



PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

Pierre Berton Public School

[Pierre Berton Public School](#)

470 Via Campanile, Vaughan, ON
905-303-4540

Important Dates:

Dec 3	Canadian Opera Company
Dec 7-10	Book Fair
Dec 10	Last Day for Food Drive Gr 7&8 Immunizations
Dec. 11	Progress Reports Home
Dec. 18	Earn Your Feet Friday TRIBES Assembly Last Day of Class

Administrators' Message

December, 2015

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of December and getting ready for the holidays. It has been a very busy month at Pierre Berton. Students have had numerous opportunities to come together to learn, including the Remembrance Day assembly, our Tribes Assembly focused on bullying prevention and inclusion, and arts performances. In addition, our intermediate students were extremely engaged with athletics having very successful seasons in both girls' and boys' intermediate volleyball. We now move into intermediate basketball and junior mixed volleyball. Finally, our Student Leadership team has been busy planning assemblies, supporting our food and toy drive, coordinating spirit days and reviewing our school climate survey data. It is great to see so many students involved in extracurricular activities.

Progress Reports went home last week. It is important to revisit learning goals with your child(ren) in order to monitor progress and set new academic and learning skills goals as the year progresses. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Term one report cards will go home with all children in February.

As the winter break approaches (Dec 21 - Jan 1), we wish to thank our school community for your commitment to our students' learning and well-being. Wishing each of you a joyful and safe holiday season and a happy new year!

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Inside This Issue:

Principal
Wendy McVicar-Lew

Vice-Principal
Orlie Soroka

Office Staff
Jane Purdy
Zabrina Fraser

Superintendent
Paul Valle
905-764-6830

Trustee
Linda Aversa
647-462-0921

York Regional Police Holiday Heroes

As the holiday season approaches, it is important for us to reach out to the community in which we live and support others in need. The Student Leadership Team organized our annual food and toy drive campaign. Thank you to our families for bringing in non-perishable food items and new unwrapped toys for kids of all ages. The generosity and support of the Pierre Berton Community is greatly appreciated!



Writing the Pages of our Future!

Important Information

Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 15, 2016

Kindergarten registration will begin at our school on January 15, 2016 for the 2016-17 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Or, you can attain a copy at the school once registration begins.

Children who turn four or five years old during 2016, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten.

A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. We will send invitations to our new kindergarten students and families at a later date.

For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact our school office.



French Immersion Information Sessions and Registration for students who are currently in Senior Kindergarten

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place
at French Immersion schools on **January 14, 2016 at 7 p.m.**

Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2016 (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location. FI registration will begin January 15, 2016.

Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2016, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, should:

- visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school.
- take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register between January 15 and February 12, 2016. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca.

Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Important Information



Student Transportation Services of York Region
320 Bloomington Road West
Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1
905-713-2535
FAX: 905-713-2533
Web site: www.schoolbuscity.com

School Bus Cancellation Notice

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled from due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following;

- A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
 - When bus service is cancelled all school tests and/or examinations will be cancelled and rescheduled.
 - Student trips involving the use of school buses will also be cancelled.
 - **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be affecting all municipalities in York Region.**
- Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.
- Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM 1050 AM
1540 AM 1580 AM 88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 FM
94.9 FM 95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM
101.1 FM 102.1 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM 107.1 FM

TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CTV Toronto CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YRDSB and YCDSB on twitter.

Remembrance Day



On November 11th our students and staff honoured our Veterans through an emotional and creative assembly led by Mr. Li and Mr. Derakshandeh. Our student choir sang and “rapped” the theme of world peace and each class decorated a unique wreath to lay down in memory of fallen soldiers. Our student body exemplified respect and empathy throughout our ceremony. We were also proud to be able to share our special assembly with Superintendent of Schools, Paul Valle, pictured with Mrs. McVicar-Lew, Mr. Li and Mr. Derakshandeh.



Student Achievement

Math—Understanding Spatial Reasoning (Edugains)

What is Spatial Reasoning?

Spatial thinking, or reasoning, involves understanding and remembering the location and movement of objects and ourselves, either mentally or physically, in space. There are a number of sub skills and concepts that are interrelated among each other. It also includes being able to show and communicate thinking in a variety of ways.

Visualization is the ability to see images in your mind and to remember what you see when it is out of view (visual memory). Spatial Visualization involves using our imagination to rotate, change, create, organize, and retrieve mental images.

Both of these concepts are important in the development of spatial reasoning.

Why is Spatial Reasoning Important?

Research has shown strength in spatial reasoning abilities is related to success in mathematics. Spatial Reasoning, although it is an important part of geometry, is a process that enhances learning and communication across all math strands and all grades.

Consider the following examples...

You are planting trees in a straight path of your backyard. You plant a tree and then every 10 metres along the path plant another. If the path is 40 metres, how many trees will you need to plant?



How will you pack all those different sized boxes in the van so you only need to make one trip?

That couch you noticed in the store is perfect for the basement family room but, will it fit down the stairs?



Now ask yourself:

What skills do I need to solve the problems? What do I see or visualize helping me in solving the problems?

Spatial reasoning involves the use of many curricular expectations across all math strands.

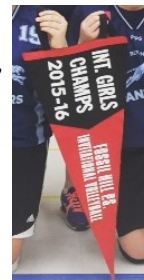
Grow your brain, have fun with math!

Positive Climates for Learning

Intermediate Volleyball Season



The Intermediate Volleyball seasons are well underway as the players get ready for their Area qualifying tournaments on Monday, November 30th (Boys) and Tuesday, December 1st (Girls.) The teams have been practising since September and will have a good chance if their invitational tournament season says anything about it. Out of the 6 tournaments that the teams have played in this year, they have won four and placed 2nd in two. They have truly been on fire this year and the coaches (Mr. Herbert, Ms. Kramer, Ms. Leslie and Mr. Pennino) are already super proud!



