



PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

Pierre Berton Public School

[Pierre Berton Public School](#)

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

Important Dates:

Dec. 8-9	JK/SK, Gr. 2 & 8 Dental Screening
Dec 16	Last Day for Food Drive
Dec. 22	Tribes Assembly
Dec. 23	Earn Your Feet Friday
Jan. 9	School Resumes

Administrators' Message

December, 2016

As we are entering the beginning of December and with just over 3 weeks before the holiday break, Pierre Berton continues to be an exciting learning hub. Students and staff are engaged in a flurry of activities that include rich learning tasks and on-going assessment, becoming informed about secondary school choices, athletic events and clubs, our monthly Tribes Assembly and everyday school life. We are also beginning our annual Holiday Heroes campaign to collect toys and food for children in our community.

We wish to thank our school community for your commitment to our students and their learning. Student achievement and well-being continues to be our focus at Pierre Berton Public School. Teachers have been actively involved in assessment, planning and implementing varied learning opportunities for the students. The assessment data collected continues to inform instruction and our families have played an integral role in supporting our students in the learning process. We thank you for participating in our parent/student/teacher conferences and playing an active role in your child's learning.

Student success is important to everyone at Pierre Berton, as such, it is important that students arrive at school on time and are ready to begin their learning promptly at 8:30 am. Students should arrive at school anytime after 8:15 am and ensure that they have enough time to organize their belongings and prepare to start their day on time. Please do not drop students off at school before 8:15 am as there is no supervision.

As the weather turns cold and snowy a reminder to parents to ensure that their children have warm clothing for outdoors. Students are reminded to wear boots, hats, mittens, snow pants and warm jackets to keep them comfortable while outside for recess. Students will go outside for morning and lunch recess during the winter months and they need to be dressed appropriately.

It is hard to believe that the holidays will soon be here. We would like to extend our best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season and best wishes for the New Year to all of our students, parents/guardians, staff and community members. Happy December everyone!

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Principal

Wendy McVicar-Lew

Vice-Principal

Jennifer May

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Jane Purdy
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Superintendent

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905-764-6830

Trustee

Linda Aversa
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Writing the Pages of our Future!

Important Information

Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 20th, 2017

Kindergarten registration will begin at our school on January 20, 2017 for the 2017-18 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 2017, 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. Information will be sent out to families in April.

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 19, 2017 at 7 p.m.**

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.

You can use the [School Locator](#) beginning in January 2017 to locate YRDSB schools offering the FI program for your address for the 2017-18 school year. Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on January 19, 2017 at 7 p.m. Registration will take place January 20 to February 10, 2017.

Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2017, 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 20 and February 10, 2017. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

Message From Our Trustee

As we near the end of 2016, I hope everyone has had a great school year so far and found opportunities to get involved with the life of the school. It is wonderful to have opportunities to see not only what our students are learning, but to see how they are learning – collaborating and problem solving, using technology in exciting new ways, and engaged in hands-on activities.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated staff members, students, families and community members across our Board. Thanks to all of the great people we have in our system, we continue to advance student achievement and well-being.

Our Board continues to have a strong commitment to creating welcoming, inclusive learning environments that enable all of our students to thrive. Engaging families in your child's education and the school community is in an important part of creating that environment.

There are resources for families available on our Board website at www.yrdsb.ca/parents, including information on Board programs and supports, and tips for parents to support your child's learning at home and at school.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2017. I hope you are able to enjoy time with family and friends.

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.

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.

Dental Screening



York Region Public Health Dental Screening will be taking place on December 8th and 9th for our JK, SK, Grade 2 and 8 students. The screening is in accordance with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's Child Health Program under the Ontario Public Health Standards and Protocols. A notice regarding the screening was sent home recently. If you have questions or concerns you may contact York Region Public Health at 905-895-4512 or 1-800-735-6625.

Student Achievement and Well-Being

Inspiring Your Child to Learn and Love Math

According to the Ontario Ministry of Education's Council of Ontario Directors of Education "Study after study has shown that student achievement improves when parents play an active role in the children's education..."

