





Pierre Berton Public School

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

Administrators' Message

January, 2016

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! We hope everyone had an opportunity to spend some time with family and friends during the winter break. As 2016 begins, we look forward to continuing our learning journey with your children. It will be a busy time as students are working hard in the classroom, focusing on curriculum expectations. We will continue to engage your child(ren) in rich, meaningful learning tasks in all subject areas and supporting students to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to solve problems and apply their learning. Please note that students will receive their Term 1 report cards on February 19th and will engage in goal setting for Term 2.

As the cold weather is upon us, it is very important for children to come to school appropriately dressed for snow, slush, wind chill and icy conditions. Please ensure that your child(ren) have appropriate footwear, scarves, gloves, and coats so he/she can enjoy outdoor breaks. In anticipation of snow in the near future, students are reminded that the throwing of snowballs is prohibited. Please take a few minutes to review this expectation with your child/children. In addition, during the winter months we may experience bussing delays. If your child takes the bus, please refer to www.schoolbuscity.com for Late Bus Reports.

We are pleased to provide our older students with two presentations this month. On January 12, students in grades 7 and 8 will participate in a Math Homework Help workshop by TVO. The workshop will introduce students to online math resources and tools available to assist them in improving their success in math. They will learn about supports available to them during prime time homework hours (5:30-9:30). In addition, on January 13, students in grades five to eight will take part in a Learning Disabilities Awareness Presentation.

Important Dates:

Jan. 4	Welcome Back!
Jan. 11	Gr. 7 & 8 High School Transition Night
Jan. 15	PA Day
Jan. 18	School Council 7pm
Jan. 28	TRIBES Assembly
Jan. 29	Earn Your Feet Friday
Feb. 1	PA Day

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Please join us on Monday, January 11th at 6:30 pm at Pierre Berton P.S. in the Learning Commons

Grade 7 and 8 Transition to High School Presentation

for a presentation from the staff at

Tommy Douglas Secondary School

This is a great opportunity for parents and students in grade 7 and 8 to learn about high school and ask questions.









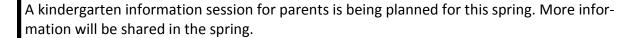
Writing the Pages of our Future!

Important Information

Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 15, 2016

Kindergarten registration will begin at our school on January 15, 2016 for the 2016-17 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Or, you can attain a copy at the school once registration begins.

Children who turn four or five years old during 2016, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten.





French Immersion Information Sessions and Registration for students who are currently in Senior Kindergarten

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on **January 14, 2016 at 7 p.m.**

Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2016 (http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location. FI registration will begin January 15, 2016.

Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2016, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, should:

- visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school.
- take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program
 location to register between January 15 and February 12, 2016. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides 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. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca.

Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Important Information Region

Arts Program - For Current Grade 4 or 5 Students

WOULD YOU ENJOY COLLABORATIVELY 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**. If you are currently in grades <u>four or five</u> you may apply for the <u>arts@baythorn program</u>, where you will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music in a <u>cooperative learning environment</u>

To learn more about the arts@baythorn program, you and your family are invited to attend an information evening at Baythorn Public School on:

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

Applications will be available at bit.ly/arts_application2016 online after January 13th, 2016.

If you require further information, please call us at Baythorn Public School (905) 889-7992.

Kate Kurek Principal

The Arts Team

Meytal Daniels Vice Principal





School Bus Cancellation Information—Key Points

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.
- Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.

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 99.9 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



Student Achievement

Helping my Child with Math Homework

Your child needs help with math homework, but you're not sure how to do the math problems yourself. Does this sound familiar? You're not alone. Here are some commonly asked questions followed by some suggestions for approaching math homework with your child.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why does my child's math look different?

Today's math is based on understanding math skills rather than memorizing math facts, we refer to this as developing number sense. The best way to define number sense is "understanding the relationships between numbers". In this day and age, students are required to have a greater understanding of math or number sense so they are prepared to solve the real-life problems which they encounter.



How can I help with Math homework?

Although tempting- do not take over and complete your child's homework. It is more important to ask your child questions and encourage him/her to solve the problem. In fact the best thing you can do is ask questions. Then listen to what your child says. Often, simply explaining something out loud can help your child figure out the problem. Encourage your child to show all work, complete with written descriptions of all thinking processes. This record will give your child something to look back on, either to review or to fix a mistake, and can also help the teacher understand how the problem was solved.

Help your child make connections with math by showing them how you use it in everyday in life!

Math Riddles

- 1) Why did the coach go to the bank?
- 2) Why didn't the quarter roll down the hill with the nickel?
- 3) Why was the math book sad?
- 4) Why didn't the two 4's want any dinner?
- 5) What kind of meals do math teachers eat?

5) Square Meals!

4) They already 8!

- 3) Because it had too many problems!
 - 2) Because it had more cents!
 - 1) To get his quarter back!
 - Math Riddle Answers:

MATH WEB LINKS FOR PARENTS:

Check out Khan Academy – This is an excellent website with lots of videos explaining mathematical concepts. https://www.khanacademy.org/

Positive Climates for Learning

Intermediate Volleyball Season

This season, we witnessed the best volleyball and Panther spirit ever seen. On Monday, November 30th and Tuesday, December 1st both intermediate boys' and girls' teams came first in their area qualifier to move on to the finals on Wednesday and Thursday. Then, in the final tournaments, both of them went **undefeated** until the final game. In the final games, they persevered, were focused and presented more Panther spirit than ever. Unfortunately, both teams went to a 3rd and final deciding game and experienced heart-breaking losses by narrow margins. Both of these Panther teams demonstrated elegance and class in victory and defeat and their coaches are more than proud to have been a part of it. Our volleyball teams have proven that the Pierre Berton Panthers bring a whole new meaning to positive competition in sport and their drive and will to do great things will be remembered at Pierre Berton for a long time to come.

