



Pierre Berton Public School

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

December, 2020

Important Dates:

Dec. 3	VIP—Gr. 6 Cyber Bullying
Dec. 7	Gr.2 –Virtual Zoo Field Trip
Dec. 8 & 9	Holiday Heroes Drop off Days
Dec. 18	PJ Day
Dec. 21 to Jan. 2	Winter Break School Closed
Jan. 4	Return to School

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Principal

Cathy Martino

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Gisella Avsec

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Anna Gabrielli
Emilia Fabiano

Superintendent

Dan Wu
905-764-6830

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Dr. Sinclair
647-462-0921

Administrators' Message

It's amazing to think it is December. It has certainly been a tough year and I think many of us are looking forward to saying goodbye to an eventful 2020. The New Year always brings renewed hope and optimism. I hope that 2021 proves to be a great year for all of us.

November was Cyber Awareness Month. This year's campaign theme, "**Work, Teach, Learn Remote, Secure and Safe**", has the objective of helping everyone in K-12 education – teachers, staff, students and parents – be safer and more secure online. With so many of us being online more than ever, we thought it would be beneficial to share some of the resources that were shared with us.

Here is a fun quiz for students to [test their online \(and offline\) safety knowledge](#).

The following guide on [Twins and Teens in the digital world](#) can help provide some good insight into the risks and actions that can be taken to keep kids safe.

Other resources

Online gaming

[How to stay safe when online gaming](#) (Video)

Quick tips for staying safe when online gaming ([Word](#) / [PDF](#)) (custom content)

[Ways to keep your kids safe while playing online games](#) (Blog)

Social media

[How to stay safe on social media](#) (Video)

Tips for staying safe on social media ([Word](#) / [PDF](#)) (custom content)

[Are your online friends who they say they are?](#)



To those who celebrate Christmas, Merry Christmas, those who celebrate Hanukkah, Happy Hanukkah, those who celebrate Kwanza, Happy Kwanza. Happy New Year to all. Whatever your plans or celebrations this holiday season, may they be wonderful, safe, relaxing and full of enjoyment.

All the best to you and yours and a safe and happy holiday!

Cathy Martino-Porretta



Writing the Pages of our Future!

School Information



Jane Purdy, our Head Secretary at Pierre Berton Public school, has retired after 30 years of serving staff, students and administration throughout the board. She was instrumental in opening Pierre Berton Public School 11 years ago and during that time served the families and students of this great community with her kind, calm, caring and efficient manner

We are grateful that we had the opportunity to work with her and wish her a happy and healthy retirement.



Dear Pierre Berton Families and Staff

I have been very fortunate to be able to work in a job that I love and a school that has amazing staff, students and families.

I have always loved doing this job but it always makes a job much easier and pleasant to do when the people around you are just as happy as you are.

Thank you for 9 completely amazing years at Pierre Berton P.S.

I will miss you all !



Be a Holiday Hero! The 2020 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 we will only be collecting on December 8th and 9th.

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.



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 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.

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.



2020-2021 Inclement Weather Procedures during the Pandemic

The 2020-2021 school year, the following Inclement Weather Days Procedures for Elementary will come into effect. This year, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, our Inclement Weather Day Procedure has been adjusted based on direction from York Region Public Health.

All elementary schools will be closed to students.

Schools will remain open to all school staff only.

All student learning will be remote.

Teachers in elementary will provide asynchronous learning by posting/sharing age, grade, learning appropriate activities and/or assignments aligned with current student learning, while being available to students through the day as per their schedule.

Student attendance will be recorded centrally.

Child Care Centres may remain open at the discretion of the operator.

Bus services are cancelled due to inclement weather.

The school closures will be announced through the following: local media outlets, the Student Transportation Services website, School Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330- 3001, the Board's website and Twitter account and on the Board and school's voicemail recording. Parents please make sure that you have alternate childcare arrangements planned for inclement weather days when schools are closed to students.