There is no doubt that when parents get involved in their child's learning, their attitude toward learning changes for the better. Learning becomes more fun and the anxiety and fixed mindset that hinders growth and learning is significantly reduced.

At Pierre Berton Public School, we take parent involvement in their child's learning very seriously. As such, we have decided to do a monthly "Math Session" in our newsletter. The purpose is to provide parents with a clear understanding of the math milestones children should be working toward and what kind of fun activities you can do at home with your child. We will begin with ideas for kindergarten students.

In Kindergarten your child will learn the following in mathematics:

- Count to 10
- Measure and compare length, weight, temperature and size
- Compare two and three dimensional objects and sort them by size, colour and shape
- Create and continue patterns

Activities you can do at home to help your child:

- Have your child help you cook to teach them measurement
- During bath time, use plastic containers of various sizes to teach them about different sizes
- When wrapping presents, have them cut the wrapping papers into different shapes, such as rectangles, triangles and circles
- When walking to and back from the park, talk about all of the different geometric shapes you find together
- At the grocery store, using familiar numbers, talk about how much something costs and how much it would be if you bought more than one.

Incorporating math into everyday activities will make learning math fun and it's an easy way for you and your child to spend quality time together. More importantly, family math time will help with reducing the level of anxiety that students feel when engaged in mathematics.



**Earn your Feet
Friday
December 23rd!**

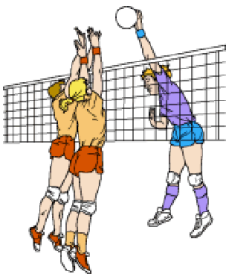
Earn Your Feet Fridays!

Remember to walk to school on Friday, December 23rd, 2016.

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!

Positive Climates for Learning



Panthers are Double Champions!

It was a warm September and October to stay cooped up in a gym, however that is just what the Panther's volleyball teams did. About five years ago, the Panthers coaches had a vision. That vision was a championship vision. With the commitment of the players, the coaches have developed the volleyball program now for five years. It was time that the vision started to pay off. Both the coaches and players knew that this would be a special year and as such, we were all willing to put in the extra practice and hard work.

Both the intermediate boys' and girls' teams participated in several tournaments throughout the volleyball season and were successful in all of them. The area qualifying tournaments were held at Pierre Berton P.S and both the boys and the girls qualified for the finals at these tournaments.

On November 22nd, the boys' team, dominated the competition at the area finals to win the first Area Volleyball banner in 4 years. They competed in the Regional Championships on December 1st, representing our school with pride.

On November 23rd, the girls' team competed in nail biting competition. They were down 13-11 in a final game to 15 and they came back and won. This is the first girls' team championship in Pierre Berton history. They competed in the Regional Championships on November 30th.

All in all, the Pierre Berton Panthers have solidified their position on top of the sports world in our area as they will be raising their 2nd and 3rd banners of the year already and we are only in the month of November. Boys' coaches, Mr. Herbert and Ms. Punnett and girls' coaches Mr. Herbert, Ms. Gerrard and Ms. Kramer were super excited to go to regionals and couldn't be more proud as we are already off to the most successful sports season in Panthers history.

TRIBES Assembly It was Pantherific!

All of our students and staff participated in our monthly TRIBES assembly on November 24th and shared ideas around Anti-Bullying and Kindness. Ms. Saraceni's students created and starred in a video around how bullying makes us feel and shared an important message to all that 'you are not alone.' We also heard from a special student who shared her experience of donating her hair to support Cancer patients. Students then joined their cross-grade TRIBE to complete an Anti-Bullying activity, emphasizing that we are all different, but that everyone is unique and must be included. We look forward to our next TRIBES assembly on December 22nd!

