



PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

Pierre Berton Public School

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

Important Dates:

Jan. 6	Back to School
Jan. 15	Tribes Assembly / Denim Day
Jan. 17	P.A. Day / Kindergarten Registration Begins
Jan 23	Parent Math Presentation: Dr. Lynda Colgan

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Principal

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Office Staff

Jane Purdy
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Susan Logue
905-764-6830

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Anna DeBartolo
416-898-9653

Administrator's Message

January, 2014

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!

We are looking forward to continuing our learning journey with your children this year. Students are very busy in classroom, focusing on curriculum expectations. We continue to focus on making thinking visible in the learning process and teaching children to use evidence to justify their thinking in all tasks. The intermediate students have begun to utilize google apps to work collaboratively with others on learning tasks. It is amazing how technology can be used effectively in the classroom.

This month, the School Council has organized a speaker for parents focused on mathematics through the Parent Reaching Out Grant obtained from the Ministry of Education. Dr. Lynda Colgan is an Associate Professor at Queen's University. She is a very engaging speaker who will be able to support parents' understanding of mathematics in the classroom and ways in which concepts are taught. In addition, she will provide strategies to engage in mathematics at home. We hope that you are able to join us for this informative presentation.

Safe Arrival Procedures

Our check of your child's attendance is an important part of our daily routine. In the interest of ensuring that your child's safety we ask you to cooperate with us by following the steps below if your child is absent or is expected to be absent in the near future:

- If a future absence has been planned, please inform your child's teacher by note, giving the date and length of time of the expected absence.
- In all other cases, please call 905-303-4540 to inform the office or leave a message concerning your child's absence on the answering machine.

If a child is not in school, and the school office has not received any notification from the parents, office staff will call parents/guardians/emergency numbers. **If we are unable to obtain any information regarding your child's absence, we will consider your child missing and will contact York Regional Police.**



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 ensure we all work together for the safety of each child at Pierre Berton Public School. 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 village 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 students 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.

Locked School Doors

Beginning February 3, all school doors, including the front doors and doors to portables, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the day. Anyone arriving at the school after that time must buzz in and sign in at the main office. Measures will also be put in place for parents/guardians to buzz in and pick up students participating in before and after school programs. More detailed information will be available in January.

Our school continues to be a safe place where parent and community member involvement is welcomed and encouraged. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office upon arrival.

Volunteers

Volunteers assume an important role within a school. A requirement of the YRDSB to assist in ensuring a safe environment for students and staff is the completion of a [vulnerable sector screening](#) (VSS) and the signing of a confidentiality agreement. ***Please be aware that anyone wishing to volunteer in any capacity in which they may not always be in the presence of school staff (including field trips, driving other students to athletic events, etc.) must first complete a vulnerable sector screening.*** If you plan to volunteer during the year, please consider obtaining your VSS well in advance as we will not be able to have you assist in the school without providing this documentation. The link above will provide you with information regarding the process that needs to be followed. The application form is also linked to the YRP website page. Please contact the school to obtain a letter from the school to take to the York Regional Police customer service unit when applying for your VSS. Parents have indicated that the turnaround time is shorter at the Aurora



Drop—Off & Dismissal

Although busier in the colder weather, the Kiss and Ride in the morning continues to work well with the support of all families. We remind parents to move 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 are driven to school. 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.

We continue to have difficulty with traffic congestion, especially south of the school on Corso Garibaldi. Please ensure that vehicles are parked/stopped in appropriate places and not blocking vehicles. Frequently vehicles are parked facing the wrong direction and blocking traffic. We know that dismissal is a busy time of the day, but it is important that everyone engage in safe practices and be patient in order to ensure our students are safe. Please remember that there are usually many available parking spots north of the school on Via Campanile beside the park.

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.

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.

A substitute peanut butter product is being marketed to consumers as a safe alternative for children to bring to schools in place of peanut butter. We ask that parents refrain from including these kinds of products in your child's lunches or snacks. These products tend to look, taste, and smell very much like peanut butter. While the product is nut free, it mimics a known allergen that causes anaphylaxis in some children to the degree that it is indistinguishable from the allergen. It is a convincing substitute, opening up the possibility that it can be confused as peanut butter, or worse yet, peanut butter could be confused as this soy-based product.

The safety and well-being of our students is our first priority, which is why our schools have procedures in place to minimize risk of anaphylaxis reactions in our students. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in avoiding the use of these products to assist in our continued efforts to create a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment for all students. We thank you for your cooperation. Remember we must all work together to keep our children safe!

New Entry Procedures

Our new entry procedures began this week. The reason for the change is to try to alleviate the number of lates in the morning and to maximize instructional time. Early entry will ensure students get into the school quickly and provide the necessary time to organize their belongings in advance of the instructional day.

