



PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

Pierre Berton Public School

[Pierre Berton Public School](#)
470 Via Campanile, Vaughan, ON
905-303-4540

Important Dates:

Dec. 13 & 14	Holiday Heroes Drop off Days
Dec. 13	Festive Colours
Dec. 14	Holiday Gear (headband, tie, socks)
Dec. 15	Holiday Hat
Dec. 16	Holiday Sweater
Dec. 17	PJ Day
Dec. 20 to Dec. 31	Winter Break School Closed
Jan. 2nd	Return to School
Jan. 17	Photo Re-take Day

Administrators' Message

December, 2021

Happy Holidays!

Wow it is already December! Students and teachers have been working hard and so many great things have happened. We want to announce that we have received board approval to build an outdoor classroom. This has been something that has been discussed at School Council for a couple of years. We are glad to see that our vision has taken shape and we can move forward. We will be sharing more details in the upcoming months.

The New Year always brings renewed hope and optimism. Please practice kindness and think about all the things we have to be thankful for as we move through the pandemic and all the difficulties it has brought. Set new goals and work with your kids on setting goals. Make them small so they can be achievable. We need all the wins we can get.

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



Label everything! We will be discouraging sharing. Mabel's Labels is a Canadian company specializing in personalized and durable labels. Purchase labels with your child's name on it so that everything can be easily labelled. Please visit campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search for Pierre Berton Public School. Then, simply place your order (shipping is free) and a portion of the sales will go to our school. Put the labels on everything coming to school.

Principal
C. Martino-Porretta

Vice-Principal

G. Avsec

Office Staff

E. Albazi

A. Gabrielli

E. Fabiano

Superintendent

Bill Cober

905-764-6830

Trustee

Dr. Sinclair

647-462-0921



Writing the Pages of our Future!

School Information

Punctuality is Important!

Let's talk about
PUNCTUALITY



Punctuality is a life skill that is valued by school, employers in the workforce, and society. Regular attendance ensures continuity of program and assists students in achieving academic success as well as maintaining social ties.

Students can enter Pierre Berton between 8:15am and 8:30am.

Please note that there is indoor supervision at 8:15 am.

The instructional day begins at 8:30 am **sharp**.

Please help your child start each school day prepared to learn!



December is Coding Month

Coding, or computer programming, is how we communicate with computers. Code tells a computer what actions to take, and writing code is like creating a set of instructions.

When learning to code children develop language, problem solving and math skills.

It also encourages creativity and perseverance.

Coding can be done at any age! Check out these fun ways to learn coding:

Scratch Jr. (app) - K-3

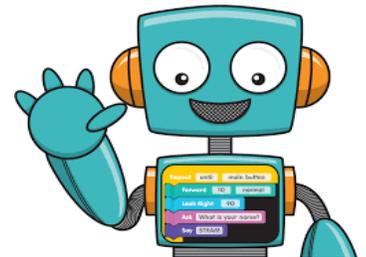
Daisy The Dinosaur (app) k-3

[Hour of Code](#) (all ages)

[Blockly Games](#) (8+)

[Code Monster - Introduction to JavaScript](#) (8+)

Swift Playground -Swift language used by apple (app) (12+)



Be a Holiday Hero! The 2021 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 13th and 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.



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.



2021-2022 Inclement Weather Procedures during the Pandemic

The 2021-2022 school year, in the event school bus transportation is cancelled, the following Inclement Weather Days Interim Procedures for Elementary will be in effect for the **first** Inclement Weather Day of the school year after which time these procedures will be reviewed.

All elementary schools will be closed to students.

All student learning will be remote and asynchronous.

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 as (Bad Weather/Bus Cancellation)

Before/After Child Care Centres are closed

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

The colder weather has arrived! Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather each day. Daily outdoor activities and recesses are part of the regular school day, and we want to ensure that all students can participate comfortably.



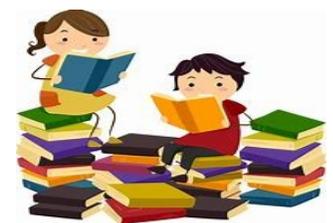
Get Cozy and Read Over The Winter Break

Reading aloud is one of the most important things caregivers can do with children (of all ages). Reading aloud builds many important foundational skills, introduces vocabulary, provides a model of fluent, expressive reading, and helps children recognize what reading for pleasure is all about.



Check out these articles to learn more:

[3 Important Reasons to Keep reading to your tween](#)
[Read Aloud Daily - Practical Tips for Parents](#)



Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 15th, 2021

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 14th, 2022 for the 2022-23 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2022, live within the school boundary.

School Information

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions: Student Absences

Please see the YRDSB link above for answers to frequently asked questions, such as the one below!