School Information

Winter Weather

It's winter, it's cold, and my children can't be outside, my children will get sick! Many families believe walking to school in the winter and playing outside in the cold weather months leads to children getting sick. In fact according to many health and children's play experts, viruses that cause colds and the flu are spread indoors. The indoor circulation of germs and bacteria is much more harmful to your children than being outside. Being outside more often allows children to develop a stronger immune system and a resistance to allergies. Walking to school and playing outside in the winter gives children the opportunity to develop and strengthen their overall muscular system. If walking to school everyday is a challenge, choose two or three days a week to try and make a change.



So let's bundle up, get outside and be active! Active School Travel is a simple way to do so and can be easily added into your daily routine!

With winter weather already here, we want to share a few important reminders.

Dress for the weather

Students should come dressed appropriately for the weather and for outdoor play. Students can stay warm by wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat, scarf, jackets, snow pants and mittens or gloves. Students may also want to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet.

Recess

If students are well enough to come to school, they are expected to go outside for recess. Our students benefit from spending time outside and being active. We monitor weather conditions throughout the day. If there are extreme weather conditions, we may consider a shortened or indoor recess.

The Active School Travel Team wishes you a wonderful Winter Break. Stay Active, Stay Safe and Have Fun!

Thank You!

Our **Scholastic Virtual Book Fair** was a success!

Thank you to all families, teachers, and students who participated and supported our school.

Your investment in your reader helped our school to earn valuable **Rewards** that will be redeemed for new books for our school and classroom libraries, as well as supplies and education resources to benefit our students.



Happy Reading !



Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 15th, 2021

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 15th, 2021 for the 2021-22 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2021, live within the school boundary.

Promoting Real-life Math Connections At-Home

With the winter break approaching, there are many opportunities to discuss money and financial literacy with your child. Financial literacy involves all aspects of money such as budgeting, saving, investing, debt management, retirement planning, insurance and taxes.

"Children need to be financially literate to make informed choices in a complex and fast-changing financial world. With an understanding of the implications of their decisions and with the necessary problem-solving and critical thinking skills, students will be better equipped to function in today's financial environment." (The Ontario Working Group on Financial Literacy, 2010)

Did you know?

- Although 95% of teenagers in 2008 understood what a budget is, only 21% of them used one and were able to stick to it.
- 54% of teenagers indicated that they would not pay their credit card off in full each month.
- 39% of teenagers ranked "how to save money" as the most important topic to learn about. The topic that ranked second (for 20% of students) was "how to use a bank account". Teenagers said they wanted to learn about money through interactive means.

Source: Credit Canada, National survey of parents and teenagers about financial education, 2008. Released in conjunction with Credit Education Week 2008: Teens Talk About Money. Sponsored in part by the Ontario Association for Credit Counselling Services.

For more information to support financial literacy at home, please check out *A Parent's Guide Financial Literacy in Ontario Schools, Grades 4 to 12* (http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/financial_literacy_parent_guide_en.pdf)

Other resources you may find interesting:

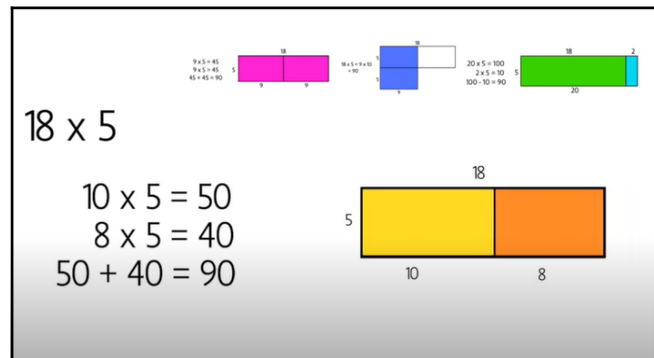
<https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/services/teaching-children-money.html>

https://talkwithourkidsaboutmoney.com/resource_type/home-resources/

<https://readyforyou.td.com/en/teach-my-child>

To find out what your child will learn in math this year or to find other fun activities that you can do together as a family, please visit <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/Math/Pages/default.aspx>. Be sure to also try our [Problem of the Month](#)

How Do You "See" 18×5 ?



