloween 2014 - A Spooktacular Time



News from the **LEARNING COMMON:**



Our school is very excited to be part of the Forest of Reading Program. The Forest of Reading is Canada's largest recreational reading program where readers select the winners, and it is sure to get our community energized! This initiative by the Ontario Library Association (OLA) offers eight reading programs to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. The Forest helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators. More than 250,000 readers participate annually. All Canadians are invited to participate via their local public library, school, or individually.

HOW THE BOOKS ARE CHOSEN: Over one hundred professionals from school and public libraries across the country read hundreds of books to arrive at the nominations. Books must be authored by a Canadian citizen or resident and be commercially available in Canada and published within the last two years. Titles are chosen to appeal to a range of interests and reading abilities.

HOW READERS VOTE:

Voting takes place in the month of April. Readers must read a minimum of 5 of 10 books for all school-aged programs, however all Blue Spruce readers must read or be read all 10 to qualify to vote.



The Blue Spruce Award

This program helps children in Kindergarten through to Grade 2 develop the skill of evaluating a picture book based on the story and the pictures. Children vote to determine the winning book of the Blue Spruce Award, after they have read all the titles!



The Silver Birch® Express Award

This list of nominated titles is aimed at children in Grades 3 to 4, and provides books with many different reading levels. ESL students, reluctant readers, and other readers may also find this mixed list of fiction and non-fiction exactly to their liking.



The Silver Birch® Fiction Award

Silver Birch has been thrilling readers for over 20 years. This reading program is geared toward readers in Grade 5 and 6. From fantastical to serious tales, the program provides a wide range of stories for readers to enjoy!



The Red Maple Fiction Award

This program is for students in Grades 7 and 8, and encourages Canadian writing and authors. Readers will get swept into these exciting fictional stories by Canadian authors while improving their reading skills at the same time!



The Red Maple Non-Fiction Award

This Non-Fiction award is offered every other year, and is geared towards students in Grades 7 and 8. This nomination list has everything from rock stars to rebels, and will encourage readers to use critical thinking while reading. These stories will have readers talking!

Visit <https://www.accessola.org> to find the list of Forest of Reading programs that apply to your children. Books have been ordered for each of the programs.

Students in Kindergarten through Grade 2 will be read the ten Blue Spruce books at school. Students in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be able to borrow books from the Learning Common (hopefully just before the December break).

All the Forest of Reading books are available at the local public libraries as well. Each child needs to read 5 of the 10 titles to be able to vote for their favourite book in April because we have so many students involved in the program it would be advantageous to take out some of the books from the public library.

The students will be asked to respond to the books they have read to make sure that they have a good understanding before moving on to their next book choice. We are reading for the love of reading but want to be sure that the children have an opportunity to talk about and discuss their ideas and opinions after each book either with a friend or a teacher. Please be sure to ask your children about their involvement in the program.



Library book exchange:

Has your child been bringing home a library book on a regular basis?

Every class in our school has been scheduled into the Learning Common (LC) once a week. Ask your child what day their class comes to the LC. We have made it a priority to give your child access to new books every day. The LC is open at morning recess almost everyday.

Did you know that we have an amazing group of LC helpers? They are an incredible group of students who come during their recess time to check in books, shelve books, help setup book displays, and help their peers find books.

We also have a couple of amazing adult library helpers who come once or twice a week to help keep our LC running! THANK YOU to (Stephanie M, Jelveh A and Roya T))
We couldn't keep going without your dedication and support!

We are always looking for more Learning Common volunteers.
Come and see Mrs. Maxwell if you would like to become part of our team!

News from the LEARNING COMMON:



Thank you to all the families who bought books from the Scholastic book fair. We have purchased many new books to share with all the students at H.G. Bernard. A special thank you to all the students who worked at the Book Fair and to Ms. Wong and Mrs. Keith. We could not have had such a successful fair without all your support!

Has your child brought home a library book lately? Every class in our school has a specific day/time each week to come to the Learning Common and take out a book. The students are allowed to exchange books at morning recess most days of the week. Please encourage your child to share a book with you each and everyday!

Do you have any LEGO at home that you aren't using any more? We would love to start a LEGO club at our school. We need donations of LOTS and LOTS of Lego to get things started. No donation is too small. We ask that the Lego be in good condition... no broken pieces please. Please send all Lego donations to the Learning Common.