Junior co-ed Volleyball began in December as well. The Panthers will have a Junior Co-Ed team as well as a Junior co-ed Practice Squad for future teams. We can't wait to watch their progress!



Go Panthers Go!

We are Truly Heroes!

Thank you to all of the families who donated food and toys to the 2015 Holiday Heroes Campaign. Your generosity helped PBPS collect over 25 boxes of food and 15 boxes of toys! As our touchstone says,

"We contribute to our community without need for reward or recognition." We exemplified this virtue as we helped so many families in York Region to have a wonderful holiday season. Way to go!



Panthers' Cheer

Deep in the school, we're kind and humble. You can hear the Panthers rumble! Ooo Ah, Oo Ah! Ooo Ah, Oo Ah!

Deep in the school, we face our fears. Watch us as we persevere! Ooo Ah, Oo Ah! Ooo Ah, Oo Ah!

Deep in the school, we're strong and proud. Come on Panthers, let's get loud! Ooo Ah, Oo Ah! Ooo Ah, Oo Ah!

Earn Your Feet Fridays!









Remember to walk to school on Friday, January 29th, 2016.

With the mild November and December weather, students have done an outstanding job contributing to a healthy lifestyle by walking to school, or walking 5 laps around the schoolyard at recess!

Let's continue to encourage our kids to

bundle up and walk to school as the weather gets colder. Earn a special foot charm for your keychain each time you participate!

Positive Climates for Learning

Healthy Schools Recipe of the Month PUMPKIN BREAKFAST COOKIES

PREP TIME: 10 mins
COOK TIME: 15 mins

As the hustle and bustle of the holidays winds down, we begin to think about all the rich foods and scrumptious desserts we may have indulged in over the holidays. We start to think about recharging our minds and bodies and an easy way to do this is to create healthy alternatives for our meals and snacks. Getting the morning routines going again after a long break may be a challenge so here's a healthy breakfast alternative for those mornings when everyone is a little sluggish to get out the door. These pumpkin flavored healthy cookies make a great grab-and-go breakfast with hearty wholegrain oats, cranberries and pumpkin seeds.

Yield: 12 cookies

INGREDIENTS

¼ cup coconut oil, melted

¼ cup honey

1 cup rolled oats

1 cup quick cooking oats

⅔ cup dried cranberries

3⁄₃ cup pumpkin seeds

¼ cup ground flax

1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice

½ teaspoon salt

½ cup pumpkin puree

2 eggs, beaten

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 325 F. Line a baking sheet.

In a small bowl warm coconut oil and honey (either microwave, inside preheating oven or on the stove top).

In a large bowl combine both kinds of oats, cranberries, pumpkin seeds, ground flax, pumpkin pie spice and salt. Add pumpkin puree, eggs and warmed coconut oil and honey. Stir until fully combined.

Drop about ¼ cup sized scoops of the mixture onto a cookie sheet and flatten (cookies won't spread while baking). Bake for about 15-20 minutes until edges are lightly browned.

Let cookies cool on baking sheet before moving to an airtight storage container.

(http://leelalicious.com/pumpkin-breakfast-cookies/)

Healthy Schools

Exercise of the Month - Winter Wellness

Chilly, snowy days are calling your kids outdoors! Bundle up and make winter activities a wonderful workout! There's nothing better than gliding through the cool air on a sled. And, working your way up the hill again builds muscle and burns calories. Skiing and skating target a variety of muscle groups and are a great way to have fun with the family. Remember to stay hydrated and snack often on nutritious fruits, veggies and grains!

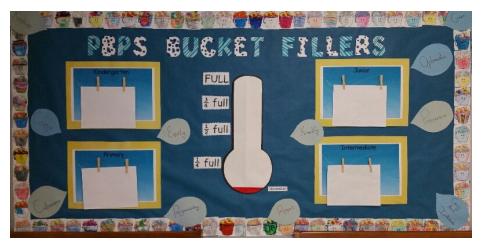


Positive Climates for Learning

Our Berton Bucket Filling

Every month at our TRIBES assembly, we celebrate the good deeds and decisions that we have made by noting them on a slip and adding them to our school bucket. In class or at a school level, students have been actively noticing when peers are kind, helpful or caring towards each other. Our goal is to fill the large bucket at the front of the school. Each month we empty our classroom buckets into the large one at our school assembly. Students who have demonstrated a special attribute each month are also acknowledged at our monthly assemblies and their photos are posted on our Bucket Filling bulletin board shown below. Congratulations Pierre Berton for ensuring that we all keep each other's buckets filled!







Book Fair a Huge Success!

Our Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who came out to buy books and support our growing library here at Pierre Berton. We raised \$2500 for the Learning Commons and look forward to filling the library with some new and exciting reading material. We hope you enjoy your new purchases and that you had an opportunity to explore some great books over the winter Break!



Best Buddies are Back!



We are excited to continue our Best Buddies program this month. Students in the program are paired up with a buddy to develop friendships and enjoy time together doing a variety of fun activities. The Best Buddies program promotes peership, leadership and inclusion in our school and leads to lasting friendships! We can't wait to get started!

January's Eco-Theme: Good On One Side (GOOS) Paper

Do you have a "GOOS" paper box in your home?

A GOOS box will help encourage all of us to *Reuse* paper first, before recycling.

Reusing paper will contribute significantly to reducing the amount of paper used at home and at school.

Thank you for helping to make a difference!

