



PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

Pierre Berton Public School

[Pierre Berton Public School](#)

470 Via Campanile, Vaughan, ON

905-303-4540

Important Dates:

Dec. 1	Earn Your Feet Friday Tribes Assembly
Dec. 7	Primary Math Night
Dec. 22	Tribes Assembly Earn Your Feet Friday
Dec. 22	Last Day of School
Jan. 8	School Resumes

Administrators' Message

December, 2017

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Principal

Wendy McVicar-Lew

Vice-Principal

Jennifer May

Office Staff

Jane Purdy
Anna Gabrielli

Superintendent

Paul Valle
905-764-6830

Trustee

Linda Aversa
647-462-0921

As we approach the end of the 2017 calendar year, we take time to reflect upon the ongoing successes of our school community, our students and the continued dedication to improving student achievement. Pierre Berton continues to be a busy place with students engaged in many events and activities. Students have been involved in athletics, various clubs, best buddies, Remembrance Day presentations and assemblies, preparing for secondary school transitions, classroom learning and more. This coming month will continue to be an exciting month with many activities, field trips, clubs, Tribes Assembly, and a continued focus on student learning and achievement.

The staff have been busy implementing the various curriculum expectations in their classrooms, engaging in assessment and ongoing planning to support all students. The Elementary Progress reports and Kindergarten Communication of Learning were sent home with your child on November 22nd. We thank parents/guardians for participating in our parent/teacher/student conferences. Ongoing communication between home and school is an essential element of student success. We appreciate your ongoing involvement in your child's education, the time spent communicating through agendas, and the conversations you have with staff. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the upcoming year.

As the weather turns cold and snowy we ask that parents dress their children in layers. 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.

Safety is crucial to our school community and we ask that parents and students not walk between buses that are in our bus loop in the morning and afternoons. Drivers may not be able to see you and it is very dangerous.

The holiday season is fast approaching and we would like to extend our warmest wishes for a happy and safe holiday and best wishes for the New Year to all of our students, parents/guardians, staff and community members. The New Year is always a time to reflect on achievements and set new goals for the upcoming year.



Writing the Pages of our Future!

Important Information

Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 19th, 2018

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 19, 2018 for the 2018-19 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2018, 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. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.



French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on January 18, 2018 at 7 p.m. Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2018 (<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 19, 2018. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2018, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can 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. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register between January 19 and February 9, 2018. 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. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. 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.

Pizza Lunches

We are pleased to continue our Pizza lunch program at PBPS. Ordering is now open on School [Cash Online](#) for pizza orders from Jan. 10/18 to March 7/18. **Please be aware that our cut-off for ordering will be December 19/17.** Please complete orders as soon as possible so as to not miss out!



Important Information Region



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.

Message From Our Trustee

In November, about 1,000 students, staff members and community partners came together from across the Board to form a [Ring of Peace](#) and stand together against hate, discrimination and intolerance. The student speakers at the event shared meaningful messages about the importance of feeling welcome, valued and respected.

At York Region District School Board, we are committed to listening to the voices of our students and communities. We will continue working with our school communities to ensure our schools provide safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone.

Last month, our annual [Quest conference](#) brought together educators from across Ontario, Canada and around the world to share, learn and discuss how to foster well-being in schools. Some of the themes covered included equity and inclusivity, and safe and caring environments.

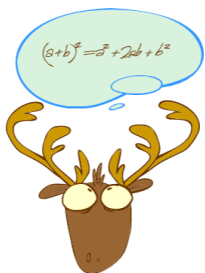
It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about some of the positive things happening in our own schools and other districts. In recent months, we have had several international visitors come to our system and schools to learn more about the work in our system to support student achievement and well-being, including Qatar, the Netherlands, Texas and the United Kingdom.

We are pleased to have these opportunities to continue highlighting and sharing the great things happening in our schools thanks to our outstanding students, staff members, families and community partners. Your engagement makes a difference in our schools and I encourage you to continue getting involved in the life of your child's school.

As we enter the holiday season, I am once again impressed by the generosity of our school communities and our students' commitment to helping others.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2018.

Student Achievement



PBPS CARIBOU MATH CONTEST RESULT

Forty-four Pierre Berton students participated in the year's first Caribou Math Contest last month to resounding success!

In the Grade 3/4 contest, our highest rank was 15th overall in our board, 157th overall in our province, 202nd overall in our country and an incredible 224th overall in the world. That's 224th best score out of 5820 contestant in the whole world! That is an amazing top 4% rank in the whole world!

In the grade 5/6 contest, our highest rank was 63rd overall in our board, 703rd overall in our province, 840th overall in our country and an amazing 911th overall in the world. That's 911th best score out of 8377 contestant in the whole world!!! That's as an incredible top 11% rank in the whole world.

