



PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

# Pierre Berton Public School

[Pierre Berton Public School](#)

470 Via Campanile, Vaughan, ON

905-303-4540

## Important Dates:

Jan. 11	Back to School
Jan. 14	School Council Meeting @ 7pm Virtual
Jan. 15	PA Day Kindergarten Registration 
Jan. 22	Gr. 6 VIP AM Gr. 8 VIP PM
Jan. 28	Sports Fan Day Bell Let's Talk Day

## Inside This Issue:

Admin. Message	1
School Information	2
Important Information	3
School Information	4
Important Information	5 & 6

### Principal

Cathy Martino

### Vice-Principal

Gisella Avsec

### Office Staff

Elham Albazi

Anna Gabrielli

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### Superintendent

Bill Cober

905-764-6830

### Trustee

Dr. Sinclair

## Administrators' Message

January, 2021

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Holiday Hero's campaign. Many children received new toys this holiday because of your donations.

We hope that your family had the chance to spend some quality time together and rest. I know many of us are happy to see the end of 2020 but even though it was a tough year and stressful one, there was some good. I've read that a good way to help lift your spirits is to write down all the good in your life, when I did that, I realized, I had a lot to be thankful for. Covid, has certainly helped me spend more time at home with my children and jobs around the house that have waited for years finally got completed.

We are all looking forward, to a much better 2021. The New Year is a time for hope, optimism, renewal, looking forward and setting goals. New Year's resolutions are a fantastic way to set some goals. Parents Magazine had some great suggestions on New Year's resolutions. I especially like this article on setting smart goals.

<https://www.parents.com/holiday/new-years/resolution/smart-new-years-resolutions-kids-can-make/>

We wish you a healthy and happy 2021 and look forward to continuing the learning journey with all students!

Cathy Martino-Porretta

Happy  
New Year  
2021



Writing the Pages of our Future!

# School Information



Kindergarten registration will commence on January 15th, 2020 for the 2021-2022 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca), or you can apply in person at your Child's home school if you live within boundary, if the school is open. Must call to book an appointment, 905-303-4540. Please bring these supporting documents (originals required) to register:

Proof of child's age (Birth Certificate/Passport) who turn four or five years old during 2020

Proof of your child's address - two 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

Kindergarten online registration will continue to be offered to families. This online Kindergarten registration process will be hosted in [Edsby](http://Edsby). It allows families to process, and complete most of the Kindergarten registration online. The online forms include the Elementary Registration Form, Kindergarten Parent Questionnaire, and the Ministry of Education Survey (EYE@K). Once families complete the online registration form, they will be prompted to visit the school to complete the verification process only.



## JANUARY ECO THEME- GOOD ON ONE SIDE - GOOS PAPER

This month our Pierre Berton Panthers would like to try to reduce our waste by making sure that all classes have GOOS paper bins in their learning space. A GOOS bin is a bin that holds paper that is still **good on one side**.

Having bins in each classroom and in our homes will help with reusing paper before recycling it. All classes are challenged to create a **GOOS bin** with their class (keeping physical distancing in mind) with a "catchy" and highly visible sign on the box.

We look forward to sharing pictures of them in our newsletter next month.



## Holiday Heroes

Thank you to everyone who helped support the 2020 Holiday Heroes Campaign. We collected a lot of toys and clothing which helped many children have a happy and festive holiday season. Since Holiday Heroes began in 2008, York Regional Police has raised more than \$1 million in monetary donations, new toys, new children's clothing and food. The generosity of the PBPS community is greatly appreciated and it is wonderful to know that so many families in need will benefit from the kindness of others during this holiday season.

# Important Information Region



Student Transportation Services of York Region  
320 Bloomington Road West  
Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1  
905-713-2535  
FAX: 905-713-2533  
Web site: [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)

## School Bus Cancellation Notice

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

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.

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	99.1 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](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YRDSB and YCDSB on twitter.



## 2020-2021 Inclement Weather Procedures during the Pandemic

The 2020-2021 school year, the following Inclement Weather Days Procedures for Elementary will come into effect. This year, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, our Inclement Weather Day Procedure has been adjusted based on direction from York Region Public Health.

**All elementary schools will be closed to students.**

Schools will remain open to all school staff only.

All student learning will be remote.

Teachers in elementary will provide asynchronous learning by posting/sharing age, grade, learning appropriate activities and/or assignments aligned with current student learning, while being available to students through the day as per their schedule.

Student attendance will be recorded centrally.

Child Care Centres may remain open at the discretion of the operator.

Bus services are cancelled due to inclement weather.

The school closures will be announced through the following: local media outlets, the Student Transportation Services website, School Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330- 3001, the Board's website and Twitter account and on the Board and school's voicemail recording. Parents please make sure that you have alternate childcare arrangements planned for inclement weather days when schools are closed to students.

# School Information

**Reminder to all parents, when students return to school, please remember to have the following items.**

1. **Extra Masks** - We have many students each day coming to the office to get masks for a variety of reasons (e.g., they have forgotten it at home, it is dirty, they lost it, etc.). It is very helpful if students come to school with 3 clean masks in their backpacks. This way they have an extra if they need a replacement throughout the day and they do not need to miss instructional time to deal with this.
2. **Fork/spoons** -Parents please remember to pack forks/spoons for your children's snacks/lunches. For safety reason we would like the students to stay in their classrooms instead of coming to the office.
3. **Water Bottles** - Parents please remember to give you're child a re-fillable water bottle



This month, we are focusing on Mental Health.

