





Pierre Berton Public School

Pierre Berton Public School 470 Via Campanile, Vaughan, ON 905-303-4540

Administrator's Message

December, 2012

We have had another busy and productive month at Pierre Berton! In November, parents, students and teachers had an opportunity to meet to discuss student progress and identify next steps for learning during parent/student/teacher conferences. It is important to celebrate successes and identify areas for growth in the academic subjects and learning skills. Strong learning skills and work habits are essential for student success in school, at home and in life in general. These areas include responsibility, independent work, collaboration, organization, initiative and self-regulation. The development of these skills begins early in a child's schooling. As students move through the grades, they develop and then consolidate their learning skills and work habits in preparation for post-secondary education and the world of work. Parents can support the children at home by reinforcing learning skills and work habits.

During the month of November, many events have taken place at our school. We held Remembrance Day divisional presentations which were aimed at the various age levels. Our November Tribes assembly focused on bullying prevention with student leaders communicating the message of standing up and working together to ensure Pierre Berton is a safe learning environment for everyone. Also, during the Tribes assembly our Glee Club had an opportunity to perform. Our grade eight students visited Emily Carr S.S. on 'Take Our Kids to High School Day!' during which time they were able to participate in grade nine classes. Emily Carr staff will be visiting Pierre Berton in the new year to prepare our grade eight students for high school course selection. Finally, we have had an incredible volleyball season. Congratulations to our intermediate girls' and boys' teams who achieved great success this year!

This year, newsletters and general school communication is being distributed electronically. Only families who have not provided us with an email address will receive a hard copy. Please be sure to check your email regularly as we will be making an effort to communicate electronically more frequently. This supports our efforts to reduce the amount of paper we use as a school and to become more environmentally aware. If you did not get the opportunity to provide us with an email address or have a change in your email, please contact the school with this information.

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 has organized a food drive in the front foyer of the school from December 3rd—14th. In addition, we will be collecting hats, scarves and mitts on our tree in the hall to support the York Regional Police "Holiday Heroes" campaign. The generosity and support of the Pierre Berton community is greatly appreciated.

We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday.









Important Dates:

Dec. 5 Dental Screening

Dec. 19 Cadence Performance Tribes Assembly Pyjama Day

Dec. 21 Opposites Day

Dec. 25 - Jan. 4

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Principal

Wendy McVicar-Lew

Office Staff

Jane Purdy Zabrina Fraser

Superintendent

Dianne Hawkins 905-764-6830

Trustee

Anna DeBartolo 416-898-9653

News from the Learning Commons

Did you know?



Books Online



In addition to our growing collection of books in our Learning Commons, students have access to two online libraries both at school and at home. At these sites, students can read many books or have the books read to them. Be sure to check them out!

Tumblebooks

www.tumblebooklibrary.com

Username: pierrebert Password: books

Ebooks

my.abdodigital.com

Username: pbebooks Password: library

Borrowing Books

One of our learning goals, for all students, is to develop skills in the area of responsibility. Book exchange is a great opportunity for that. Please help your child to return books on time and in good condition.

Books On Record

When students arrived from their previous schools to Pierre Berton Public School, many of them still had books from their previous schools on their records. If you happen to have the books at home, please send them back to school with your child. I can return them to the previous school and clear your child's library record. If they are not

> As always, Happy Reading!

Ms. Cípollone



Noteworthy Information

Bus Loop / Fire Route

We continue to experience difficulty with keeping our bus loop / fire route free of vehicles during the school day, especially at lunch. *The loop at the front of the school is not for parent/guardian/visitor use at any time of the day.* The loop is restricted to school transportation and emergency vehicles. We respectfully ask parents to stop parking/stopping in this



area. At all times of the day, please use the parking lot at the side of the school. If you are coming into the school, there are usually several vacant parking spots available in the parking lot. We need to all work together to keep our students safe. We have added additional 'Buses Only' signs at the entrance to communicate this message. In addition, we have pylons out to indicate that this is not an area for vehicles to enter. Please note that at times the pylons are moved to the side to enable buses to enter for lunchtime pick up. Please note that the movement of these pylons *does not* indicate that vehicles can enter the loop.

Kiss & Ride

The Kiss and Ride in the morning is working very well. We appreciate parents moving their vehicles right to the top of the loop prior to dropping off the children. This allows more vehicles to stop at one time, thus alleviating the traffic congestion. As the weather begins to get colder, we know that more students will be driven to school. Please ensure that you leave earlier in the morning as the most challenging time is the last minute rush at the bell. If all families make a strong effort to arrive at 8:15am –8:20 am, we will avoid the last minute congestion and, most importantly, the students will arrive on time for school. Students arriving late continues to be a problem and it is important that we model responsibility for students which includes punctuality.

