

PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

# Pierre Berton Public School

[Pierre Berton Public School](#)

470 Via Campanile, Vaughan, ON

905-303-4540

June 2021

## Important Dates:

June 20	Father's Day
June 21	Grade 8 Graduation
June 24	Report cards go home
June 29	Last day of School

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### Principal

Cathy Martino-Porretta

### Vice-Principal

Gisella Avsec

### Office Staff

Elham Albazi

Anna Gabrielli

Emilia Fabiano

### Superintendent

Bill Cober

905-764-6830

### Trustee

Dr. Sinclair

## Administrators' Message

What a year! I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Pierre Berton community. Pierre Berton is truly a special place. Sometimes when parents and students only know one school they don't realize how lucky they are. All of the good things they are used to, are taken for granted.

Our staff work hard for our students in the classroom and in all the extra things they do for your children. I am impressed by how involved and the high standards you set for your children. It is truly beautiful how well school and families work together to support our children and make them the best they can be. It has not been more evident than in this year the care and love you have for your children.

We hope that everyone will continue the learning over the summer and take a much needed break from technology. Hopefully life will return to something resembling a more normal summer, with camp, outdoor activities and sports.

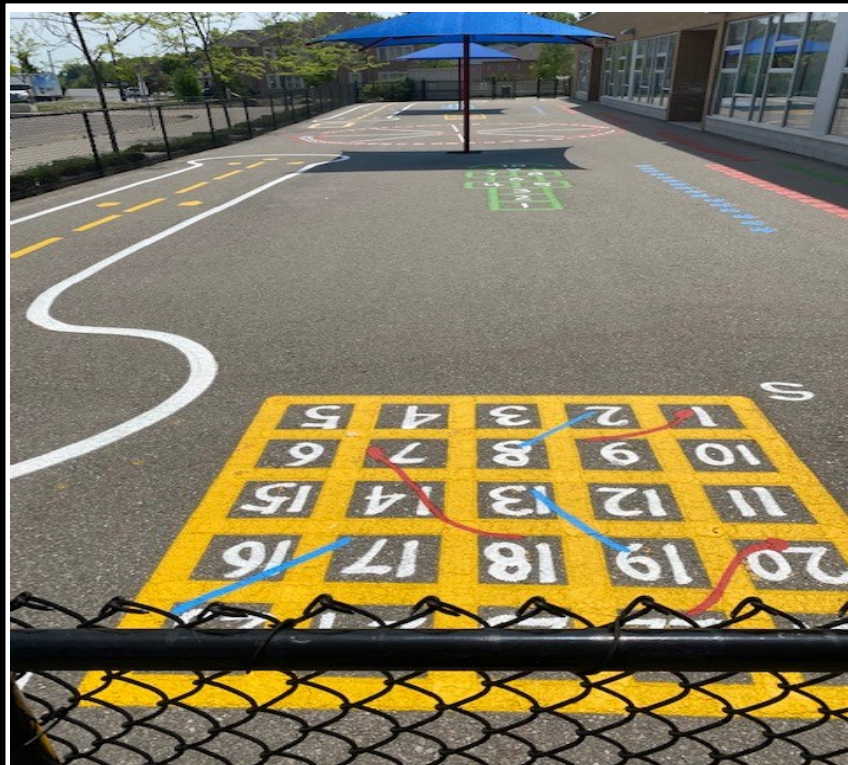
To those of you not returning next year, we wish you all the best in your new school. A special congratulations to our Grade 8 students. It may not have been the year you wanted but I hope that you can find some fond memories to remember. Finally we would like to wish everyone a happy and safe summer.

**Cathy Martino-Porretta**



Writing the Pages of our Future!

# School Information



## Tarmac Painting

Families, if you have walked by the school and its grounds, you may have noticed the tarmac refresh from afar.

This spring, we are fortunate to have had our tarmac repainted for our students. The array of colourful images displayed are vibrant and ready to be utilized by our Panthers.

Thank you to School Council for supporting this project.

We are all looking forward to playing games and activities outside with our students.



As we approach the end of the school year, it is a good time to remind ourselves to keep the 4R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover) in mind when cleaning up and to be sure to "PUT EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE. If waste is not properly sorted and placed in the appropriate containers, it may result in an entire bag of recycling being disposed as of garbage.

At Pierre Berton P.S., we remind our students of this during our virtual announcements, at virtual assemblies, and through our eco-friendly practices in place online and at home. It helps if all recycling and garbage bins are easily accessible at home, visible and properly placed (side by side). We continue to work toward using signage in school to ensure that our learners are reminded of this. During the months ahead, we encourage all to consistently use reusable containers and reusable water bottles to minimize the garbage we produce.

In respect of this, our Eco team has been busy working on our Eco Schools Report to showcase and celebrate our successes for the year. We are looking forward to sharing our school rating and results with the community once we receive our results later in June. Thank you to all our students, staff and community who continue to honour and respect Eco Friendly practices.

**Together we continue to work toward keeping our planet Clean!**



As we enter the final month of the school year, we want to celebrate the amazing achievements our students have made despite the pandemic. Our students have been resilient and done a wonderful job of demonstrating adaptability and flexibility in response to the many changes. Great job Partners!

We will be focusing on the theme of Togetherness for the month of June! Students will continue to build upon skills they have already learned this year during our months on friendship, inclusion and diversity. Students will continue to participate in team building activities as well as examining diversity questions and ensuring that their learning environments are inclusive for all.

