

The Bernard Bulletin

OCTOBER 2014

A Message from the Administration

It has been an exciting fall at HG Bernard with students engaged in many different activities, both academic and extra-curricular. Our student council elections took place on October 6 and we would like to congratulate all of the candidates who ran for a position. Their speeches were impressive, outlining their commitment to leadership at HG Bernard. We are also proud of our volleyball team; they have demonstrated a commitment to hard work, and model good sportsmanship for the younger students at our school. Bernard has hosted several games, and our team will be playing against other schools in the weeks to come. Encourage your child to become involved in extra-curricular events; participation helps children grow in a variety of ways! A list of current activities offered for your child are outlined in the newsletter.

The administration and staff at HG Bernard are committed to two priorities.

1. The first priority is a commitment to **equity** and **inclusivity**. We want to ensure that our families and students feel welcome, have a sense of belonging and have a voice. Having a voice means families (parents and guardians) have a say in the decisions that are made, and work hand-in-hand with school staff to ensure the best outcomes for children. It also means that staff and parents learn from one another to benefit all students at Bernard. At a recent PA Day, we spent time delving into our School Climate and reflecting on Mindsets. We are looking forward to sharing the Mindsets work with parents so they can help guide the important work we're doing. Please join us on November 24 at 9:00am.
2. Our second priority is student achievement. We continue to focus on mathematics and literacy instruction, and would like to announce that every student at HG Bernard will have access to a computer program that supports mathematics learning. If you would like to have access to the program at home, please join us for an information evening on Wednesday December 10 at from 6:30-7:00pm.

Parent Involvement and Voice:

During our upcoming student led conferences please be sure to complete the parent/family survey. We need to understand your concerns and priorities so that we can work as partners in your child's education.

Progress Reports and Student Led Conferencing:

Teachers are preparing to communicate with you about your child's progress through the Elementary Progress Report which will be sent home on November 12. On the evening of November 13 or the morning of November 14, you will have an opportunity to take part in a student led conference with your child (children). During the student led conference your child will share his/her learning so far this year, including strengths, areas of growth and next steps. Examples of your child's work will be shared and discussed. Teachers will explain the information on the Elementary Progress Report Card and describe how your child is progressing academically. Your child's learning skills and work habits will also be discussed and suggestions about how you can help your child at home will be shared. See the Tips for the Parent-Teacher Interview section for strategies that will help you get the most out of the Parent Teacher Interview.

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.

Kathryn Prince

Megan Roberts

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 <http://www.hgbernard.p.s.yrdsb.edu.on.ca>



Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 11: Remembrance Day Assembly @ 10:40
- Nov. 11: Volleyball Game at HG Bernard
- Nov. 12: School Council Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm (all parents are welcome to attend)
- Nov. 12: Report Cards Go Home
- Nov. 13: Visitors from Holland
- Nov. 13: Picture Retakes
- Nov. 13: Student Led Conferences 3:15-8:00pm
- Nov. 14: PA Day and Student Led Conferences
- Nov. 20: Volleyball Mini Tournament (after school) @ Sixteenth Avenue PS
- Nov. 24: Mindset Workshop for Parents



Principal: Kathryn Prince
Vice Principal: Megan Roberts
Superintendent: Rita Russo
Trustee: Diane Giangrande

BUS LOOP AND STUDENT DROP OFF



We would like to remind parents that getting children to school SAFELY is the priority every day. It is important to follow several safety procedures:

- Drive slowly in the school zone.
- Drop students at the tennis court parking area.
- Come to a full stop at all stop signs.
- Remember pedestrians have the right of way.
- Be courteous and respectful of other parents.
- Do not block driveways, exits or let children out of a car in the middle of the road (or expect children to cross the street).
- Do not make 'u' turns.

Remember, we have breakfast club open at 8:00am and free entry at 8:15.

Bus Loop and Drop Off

The bus loop and drop off is closed every day from 8:15-8:35 and again at the end of the day, from 2:45 to 3:15.



