

# THE BERNARD BULLETIN

September 2013

## A Message from the Administration

Welcome to the beginning of a new school year at H.G. Bernard P.S.! We hope that your family had a wonderful, restful summer and that your child is ready to be back at school. We would like to welcome our returning families and those who are new to our school community.

Our sincerest appreciations go out to our teachers and office staff for their hard work preparing the classrooms for student arrival. We would also like to thank the caretaking team for working diligently over the summer to get our school ready for the new year. The classrooms look warm and inviting and the school looks fantastic!

H.G. Bernard P.S. welcomes the Full Day Kindergarten program for four and five year olds this year. This is an engaging, play based program which sets the stage for future learning, health and well-being. Our three Kindergarten classrooms are sure to be dynamic and engaging places to learn.

We have many new staff this year. We would like to welcome Ms. Carolyn Hanson, Ms. Anushka Silva, Ms. Natasha Kieser and Ms. Beth Baldoni to Bernard. Ms. Holly Paterson will be in for Ms. Cross until she returns from her maternity leave. Ms. Nadia Benincasa and Ms. Joanne Foster have joined our Kindergarten team. We are also welcoming three Dedicated Early Childhood Educators (DECEs) to our Full Day Kindergarten program: Ms. Heather Hayworth, Ms. Atefeh Ayati, and Ms. Daniela Mauti. Together with a Kindergarten Teacher, the DECEs will plan and deliver the Full Day Early Learning – Kindergarten Program.

We encourage you to play an active role in your child's education. Study after study shows that student achievement improves when parents are actively involved. Students are more likely to be motivated, earn higher grades, have better social skills, and go on to higher education after secondary school when parents actively support their success at school. Parent involvement takes many forms. For example:

- serving on School Council
- volunteering in classrooms
- making sure there is a quiet place set aside to do homework
- helping with homework
- frequent communication with teachers
- talking to your child about their day at school.

Please read through the Guide to the 2013-2014 School Year for Students and Parents as it contains important information for students and parents.

We look forward to working with you and your child and wish them success for the new school year.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Prince  
Principal

Andrea Welburn  
Vice-Principal



## Meet the Teacher/ Curriculum Night

Please join us on Wednesday October 2, from 6:00-8:00pm for an opportunity to meet your child's teacher(s) 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.



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

## Coming Up...

September

23 – PA Day

26 – Terry Fox Run

30 – Oct 4 Safety Awareness Week

October

2 – Curriculum Night 6:30-8:00 pm

9 – School Council Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm

11 – PA Day

14 – Thanksgiving Day (holiday)



## Pathways After School Social (P.A.S.S.)

The P.A.S.S. program is a free after school program for Grade 6-8 students with the objective of promoting active and healthy kids in both mind and body. The program includes a variety of physical activities and sports, nutrition and wellness lessons, a daily healthy snack, guest presenters, some reading and homework help, as well as self esteem building activities. The goal of P.A.S.S. is to meet the social, physical and nutritional needs of many of our students during the after school period of their day. The P.A.S.S. program will run for the entire school year on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays after school until 6:00 pm. Spaces for this program are limited and registration sheets were sent home last week. Additional registration packages can be found in the office. If you would like to sign up for the P.A.S.S. program fill out a registration form and hand it into the office. Participants will be accepted on a first come first serve basis after which a waitlist will be created.

## 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 Awareness Week

The York Region District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students. To support that endeavour, the week of September 30 – October 4, 2013 has been designated YRDSB Safety Awareness Week.

To help prepare our students to evacuate the school quickly and safely, we have planned to practice a fire drill and conduct a practice lockdown drill. In advance of these drills, we will review protocols and expectations during an emergency with all students, staff and affected partners.

In the event of an evacuation, our re-location site is Corpus Christi Catholic Elementary School located at 35 Squire Drive, Richmond Hill, Ontario. Phone: (905) 770-8713. If there is a need to evacuate, Parents/Guardians will be contacted for pickup details.