Please note the new entry procedure:

- ◆ **8:15 – 8:30** –Students enter the building. **Supervision will be indoors only.** Students are not to arrive at school prior to 8:15 am.
- ◆ **A new bell has been added at 8:15 am to indicate that students may enter the school as supervision has begun.** After the 8:15 bell, please instruct your child to **independently** enter the building using the regularly assigned doors or the door closest to the Kiss and Ride. **Kindergarten** students may use the front doors or the doors closest to the Kiss and Ride. Parents are asked to say goodbye to their child outside. Parents are not permitted to walk students to classrooms.
- ◆ Students are expected to go to the hooks/lockers, get themselves ready for class time and then line up outside of their classrooms as per teacher instructions (teachers have reviewed the expectations with their students). Kindergarten students will go directly into their classrooms.
- ◆ Staff on duty will be supervising the hallways and kindergarten classrooms.

Please note that there **will not be outdoor supervision from 8:15-8:30 for students**. **All students** are expected to enter the building after the 8:15 a.m. bell. They are not to stay outside on the pavement or field. Please reinforce this message with your children.

Important Information

Grade 8 Open House at Emily Carr S. S.

Pierre Berton students in Grade 8 will attend the new school—Tommy Douglas Secondary School in September 2014. Information regarding course selection and Career Cruising information can be obtained by attending the Grade 8 Information Session at the holding school, Emily Carr.

Where: Emily Carr Secondary School

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2014

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Applicable courses (i.e. compulsory and electives courses) will be provided through Career Cruising for Grade 9 and 10 students identified to attend Tommy Douglas Secondary School. Technical programs, such as Transportation, Construction, Foods, Design/Drafting and Communication, will be offered as appropriate grade levels are reached and there is sufficient enrolment to warrant a class.

New School Information Meeting Tommy Douglas Secondary School (4020 Major Mackenzie Drive)

At this meeting, parents will be given the opportunity to meet the new school principal and will be provided with an overview of the process of opening a new school, information regarding registration, transportation and physical design of the school.

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Location: Emily Carr Secondary School

Time: 7:00 pm

We look forward to meeting with students and parents at the new school information meeting. For any further questions, please contact CEC West at 905-764-6830.

Grade One French Immersion

This year, Grade One French Immersion registration will take place from January 17, 2014—February 14, 2014. An information evening will be held at Elder's Mills on January 16th at 7:00 pm. Details regarding the [FI registration](#) can be found on our board website.

Kindergarten Registration

This year, kindergarten registration will commence on January 17, 2014. Registration forms are available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.



Children born in 2008 (turn four or five in 2012), live within the school boundary and whose parents are willing to become public school tax supporters are eligible to register for junior 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.

Arts @ Baythorn

Would your child enjoy learning the Ontario curriculum through the Arts? If so, the York Region District School Board offers an Elementary integrated Arts program at Baythorn Public School. Students currently in grades four and five may apply for the arts@baythorn program, where they will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music while meeting the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum for grades five, six, seven, and eight. To learn more about the arts@baythorn program, students and their families are invited to attend an information evening **at Baythorn Public School on Thursday, January 16, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Applications will be on line via the school website and available after January 16, 2014.

www.baythorn.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Please call Baythorn Public School (905) 889-7992, if you require further information.

School Council

2013—2014 Pierre Berton School Council

Chair

Rajesh Dhoun

Treasurer

Hannah Mark

Secretary

Lisa Simonelli-Rennie

Parent Members

Laura Cilio

Emma DaSilva

Maurice Guzzo

Kumuthiny Mayavan

Hardev Pabla

Teaching Staff

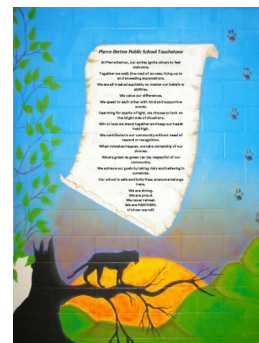
Anna Bruno

Administration

Wendy McVicar-Lew

The Pierre Berton School Council met on January 13, 2014. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Treasurer's Report: \$1200 committed to supporting PBPS Wellness Day (Feb. 19) and Junior Family Math Night (Feb. 27)
- Planning for Parent Math Presentation by Dr. Lynda Colgan (Jan. 23) funded by Parent Reaching Out Grant. Information sent out to families to promote the event that links well to our focus in our School Improvement Plan.
- Sharing regarding Junior Family Math Night—information to go out to community following parent presentation.
- Sharing regarding PBPS Wellness Day—workshops planned and requesting suggestions for other workshops.
- Discussion regarding 'Pierre Berton Garden' to be planted this year. A parent committee will be established to begin the planning process.
- Discussion regarding spirit wear that will be available for students to purchase in January. Samples shared.
- Sharing of school information, including locking of front doors (Feb. 3, 2014); new entry procedures; parent information nights (Gr 8 & French Immersion); Report Cards



2013–2014 School Council Meeting Dates

February 24, 2014

April 7, 2014

May 12, 2014

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

Pierre Berton Public School Welcomes Dr. Lynda Colgan!

Where? Pierre Berton Gymnasium

When? Thursday, January 23, 2014 @ 7pm

What? A parent presentation about integrating math in the everyday lives of our children. Also, Dr. Colgan will share how and why math has changed and how some of the concepts are taught in Ontario schools.

Who? All PBPS parents.



Please Join Us!