



Pierre Berton Public School

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

Important Dates:

Jan. 7	Back to School
Jan. 18	P.A. Day
Jan 21	School Council Meeting
Jan. 31	Tribes Assembly
Feb. 1	P.A. Day

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Principal
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Office Staff
Jane Purdy
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Superintendent
Dianne Hawkins
905-764-6830

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Anna DeBartolo
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Administrator's Message

January, 2013

Welcome Back! I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable Winter Break. The Pierre Berton staff would like to wish our school community a very Happy New Year!

Looking back to December, we would like to thank the community for the numerous donations to the York Regional Police Holiday Heroes Campaign. We donated two large boxes of hats, mittens and scarves to support families in our York Region Community. Once again, the Pierre Berton community gave generously to the Vaughan Food Bank. The spirit of giving and the care demonstrated for those less fortunate over the holiday season was quite impressive. We also had the opportunity to enjoy our first Arts performance, Cadence and recognize students who demonstrate the Tribes agreements at our December Tribes assembly.

As we look forward in 2013, we continue to focus on academics in the classroom. Our focus of critical thinking remains at the forefront as we continue to develop a learning community of thinkers. As we guide students to develop habits of mind and thinking skills that will empower and enable them to self-advocate in today's world, we have developed a success criteria to support the process for our learning community.

In our community of thinkers at Pierre Berton Public School:

- ◆ We understand that we might not always have "the answer."
- ◆ We are willing to change our mind when other good reasons are offered.
- ◆ We provide good reasons for decisions and actions.
- ◆ We are aware of other people's opinions and points of view.
- ◆ We are sensitive to others and their opinions.
- ◆ We are leaders in our thinking.

Planning for the Next School Year

If you are planning to move prior to the beginning of September 2013, please let the office know as soon as possible. We are in the process of planning for next year and this information is extremely helpful when we make enrolment projections.



Writing the Pages of our Future!

Safe, Caring and Supportive Schools

Important Information



School Safety

As you are aware, we have been repeating safety messages on a regular basis within the newsletter in order to address some ongoing concerns regarding the bus loop / fire route and drop-off / pick-up in the Kiss & Ride. When we think about the safety of students, as members of the school community we all have a role to play. The African proverb, "It takes a community to raise a child," speaks volumes. From the safe drop off / pick up routines to visitors in the school, there are routines in place to keep everyone safe. We know our families lead busy lives and people are often in a rush, but it is important to take the time to follow the policies in place as the children in our school community are all of our children.

Safety in York Region Schools

The York Region District School Board takes student safety very seriously. It is important to note that there are several safety measures in place at all of our schools. These include, an ongoing reciprocal relationship with York Regional Police, a well-defined and established threat assessment and intervention protocol, a safe-arrivals and attendance procedure, a lockdown procedure with regular drills for students and staff, and various other emergency preparedness protocols. The Board also has an emergency preparedness committee that regularly reviews these protocols, guidelines and procedures to ensure risk to students and staff is a top priority and minimized in every way possible. The most important security measure we have in all our buildings is the caring and supportive relationship that exists within the school community. Our schools are amongst the safest places for children to be during the day. Safety continues to be our top priority.

Visitors in the School

Visitors, including parents and volunteers, are welcome at Pierre Berton. For safety reasons, all visitors and volunteers are required to sign in at the office and wear a 'visitor' or 'volunteer' tag (available in the office). This helps us to know who is in the building for security reasons. Parents/guardians/visitors are not to be in the school hallways without checking in at the office first. If you do not have a visitor or volunteer tag on, staff members are required to redirect you to the office. When you leave the school, please return the tag to the office and sign out.

Bus Loop / Fire Route

We continue to request your support in ensuring the fire route remains free of vehicles throughout the day. While we have noticed great improvement, we continue to be vigilant in monitoring this area. ***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 avoid 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 lot. We need to all work together to keep our students safe. Please note that at times the pylons are moved to the side to enable buses to enter for lunchtime pick up. The movement of these pylons ***does not*** indicate that vehicles can enter the loop. ***We need the support of the entire school community in order to keep our students safe.***

Kiss & Ride

The Kiss and Ride in the morning continues to work very well. We have noticed that most parents are 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. The Kiss & Ride lane is the ***ONLY*** safe drop-off location for students in our parking lot. No child should be let out in the middle of the parking lot or at the end near the school yard. During the winter months, 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 safely arrive on time for school.

Safe, Caring & Supportive Schools

Keeping Our School Safe

In accordance with the Principal's responsibilities under the Education Act to ensure a safe and orderly learning environment, the school has a right to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice to or permission of any person. From time to time, the police may be invited onto school property to conduct their own searches, and these searches may be conducted without notice or permission of any member of the school community as per our Joint Board and Police Protocol. When conducting a search of school property, persons or personal property, the police are responsible for conforming to all legal requirements with respect to searches.

Snow & Snowballs

In order to promote a safe and respectful environment on our school playground, students have been told through their classroom teachers and morning announcements, that the throwing of snowballs is prohibited. Students are aware that snowballs may contain pieces of ice and rock which can cause injury to others or damage school property. Consequences for snowball throwing will be consistent with our safe, caring and supportive schools policy. Please take a few minutes to review this expectation with your child/children.



REPORT IT

Caring and Safe Schools
Courage | Bullying | Initiative | Drugs | Cheating | Respect | Vandalism

The 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 YRDSB 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.

Allergy Alert

As you are aware, we have several students with life-threatening allergies in our school. While we take every step to create a risk-free environment, we need the support of all families to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions.

