



## Important Dates:

<b>Feb is...</b>	Math Month
<b>Feb. 2</b>	PA Day
<b>Feb. 9</b>	Arts Presentation
<b>Feb. 16</b>	Family Day
<b>Feb. 19</b>	Term 1 Reports Home
<b>Feb. 26</b>	Math Night
<b>Feb. 27</b>	TRIBES Assembly/Spirit Day/Earn Your Feet Friday

## Inside This Issue:

<b>Student Achievement</b>	Pg. 2
<b>News from the Learning Commons</b>	Pg. 3
<b>Positive Climates for Learning</b>	Pg. 4-6
<b>School Council</b>	P. 7

**Principal**  
Wendy McVicar-Lew

**Vice-Principal**  
Orlie Soroka

**Office Staff**  
Jane Purdy  
Zabrina Fraser

**Superintendent**  
Becky Green  
905-764-6830

**Trustee**  
Linda Aversa  
647-462-0921

# Pierre Berton Public School

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

## Message from Administration

February 2015

January was another active month at our school with learning and many extracurricular events. We were very fortunate to have many of our special education staff from across the YRDSB present an engaging series of abilities awareness workshops to our students in grades three to six. It was a very impactful learning opportunity for all involved. In addition, we hosted staff from the newly opened Tommy Douglas Secondary School who provided a very informative presentation focused on transition to high school, course selection and pathways. Our EcoSchool Team has been busy this month continuing with Earn Your Feet Friday, coordinating a visit from Reptilia and presenting at our Tribes Assembly. Athletics continue at PBPS with intermediate basketball teams and badminton. Our junior mixed volleyball team represented us well at the area qualifying tournament.

The end of January marked the end of term one. Parents/guardians will receive term one report cards on February 19th, 2015. The purpose of the provincial report cards is to communicate how well your child has achieved the overall curriculum expectations for each subject at the end of a period of learning. Please find time to sit down with your child(ren) to read the comments in both the learning skills and academic areas. It is important for the students to set goals for learning for term two. Please ensure to sign and return the tear-off portion as soon as possible, along with the report card envelope.

This month, our math team has planned 'Math Month'. As we continue to focus in the area of mathematics, growth mindset and perseverance, students will work through weekly math challenges with their class. We look forward to welcoming families on February 26th to Family Math Night. Mathematical literacy helps students to navigate our world with a mathematical lens in order to solve problems in our daily lives.

Next month, we will celebrate PBPS Wellness Week from March 2nd to March 6th. The week will culminate with Wellness Day on March 6th. We have many guest speakers visiting our school throughout the week and numerous engaging workshops planned for students. We will be hosting a parent presentation on March 10th at PBPS with Shyamala Kiru. She will be speaking about developing confidence and a positive perspective in children.

We wish all of our families a wonderful Family Day Weekend Feb 14-16. Enjoy the holiday with family and friends.



Writing the Pages of our Future!

# Student Achievement

## February is Math Month @ Pierre Berton!

**It's Mathemagic! It's Math-nificent! It's Matherific! It's Math Month!**

We are excited to engage and excite students about math this month. As we know, we use our math skills daily to problem solve and make decisions. Through sorting, counting, analyzing data, planning and justifying, math is used to navigate important information in our real world.

This month, three main components will guide our learning about mathematics:

**Weekly Math Challenges** - Classes will be challenged to solve math problems and justify their thinking across different math strands. . On the first day of each math week, classes will receive a special letter in the "mail" (delivered by members of our student leadership team). Classes will be asked to solve challenges in groups or partners and will select responses to send back to our Math Mailbox in the office. Selected submissions will be included as part of our math Gallery Wall which will be displayed on Math Night for families to view.

**Math Tips, Tricks and Fun Facts** - On the daily announcements, students will learn tips and tricks to help them with everyday computation and problem solving, as well as examples of how math can come in handy in everyday life or quotes from famous mathematicians.