Bully Prevention Measures

The York Region District School Board (YRDSB) has launched a new web reporting tool that allows students, parents and community members to report bullying incidents as well as positive behaviours and events related to our students and learning environments. The online tool, called **Report It!**, is a web button on the YRSB homepage (www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca) that links to an online form where users report bullying or positive behaviours that are consistent with Character Matters.

The development of this tool is the result of student feed-back from an anti-bullying conference held last spring. It is meant for reporting **non-emergencies only** and deals solely with **student** issues. Follow-up will be determined by the severity of the incident and may involve sharing information with authorities. Users may submit reports anonymously (although anonymity cannot be absolutely guaranteed).

YRDSB is also asking students, parents, teachers and community members to "Take the Pledge" against bullying. To learn more, click on "The Pledge" image on the YRDSB website or go to www.ctvbarrie.ca.

French Immersion Registration

YRDSB recently completed a year-long review of the French as a Second Language (FSL) programs, including Core French and French Immersion (FI). One of the outcomes of this review was a toolkit to address the need for French immersion spaces and allow the Planning department to craft a long-term FI accommodation plan for students across York Region. YRDSB's FI program will be offered in a variety of settings: Dual Track (Grades 1-8), Primary Dual Track (Grades 1-2 or 1-3) and Single Track (Grades 1-8, 2-8, or 3-8). Students may begin the French Immersion program in one location, but continue in a different location. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. The new accommodation plan will provide 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.

Information sessions for the FI program will take place at Elder's Mills Public School on January 23, 2013 at 7 p.m. and registration will take place Feb. 1-15, 2013.

Digital Literacy

Digital Literacy at PBPS!

Literacy in the 21st Century is the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable achievement, personal well-being and full participation in an interconnected and changing world community. –YRDSB, 2010.

What is Digital Literacy?

What is Critical Thinking?

The York Region District School Board recognizes a need to achieve a cultural shift in how we understand literacy and in how we engage learners in order to increase student achievement and engagement. Pierre Berton P.S. students and teachers approach learning through the use of educational tools that can help them experience engaging, authentic learning and demonstrate their understanding. This approach prepares our students to be literate and successful in a digital, globally connected, and changing world. Through this approach we are all expanding our understanding of literacy, learning, knowledge, and skills. The process of integrating literacy and technology is referred to as 'digital literacy'.

Critical thinking is criterial or evaluative thinking. It is a complex activity, not a set of generic skills.

Concerned with judging or assessing what is reasonable or sensible in a situation,

Focuses on quality of reasoning,

Depends on the possession of relevant knowledge

Can be done in endless contexts and is required whenever the situation is problematic

Is effortful but not necessarily negative

(Garfield Gini-Newman)

How can I support my child at home?

Work with your child in thinking critically about which web tools would best help demonstrate or support his/her learning.

General	Primary	Junior/Intermediate
Kid friendly sites for researching	Literacy	Literacy
www.yahooligans.com	www.pbskids.org	www.kidsreads.com
www.kidsclick.org	www.kindersite.com	
www.howstuffworks.com	www.starfall.com	History and Geography
www.factmonster.com	www.tumblebooks.com	www.virtualmuseum.ca
http://www.kidrex.org/	(Username: pierrebert	www.schoolnet.ca
	Password: books)	http://show.mappingworlds.com/world/
Interesting and Educational	http://littlebirdtales.com/	http://www.worldometers.info/
www.school.discovery.com	www.abcya.com/	
www.funbrain.com	http://www.brainnook.com	Math
www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/		www.figurethis.org
www.nasa.gov/home/	Math	www.khanacademy.org/
www.kidsites.com/	www.coolmath4kids.com	
	http://www.brainnook.com	Visual Art
Science		http://www.sumopaint.com
www.sciencemadesimple.com		
Music		
www.sfskids.org		

Positive Climates for Learning

Tribes

The assembly for the month of November was dedicated to Anti-Bullying at Pierre Berton Public School. Our school tribes came together in the gym to watch short videos on Bullying. We also introduced our Anti-Bullying committee who will be working hard this year to continue educating us.

After the assembly, the tribes went with their leaders to work on an Anti-Bullying activity. Each group discussed what words could be used to describe who we are and the characteristics we want to see at PBPS. Each tribe worked with an outline of a Panther and wrote the words in the panther.

Peer Tutors

Want extra help on your school work? Don't know where to go...look no further!

Our PBPS Junior and Intermediate students have organized peer tutoring. If you need extra help go to room 200 on Wednesdays 12:30 to 1:10 p.m. This program is run by students helping others with their school work.



