

THE BERNARD BULLETIN

October 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
- EQAO
- Preventing Illness
- Gentle Hands Program
- Bus Loop and Drop Off
- Halloween Costumes
- Fall into a Good Book
- Walking to School Safely
- Newcomer Parent Workshop
- Positive Climates for Learning
- Terry Fox
- Full Day Kindergarten
- October Calendar



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

It's hard to believe that the first month of school is already over. We would like to congratulate our students and staff for such a great beginning to the year. H.G. Bernard PS has since undergone a re-organization. As explained in other communications, these changes were necessary in response to an increase in enrolment and to meet the Ministry of Education primary class size requirements and Junior and Intermediate class size averages. Teachers put a lot of thought and care into the decisions that were made to ensure the best classroom placement for each student. The team at H.G. Bernard has been incredible at supporting each other, our students, and our parents to understand that changes were necessary.

The York Region District School Board has designated the week of September 30-October 4 as Safety Awareness Week for all schools. As part of Safety Week activities, we will conduct practice drills for Fire and Lockdown. Students will review emergency procedures in case of fire, medical emergencies or the need for Lockdown measures. Everyone will be well prepared and the drills will cause minimal disruption. The students had the opportunity to learn about bus safety evacuation procedures from representatives from Stock Transportation last week.

We look forward to seeing all of our parents at Curriculum Night on October 2 from 6:00-8:00pm for an opportunity to meet the teachers and hear about the wonderful initiatives taking place at HG Bernard. There will be a variety of cultural foods for sale from 5:30-6:30 and then we will meet in the gym at 6:30 for staff introductions and the sharing of HG Bernard successes. We will proceed to classrooms at 7:00 for presentations outlining expectations and ways you can help your child be successful at school. The first presentation will run from 7:00-7:30 and the second presentation from 7:30-8:00. Information about how your child is progressing will be outlined in the Progress Report which will be sent home on November 13. This will be followed by an opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher for an interview on November 14 or 15.

Sincerely,

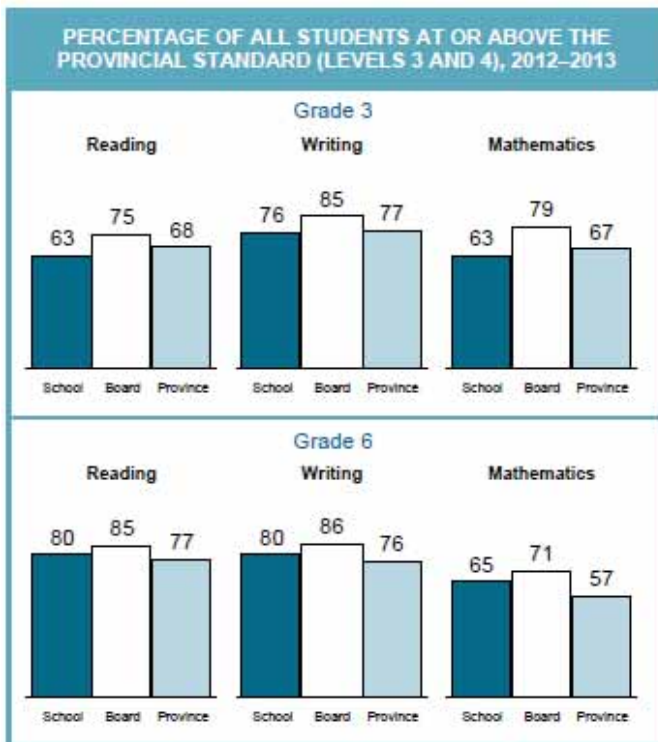
Kathryn Prince
Principal

Andrea Welburn
Vice-Principal



EQAO

Each year, students in Ontario schools who are enrolled in Grades 3, 6 or 9 participate in Province-wide Assessments in Language and Math. Last May our Grade 3 and 6 students spent several blocks of time writing the EQAO Language and Math assessments, which were submitted to the EQAO for scoring. Those students have recently received their individual results. As a school, we have done very well and are pleased to share those results with you.



At HG Bernard the EQAO data are used regularly to guide school improvement initiatives by helping to identify areas of strength and areas needing improvement and by helping to support changes in instructional practices that may be required. The provincial test results can also help schools engage in meaningful discussions about student achievement with their parent community. We all know that parents can and do exert a powerful influence on their children's work habits, behaviour, attitudes toward school and, ultimately, learning and achievement. EQAO is pleased to help strengthen the partnership between home and school by offering a series of resources for parents and educators, available on the agency's Web site, to help school communities engage in the kind of

meaningful, data-based dialogue that supports student success. Of course, EQAO data are only one of the sources of information that should be used to assess student achievement. Provincial testing results should always be considered alongside other school and school board-based information. For more complete information on the EQAO assessments and our school's results, please click on the following link.

<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/pdfs/w/eqao/13/322-13.pdf>

CLEAN YOUR HANDS TO PREVENT ILLNESS

When done properly, hand washing reduces the risk and spread of illnesses. Parents are encouraged to review the importance of regular washing with their children.

Hands should be washed:

- after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
- after using the bathroom
- after shaking hands
- after playing outside or touching garbage
- after touching animals
- before eating and/or preparing food
- before touching your face
- when you or someone you come into contact with is sick

The six steps to proper hand washing are:

1. Wet hands with warm running water
2. Apply liquid soap
3. Lather hands for at least 15 seconds
4. Rinse hands back and front
5. Dry hands with a paper towel
6. Turn water taps off with paper towel

You can support proper hand washing by:

- Reinforcing the hand washing message at home
- Establishing hand washing routines at home
- Being a hand washing role model so children will follow your lead

GENTLE HANDS PROGRAM

Ms. Kieser's Autism Community Class has a new program running in her classroom called Gentle Hands. The Gentle Hands Program is an interactive program that will enhance the students' interpersonal and communication skills through the use of a trained service dog. Ms. Kieser's class was able to experience the trained service dog named Abby on September 21, 2013. The students enjoyed petting, walking, and reading to Abby.