**Family Math Night** - Parents and students of all grades are invited to join us for a math evening where families will participate in math learning tasks together. A letter will be sent home early this month. We hope to see you there!



**Math Night**  
**February 26th, 2015**  
**6:30-8:00pm**



## Growth Mindset: What Do We Tell the Kids?

-Stanford Alumni Website

**You have a bright child**, and you want her to succeed. You should tell her how smart she is, right?

That's what 85 percent of the parents Dweck surveyed said. Her research on fifth graders shows otherwise. Labels, even though positive, can be harmful. They may instill a fixed mind-set and all the baggage that goes with it, from performance anxiety to a tendency to give up quickly. Well-meaning words can sap children's motivation and enjoyment of learning and undermine their performance. While Dweck's study focused on intelligence praise, she says her conclusions hold true for all talents and abilities.

Here are Dweck's tips from *Mindset*:

Listen to what you say to your kids, with an ear toward the messages you're sending about mind-set.

Instead of praising children's intelligence or talent, focus on the processes they used.

**Example:** "That homework was so long and involved. I really admire the way you concentrated and finished it."

**Example:** "That picture has so many beautiful colors. Tell me about them."

**Example:** "You put so much thought into that essay. It really makes me think about Shakespeare in a new way."

When your child messes up, give constructive criticism—feedback that helps the child understand how to fix the problem, rather than labeling or excusing the child. Pay attention to the goals you set for your children; having innate talent is not a goal, but expanding skills and knowledge is. Don't worry about praising your children for their inherent goodness, though. It's important for children to learn they're basically good and that their parents love them unconditionally, Dweck says. "The problem arises when parents praise children in a way that makes them feel that they're good and love-worthy only when they behave in particular ways that please the parents."

# News from the Learning Commons

## Forest of Reading Book Club 2015

Starting Monday, February 23 our grade five to eight students will have the opportunity to join the Forest of Reading Book Club. Students will meet on Mondays during the lunch hour to read and discuss the book selections nominated this year. By the end of March our students will submit their votes to the Ontario Library Association and then we will sit back and wait to hear the winners!

If you are interested, meet Mrs. Bruno in the Learning Commons on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30!

## How does reading measure up?

Reading has an impact on every part of Canadian life. Our democracy, our economy, and the quality of our daily lives are all enhanced by reading well and critically.



Individuals demonstrating higher levels of literacy were more likely to be employed, work more weeks in a year, and earn higher wages than individuals demonstrating lower proficiencies.<sup>1</sup>

Literary readers are much more likely to perform volunteer work than non-literary readers (43% vs. 17%).<sup>2</sup>



Reading fiction predicts empathic accuracy.<sup>3</sup>

Reading books is associated with better health, volunteering and strong satisfaction with life.<sup>4</sup>

Reading was proved 68% better at reducing stress levels than listening to music; 100% more effective than drinking a cup of tea; 300% better than going for a walk; and 700% more than playing video games.<sup>5</sup>



## What does reading do for us?

### READING

- ... is a lifelong source of pleasure for individuals.
- ... empowers the critical thinking skills of every individual.
- ... is essential to being able to function. It reduces barriers to access. It helps people to make meaning of their world.
- ... lays the foundation for future learning. It increases our self-worth and gives us the capacity for critical thinking.
- ... inspires. It is a trigger for the imagination.
- ... increases an individual's health and economic wellbeing.
- ... preserves the culture for the next generation. It creates a shared connection to the community.



**Blue Spruce™**

for ages 5-7,  
primary to grade 2  
picture books



**Silver Birch®**

for ages 8-12,  
grades 3-6 fiction,  
non-fiction books



**Red Maple™**

for ages 12-14,  
grades 7-8 fiction,  
non-fiction books  
every other year



# Positive Climates for Learning



**Walk to School and Earn Your Feet!**  
**February 27th is earn your feet Friday!**

## Healthy and Safe Schools: Food Policy

As a reminder, please do not send food to share for Valentine's Day, birthdays or other celebrations/occasions.



