



PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

Pierre Berton Public School

[Pierre Berton Public School](#)

470 Via Campanile, Vaughan, ON

905-303-4540

Important Dates:

April 1st	Light it up Blue
April 8th	School Council
April 12-16	April Break (no school)
April 22nd	Earth Day

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Principal

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Vice-Principal

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Administrators' Message

April 2021

April is finally here and so is Spring. Spring is a time of renewal. Leaves start forming on trees, flowers start to bloom, grass becomes green again and animals start to come out of their winter hiding spots. Hopefully this spring will bring less restrictions and a chance to gather to some extent with family and friends.

It is a good time to reflect and try to uplift ourselves and others. I've been following Action for Happiness on Twitter or you can check them out at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/>. I particularly like their calendars, it helps me focus on doing positive things in the day. Doing small things to help uplift yourself and others will go a long way in supporting our mental health during this challenging time. If nothing else put a smile on your face. When you **smile**, your brain **releases** tiny molecules called neuropeptides and other neurotransmitters like dopamine, serotonin and **endorphins** all which can help improve how you are feeling and causes others to smile too.

It is a wonderful time to take advantage of doing things outdoors. I encourage everyone to get out, breath in the fresh air and discover all of natures' wonders. There are many benefits to being outdoors such as meeting your daily physical activity requirement, bonding with your children as you talk on your walk or hike, the peacefulness of the environment can help reduce stress as well as many more benefits.

Enjoy the spring! April is full of celebrations, so for those who celebrate Easter, we wish you a happy Easter. For those who celebrate Passover, chag Pesach samech. For those who celebrate Eid, we wish you a wonderful celebration. Have a wonderful month everyone.

Wishing everyone a safe and Happy April Break!

Cathy Martino-Porretta



Writing the Pages of our Future!

School Information



REPORT IT Caring and Safe Schools

Our schools should be safe, welcoming and inclusive places for everyone. It is important that students know what to do if they witness or experience inappropriate behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination.

- There may be situations when you can safely step in and intervene and help.
- Talk to an adult at school, family member or other trusted adult.
- Report the event without the person involved knowing using our online reporting tool, **Report It**.

Report It lets you share information about inappropriate student behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination.

You can use the online form to report:

- Bullying, drugs, cheating, vandalism, harassment, violence or any other inappropriate behaviour
- Incidents of discrimination or hate, including anti-Indigenous racism, ableism, anti-Asian racism, anti-Black racism, antisemitism, classism, homophobia, Islamophobia, sexism, transphobia or other forms of hate

You can report events that happen at school, at school-related events, online or off school property if it negatively affects a student or the school climate. You can also choose to make a report anonymously.

Complete reports are shared with the school to investigate and respond.

Acts of discrimination, hate and bullying are never acceptable. Using the **Report It** tool is a way of standing up for each other and for ourselves.

You can find **Report It** on the homepage of the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca and on the homepage of every school website, or watch this [short video](#) to learn more.



This year, World Autism Awareness Day is Friday, April 2nd, 2021. Our school will be celebrating on Thursday, April 1st with a virtual assembly. This year's theme was

“Together Our Light Shines Brighter”!

We created an inclusive virtual assembly that celebrates Autism, specifically helping to teach others about what it means to have Autism and how to be a friend to someone with Autism. Ms. Smith and the students in room 125 would like to thank everyone in the school who participated in this year's Light It Up Blue assembly by decorating their classroom door, creating buttons, videos and Jam Boards for the assembly.

Together our lights shines brighter!

During the month of April, we will be focusing on Inclusion! To start off the month, we will be celebrating Autism with our Light It Up Blue celebration and the theme of “Together Our Light Shines Brighter”. Our students will be learning about the importance of creating inclusive learning communities that welcome everyone.

Classes will also engage in the month's Agent of Change challenge focused on inclusion. Feeling safe and welcome in the classroom and school community can have a significant impact on our mental health. We encourage families to think about different ways they can promote inclusion at home. Students are also encouraged to apply what they learn this month about including others to ensure that everyone in their class has a friend and feels included.



School Information

Reminder to all parents, when students come to school, please remember to have the following items.

1. **Extra Masks** - We have many students each day coming to the office to get masks for a variety of reasons (e.g., they have forgotten it at home, it is dirty, they lost it, etc.). It is very helpful if students come to school with 3 clean masks in their backpacks. This way they have an extra if they need a replacement throughout the day and they do not need to miss instructional time to deal with this.
2. **Fork/spoons** -Parents please remember to pack forks/spoons for your children's snacks/lunches. For safety reason we would like the students to stay in their classrooms instead of coming to the office.
3. **Water Bottles** - Parents please remember to give you're child a re-fillable water bottle



April

Eco - Month

Reusable

Containers



Are You Moving?

Please let us know if you are planning to move. This information helps us immensely when planning for next year.