Mental Health is just as important as our physical health.

It is important to maintain positive mental health by engaging in some best practices both at school and at home.

For the month of January, students will be learning all about their mental health and strategies they can use to check their mental

health, identify mental health issues, such as anxiety, and tools they can use to improve their mental health.

Students will also be participating in Bell Let's Talk Day on Thursday, January 28, 2021. We encourage families to also participate at home by using the #BellLetsTalk. For more resources on how to support positive mental health please visit our board's mental health newsletter at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FWfecMMu7CaWFqtASIL\\_OrNAXaNg5\\_ht/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FWfecMMu7CaWFqtASIL_OrNAXaNg5_ht/view?usp=sharing)



Last month, we focused on Kindness and sharing Kindness with others as a school.

Students did a wonderful job of sharing kind messages with their peers through warm fuzzies and creating thank you Jam Boards for different staff members.

We encourage you to continue to focus on kindness at home by creating a Kindness family board where family members can post kind messages for each other to read.



# Important Information



## Grade I French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

### What is French Immersion?

In French Immersion, students receive instruction in French in a variety of subjects from a teacher who speaks French fluently,

The French Immersion program begins in Grade 1 and is designed for children whose first language is not French. In Grades 1, 2 and 3, all subjects are taught in French. Starting in Grade 4, time is shared equally between French and English instruction. The French Immersion program continues in high school

Secondary school students must earn at least 10 French Immersion credits to qualify for the French Immersion Certificate upon graduation.

### Important Considerations

For the first few months of Grade 1, the children do not acquire skills identical to those learned by children in an English program as the focus is on learning in French.

There may be certain lags in English Language Arts skills in the first few years of the program, but by the end of the elementary grades, successful French Immersion students perform as well as their peers in a regular English program.

Communication with parents/guardians is in English including, but not limited to, report cards, newsletters and parent-teacher interviews.

Reading to a child at home in a child's native language can strengthen literacy skills. Research studies confirm that children achieve greater academic success when parents read frequently (daily) to them.

There is only one entry point into French immersion in YRDSB; grade 1 Information Sessions. This year our Information session for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion (FI) program will take place virtually on **January 14, 2021**. A link will be shared with you via email where you will be able to view a pre-recorded information session which includes commonly asked questions and answers.

Registration FI registration will begin on January 15, 2021. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2021, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, can email or call their home school office and indicate their intention to enroll. The home school will notify the French Immersion school, and the French Immersion school will contact you by phone or email to collect any necessary information. You are asked to register by **February 5, 2021**. Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Late Registrations are those submitted after February 5, 2021. Late registrations will be treated on a first- come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

### Accommodation Plan

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 enroll. 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. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. 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](http://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

## Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter January 2021

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel  
Returning to Virtual Learning after the Winter Break



As a result of a provincially mandated lockdown due to rising COVID -19 cases across the province, we end the Winter Break with a return to virtual learning. Although this will present a challenge for some and disappointment for others, our focus will be on how to keep one another physically healthy and maintain social connections and mental health while distance learning.

This month's edition of our Mental Health newsletter will focus on some suggestions of ways to stay socially connected during this continued time of physical distancing.

Each one of us is unique and may require different strategies to support our mental health. One size does not fit all.

The following are some suggestions to help you think about what may help to support your own mental health and the mental health of your children. Distance learning from home can have positive or negative impacts. One well-supported recommendation is to create a sense of routine and structure in the day (as much as possible). For example, try to make the morning routine the same each day, with breaks built in at predictable times. Other suggestions include:

- Building in positive goals to incorporate positive pursuits such as learning something new (e.g. cooking, puzzles), showing gratitude (e.g. reach out to tell someone you care about them), and exercising (e.g. at home or going for a walk).
- [Dr. Shimi Kang](#), a mental health expert and clinical associate professor at the University of British Columbia, suggests that individuals determine 2-3 personal coping strategies that can act as their own "go to" tools to cope with stress. Writing this down and making note can make using them intentional. In addition, Dr. Kang reminds us that we should try to limit our use of technology where we can. Over dependence on technology/ screens can affect our mental health.
- Lastly, identify someone you can purposely check in with on a regular basis, not just during times of stress, but as a measure to maintain social connection. This practice can help maintain positive mental health.

[School Mental Health Ontario](#) has created a variety of resources for educators, parents and families, and students regarding supporting student mental health during this time.

Check out some more tips from School Mental Health Ontario on building [personal resiliency](#).

### [Mental Health COVID-19 Page](#)

COVID-19 has presented unprecedented issues and concerns for our community, our country and the world. As we focus on keeping ourselves healthy and containing the spread of COVID-19, we must also keep ourselves mentally well. The Mental Health COVID-19 page is dedicated to supporting student mental health during this pandemic. Resources for students, parents/guardians as well as community resources are listed. In addition, there are various links to YRDSB mental health supports as well as community supports available during the school closure. Please consider taking some time to familiarize yourself with these supports.

Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the [Twitter account @YRDSB](#)

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