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.



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.

SAFETY

This is a reminder to all students and their families that students are not permitted to bring weapons or replicas of weapons, including toy gun, knives, axes, swords, etc. This is in compliance with York Region District School Board's Safe Schools Policy #668.0.



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.



KNITTING CLUB

Every Monday and Wednesday in the snack recess (10:10-10:40) and lunch recess (12:50-1:20) It ends on March 30th 2015.



Mindsets

No parent thinks “I wonder what I can do today to undermine my children, subvert their effort, turn them off learning, and limit their achievement.” Of course not.

We think “I would do anything, give anything, to make my children successful”. Our best intentioned judgments, our lessons, our motivating techniques often send the wrong message, unintentionally.

In fact, every word and action sends a message. It tells children – or students or athletes – how to think about themselves. It can be a fixed mindset message that says: “You have permanent traits and I’m judging them,” or it can be a growth mindset message that says: “You are a developing person and I am interested in your development.”

The most important thing you can do to help your child instill a growth mindset is to praise them for effort rather than for talent.



Messages like “You learned that so quickly! You’re so smart!” teach the child that effort is a sign of weakness and that they either *are* or *aren’t* smart. If they encountered difficulty in the future, they wouldn’t know how to deal with it. Instead,

messages such as “I like the way you approached that problem”, or “good job to hang in there and find a different strategy that did work”, or “sorry, that seemed to be too easy for you, let’s do something more challenging”, teaches kids that effort is something we can all benefit from to reach our full potential, and that they need to be working purposefully in order to grow.



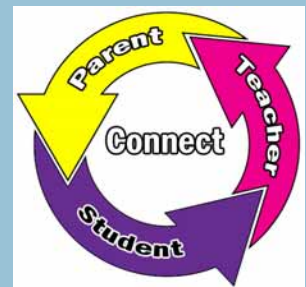
Please join us on Thursday November 12 or Friday November 13 for Student Led Conferencing

Parents and guardians are invited to take part in a student led conference and see the academic and learning skill growth and development in their child.

The purpose of student led conferences is to:

- Encourage students to accept responsibility for their own academic learning
- Teach students the process of self-evaluation and reflection
- Engage students, parents and teachers in an open dialogue

Student led conferencing supports students to have increased pride and ownership over their own learning. Students demonstrate an increase in confidence and independence when they are clear about learning goals, and how to achieve them. They understand what the expectations are for exemplary work, and know how to ensure their work meets the standard discussed and shared in class.



Homework Tips to Maximize learning:

- Get enough sleep.
- Eat regular meals and healthy snacks.
- Exercise regularly & Take short breaks during study time.
- Set a consistent time when homework will be done.
- Provide a quiet place free from distractions such as music, television, and devices.
- Talk to your children about what they are learning in school. Praise & encourage effort.
- Read with younger children.
- Check that homework is completed.
- Let your children help you in reading and writing recipes, newspapers, letters and shopping lists.
- Encourage your child to ask the teacher for help if they find the work difficult or confusing.
- Communicate with the teacher by way of a note in the agenda to stay updated

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



FIELD TRIP FOR GRADE 2'S



This month the Grade 2's in Mrs. Sarro's and Ms. Wong's class had an opportunity to go to the Toronto Zoo. This was a fantastic experience that helped to enhance our unit on Growth and Changes in Animals. The students were able to experience both a classroom component as well as a guided tour of the zoo. Some of the big ideas studied include: animal characteristics, the importance of food and shelter, adaptation for all animals, the importance of having humans protect animals, and the places where they live. We would like to thank all of the parents who volunteered their time to help supervise during the trip.



TEN BOOK CLUB

Congratulations to Kelly and Roy from Mrs Sarro and Ms. Wong's class for winning our draw for the September 10 Book Club. Good luck to both classes for next month.