If a face to face learner is absent during the school year, would they move to remote learning for the time they are away (self-isolation/quarantine, illness, vacation)?

Absences due to COVID-19 related issues (e.g., confirmed case, close contact)

Parents/guardians inform the school's main office why the student will be absent

Students are to be accommodated with remote learning as soon as possible.

If the class is already hybrid, then students may access remote learning as soon as possible.

If the class is not hybrid, the class will move to hybrid as soon as possible. As this may take up to 48 hours, the student can be supported through regular classroom/school practice which may include the Google Classroom during this time

Absences due to short-term illness (unrelated to COVID-19)

Parents/guardians inform the school's main office why the student is going to be absent

Students are marked absent with the appropriate reason code.

The student may access the class's Google Classroom, however the student is marked absent.

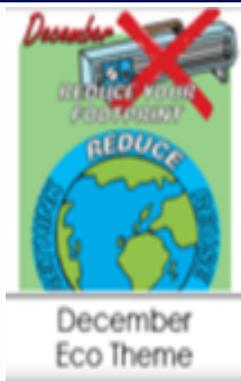
Absences due to long-term illness (unrelated to COVID-19)

Families should communicate with the school principal to discuss long-term absences.

Appropriate medical documentation should be provided by a regulated health professional.

Absences due to vacation

Learning model changes are not intended for the purpose of vacation or any other reasons where the family has control of the schedule. Remote learning is not intended to provide temporary education while students are on vacation.



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.

Where to Access Books

We will encourage students to take out 2 books from our library to read over the break. Please make sure that these books are stored in a safe place and returned after the break.



All Vaughan Public Library branches are open for families to visit (except for Maple Library, which is currently closed for renovations). A list of VPL locations and hours can be found [here](#). VPL also offers extensive [digital collections](#) and a wide array of [virtual programs](#).

School Information

This month our Agents of Change focus is on Kindness. Being kind is not just about helping other people. It's also about helping yourself become a better person—it's about doing something that can make you feel a lot healthier and happier. Kindness challenges encourage children to develop a sense of purpose and gratitude. By performing simple acts of kindness, they can promote peace for a healthier, happier community. Check out this Kindness Challenge printable from Spectrum Education. It is divided into such wonderful categories—to self, to family, to others, and to the planet. It teaches children that kindness should not be limited to people only, but also to other things like our environment. Check out their website to find the printable and try out 1-2 ways to be kind in each category.



KINDNESS to SELF

- Do something that makes you happy today
- Exercise for 10 minutes and get your heart pumping
- Smile more often
- Avoid complaining for the entire day
- Create a new game and play it with friends and family
- Take time to practice mindfulness
- Take long slow deep breaths for 3 minutes
- Listen to your favourite music



KINDNESS to FAMILY

- Help with the chores without being asked
- Express your gratitude to your family
- Play a game with a family member
- Wash Mum or Dad's car
- Make a handmade card for someone in your family
- Tidy up after yourself
- Surprise a family member by doing their job for them
- Cook a meal
- Leave a special note on a family member's pillow



KINDNESS to OTHERS

- Write a letter or note to someone out of town and post it
- Bake a cake or your favourite food and deliver it to a friend or someone in need
- Find opportunities to give compliments today
- Say "thank-you" as much as possible
- Hold the door open for the person behind you
- Do something kind for a stranger
- Greet people with a Hug, High Five or Handshake



KINDNESS to PLANET

- Use less plastic
- Drink from a reusable water bottle
- Turn off the lights when you leave the room
- Use reusable shopping bags
- Pick up 5 pieces of litter
- Walk more, drive less
- Recycle
- Make a piece of art work from recycled materials



School Information

Message From Our Trustee – December 2021

With case counts remaining relatively stable, I want to take this opportunity to thank our students, families and staff members for continuing to adhere to health and safety protocols. Your efforts are appreciated and important to protecting the health and safety of our school community members. As we have since the start of the pandemic, the school board continues to meet regularly with public health and follow their guidance. Families looking for more information or resources on COVID-19 and our schools, including health and safety guidelines, frequently asked questions and mental health resources, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening or York Region's www.york.ca/safeatschool.

In November, we held the **school council forums**. I appreciated the opportunity to participate in shared learning with school council representatives on priority topics including the ABCs of mental health and actioning anti-racism practices. Thank you to all of the participants and to all school council members for your partnership. There are so many valuable [ways families help to strengthen our schools and support student learning and achievement](#). We value the partnership that we have with families, and thank you for your ongoing support.