Huddle Up Against Bullying



Our student Anti-Bullying committee has continued to meet this past month at lunch hours. They have been dedicated and working very hard to prepare classroom visits during the week of November 19th. Students

from our Anti-Bullying Committee went from class to class to collect baseline data on how our student body feels about bullying and what can be done about it. They will be using this data to start preparing a plan of action for Pierre Berton Public School.

Recess Play Program

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at morning recess our grade one, two and three students have been participating in a play program. The program has been supervised by two co-op students from Emily Carr Secondary School.

The two co-op leaders meet the students outside at recess to teach them playground games. This program has been a huge success in engaging our students to play fun and co-operative games at recess.



Glee Club

The Glee Club at Pierre Berton is going strong!

Each week, the dedicated group of grade 5 and 6 students meet during lunch hour to practise. They have been working hard at singing and dancing. This month they performed Selena Gomez's "Who says" during the Tribe Assembly slideshow showcasing the events going on at our school.

Congratulations goes out to; Vi, Katie, Monica, Ovjah, Roni, Kyeigh, Victoria, Sabrina, Hirmani, Johanna, Alessya and Marina Your dedication and commitment to Glee Club shows!

Quest Conference

On Wednesday, November 14th a group of grade five and six students had the privilege of attending this year's Quest Conference at the Sheraton Parkway in Richmond Hill. They heard from many inspirational speakers like Michael "Pinball" Clemons and Shane Smith. They came back to PBPS with the message that "one person can make a difference!"



Positive Climates for Learning

EcoSchools



Looking for great holiday gifts for family or friends?

Give the Gift of Reading all year long!

The QSP Magazine Program will be returning to our school in SPRING 2012 to help us Celebrate Literacy!

However, if you just can't wait until our Spring Program or would like to purchase magazines as gifts:

You can start shopping now at www.qsp.ca and still support our school at the same time!

There is a great selection of children's subscriptions and QSP offers a complimentary gift care or e-card service too!

No line-ups, no gift wrapping needed and free delivery anywhere in Canada!

Remember: If you ever have questions about magazine orders, call QSP directly at 1 -800-667-2536

Intermediate Girls' Volleyball

The Intermediate Girls' Volleyball Team had a pantherific season. They joined together in the beginning of October, 2012 when the tryouts took place. Since then they have practised a variety of skills and come together as a team to prepare for the games.



Their first tournament was an exhibition against four other teams. They practised their skills and got to know the other teams to help them prepare for the area qualifiers. Soon after, the girls participated in the real tournament: The Area Qualifiers. They showed excellent sportsmanship, communicated well and as a team came on top; qualifying for the area finals!

It was unprecedented; the first time in history that a Pierre Berton P.S Girls team qualified for the finals. They fought hard as a team and fell just short; winning the consolation final to capture the third place ribbon. The Panthers were lead by Coaches: Ms. Leslie, Ms. Trombino Players: Ariana H. (Captain) Nikki N. (Captain) Melissa Z., Kristine P., Rengin A., Emilia K., Selina N., Rachel Z., Rojda A., and Siena J.

Well Done Girls!

Important Information

Grade 8 Open House at Emily Carr

Pierre Berton students in Grade 8 who plan to enrol at Emily Carr Secondary School for the September 2013-2014 school year are invited to an open house.

Where: Emily Carr Secondary School Date: Tuesday, January 22, 2013 Time: 7:00 p.m.



Message from our Trustee

It's hard to believe we are already several months into the school year with the excitement of the holidays and the start of 2013 quickly approaching. I hope everyone has had a great year so far.

A school community is only as strong and welcoming as the people who make up that community. I want to thank you, as members of our school community, for helping to ensure the school is a welcoming, respectful and caring place that supports student achievement and well-being. Our students, staff and community members continue to demonstrate character, leadership and commitment in their work and activities.

As you enjoy various holiday celebrations in the weeks ahead, I encourage you to share with those who are less fortunate, and to consider how you can get involved with the school, if you are not already. A great school becomes even better when families are involved.

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

Sincerely, Anna DeBartolo Chair & Trustee YRDSB 416 898 9653

Specialist High Skills Major Programs

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs are rapidly expanding throughout the York Region District School Board. We now have 28 of 31 secondary schools offering these valuable programs and next year, we hope to see 30 of 31 schools running one or more SHSM programs . The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) allows students to specialize in a specific economic sector (e.g. Health and Wellness, Business, Manufacturing, Arts & Culture, etc) while fulfilling all requirements for their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). 100% of students in SHSM programs have had an enhanced educational experience with contextualized learning, and additional experiential learning to enable them to make more informed postsecondary destination decisions. Grade 7 & 8 students and their families are encouraged to browse through the SHSM literature to investigate some programs that may be of interest to them.

Secondary schools will be sharing SHSM information at their Grade 8 Open Houses for families.

To learn more about SHSM, please visit:

www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/shsm OR www.ontario.ca/shsm

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will commence on February 4, 2013 for the 2013-14 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2013, 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.