This video from Jo Boaler may be helpful in understanding how different strategies and approaches to problems are explored in math class in order to develop flexibility with numbers and automaticity with calculations. Click on the picture for the link, or click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxE2Kur4AHc&feature=youtu.be). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxE2Kur4AHc&feature=youtu.be>

Math Corner

Problem of the Month

Suppose you wanted to create a currency based on 4 coins.

What coin values would you use so that any amount between 1 and 10 could be created using at most two of these coins?

Ex. 1, 2, 3, 7

This is an example because 1, 2, 3, $2+2=4$, $2+3=5$, $3+3=6$, 7, $7+1=8$, $7+2=9$, $7+3=10$).

How many other examples are there?

Math Jokes

How do you make time fly?

*Throw a **clock** out of the window!*

What did 60 do when it was hungry?

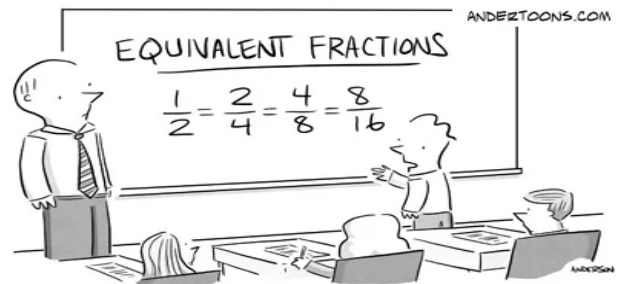
68.

Why do teens only travel in groups of 3 or 5?

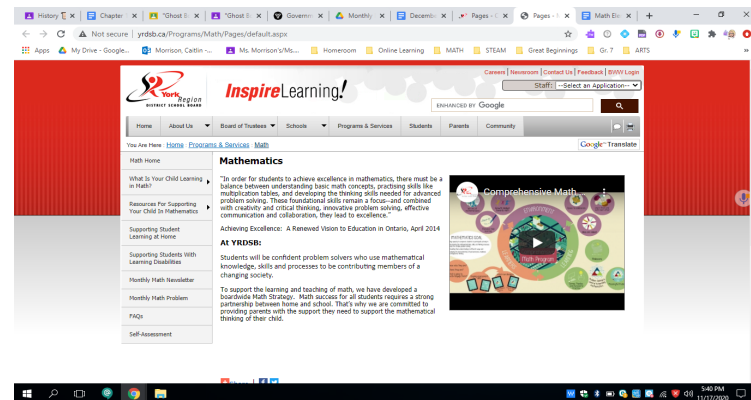
*Because they can't **even**.*

I saw my math teacher with a piece of **graph paper** yesterday.

*I think they must be **plotting** something.*



"I understand they all have the same value, but I have to tell you, the ones on the right feel like more bang for your buck."



Looking for ways to support your child's mathematical learning at home?

Check out the [YRDSB's Mathematics webpage](https://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/Math/Pages/default.aspx) for resources, and support.