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!*

Positive Climates for Learning

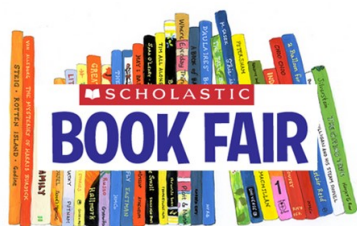
Remembrance Day



On November 11th our students and staff honoured our Veterans through an emotional and creative assembly led by Mr. Li and Mr. Derakshandeh. The assembly included a video created by students about the impact of war on all those who have served and their families. Our student choir sang beautifully and each class decorated a unique wreath to lay down in memory of fallen soldiers. It was a moving tribute and our student body exemplified respect and empathy throughout our ceremony.



Thank you!



This year's Book Fair was a great success. We had a lot of fun and raised approximately \$3000 for our Learning Commons. We are looking forward to purchasing new and exciting books and materials for our makerspaces. Thank you again to everyone who came out to support us at PBPS.

Be a Holiday Hero!

The 2016 holiday season is just around the corner and we are excited to once again be participating in the Holiday Heroes campaign. Since the launch of the campaign in 2008, York Regional Police have raised more than \$1 million in monetary donations, new toys, new children's clothing and food. As always, all donations raised in York Region, stay in York Region! 100% of donations directly support the children from our community who are in need. These goals have been reached with the help of our school community here at Pierre Berton Public School.

We will be collecting Food and Toys up to December 16th, 2016.

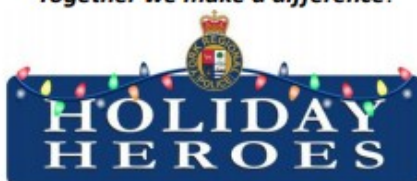
Non-Perishable Food items (cans, jars, dry, boxed...)

Toys (please consider all age groups, especially teens...)

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Together we make a difference!



School Council / High School Transition

2016 –2017 Pierre Berton School Council

Co-Chairs

Rajesh Dhoom

Nina Gill

Parent Members

Hem Bhatt

Annarita DiStefano

Charmaine Forde

Ravikanth Gullapalli

Samuel Iannucci

Opi Marok

Mario Meffe

Mona Nouroozifar

Tharshini Sriskandarajah

Vino Vijayaratham

Teaching Staff

Jacqueline Stone

Administration

Wendy McVicar-Lew

Jennifer May

On November 21, 2016 the Pierre Berton School Council met. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Overview of the budget process.
- Overview of the fundraising Policy.
- Update on Fresh From the Farm Fundraiser.
- Fun Fair tentative date: June 8th, 2017
- Discussion about Danceathon prior to March Break, date to be determined
- Exploration of the Board foci—Mathematics, Mental Health, and Modern Learning
- Discussion regarding Wellness Week and a possible parent engagement night
- Sharing of school information, including Elementary Progress Reports, clubs and teams, Remembrance Day, and the Book Fair



**Next School Council Meeting:
Monday, January 23rd, 2017**

7pm

Learning Commons

Upcoming School Council Meeting Dates

January 23, 2017

February 27, 2017

April 24, 2017

May 29, 2017

West Area School Council Forum

On Monday November 28th, two members of the Pierre Berton P.S. School Council joined Mrs. McVicar-Lew and Ms. May at the YRDSB School Council Forum for the West Area. It was a very informative evening which included discussions connecting parent and community engagement to the YRDSB Foci of Mathematics, Mental Health and Modern Learning.

We look forward to sharing the learning at upcoming School Council Meetings and continuing the discussion about how parents and community can engage in supporting the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being.

Grade Eight Transition to High School

The preparation for transition to high school is underway for our grade eight students. On November 2nd, our grade eight students visited Tommy Douglas Secondary School and had an opportunity to experience a day in high school. In January, a Guidance Counsellor from Tommy Douglas S.S. will be visiting to discuss course selections with students.

On January 16th students in the Kleinburg area will have an opportunity to visit Emily Carr Secondary School and will discuss course selections at that time. An Open House will take place at Emily Carr S.S. on January 24th for parents to visit.