In the grade 7/8 contest, our highest rank was 33rd overall in our board, 533rd overall in our province, 625th overall in our country and an amazing 670th overall in the world. That's 670th best score out of 8799 contestant in the whole world! We also had another high score of 741st out of 8799 globally in this group. That means that we had two people who ranked in the top 9% in the entire world. That is simply Pantherific!!!

We are so pleased that our students have been working so hard in math and are demonstrating their knowledge so successfully. We are proud of all of the students that participated in the caribou contest and we look forward to their participation in January.

The contest is open all year to all PBPS students from grades 3 to 8, please encourage your child to come out in January.
Go Panthers!

PBPS MATH NIGHT Thursday, December 7th, 2017

PBPS Math Committee is proud to announce our upcoming Pierre Berton Public School Math Night on Thursday, December 7th, 2017. Our night will begin at 6:30 pm and end at 7:45 pm.

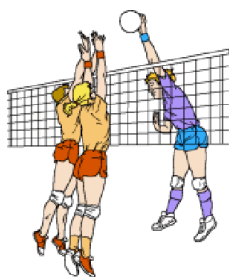


The math night will provide parents of students with the opportunity to learn about mini-lessons in mathematics and partake in game based inquiry activities that seek to develop early number concepts.

Students were given a math night information and RSVP letter to take home. Please let us know if you would like to attend by filling out the RSVP section of the letter and returning it to your child's homeroom teacher at soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing everyone on December 7th and welcoming you in joining our school's math learning.

Positive Climates for Learning



2017 Volleyball Season

Our Panther's volleyball teams have worked extremely hard to make sure they were ready. Both teams trained and were in the gym daily through September, October and November to hone their volleyball skills and it showed in competition.

The Intermediate boys' season began with a win in their invitational tournament, followed by a positive 4th place finish in the Armadale invitational against the best teams in the region.

They then continued their success by winning their second invitational tournament as well as qualifying for the Area Finals. The team played hard at Area Finals and represented our school well. The Intermediate girls' won two invitational tournaments in November and also went to the Armadale Invitational and battled hard. On November 20th they became area champions demonstrating great teamwork. The girls move on to the Regional Championship and played very well. The teams are an example of how disciplined practice and a positive attitude can help you be successful. It was yet another successful year for Panther Volleyball! Coaches Mr. Herbert, Ms. Gerrard and Ms. Punnett are very proud of all the players!

Go Panthers Go!

TRIBES Assembly

Our student leadership team has recently created badges for our classes to earn that celebrate the work a class does to make a change for the better in various areas. Each month in our Tribes Assembly, classes will share their achievements and we will celebrate the work they are doing to make a difference. The badges include; Global Action, Community Action, Healthy Living Action, Mental Health Action, Safe Schools Action, Leadership Action, Kindness Action and Inclusivity Action. We enjoyed our first celebration and were excited to learn about what great things our classes are doing to demonstrate the core values from our school Touchstone. We would like to thank the student leadership team for their hard work in creating such beautiful badges and for demonstrating a commitment to being Agents of Change! Great work Panthers!

Grade Eight Transition to High School

On November 1st our Grade 8 students began the preparation for the transition to high school. Students visited Tommy Douglas Secondary School and Emily Carr Secondary School where they had an opportunity to experience a day in high school.

In January, a Guidance Counsellor from both schools will be visiting to discuss course selections with students. Parents will be informed of the date once it is known.

There will also be Information evenings for parents which will allow for the opportunity for parents/guardians of incoming grade 8 students to hear about various programs and speak directly to subject and program leaders. Dates and times will be confirmed in January. This is an exciting time for our Grade 8 students and we look forward to continuing to provide support in preparing for this transition.



**Earn your Feet
Friday**

Earn Your Feet Fridays!

Remember to walk to school on Friday, December 22nd, 2017.

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!

Safe, Caring and Supportive Schools



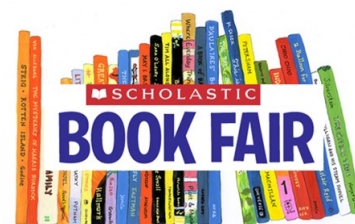
Remembrance Day

On November 10th staff and students payed their respects through reflective song, poetic readings and drama in remembering those who battled for the freedoms we are thankful for today. During that week students also had the opportunity to hear from a speaker who shared her experiences and provided

students with insight into the heroism and dedication that members of the Canadian Forces demonstrated in the past and continue to do so each and everyday. We are so thankful to have the opportunity as a school community to recognize and remember the valuable contributions made to ensure our freedom.

Thank you!

This year's Book Fair was an incredible success. We had a lot of fun and raised over \$5000 for our Learning Commons. Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped make this sale so highly successful. We are looking forward to purchasing new and exciting books and makerspace resources. Thank you again to everyone who came out to support us at PBPS.