## Pierre Berton's Art Club 2014-15!

The Art club started in the month of October. Usually it is held in the learning commons on day four. We have enjoyed creating a variety of art projects. Currently, the students are highly motivated to learn cross stitching and various other embroidery stitches, and have a huge plan of making the "Panther Emblem." Also, each member is uniquely talented in their own way. Using the techniques learned, they are currently learning to make decorative boxes. Some of the upcoming projects are the wall hanging, fabric painting and greeting cards. Take a look at the picture to see some of the creative artwork our students have produced!

-Ms. Vaze and the Art Club

## The Panthers' Post

The Boys and Girls Intermediate Basketball Teams are working hard to prepare for the 2015 season. In addition to learning fundamental basketball skills, students have been learning to play together demonstrating excellent teamwork and cooperation. February is a busy month with teams participating in exhibition games, an invitational tournament in Richmond Hill, and culminating with the area tournaments at the end of the month. Go Panthers!



The junior mixed volleyball season was well underway throughout the month of January. The boys and girls on the team competed in the Pierre Berton Annual Invitational early in the month where they faced some of the top teams in the division and were unable to get their first win. However, as the month went on they practised hard and competed in their area qualifier where they nearly went undefeated. It was an exciting day and two very close games in the semi finals at the end of the day saw them falling short of the finals. The volleyball future looks bright for the Panthers as these youngsters improved greatly throughout the year.



Ms Leslie, Ms. Kramer and Mr. Herbert are very proud of the boys and girls.

## World Classroom

### STUDENT PROGRAM



Join the many YRDSB students and families who have participated in the World Classroom Program since it began in 2005.

Since then local teachers, students and their families have had the opportunity to learn about another country and culture and made life-long friendships by hosting an international student in their schools and homes.

Host families receive \$225 per week to cover the cost of hosting a visiting student.

We are expecting a group of 25 Grade 7 & 8 students from China, arriving April 10th and departing May 23, and are looking for:

- boys and girls in grades 7 and 8 who will act as buddies to the visiting students
- a 6 week commitment from schools and host families

To find out more, call or email Jennifer: 905 884 2046 ext.254  
[homestay@yrdsb.ca](mailto:homestay@yrdsb.ca)

# Positive Climates for Learning

## Wellness Week

We are very excited to launch Wellness Week on March 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. We are committed to our Positive Climates for Learning focus to create a safe, positive and inclusive learning environment. This week will highlight the importance of well-being, focusing on health and wellness. We have worked closely with our community partners to plan the day and we are excited to host many dynamic speakers and presentations for our students during this week. In addition, the School Council will host a Parent Workshop on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The following is a tentative schedule for the week:



### Kindergarten Students

Monday, March 2nd	<b>Nutrition Education:</b> Students will learn about the four food groups and healthy snacks.
Tuesday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Vision Health:</b> Students will learn about vision loss and the importance of caring for your eyes. <b>Yoga:</b> This interactive workshop will teach students about stretching and stress relief.
Wednesday, March 4th	<b>PanAm Games:</b> Students will learn about athleticism and perseverance with a presentation about the PanAm games coming to Toronto this summer. Students will also meet Pachi, the official mascot of the PanAm games!
Thursday, March 5th	<b>Hand washing:</b> Students will learn how to properly wash their hands and how it can prevent illness.
Friday, March 6th	<b>Guest Speaker-Duane Gibson:</b> This motivational speaker's message is that setting goals and persevering is the key to success.