School Information



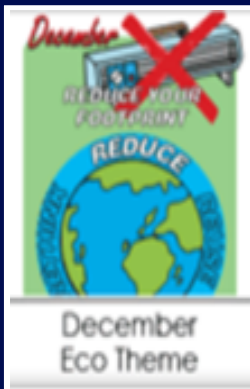
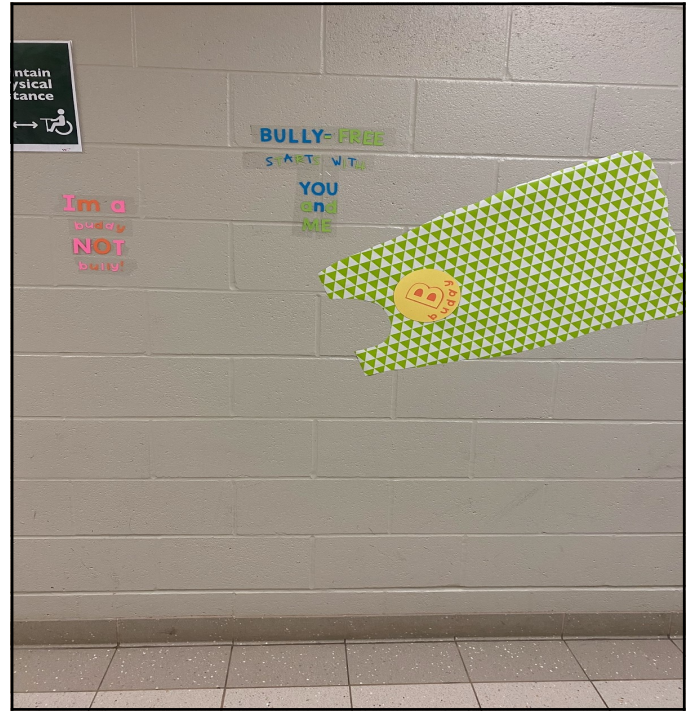
This month as a school we looked at developing a growth mindset, what it means to have a growth mindset and how to engage in positivity.

Classes worked together to complete a Growth Mindset/Positivity choice board. We encourage you to talk with your child about their Growth Mindset and think about how you can engage in a Growth Mindset at home.

This month our school also focused on Anti-Bullying Awareness.

All of our classes engaged in bullying prevention lesson plans that focused on what bullying is and what each of us can do to help make our school bully free.

We encourage you to talk with your child about what they learned about Anti-Bullying.



With the onset of winter we need to be aware of our carbon footprint. To lessen energy consumption during the winter season and stay warm we recommend the following actions in our homes and schools:

1. Keep heat in by ensuring exterior windows and doors are kept closed.
2. Ensure that all weather stripping is in place around doors and windows.
3. The use of personal heaters is discouraged
4. Ensure that all heating and cooling vents and radiators are clear of obstructions.
5. Wear fall/winter appropriate clothing to work in layers to keep warm and comfortable.
6. Use your blinds to assist with heating and cooling classrooms and offices.

Bus Loop



Our school bus loop is only for our school busses or board transportation vehicles. Please use the Kiss and Ride at all times of the day, including lunch or if your child is late for school.

We want to ensure the safety of all of our students. We ask your cooperation in this matter .

We are also asking our families to arrive prior to 8: 25 am in the morning to alleviate the last minute rush.

School Information

Message from Our Trustee

Dear families,

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and well. 2020 has been a challenging year in so many ways, and the global pandemic has affected individuals and families in different ways.

I want to reassure you that we continue to work closely with York Region Public Health and to prioritize the health and well-being of our students, staff members and families. It continues to be important that we adhere to the health and safety measures in place to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. You can learn more about what schools are doing at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

While we have seen cases in some of our schools, we continue to work with public health to respond quickly, identify cohorts that need to self-isolate as a precautionary measure and take all appropriate measures. I want to thank all of our students, families and staff members for their diligence in adhering to the public health recommendations and health and safety measures in place in our schools.

One of our priorities in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) is to foster well-being and mental health. As a result of the pandemic, many of us are facing changes and new challenges that can take a toll on our mental health. It is more important than ever that we check in on one another and practice self-care. There are [mental health resources for students and families](#) on our Board website that address the unique nature of our current situation. You can also find information about our [Mental Health and Addiction Strategy](#) and the [work we are doing in schools](#) to promote positive mental health and provide support for students.

While there are challenges, we also continue to have so many reasons to feel positive. Our students continue to impress us with their kindness, creativity, innovation, resilience, courage and perseverance. Visit us on [YouTube at YRDSBMedia](#) to see just some of these stories.

In the coming weeks and months, many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays, and I wish you all the very best for the season. While we may be celebrating a little differently this year, I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back into our in-person and virtual schools in January.