We ask that you avoid sending any foods that may contain peanuts and/or nuts. Please check the list of ingredients for peanut oil/butter/sauce/flour/meal, mixed nuts, ground nuts, goober peas, and artificial nuts. Examples include: cookies, chocolate, granola bars, some cereal bars and **chocolate nut spreads**. Avoid products that say "may contain peanut/nuts". Imported products have different labelling requirements, please read the labels carefully when sending these products to school.

If you are unsure about a chosen product, please do not send it to school. We thank you for your cooperation. Remember we must all work together to keep our children safe!

Dropping Off Lunch

Parents dropping off lunches are asked to leave your child's lunch on the table inside the main office. If you are meeting your child at 12:10 with a lunch, please ensure that you remain in the hall beside the office. Parents are not permitted to go to a classroom to meet your child or to drop off a lunch.



Also, if parents are late dropping off lunch, students will remain in the classroom until their lunch arrives. They are not allowed to wait in the main hallway unsupervised. We will call your child to the office when you arrive.

PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

Positive Climates for Learning

Grade 8 Open House at Emily Carr S. S.

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.

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 Grade One French Immersion 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.

Eco Schools—The Golden Garbage Can is Back!

The Golden Garbage Award is the award given each month to the class that consistently turns off the lights when no one is in the class, turns off their net books and properly disposes of their garbage and recycling. The following are the winning classes of the golden garbage award from October to December.

October: Ms. Hardy's class
November: Ms. Tombino's Class
December: Ms. Paglia's Class

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will commence on **February 1, 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.



Required Documents for Registration:

- ♦ Proof of Child's Age (Birth Certificate/Passport)
- ♦ Proof of Residency

A kindergarten information session, "Welcome to Kindergarten" for parents and children is being planned for the spring at Pierre Berton. More information will follow.

For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact the 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 facilitated by two co-op students from Emily Carr Secondary School who are placed at PBPS until the end of January.

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.

Lost and Found Items

There are many items in our Lost and Found boxes. We have layed out all items for students in an empty classroom. Hopefully, these items will be reclaimed by students. If you are missing clothing items, please encourage your child to check the lost and found. There is quite a collection. At the end of January, any unclaimed items will be donated to a charity.

School Council / Student Leadership Team

2012—2013 Pierre Berton School Council

Co-Chairs

Linda Aversa
Rajesh Dhoun

Treasurer

Hannah Mark

Secretary

Lisa Simonelli-Rennie

Parent Members

Navneet Chandok
Maurice Guzzo
Erica Lien
Hardev Pabla
Aruna Sharma

Pierre Berton Fundraising Committee

The Pierre Berton School Council Fundraising Committee met in December to begin to develop a fundraising plan for the school year. One of the largest school fundraisers is the pizza lunch program that takes place throughout the year. Future fundraising initiatives will be discussed at the next School Council meeting in January and shared with the parent community in the February newsletter. We appreciate the support of the parent community in our fundraising initiatives. The funds raised are put towards enhancing student learning at our school.

2012–2013 School Council Meeting Dates

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

All School Council meetings take place at 7:00 pm in the Learning Commons.
All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

Pizza Lunches

The School Council has organized the next round of pizza lunches for the school year. Pizza lunch begins this week, Wednesday January 9th. Please note the dates for this term:

January 9, 2013
January 16, 2013
January 23, 2013
January 30, 2013
February 6, 2013
February 13, 2013
February 20, 2013
February 27, 2013
March 6, 2013

Thank you to the School Council for organizing this fundraiser to support the students at Pierre Berton Public School.

Student Leadership Team

In the month of December, we succeeded in organizing many events, which is a big achievement in itself. We have brought up the spirits of all panthers by organizing our very own Pyjama Day and Opposite Day. On the day of Pyjama Day, panthers arrived at school in their cozy pyjamas and filled the gym with our holiday songs. On Opposite Day, our students had many ideas to showcase: wearing their clothes backwards. In the coming year, we are looking forward to twin day on Thursday, January 31st and Crazy Hat Day on Monday February 25th.

A famous acapella group called Cadence came to our school and performed for our panthers and at the same time kept students entertained with their spontaneous performances and humorous jokes. They've performed in several countries around the world including, USA, Canada, parts of Europe and etc. We are fortunate to have the arts program at our school this year. Thank you to the parents for supporting it.

The Student Leadership Team wishes for you to have a safe and 'pantherific' new year.

Milk Program at Pierre Berton P.S.

The milk program has been a running exceptionally well! We appreciate all of your support! Order forms for the next period, January 23rd to February 22nd will be sent home on this week. Order forms are due back at the school by January 16th.



January 2013



Pierre Berton Public School
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Character Matters!

Optimism
 We maintain a positive attitude. We look on the brighter side of situations. We are able to see opportunities even in the face of adversity. We have hope for the future.

e-books for e-kids™

TumbleBook™ Library

www.tumblebooklibrary.com
 Username: pierrebert Password: books
 Ebooks: my.abdodigital.com
 Username: pbebooks Password: pblibrary



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 	2 	3 	4 	5
			CHRISTMAS / WINTER BREAK			
6	7 CHRISTMAS EASTERN	8	9 	10 Pizza Lunch	11	12
13	14	15	16 	17 Pizza Lunch	18 PA DAY (No School)	19
20	21 School Council Meeting @ 7pm	22	23 	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 	31 Tribes Assembly		

Family Literacy Day