**We thank you for helping us to ensure that student safety is a top priority during Safety Awareness Week and throughout the year.**

### School Hours

Entry	8:15-8:30 a.m.
Class Begins	8:30 a.m.
Recess	10:10-10:40 a.m.
Lunch	12:20-1:20 p.m.
Dismissal	3:00 p.m.
Office Hours:	Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## **In the Library ...**

Welcome to a new school year! We are ready to begin library exchange! At H. G. Bernard P.S., we encourage all children to borrow books on a regular basis. Books are signed out for two-weeks; renewals are possible if other students are not waiting for the book. Our kindergarten students are encouraged to exchange books each time they come to the library. Books are on loan for two-weeks. Students may borrow:

- 2 books in Grade K-1
- 3 books in Grade 2-3
- 4 books in Grade 4 and up

### **Book Care**

Children should read books away from food and drink. The students are responsible for protecting library books from younger siblings and pets. If books are lost or damaged beyond repair, there will be a charge. All money collected for lost and damaged books will go toward the replacement of the book. The replacement cost for a soft cover book is \$9.00 and a hard cover book is \$17.00. We would much rather have the books so please take care of our books. Should individual issues arise, I will send a note home.



### **Book Bags**

Students from kindergarten through grade three receive book bags. Book bags help protect the books between home and school. Please encourage your student(s) to take care of both the books and the bags.

### **September in the Library**

September's focus in the library will be class orientations. We'll talk about library routines and expectations (an information letter has been sent home). A fall book fair is being planned. I will share more about library initiatives in upcoming newsletters.

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

Students can preview books on September 30 and buy books on October 1, 2, and 3. The book fair is also open before curriculum night events on October 2. Please stop by the library and buy a fabulous book or two! Don't forget to enter our "Family Event" draw, which will take place on curriculum night. Ballots can be found on the "Sneak Peek" flyer (coming soon).

### **Volunteers**

If you are interested in helping in the library (circulation desk, shelving books, etc.), please contact me.

Looking forward to an exciting school year!

Ms. Nicole Ricketts  
905 085 7009 ext 110  
nicole.ricketts@yrdsb.edu.on.ca





## Student Busing Eligibility

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

- All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). For more information about bus transportation, and to determine your child's eligibility, please visit [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com).

The students at HG Bernard ...



... show appreciation



... listen attentively



... and put their heart into learning.

## School Organization

Our school organization for this year remains tentative. As you are aware, the Ministry of Education has mandated a hard cap of 20 students in each of the primary (Grade 1-3) classes. Since this is a hard cap, there is little flexibility to increase the limit above 20. Class size will be closely monitored over the next few weeks and is it possible that we may need to reorganize. Any reorganization would occur on the PA day, September 23, and any families/students affected by the reorganization would be notified prior to that date.

## Student Safety - Severe Allergy Alert

Several students at HG Bernard PS have severe allergies to peanuts and other nut products. We need your help to keep our friends safe at all times.

Please read labels and ingredients prior to sending specific items to school. Check the ingredient list for peanut oil, peanut butter, peanut sauce, peanut flour, peanut meal, mixed nuts, ground nuts, goober nuts, goober peas, artificial nuts and mandalona nuts. There are many hidden sources of peanuts/nuts in foods. Some examples include, cookies, chocolate, granola bars, some cereal bars, and some vegetable oils and shortening.





The YMCA Ontario Early Years Family Fun program is returning to Bernard this fall and will be offered Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We welcome parents, grandparents, home child care providers and their young children (birth to 6 years). It offers a chance to meet other parents and caregivers, let your kids socialize with others, take workshops, share stories, access a variety of child development and parenting resource materials, or just play with your kids and have a lot of fun!!!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 905-883-6901 ext 353 for more information.

**Please check upcoming information items for our official start date.** We look forward to meeting you soon!!



### Lunch

Boomerang Lunches are an important part of our eco-schools initiative. We are asking that all students bring food to school with little or no packaging. When possible please use reusable plastic containers to



hold sandwiches, snacks, and drinks. If lunches contain packaging students are asked to bring all of the packaging home. Thank you for supporting our eco-schools initiative!

### Visitors and Visiting

Any person entering the school must report to the office. For the protection and safety of our children and staff, everyone must adhere to this rule. Please note that visitors to our school and parent volunteers must wear a Visitor Badge obtained at the office and must sign-in in the Visitor's Book. All parent volunteers must have a recent police check completed. Please obtain the Police check forms at the office

### Reminder

During the first week of school your child brought home some very important information.



Please take the time to read the information and make sure you return the completed package to school, if you haven't already done so! Please ensure your contact information and email address are correct.

H.G. Bernard & Family Day Care Services Present...

# Hold On To Your Home Language

Will a child be confused by two or more languages?  
How do children benefit from learning and speaking their home language?  
How do we help children to hold on to their home language?

*Join* **York Region Early Literacy Specialist,**  
Paige Stirling Fox **for a morning of information and discussion.**

**Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> @ 9.30-11:30am**

**Parents & Caregivers Please Register at the Office**