TRIBES Assembly

All of our students and staff participated in our monthly TRIBES assembly on November 26th and shared ideas around Anti-Bullying and Kindness. Some of our junior students starred in a video around how bullying makes us feel. The students watched a pay-it-forward video produced by Ms. MacLeod's class, where being kind to others made its way all around our school. As well, each student joined their cross-grade TRIBE to complete an Anti-Bullying activity, emphasizing that we are all different, but that everyone is unique and should be included. We look forward to our next TRIBES assembly on December 18th!

It was Pantherific!

Panthers' Cheer

*Deep in the school, we're kind and humble.
You can hear the Panthers rumble!
Ooo Ah, Oo Ah! Ooo Ah, Oo Ah!*

*Deep in the school, we face our fears.
Watch us as we persevere!
Ooo Ah, Oo Ah! Ooo Ah, Oo Ah!*

*Deep in the school, we're strong and proud.
Come on Panthers, let's get loud!
Ooo Ah, Oo Ah! Ooo Ah, Oo Ah!*

Earn Your Feet Fridays!



**Earn your Feet
Friday
December 18th!**

Remember to walk to school on Friday, December 18th, 2015.

Students have done an outstanding job contributing to a healthy lifestyle by walking to school, or walking 5 laps around the schoolyard at recess!
Earn a special foot charm for your keychain each time you participate!

December's Eco-Theme: Reduce your footprint!

Look around the school and your home for opportunities to adopt new energy and water saving habits. As well, recycle, travel sustainably and be conscious of what you purchase. Avoiding waste will help us to reduce our environmental footprint for generations to come!



Positive Climates for Learning

Healthy Schools Recipe of the Month Heart-Healthy Slow-Cooker Chili

As the cold weather approaches we naturally gravitate towards comfort food. What better way to stay warm than with a hearty and healthy bowl of homemade chilli. This chili recipe is loaded with good-for-the-heart veggies and tastes amazing! Simple changes like choosing extra lean meat and low or no-sodium tomatoes and beef broth can turn a hearty dish like chili into a heart-healthy dish just like that! As an added bonus, using a slow-cooker will leave you with more time to spend with the family!

Ingredients

- 2 lbs lean ground beef
- 2 med onions, chopped
- 2 cups chopped bell peppers {red, yellow, orange, green}
- 1 cup fresh or frozen corn
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 28 oz can low sodium crushed tomatoes
- 1 28 oz can no sodium diced tomatoes
- 1 6 oz can low sodium tomato paste
- 1 14.5 oz can low sodium beef broth
- 1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 cans kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 Tbsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp hot sauce



Instructions

- Brown the beef and drain off the fat.
- Add onions, peppers and garlic. Cook until veggies are tender.
- Transfer to a slow cooker.
- Add remaining ingredients, stir once and cover.
- Cook on low 6-8 hours.
- Serve with organic tortilla chips

Healthy Schools Exercise of the Month - Move at the Mall!



During this busy holiday season, make the most of your shopping excursions by setting a steps goal! Using a pedometer or App, track your steps and see if you can meet your goal. Measure your baseline by tracking your steps in one hour. Then aim to increase your steps each hour. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and stay hydrated!

School Council/Parent Information

2015 - 2016

Pierre Berton School Council

Co-Chairs

Rajesh Dhoum
Ken Nong

Secretary

Kristy Sood

Parent Members

Sandra Bruno
Nina Gill
Samuel Iannucci
Tharshini Sriskandarajah
Margarita Ramirez

Teaching Staff

Jacqueline Stone

Administration

Wendy McVicar-Lew
Orlie Soroka

The Pierre Berton School Council met on November 16, 2015. Highlights from the meeting included:

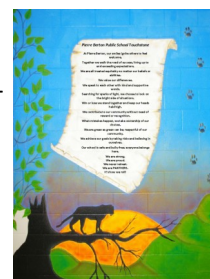
- Overview of budget process.
- Overview of Fundraising Policy. Fundraising Committee organized for events for the 2015-2016 school year. A fundraising plan will be developed at the first meeting in December.
- Discussion regarding paid Lunch Programs for the winter season. PBPS will offer Mad Science (Chess, Science & Lego) and Young Rembrandts. We will explore a music option.
- Discussion regarding development of a school logo. Proposal of a plan to move forward with this initiative will be shared at the January meeting.
- Decision to plan two movie nights this year (Winter / Spring)
- Discussion regarding traffic concerns on the street during drop-off and pick-up. City of Vaughan to conduct another traffic study.
- Sharing of school information, including Remembrance Day, clubs/teams, Elementary Progress Reports, and grade 8 transition to high school.

Next School Council Meeting:

Monday, January 18th, 2016

7pm

Learning Commons



Upcoming School Council Meetings

January 18, 2016

February 22, 2016

April 11, 2016

May 16, 2016

A Message from our Trustee

It is that time of year when our schools brim with energy and excitement for the many diverse celebrations taking place across our region. I am always happy to join the festivities happening in our schools and appreciate the efforts of our students, staff and community members to bring the holiday season alive.

As we wind down 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and guardians for their support of our students and staff over the past few months. A school community is only as strong and welcoming as the people who make up that community. Our students, staff and community members have continued to demonstrate respect, character and commitment in their work and interactions over the last few months. As a trustee, I consider myself very fortunate to work with such supportive community and staff members.

On behalf of all of the trustees and staff of the York Region District School Board, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.

All the best for 2016!

Linda Aversa