Please notify the school office, (905) 303-4540. Send a note in with your child as soon as possible, or email to:

pierre.berton.ps@yrdsb.ca



The Eco theme for the month of April is "Reusable Containers". Our community is encouraged to reduce the amount of waste produced by using reusable containers and water bottles. Our annual Earth Day is on **April 22** to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

Our students and staff will be engaging in **Earth Day** related activities in support of this great day. Thank you for continuing to protect our planet.

211 Ontario

Do you need help finding food, housing, financial assistance, mental health support, employment support, support for seniors, winter clothing and/or shelter? For information and referral to government, health, community and social services, call 2-1-1, search 211Central.ca, text 21166, live-chat at 211Ontario.ca/chat or email gethelp@211Ontario.ca. 211 is free, confidential and available 24/7 in 150+ languages to connect you to local community supports.

School Information

Class Placement Information

As the final term continues, we will be making decisions later this spring regarding class placements for next year. When organizing classes, we take into account many important factors to provide an optimum learning environment. These include class size, student performance levels, gender and special needs.

The following criteria will be used to determine student placement:

Academic Ability: To ensure that all classes contain a balance of students with varying abilities

Learning Styles: To ensure that specific student needs (learning styles, organizational skills, work habits and behaviour) are addressed.

Special Education Needs: To ensure that placement maximizes support and opportunities for success.

Maintaining Peer Groupings: Students, where possible, will be placed to maintain positive peer support.

Should you have information that we are currently unaware of, and that you believe is relevant to your child's placement next year, please email this to pierre.berton.ps@yrdsb.ca by Monday, April 19th.

Please only list one child per email and include their name and grade at the top. Requests after this date may not be accepted. **We will not accept specific requests for a staff member.**

We will consider all information but provide no guarantees as class placement is a very complex process.

All final decisions regarding student placements remain the responsibility of the principal, in collaboration with school staff. Student class placement may also change in late September due to Ministry of Education requirements related to Primary Class Size reduction.

2020-2021 Yearbook is COMING!

We are excited to announce that the 2020-2021 yearbook will soon be available for purchase! This will be the most unique yearbook yet! Purchasing a yearbook for your child is a great way for them to hold onto the memories of their friends and all the exciting things that happened this year. While this year was different, the yearbook is a way to celebrate our Panther spirit and all the ways we have made this year amazing! We have added some new things and brought back some of the great parts of yearbooks from the past.

This year's yearbook will include:

- * Full colour pages
- * Individual and Class Pictures
- * Candid classroom pictures
- * Special Events
- * Grade 8 Grad Section
- * A cover designed by the Cover Contest Winner! (AND the 11 semi-finalists)



Don't miss your opportunity to purchase the 2020-2021 yearbook.

Go to **CashOnline** starting **Tuesday, April 6th** to order your yearbook for **\$25.00**.

All orders are due April 30th, 2021

Don't delay, buy the yearbook today!

Thank you for your support,
The PBPS Yearbook Committee

School Information



Visit our new website

YRDSB has refreshed its Board website to make it easier for families to find the important information they are looking for at www.yrdsb.ca.

The new website has been designed to be mobile friendly, translatable, accessible, searchable, easy to navigate and to better reflect York Region District School Board and our community. This includes:

- Built-in translation tool
- Enhanced search capabilities
- Built-in accessibility features to meet accessibility legislation
- Revised navigation based on user testing, website analytics and research

Quick access to six of our most accessed pages, including school calendars and school transportation information.

The new website also includes:

A [Family Resources](#) that provides quick access to online tools like Edsby, Google Classroom and School Cash Online, as well as links to information about translation tools, IT support for families and more. Use the “need help” button to access tips and support in using these tools.

Updated [Online Student Tools](#) pages provide quick access to students to online learning platforms and resources to help with homework. Use the “need help” button to access tips and support in using these tools.

An enhanced [newsroom](#) with access to the latest news, events and videos so you can find out what’s happening around our Board.

Easy access to information about [supports for students](#), [elementary school](#) and [secondary school](#) programs, [adult learning opportunities](#) and more.

Information about COVID-19 and schools, including update information, screening tools and frequently asked questions can still be found at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

We hope that the website makes it easier for families to find and access the information you are looking for. When you visit the new website, please take the time to share your feedback, so we can continue to ensure our website meets the needs of the community we serve

Important Information



HERE TO HELP LINE



905-503-9561



**Monday - Thursday
2:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**STARTING
IN APRIL**



*For children and youth (0-18 yrs)
and their parents, caregivers or
adult supporters.*

Call us if you have concerns that could benefit from quick access to phone counselling.

Topics include (but are not limited to):

- **Anxiety, stress and depression**
- **Family relationship issues**
- **Managing stress and anxiety related to COVID-19**
- **Parenting resources and concerns**

Visit www.yorkhills.ca for more information.