Be a Holiday Hero!

The 2017 holiday season is quickly approaching and we are looking forward to participating in the **Holiday Heroes Campaign**.

Since the launch of the campaign in 2008, York Regional Police has raised more than \$1 million in monetary donations, new toys, new children's clothing and food. All of the donations that are raised in York Region, stay in York Region and are used to support children from our community who are in need.

This year's school campaign will run from **December 1st-14th**. Please help Pierre Berton Public School support this cause by donating any of the following,

- **New unwrapped toys for all ages.**
- **New warm clothing, hats and mittens for children of all ages.**

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.



Safe, Caring and Supportive Schools

The Power of Positive Thinking

Positivity is a hot topic right now. We hear a lot about “being positive” and “random acts of kindness”, but what is it really and why should we buy into this way of thinking? The power of positive thinking is just that – powerful! Many studies from Harvard to the Huffington Post have shown that if you change the way you think to a more positive way of thinking character traits such as perseverance and confidence increase as well. This month Mrs. Samra’s class and Mrs. Ridgley’s class have teamed up to give PBPS a challenge of being more positive. Simple acts such as smiling at one another and saying thank you to more complicated actions like changing your thinking will result in more successful and happy people.

We challenge you to participate at home as well. You can do this with simple acts of kindness such as:

1. Giving a hug to family member for at least 6 seconds.
2. Smiling more often.
3. Saying thank you more often (to yourself and others).
4. Leaving a motivational post-it on the bathroom mirror for yourself or a family member.
5. Telling family members how great they are and why.
6. Going outdoors and taking a moment to list the things you are thankful for, or
7. Making others smile by doing something as simple as telling a joke. Try this one:

Knock, knock.

OR

What happens to a frog's
car when it breaks down?
It gets toad away.

OR

Knock, knock!

Who’s there?

Who’s there?

Tank.

Watson

Tank who?

Watson who?

Your welcome!

Watson TV tonight?

So this month, look for the positivity shields around the school and check out team 209’s mural in the front hallway to help train your brain to think more positive. For example, instead of saying, “I can’t believe I made a mistake” try thinking “mistakes help me learn.” Or “I’m just not good at this” try thinking “I will keep trying and I will get better”.

Dental Health

Recently, many of our students received dental screening from the York Region Public Health. Dental health is a very important aspect of your child’s overall health and we encourage everyone to ensure that dental care is a regular part your child’s daily routine.

A dental screening is a quick inspection of a child’s mouth by a registered dental hygienist. York Region Public Health offers dental screening in elementary schools, by appointment at one of York Region’s Public Health dental clinics, or by request at some Ontario Early Years Centres.

A dental screening will help find dental problems so children can receive the right treatment. It can also be the first step to receiving assistance for urgent dental problems through the *Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO)* program, or receiving preventive dental care at one of York Region’s Public Health dental clinics. (www.york.ca)



We encourage parents to check out the [York Region Public Health](http://www.york.ca) website for helpful tips on how to improve your child’s oral health.

School Council/Parent Information

2017 - 2018 Pierre Berton School Council

Co-Chairs

Nina Gill
Margarita Ramirez
Kristy Sood

Parent Members

Keri Bedeau
Rajesh Dhoun
Annarita DiStefano
Naveena Gojja
Samuel Iannucci
Opi Marok
Mona Nouroozifar
Tharshini Sriskandarajah
Hui Zhao
Frank Ziang

Teaching Staff

Farshad Derakshandeh
Kalpana Vaze

Administration

Wendy McVicar-Lew
Jennifer May

On November 13, 2017 the Pierre Berton School Council met. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Introduction of School Trustee Linda Aversa
- Q & A and discussion of role of Trustee
- Zones of Regulation presentation
- Student presentation regarding Tribes Assemblies and Agents of Change badges
- School Council Forum update
- Student Voice Conference update
- Fundraising Update
- Fun Fair Planning meeting set
- Administrator's report



Everyone is welcome to attend our School Council Meetings. In particular, School Council would appreciate support from interested parents on subcommittees such as fundraising, Fun Fair Committee, and other School Community Events.

Next School Council Meeting:
Monday, January 22nd, 2018
7pm
Learning Commons

2017—2018 School Council Meeting Dates

January 22, 2018
February 26, 2018
April 23, 2018
May 28, 2018

Help Wanted

We are currently looking for lunch assistants. If you are interested in a paid lunchtime position please contact the office for further details.

PBPS Annual Family Fun Fair



Planning has already begun for our Annual Family Fun Fair. We are currently looking for individuals who would be willing to volunteer to assist in this wonderful event. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the office and someone will contact you with further information. The date of our Fun Fair is Thursday, June 7th 2018. Any and all assistance is greatly appreciated!