School Council / Athletics

2012—2013 Pierre Berton School Council

Co-Chairs

Linda Aversa Rajesh Dhoum

Treasurer

Hannah Mark

Secretary

Lisa Simonelli-Rennie

Parent Members

Navneet Chandok Maurice Guzzo Erica Lien Hardev Pabla Aruna Sharma The Pierre Berton School Council met on November 19th, 2012. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Overview of Fees for Learning Materials and Activities Policies
- Overview of Ministry Fundraising Guidelines; establishment of fundraising committee and process for development of fundraising plan
- Discussion regarding program enhancements and Arts program at PBPS
- Sharing of school information, including: Bullying Prevention Plan; Athletics; Grade 8 Transition; Progress Reports; and Parent/Student/ Teacher Conferences

Highlights from all School Council meetings will be posted on the community board in the front foyer.

2012–2013 School Council Meeting Dates

January 21, 2013 February 25, 2013 April 15, 2013 May 27, 2013

Athletics: Intermediate Volleyball

The Pierre Berton Panthers Intermediate Boys' Volleyball team had a busy and victorious month. Earlier in November, they participated in the Area Qualifying Tournament which was hosted in our very own gym. The boys battled hard through the round robin games losing only to Fossil Hill P.S. whom they had previously beat in an exhibition game. They went on to play Blue Willow P.S. winning the match and more importantly, qualifying for the Area Finals, held at Discovery Public School.

Our Panthers went undefeated in the round robin matches of the Area Finals Tournament, which allowed them to be seeded first. The semi finals were set with Fossil Hill P.S. playing against Discovery P.S. and the fourth ranked Vellore Woods P.S. playing against the #1 seeded Panthers. Pierre Berton went on to win handily over Vellore Woods and Fossil Hill ousted



Discovery which set the stage for a rematch. Our boys lost the first game of the 3 game set and were down 18 – 11 in the elimination game when suddenly, just when the fans might have thought that they were down and out, they reached deep down inside themselves after a long and tiring day and started to claw back like only a panther can do. They found themselves down 24 – 19 and needed to get serve to keep the game going. They did that and went on to serve their way back to a win! After that, they won a hard fought 3rd game to become the Area Champions. This win not only meant Pierre Berton's 1st area championship, but also they will get to put the first championship banner for our school on the wall. The boys are lead by coaches Mr. Herbert and Mr. Pennino. The following boys were the champs: Devran T. (Captain) Kawon S., Kirat S., Franco M., Brandon L., Orion K., William T., Shiven S., Firat S., Goke A., Stephanos P., and Justin T.

Good luck to the boys as they play in the York Region Regional Finals on Thursday, December 6th!

Transportation Information



Student Transportation Services of York Region 320 Bloomington Road West Aurora, Ontario L4G 3G8 905-713-2535 FAX: 905-713-2533

Web site: www.schoolbuscity.com

STS School Vehicle Cancellation Procedure

School bus service may be cancelled from time to time 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. or earlier, all cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to ensure the safety of our students. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with school bus companies servicing York Region. Decisions are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature and road conditions.

Please note the following:

- A decision to cancel school bus transportation may be system wide (where all buses in York Region are cancelled) or municipality specific (where buses in one or more municipalities are cancelled).
- If school bus transportation in your municipality is cancelled and your child attends school in a different municipality where service is operational, your child will not be transported to/from school.
- If school bus transportation in your municipality is operational and your child attends school in a different municipality where service is cancelled, your child will not be transported to/from school.
- 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 1540 AM	640 AM 1580 AM	680 AM	860 AM	1010 AM	1050 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 CFTO TV CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

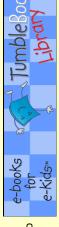
A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001.



December 2012 Character We strive to sense and appreciate the emotions of others, to Matters! "stand in their shoes." We

Pierre Berton Public School
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eMail: pierre.berton.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Region



PIERRE BERTON

www.tumblebooklibrary.com : pierrebert Password: books Username: pierrebert

Sat		15	22 ***	29 *** ***	***
Fri	7	14	21 Opposites Day!	28 ACLOSED	
Thu	6 Int. Boys' Volleyball Regional Finals	13	20	(CLOSED)	
Wed	Pizza Lunch / Dental Screening	12 Pizza Lunch	19 Arts Performance / Tribes Assembly / Pyjama Day / Pizza Lunch	26 ACLOSED CHRISTIMAS / WINTER BREAK	
Tue	4	11	18	CHRISMAS WESTERN	
Mon	3 International Day of Disabled Persons	10 International Human Rights Day	17	24 CLOSED	31 SCLOSED
Sun	2	6	KWANZAA	23	30

Updated: 4-Dec-12