### Primary Students (grade 1-3)

Monday, March 2nd	<b>Grade 1-Dental Workshop:</b> How to keep your teeth healthy by properly brushing them.
Tuesday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Vision Health:</b> Learn about vision loss and the importance of caring for your eyes.
Wednesday, March 4th	<b>PanAm Games:</b> Students will learn about athleticism and perseverance with a presentation about the PanAm games coming to Toronto this summer. Students will also meet Pachi, the official mascot of the PanAm games!
Thursday, March 5th	<b>Bike Safety:</b> Students will engage in an interactive workshop which will teach them about the brain and the importance of wearing a helmet.
Friday, March 6th	<b>Guest Speaker-Duane Gibson:</b> This motivational speaker's message is that setting goals and persevering is the key to success.  <b>Interactive Workshops to promote healthy living:</b> Some workshops include yoga, nutrition, physical activity, anti-bullying.

# Positive Climates for Learning

## Junior and Intermediate Students (grade 4-8)

Monday, March 2nd	<b>Guest Speaker - Shyamala Kiru: Building Confidence Workshop</b> Students will learn about self-esteem and how it relates to friendship, communication and motivation.
Tuesday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Vision Health:</b> Students will learn about vision loss and the importance of caring for your eyes.
Wednesday, March 4th	<b>Guest Speaker-Youth Speak:</b> Discussion about self-esteem, perseverance and anxiety. Students will learn strategies that they can use to reduce stress and anxiety.  <b>PanAm Games:</b> Students will learn about athleticism and perseverance with a presentation about the PanAm games coming to Toronto this summer. Students will also meet Pachi, the official mascot of the PanAm games!
Thursday, March 5th	
Friday, March 6th	<b>Guest Speaker-Joy McCarthy:</b> A certified holistic nutritionist will share how food can affect your mood.  <b>Interactive Workshops to promote healthy living:</b> Some workshops include yoga, physical activity, how self-esteem can affect your mood, healthy living trivia.  <b>Guest Speaker-Duane Gibson:</b> This motivational speaker's message is that setting goals and persevering is the key to success.

## Pierre Berton School Council Presents... Training the Brain for Success: The Power of a Positive Perspective



Put the date in your calendar and join us for an engaging parent workshop!

An Evening with Shyamala Kiru  
School Gymnasium  
Tuesday, March 10, 2015 7-8p.m.  
She will be addressing;

- Why a positive perspective (confidence) is critical to success
- The correlation between anxiety and confidence
- How to identify the common and dangerous signs of anxiety
- A simple, step by step guide to help kids manage negative emotions and develop a positive perspective

# School Council

**2014—2015**

## ***Pierre Berton School Council***

### **Co-Chairs**

Rajesh Dhoum  
Ken Nong

### **Secretary**

Lisa Simonelli-Rennie

### **Parent Members**

Mayavan Arumagam  
Sandra Bruno  
Emma Da Silva  
Maurice Guzzo  
Esmaeil Namaki  
Hardev Pabla  
Margarita Ramirez

### **Teaching Staff**

Anna Bruno  
Jacqueline Stone

### **Administration**

Wendy McVicar-Lew  
Orlie Soroka

The Pierre Berton School Council met on January 12, 2015. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Introduction of our work on growth mindset was shared. Parents had an opportunity to learn about growth vs fixed mindsets and some strategies to develop a growth mindset in our students.
- Sharing regarding February Math Month: All classes will engage in weekly math challenges throughout February. Family Math Night will take place on February 26th at 6:30 pm.
- Sharing regarding PBPS Wellness Week: To support our school focus on Positive Climates for Learning and well-being, Wellness Week will highlight the importance of health and wellness. Several workshops are planned and engaging guest speakers. Wellness Week will take place March 2-6.
- Discussion regarding Parent Reaching Out Grant. Shyamala Kiru will present to parents on Tuesday, March 10th. Workshop focus: Training the Brain for Success: The Power of a Positive Perspective.
- Discussion regarding PBPS first Fun Fair, June 4th. **Next planning meeting: February 12th @ 7pm. If you are interest in helping plan the event , please join us!**
- Sharing of school information, high school transition, athletics, clubs, report cards.