As partners, we want to support you in supporting your child's learning, achievement and well-being. The **Family Resources** page on the Board website provides quick access to online tools such as Google Classroom, School Cash Online, Edsby and more. It also provides links to information to support you in engaging in your child's learning - resources like translation tools, IT support for families and tips on protecting your child's privacy online. It also includes links to other information you may find helpful. Find it at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources or from the link on the homepage.

Over the past few months, York Region District School Board has been conducting a review of its Trustee Areas. The boundaries of the areas that school board trustees represent change over time. The goal of the **Trustee Determination and Distribution Study** is to ensure fair and equitable representation of all public school supporters. Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation on the proposed options. The final report will be presented at the Board of Trustees meeting on February 8.

You can find more [information about the study and the recommendations on the Board website](#).

The upcoming winter season is a time of celebration for many, and I want to wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. I hope that over the winter break, you find time to rest, relax and rejuvenate and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair

Trustee – Vaughan Wards 3 and 4

YRDSB Mental Health Newsletter



Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

December 2021

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel

The ABCs of Mental Health: A focus upon Bridge & Connection

In this Newsletter, we continue our focus on the [ABCs of Mental Health framework](#) with a closer look at **B-Bridge** and **C-Connect** both at school and at home.

Acknowledge, Bridge and Connect are interrelated and work one with the other. *Acknowledge* helps us center and validate the lived experiences and realities of students, staff and families. In our previous [Newsletter](#), we noted that acknowledging lived experiences and realities is the beginning, but is not enough. In this effort, *Bridge* and *Connection* aid us in creating learning environments where growth and healing can occur. As we continue to navigate COVID-19, these are important now more than ever.

B- Bridge

Bridging centers on the fact that your children/our students, staff and families possess personal, cultural and community assets and strengths. When we all learn about these assets and strengths, we can better build meaningful and affirming connections and enhance growth, healing, and shape student/family support opportunities. When we Bridge, we honour and value varying ways of knowing, being and doing in the world. Children and families are seen as the experts in their lives. Their interests, assets, unique beliefs, traditions, experiences and strengths are valued, respected and reflected in the learning environment. Beyond this, when we Bridge, we affirm that families and communities are essential and valuable allies.

C- Connect

Connect encourages us to build connections based on the strengths, assets and interests shared by our students, staff and families. Establishing positive connections is vital and fundamental to the experience of mattering and belonging. This is equally important both at school and at home. Caring is at the core of forming positive

YRDSB Mental Health Newsletter

connections and relationships. We consider the difference between "caring for" and "caring about." [Geneva Gay](#) invites us to consider, "while 'caring about' conveys feelings of concern for one's state of being, 'caring for' is active engagement in doing something to positively affect it." Caring *for* encompasses a combination of concern, compassion, commitment, responsibility, and action. When we engage in the action of caring *for* one another, the outcome is a sense of mattering and belonging. It tells our children /students, staff and families that:

I belong here
I matter here
I am valued here
I am cared for here

Connection and relationships must be cultivated, and care must be actioned. By this, we mean relationships require attention, intention, and ongoing effort. Care must be seen and felt.

We invite you to consider and do One Small Thing that demonstrates **caring for someone**.

"A simple call to a friend brightens someone's day - it's a small thing."

-YRDSB Student.

YRDSB Mental Health acknowledges the importance of cultivating positive relationships and building community not only with students and staff but with families and community members. We understand that to best support students and strengthen our school board's mental health supports; we must listen, learn from, and collaborate with families and community members. In this effort, we have created a [feedback form](#) as a starting point to hear your voice as parents and caregivers and learn how we can shape and improve supports and resources that enhance students' mental health and wellbeing.

We look forward to creating pathways for caring connections and meaningful relationships with parents, caregivers, and families. Share your voice by using this [feedback form](#), and let's pave the path forward together.

What are students saying about the ABCs of Mental Health? Have a look at this [Video](#) To learn more about the ABC Framework & lesson series, please visit [YRDSB ABCs](#)

We invite you to consider the following **free seminar** focused on Connection:

YRDSB Mental Health Newsletter

Getting Teenagers Connected - Help your teenager develop good, supportive friendships. You'll learn ways to build their confidence, encourage social skills, help them to plan and meet commitments and encourage them to take care of others. [Click here to register.](#)

Mental Health COVID-19 Page

The link below is dedicated to supporting student mental health. Resources for students, parents/guardians, and community resources are listed. Please consider taking some time to familiarize yourself with the [Mental Health and Community Supports](#). Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter accounts [@YRDSB](#) and [@YRDSB_SS](#).

Patricia Marra-Stapleton, M.Sc., C. Psych. Assoc.

Mental Health Lead

patricia.marra-stapleton@yrdsb.ca

Hoshana Calliste, MSW, RSW

Assistant Coordinator of Mental Health

hoshana.calliste@yrdsb.ca