Thank YOU!!! From Mrs. Maxwell



READING BUDDIES

Mrs. Sarro and Mrs. Bratina class have begun participating in a reading buddies program. The children are enjoying their time reading together and discussing the books they



REMEMBRANCE DAY

This month we celebrated remembrance day with a school wide assembly to honour those who gave up their lives so we could be free. The grade 2 students in Ms. Wong and Mrs. Sarro's class wrote letters of thanks to all soldiers everywhere. In a symbolic gesture they tied the letters to balloons and released them into the air as the children shouted "**THANK YOU**".



INTERMEDIATE VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to the boys intermediate volleyball team for their win at 16th Avenue volleyball tournament. The boys played a total of 4 games, winning three. The boys are now getting ready for their area tournament on Nov 27th.

GOOD LUCK BOYS !!!!



Student Council

Hey Bernardians! Do you have school spirit? We had our first Spirit Day of the year on Wednesday, November 26, 2014! Mustache Day was a huge success - students showed their school spirit and spread awareness for men's cancer by wearing a mustache; some drew one on, others stuck on mustache stickers and a few even grew their own! We collected donations in support of men's cancer. More opportunities for you to show your school spirit will happen at least once a month with Pink and Purple Day on the 9th of each month for the rest of the school year. To show your school spirit, just wear pink and/or purple clothing to school!

Student Council is also selling school apparel! There will be customizable sweaters, hoodies, t-shirts, shorts, and sweat pants for sale and they will include the school logo on them. Order forms will be collected December 1st to the 19th. This could be the perfect holiday gift you're looking for! All clothing will be ready for pick up early next year.

So, come on Bernard - Let your Spirit Show!

-A Message from your Student Council

10 Book Club

Congratulations to Jiyun from Mrs. Sarro's class and Zohal from Ms. Wong's class for winning the 10 Book Club Draw for November



10 Things Parents Can Do to Prevent and Address Bullying

1. Establish a code of conduct with your child.
2. Promote diversity, inclusion and acceptance.
3. Encourage your child to report incidents of bullying.
4. Create friendship opportunities.
5. Talk, talk, talk with your child.
6. Problem-solve with your child.
7. Build on strengths.
8. Be ready to listen.
9. Be your child's advocate.
10. Be a positive adult role model.



I BELIEVE THAT EVERYBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN A COMMUNITY WHERE THEY FEEL SAFE, INCLUDED, VALUED AND ACCEPTED REGARDLESS OF DIFFERENCES.

I PLEDGE TO BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS AND STAND UP AGAINST BULLYING WHENEVER AND WHEREVER I SEE IT.



On Thursday, November 20, 2014, I (Allen Lu), Jessica Gao, Lakshana Varathalingam, Ms. Naqi, Ms. Prince, and Ms. Roberts went to the Sheraton Parkway Hotel to attend Day 2 of the YRDSB Quest Conference to

learn about how to maintain a professional culture at our school. Upon arrival we headed into the York Hall and found seats at the back of the extremely packed room. There was staff and student representation from every single school throughout the York Region District School Board and we were so proud to be representing the Student Voice at the Conference. The day began with amazing student performances of musical talent; an elementary school choir, an all-female Xtreme Drummer troupe and an audience-interactive performance of the infamous Cup Song! This was followed by an address from the Minister of Education, the Honourable Liz Sandals, and a keynote presentation about the Three C's (Culture, Communication, and Collaboration) by Lucy West, an Educational Consultant. The next presentation was a panel of educators responding to questions we asked via Twitter at #YRDSBQuest, which all were related to the topic of the day: Professional Culture. #YRDSBQuest was one of the Top 10 trending topics in Canada during the Quest Conference!

After lunch, we had another co-anchor session and a very eye-opening presentation about the struggles of the indigenous people in today's society facing discrimination. The struggle to learn about their traditions, language, and heritage were told through digital stories. After those presentations, we decided to divide and conquer – each of us making our way to as many of the variety of mobilizing action sessions that were on offer at Quest. Our task was to take what we could away from the session to bring back to Bernard and help further improve our school's professional culture. We look forward to sharing our learning with our teachers at the upcoming staff meeting and creating a plan to put all that we can into action here at Bernard! Let the Quest continue...!

by Allen Lu, Student Council President

Looking Forward to December

19th — Last Day Before Christmas Hioliday

25th — Christmas

26th — Boxing Day

22nd — Jan 3rd, 2015 Christmas Vacation

Jan 5th, 2015 — School Re-opens

