



PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

Pierre Berton Public School

[Pierre Berton Public School](#)

470 Via Campanile, Vaughan, ON
905-303-4540

Important Dates:

Feb 3	PA Day
Feb 16	Report Cards Home
Feb 20	Family Day
Feb 23	TRIBES Assembly
Feb 24	Earn Your Feet Friday
Feb 27	School Council

Administrators' Message

February 2017

The winter weather has at times impacted outdoor recess, but it hasn't slowed down the learning inside the school. As we visit classrooms each day we can see that the Pierre Berton staff remains passionate and dedicated in their efforts to support student achievement and well being. The students are working hard and remain committed to their learning.

First term reports go home on February 16th. "The purpose of the Elementary First Term Report Card is to communicate your child's progress towards the achievement of the curriculum expectations since the beginning of the school year. It describes how well, at this point in the year, your child is demonstrating the various learning skills, work habits and curriculum expectations. It serves as a central part of the early discussions between home and school" (Elementary Report Cards, YRDSB). Ongoing discussions are occurring between parents and teachers to ensure the children are receiving the next steps that home and school can collaboratively work on to improve student learning. Parents can extend the learning in the classroom by reading together at home, discussing the success criteria for homework assignments, and demonstrating an interest in their child's learning. Please set aside time to review the report card with your child. Complete page 3 and 4 together, establishing areas for improvement and setting attainable goals for term 2. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's report card, please speak with the teacher. We thank you for your continued support with your child's learning and special events at Pierre Berton PS. We look forward to working together with you in Term 2.

The month of February also sparks excitement at home as the Family Day long weekend approaches. We know many families are making plans for the weekend or just taking the time out to relax as a family. Whatever you choose to do to celebrate, we wish you a fun-filled long weekend with family and friends!

Have a wonderful month!

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Principal

Wendy McVicar-Lew

Vice-Principal

Jennifer May

Office Staff

Jane Purdy
Zabrina Fraser

Superintendent

Paul Valle
905-764-6830

Trustee

Linda Aversa
647-462-0921



Writing the Pages of our Future!

Parent Information - Coming soon!

Math Night

Save the Date: Family Math Night

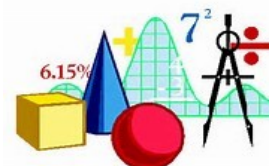
March 22, 2017

More information to follow!

We look forward to an informative and interactive evening of math learning for all!



We hope to see you there.



Pierre Berton School Council is hosting our 3rd

Family Fun Fair and Basket Raffle

Thursday, June 8th, 2017

5:00 - 8:00pm

We are excited to announce that the planning of this year's Family Fun Fair is well underway! There will be delicious food, fun games and our themed basket raffle, and much more for all to enjoy!

Order forms and further information will follow in the coming months.



We can't wait to see you there!



Parent Information



York Region Arts Camp

For nearly thirty years on the shores of a private lake in the Haliburton Highlands, Camp White Pine is host to a unique yearly camp for York Region District School Board students. Arts Camp is an intensive one week immersion in performance-based and product-generating art programs and experiences. To ensure the student experience is memorable, dynamic and fun, teachers, local and regional artists as well as student counsellors plan and facilitate amazing art programs and support a unique, inclusive environment for campers. 250 students ranging from Grade 7 to Grade 12 from across York Region attend morning and afternoon arts-based programs augmented by other daily workshops and activities. Camp culminates in an Art Show/Gallery Tour and Performance Night.

When is it?

May 27th to June 3rd, 2017

Where is it held?

Camp White Pine, Haliburton, ON
(Transportation is offered for a fee.)

Who can apply?

Students in Grades 7-12 who are registered in a York Region District School Board school.

[Student Application Information Package](#)

This package includes comprehensive information about camp, the cost and the application process. Please carefully review the information before applying.

Message from our Trustee Linda Aversa

We are now halfway through the school year. This is a good time to reflect on all that your child has learned and to look at setting goals for the rest of the school year.

Our Board believes that student well-being and achievement go hand-in-hand. One of our goals set out in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Plan](#) is to "continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning."

The Ministry of Education has recently identified [four priorities for well-being](#): positive mental health, safe and accepting schools, healthy schools, and equity and inclusive education. As a Board of Trustees, we will continue to further work in all of these areas to support student well-being in line with these priorities.

There are many resources on the Board website to help support student well-being, including tips for [talking about mental health](#), [managing stress](#), [packing healthy lunches](#) and [addressing incidents of bullying](#).

Creating a healthy, safe and welcoming learning environment is key to helping our students reach their full potential. All of us have an important role to play in creating an environment that enables our students to thrive.