Through this program the students will not only learn responsibility skills, but also work on their social and communication skills. The Gentle Hands Program provides both an emotional and social environment for the students, one that they look forward to participating in with Abby every other week.



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.



HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

This is a reminder to all students and their families that students are not permitted to bring weapons or replicas of weapons, including toy guns or toy blades of any type to school.



Happy Halloween

Have fun and be safe!

FALL INTO A GOOD BOOK!

Bulletin Board designed and created by Cyntia, Hayley, Jessica, Mandy, H.G.B. Grade 6 Students

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair takes place from September 30 to October 4. There will be many great novels, picture books, activity books and much more!

Your child(ren) will get a wonderful choice of exciting titles! No tax will be charged and the approximate price range is from \$1.00 to \$35.00. Lots to choose from, lots of fun!

Please review at the “Sneak Peak” sent home this week with your daughter/son. On Curriculum Night, feel free to stop by library to shop at our book fair.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!



WALKING TO SCHOOL SAFELY

This is a good time for parents to remind their children about pedestrian safety. York Regional Police has provided the following safety tips on their website to help keep students safe on their way to and from school:

- Walk on available sidewalks
- Always cross at intersections
- Obey crossing guards
- Stop before stepping into roadway
- Be visible and indicate crossing intentions
- Look and listen for traffic in all directions
- Make eye contact with drivers
- Cross safely when the roadway is clear
- Walk. Do not run or cycle across roads
- If possible use the buddy system

For more information, visit www.yrp.ca.

NEWCOMER PARENT WORKSHOP

H. G. Bernard Public School, in collaboration with Inclusive School and Community Services and School Partnership Settlement in York Region, is hosting a newcomer parent workshop, Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and in Reporting in Ontario Schools. Parents will have an opportunity to hear about the assessment process, evaluation and how student achievements are reported in Ontario. Participants will also discuss some strategies to communicate with teachers effectively when they have matters to consult with teachers.

The workshop will be held on Tuesday October 29 at 3:30pm in the Library. Looking forward to seeing you there.

POSITIVE CLIMATES FOR LEARNING (PC4L) AT H.G. BERNARD

We are very excited to introduce our Positive Climates 4 Learning (PC4L) team! This team includes our Eco Schools, Healthy Schools, Anti-Bullying initiatives and more. Last year, students and staff worked together to build a positive climate through Spirit Days and Division wide events. We are looking forward to create dynamic opportunities for students, staff and parents to work together to make Bernard a fabulous place to be!

Parents and caregivers are a vital component to our school community. We invite parents to become involved in our PC4L team to support the creation of an ideal, warm and inclusive environment for all students. Chosen candidates will participate in a meeting every six weeks and support initiatives in the school. Candidates will act as ambassadors for the Positive Climates for Learning (PC4L) initiatives with the larger parent community.

A Positive Climate for Learning and Working is...

- Equitable and Inclusive
- Safe and Supportive
- Respectful
- Caring



A positive climate exists when all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable, and accepted and there is a common understanding of behavioural expectations and consequences (YRDSB PPM #668).

Parents and caregivers interested in being a part of our PC4L team can pick up an application form at the school office. Please submit your application to either Fatima Jessa or Michelle Johnson by October 10, 2013. Thank you for your support!

TERRY FOX

I'm not a dreamer, and I'm not saying this will initiate any kind of definitive answer or cure to cancer, but I believe in miracles. I have to.

– Terry Fox

Every year people all over the world participate in an annual run/walk in honour of Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope. On Thursday September 26, 2013, the students and staff of H.G. Bernard participated in small run/walk around the neighbourhood to pay tribute to Terry's cause; his fight to find a cure for cancer. The school accepted donations from students and staff that afternoon to go towards the Terry Fox Foundation. Congratulations, together we have raised a total of \$1,241.65 this year. If you still would like to make a donation to the cause please visit the Terry Fox Organization Website at www.terryfox.org. Click on "donate to a student/school" and find H.G. Bernard P.S. As Terry said, "If you've given a dollar, you are part of the Marathon of Hope."



FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

Students in our full day Kindergarten classes are involved in an engaging, play-based educational program. Teachers and early childhood educators are working together to help the children learn by implementing a carefully planned, inquiry based program that is geared to each child's level of development. Our Kindergarten students have been busy writing, building, reading, socializing, counting, and learning routines during the month of September.



October Calendar 2013

Bernard Avenue Public School

245 Bernard Ave. Richmond Hill, Ontario L4S 1E1

Phone: (905) 508-7009 Fax: (905) 508-0047

SAFE ARRIVAL: 905-508-7009 EXT 2 ABSENCE OR LATE



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Curriculum Night 5:30-6:30 Food for purchase 6:30 Presentation in the Gym 7:00 Classroom Session 1 7:30 Classroom Session 2	3	4	5
6	7 Picture Day	8	9 School Council Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm	10	11 PA Day No Classes for Students	12
13	14 Thanksgiving School Closed	15	16	17 Grade 1&2 visit Safety Village	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	Nov 1	Nov 2

**Eco – Theme
Lights Out**

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