## **2014-2015 School Council Meetings**

April 13, 2015

May 11, 2015

All School Council meetings take place at 7:00 pm in the Learning Commons.

***Please join us at our next School Council meeting  
April 13, 2015***

## **Parent Engagement - Engaging in Your Child's Education at Home**

Parents play a vital role in supporting their children in their learning and growth. Check out the following link [Literacy and Numeracy](#) to learn more about how to support your child in literacy and mathematics across all grades.



## **A Message from our Trustee Linda Aversa**

The arrival of February is an exciting and busy time in our schools. It marks the mid-point of the school year, the end of secondary exams and the arrival of mid-year report cards. February also brings us longer daylight hours, the beginning of the end to winter and of course, the excitement of the approaching spring break!

It is my hope that at this point, parents have seen signs of academic growth and development in their children. I encourage all parents to carefully review their child's report card and reflect on the learning that has taken place since September. Now is a good time to celebrate your child's accomplishments and set goals for the rest of the school year.

February may be the shortest of the 12 months, but it is a busy time. There is still lots of learning, and opportunities for growth, ahead. With that in mind, I wish you all an enjoyable and successful second term.



# Important Information

## ***Transition to High School***

Our grade eight students are in the process of selecting courses for grade nine. Courses for high school are selected on career cruising. The grade eights are looking forward to visiting Tommy Douglas Secondary School on February 17th. They will have an opportunity to sit in on grade nine classes and become familiar with the school building.

## ***Drop—Off***

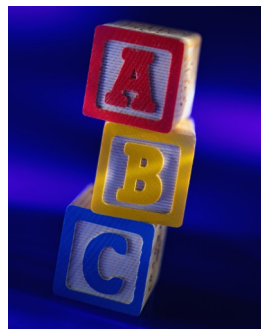
A reminder to parents that morning supervision begins at 8:15 am. Students may not enter the school prior to that time as there is no supervision in place. We greatly appreciate families arriving at 8:15 a.m. as this helps to spread out the drop-off process. We are noticing that student lates are greatly decreasing. When dropping off, please remember to pull right up to the top of the Kiss and Ride. We know the winter months are more difficult with the cold weather and snow. We greatly appreciate everyone's patience and support to ensure everyone's safety.

## ***Kindergarten Registration for 2015-16***

**Kindergarten registration for the 2015-16 school year began on January 16, 2015.** Students born in 2011 will be entering Junior Kindergarten in September of 2015. Registration packages will be available at the school beginning on this date, or parents can download the registration package using the following links:

### **Documents for Registration:**

- [Elementary School Registration Form](#)
- [Junior/Senior Kindergarten Questionnaire](#)



### **When registering, please also bring the following required documents:**

- Proof of child's age (Birth Certificate/Passport)
- Any legal documents related to custody arrangements if applicable
- Proof of Residency of the student - 2 documents, one from each of the categories below showing the home address;
  - Category A** - notice of tax assessment, current rental/lease agreement, agreement to purchase including proof of purchase provided before the pupil attends the school, or property tax bill, and
  - Category B** - utility bill, bank statement or other official document

## ***Arts Camp***

York Region District School Board Students from Grades 7 through 12 are eligible to apply to York Region Arts Camp. The Camp runs May 23rd – May 30th, 2015 at Camp White Pine, in Haliburton.

**Application Deadline: February 13, 2015**

For more information or to download, print and complete an Arts Camp application, please visit the following link <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/arts/Pages/Arts-Camp.aspx> and submit the application to the school principal for endorsement and submission. Information

- Students require parental/guardian consent and the signed endorsement of their teacher and principal to apply
- There is no limit to the number of applications a school may submit provided that each student applicant has met the following 4 criteria:
  - student demonstrates positive character in the school;
  - Student does not show significant behavioural concerns in the school;
  - student would benefit from an arts program in an inclusive community; and
  - student is prepared and mature enough to spend a week away from home.