I wish you all the best for a healthy, happy and successful 2017.

Student Achievement

Inspiring Your Child to Learn and Love Math

This is the second installment of PBPS's "Math Session". In November, we identified clear math milestones kindergarten students had to meet before graduating kindergarten and strategies that parents can use to become partners in the math learning journey of their child.

In this installment, we will be looking at what concepts primary students need to be focusing on and developing in math and list some strategies that parents can use to help them through the learning process.

In the primary grades your child will learn the following in mathematics:

Stable Order

This means that a child needs to know that when counting the counting sequence is always consistent. Counting is always 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and NOT 1, 2, 3, 5, 4.

Movement is Magnitude

This means that a child understands that when moving up the counting sequence, the quantity increases, and when moving down or backwards in the sequence the quantity decreases.

Cardinality

This means that a child understands that after a set of numbers has been counted, the last number represents the number of objects in that set.

Subitizing

This means that a child is able to recognize the number of objects at a glance, without having to count all the objects

Early Number Concept	Teaching Strategy
Stable Order	Have the child practice their counting in different situations. For example, how many white cars do you see on the road? How many people in the room? How many toys in your toy box?
Movement is Magnitude	Have the child put a group of toys together in a specified area, count up to the total and then have them take that same number of toys and moved them to another specified area.
Cardinality	Have child put a group of toys together, count them and tell you how many there are in total.
Subitizing	Using a dice, have the child roll it and identify the number they have rolled without counting the dots.

Incorporating math into everyday activities will make learning math fun and it's an easy way for you and your child to spend quality time together. More importantly, family math time will help with reducing the level of anxiety that students feel when engaged in mathematics.

Student Achievement

Kindergarten Communication of Learning

On February 16th you will be Kindergarten parents will be receiving their child's Communication of Learning. The Kindergarten Communication of Learning reports are intended to provide parents with descriptions, written in plain language and including anecdotal comments, about their child's strengths and growth in relation to the overall expectations within each of the four frames of The Kindergarten Program. Next steps in the child's learning are also indicated, to inform parents of the educators' plans for supporting the child's new learning at school and to assist them in supporting their child's learning at home. The Kindergarten Communication of Learning reports are issued at the end of the second and third reporting periods. The report issued at the end of the second reporting period reflects the child's growth in learning in relation to the overall expectations introduced and developed from September to January/February of the school year. The report issued at the end of the third reporting period reflects the child's growth in learning in relation to the overall expectations introduced or further developed from January/February to June of the school year. Please note that the Kindergarten Program now refers to Year 1 and Year 2 instead of the previous Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten. It is important to remember that the Kindergarten program is a 2 year program and that expectations will be report on throughout the 2 year period.

In Kindergarten, the learning expectations are now organized into four "frames", or broad areas of learning: Belonging and Contributing, Self-Regulation and Well-Being, Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours, and Problem Solving and Innovating. The Communication of Learning will focus on specific expectations that are outlined within these Four Frames.

Four Frames for Learning

What children learn in connection with *all four frames* lays the foundation for developing traits and attitudes they will need to become active, contributing, responsible citizens and healthy, engaged individuals who take responsibility for their own and others' well-being.

Belonging and Contributing

The learning encompassed by this frame relates to the child's early development of the attributes and attitudes that inform citizenship, through his or her sense of personal connectedness to various communities.

Self-Regulation and Well-Being

What children learn in connection with this frame allows them to focus, to learn, to respect themselves and others, and to promote well-being in themselves and others.

Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours

What children learn in connection with this frame develops their capacity to think critically, to understand and respect many different perspectives, and to process various kinds of information.

Problem Solving and Innovating

The learning encompassed by this frame supports collaborative problem solving and bringing innovative ideas to relationships with others.

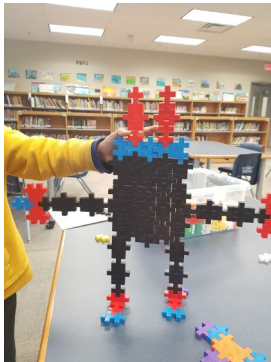
Student Achievement

Modern Learning

We are excited to announce that our Makerspace is now open. Students are coming to the learning commons to explore their interests, learn new things and create in a space where they can share ideas, materials and knowledge. Students are invited to create, build and discover using Lego, Kinex, and blocks. They have also begun to explore the world of coding; creating art, animation, robotics and even their own games. Students have been introduced to the online program *Scratch*. Students learn to think creatively, reason systematically, and work collaboratively.

We are very excited and can't wait to see what our students will create!!