BOYS INTERMEDIATE VOLLEYBALL

Over the past few weeks our team has been diligently preparing for our area tournament. We have had a number of exhibition games and the boys are currently undefeated. The boys continually play with heart and integrity displaying the positive moral character that our school stands for. They have done an incredible job representing Bernard. We are all so proud of you. The boys will be participating in a mini tournament at 16th Avenue Public School on November 20th, 2014. We wish them luck. Great job boys!! We would also like to thank Lucca Sarro for volunteering in coaching the boys as well as all the parents who have volunteered to drive students to games. We could not have done it without you.

STUDENT COUNCIL 2014-2015



On Monday, October 6th, the Grade 7 and 8 students at H.G. Bernard came together for an assembly in the Learning Common to hear speeches from their Student Council Candidates. Students were running for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Communications Coordinator. They delivered powerful speeches on how they could help all students at Bernard foster a Growth Mindset if they were elected to these leadership positions in the school. The students voted in their homeroom classes for their 2014/2015 Student Council Executives, and elected: Allen Lu for President, Naslihan Ayoub for Vice-President, Kito Meade for Grade 8 Secretary, Jenny Huang for Grade 7 Secretary, and Mehreen Sachedina for Communications Coordinator. Prior to the elections, the Student Council advisors held interviews for the positions of Junior and Senior Treasurer, and out of the several highly qualified candidates from both Grade 7 and Grade 8, Hayley Zhong from Grade 7 and Julia Zolota from Grade 8 were appointed as the Student Council Treasurers. Grade Representative appointments were conducted following the election, and Grades 4-8 homeroom teachers selected a strong leader from each of their classes to represent student voice on the Council. The Student Council Grade Representatives are: Grade 4- Shayee Kanasavaradan and Timothy Manukian; Grade 5- Julie Miller and Madeline Altman; Grade 6- Arshia Fazeli and Bardia Fazeli; Grade 7- Akshaya Indrakumar and Javier Chung; Grade 8- Jessica Gao and Anne Zhang.

Bernard's Student Council is already hard at work for its student body! They planned a variety of exciting activities for Halloween on October 31st, including the Grade 7 and 8 Halloween Dance, Haunted House Experience for all grades, Junior and Intermediate Pumpkin Carving Contest, and a Best Costume Contest for all grades! Student Council also sold treats during morning and lunch recess to fundraise for the school. It was Spook-tacular!

Look out for upcoming Student Council events promoting Bernard school spirit and encourage your child to get involved!

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Community Safety Village

On Friday, October 31st, Ms. Dawson's and Ms. Downing/Ms. Payne's Grade One classes had a wonderful time at the Community Safety Village in Bruce's Mill. The children learned about the importance of "buckling up," helmets for bicycles, and road safety. The children also "drove" jeeps through the streets of the village, learning about traffic lights, safety signs, and railway crossings. They finished off with a visit to the village "jail"! It was an exciting day for everyone.



KINDERGARTEN FIELD TRIP



On Tuesday October 21st the kindergarten division ventured off to Strawberry Creek Farm, to explore the pumpkin patch, hay maze and farm life. Although the day was cold and rainy, the students had the opportunity to select their own pumpkins from the pumpkin patch, pick fresh raspberries and adventure through the hay maze. The kindergarten students had a wonderful time at the farm and were eager to discuss their explorations at school the next day.



TERRY FOX RUN

This year, we proudly supported The Terry Fox Foundation in its ongoing work to fund innovative and progressive cancer research programs by participating in National School Run Day on Wednesday, September 24. Your kindness and generosity will impact the lives of so many people living with cancer. Thank you to all those who donated!!



NOVEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Grade 8's Orientation at Richmond Hill High School	6	7	8
9	10	11 Rememberance Day 	12 Reports Home Immunization Grade 7 & 8 School Council Meeting 6:30 — 8:30	13 Picture Re- take Student Led Conferences 3:30-8:00pm	14 P A Day (No School) Student Led Conferences	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
3	24	25	26 Volleyball Girls Area- Tournament	27 Volleyball Boys Area Tournament	28	29