Click here for more information about Scratch: <https://scratch.mit.edu/parents/>



Tech Club



This month tech club has been focusing on how to log into our Google account using our student names and passwords. We are so proud of our junior team for persevering and supporting each other! As we move forward, we will continue to work specifically with our grade 3 students to help them become more proficient and independent.

By learning how to access their accounts, students will be able to use Google apps to support their learning in the classroom and at home. In particular, we will be focusing on learning how to use Google Read and Write. This is a toolbar that can be uploaded to any Google account and provide endless literacy opportunities. This amazing toolbar is able to convert speech to text, allow you highlight and focus on key points in a reading, and read text back to you. We are hoping that through our teaching, it will support all our students understand online information, summarize readings and build writing confidence.

Google™
Apps for Education



Positive Climates for Learning

Junior Volleyball Season

The Panthers Junior Co-ed Volleyball team ended a fun season this month. They had a successful invitational tournament coming first! They then fell a little short at the Area Qualifier. All in all it was a fun season and good development for years to come. Go Panthers Go!



Intermediate Basketball



The intermediate boys and girls basketball teams played their first games of the season. The boys were able to come away with two wins against Fossil Hill Public School and two wins against Kleinburg Public School to start the season 4-0. The girls also won their first game of the season in a dominant performance against Kleinburg Public School. The boys and girls demonstrated excellent teamwork and communication during their games. Both teams are looking forward to upcoming games and tournaments before the area tournaments at the end of the month. Go Panthers!

Promoting Positive Climates at PBPS

Earn your feet Fridays are in full swing! Every month we have been keeping track of how many students have been walking to school or walking laps at lunch recess. The students have been very motivated by the bar graph displaying their classes' total. Keep up the great work!

At our January TRIBES assembly students were recognized for a wide variety of character traits by sharing some of the pantherific behaviour on our School Twitter board. One representative from each class shared a goal they have for the 2017 year. We continue to celebrate all of the wonderful things our students are doing each and everyday.

Best Buddies has also continued this month. We are thrilled to see our students spending time with one another and supporting positive relationships within the school community.

Congratulations!

**HOUR
OF
CODE**

Winning Mircorbit from hour of code!

Ms. Vecchiarelli's class was so excited to participate in the hour of code this year! They loved playing games that allowed everyone to work together and problem solve, in order to write simple codes to move their characters in various directions. We are especially proud that their class has been randomly selected out of thousands of classrooms worldwide to receive a free Mircobit kit. These small devices help students interact with computer science in a fun and tangible fashion. They can't wait to begin exploring and take their coding even further!

School Council/Parent Information

2016 –2017 Pierre Berton School Council

Co-Chairs

Rajesh Dhoum

Nina Gill

Parent Members

Hem Bhatt

Annarita DiStefano

Charmaine Forde

Ravikanth Gullapalli

Samuel Iannucci

Opi Marok

Mario Meffe

Mona Nouroozifar

Tharshini Sriskandarajah

Vino Vijayaratnam

Teaching Staff

Jacqueline Stone

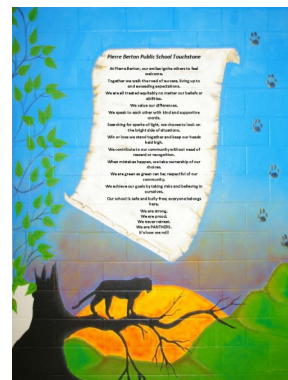
Administration

Wendy McVicar-Lew

Jennifer May

The Pierre Berton School Council met January 23, 2017. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Fun Fair planning update
- Sharing of information from Parent Council Forum
- Discussion regarding the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and a review of actions that we may consider for the School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement
- Update on Makerspaces in the Learning Commons
- Sharing of Wellness Week plan
- Sharing of the new Kindergarten Reporting process



Next School Council Meeting:

Monday, February 27, 2017

7pm

Learning Commons

Fun Fair planning meeting will be held prior to the School Council Meeting at 6:15 pm.

Upcoming School Council Meeting Dates

April 24, 2017

May 29, 2017



Let's Cook! Take the pledge today and you could win

York Region Public Health is launching [Let's Cook!](#) to get York Region residents cooking more often with fresh ingredients.



Let's Cook! It keeps you [healthy and independent, connects you with your family and friends, saves you time and money, and helps the environment.](#)

Take the pledge

[Pledge now](#) to cook more often with fresh ingredients. By pledging, you will receive delicious, healthy recipes and tips to stay inspired twice a month, straight to your inbox. Everyone that pledges has the chance to win a grocery gift card. For more reasons to say "Let's Cook!", visit york.ca/letscook.

Material is provided by York Region Public Health.