In addition, students will continue to develop mental health strategies by learning about how their bodies work together in terms of physical and mental health. Students will continue to learn the importance of ensuring they are taking time to work out both parts of their health through physical exercise and mindfulness exercises.

We encourage families to check out [School Mental Health Ontario](#) for resources and support in building healthy mental health. Together we can support each other!



# School Information



## 2021 Summer Learning Programs Available

During the month of July, YRDSB continues to offer credit and non-credit summer school program opportunities for elementary, secondary and adult students.

Traditional in-class face-to-face summer programs will move to a remote learning delivery model.

Registration is now open for the following programs:

### Elementary Credit and Non-Credit Programs:

Elementary Summer School (Grades 6 - 8 non credit reinforcement)  
Grade 8 Reach Ahead

### Secondary Credit Programs:

Online-Learning  
Remote Learning

### Adult Learning Programs:

Adult Literacy and Basic Skills  
English as a Second Language  
Citizenship Classes

For more information about summer learning programs and registration please visit [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca) and follow us on Twitter @YRDSB.

## Are You Moving?

Please let us know if you are planning to move. This information helps us immensely when planning for next year. Please notify the school office, (905) 303-4540. Send a note in with your child as soon as possible, or email to: [pierre.berton.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:pierre.berton.ps@yrdsb.ca)



## Mental Health COVID-19

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 link below 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 the [Mental Health and Community Supports During COVID](#). Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter account @YRDSB

## 211 Ontario

Do you need help finding food, housing, financial assistance, mental health support, employment support, support for seniors, winter clothing and/or shelter? For information and referral to government, health, community and social services, call 2-1-1, search 211Central.ca, text 21166, live-chat at 211Ontario.ca/chat or email [gethelp@211Ontario.ca](mailto:gethelp@211Ontario.ca). 211 is free, confidential and available 24/7 in 150+ languages to connect you to local community supports.



# School Information

## Junior/Senior Kindergarten Registration for September 2021

Children born in 2017 are eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten in September, 2021.

Children born in 2016, and not currently attending public school, are eligible for Senior Kindergarten in September.

### **Documents required for registration include:**

- Proof of child's age (birth certificate/passport)
- Proof of residency (for child and parent/guardian)
- Citizenship and immigration status (where applicable)
- Direction of school support form



If you require further details, please telephone the school or visit board website: [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca)

If you know families in your neighborhood, please remind them to come in to register to ensure a spot for September.

Pierre Berton office will be closed during the summer break but will re-open the week of August 30th.

**Thank you to our School Assistants who come in every lunch hour to supervise students.**

**They do a great job and we really appreciate their commitment to our school! If you would like to be a School Assistant next school year,**

**Please send an email at:**

[pierre.berton.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:pierre.berton.ps@yrdsb.ca)



### **Grade 8 Virtual Graduation**

Due to the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be unable to hold an in-person graduation ceremony. We will be hosting a virtual graduation ceremony for our Grade 8 students on **Monday, June 21st**.

While we may have to celebrate differently, we are incredibly proud of our graduates and are committed to making this occasion a special one for grade 8 students and their families and friends.

Our virtual graduation will be a celebration of the hard work, dedication and achievements of our graduates.

We extend our very best wishes for success to our students as they embark on the next phase of their educational journey at high school and in the community.

We look forward to celebrating with students and their families on that day.

# School Information



## YRDSB Family Surveys

Dear Families,

The York Region District School Board is conducting two surveys to collect feedback from students and families across the system to understand their experiences at school. Surveys are available online from May 26, 2021 - June 18, 2021. There is one survey for students and one for families.

**Survey for Students** All students in Grades 7 to 12 are invited to participate in this online survey to be completed at their convenience.

**The survey is voluntary and will take about 15-20 minutes to complete.**

**The survey is anonymous and individual responses will be kept in strict accordance with all relevant legislation.**

**Individuals will not be identified in any reports resulting from this survey.**

**Students may skip questions they do not wish to answer.**

**Students in Grade 7-12 will receive an invitation to their GAPPS account to complete the survey.**

**Survey for Families** All parents and guardians of students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 are invited to participate in the survey for families.

**The survey is voluntary and will take about 15-20 minutes to complete.**

**The survey is anonymous and individual responses will be kept in strict accordance with all relevant legislation.**

**Individuals will not be identified in any reports or presentations resulting from this survey.**

**Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are invited to complete the family survey with their parents/guardians.**

Parents and guardians can access the English survey [here](#).

Translated versions of the survey are available below.

[Arabic](#)

[Chinese \(simplified\)](#)

[Chinese \(traditional\)](#)

[Farsi](#)

[Gujarati](#)

[Hebrew](#)

[Korean](#)

[Punjabi](#)

[Russian](#)

[Tamil](#)

[Turkish](#)

[Urdu](#)

[Vietnamese](#)

As our first partners in education, we value parent/guardian input and encourage parents/guardians to complete the survey. The information provided will be anonymous, considered confidential and kept in strict accordance with all relevant legislation. Please contact [research.services@yrdsb.ca](mailto:research.services@yrdsb.ca) if you have any questions or visit the [Board website](#) to learn more.

# School Information



June 2021 – Trustee Greetings for School Newsletters

## Message from Our Trustee

Dear families,

It is hard to sum up this past school year; it truly has been a year like no other. Many of our students have been transitioning between virtual and in-person learning. Others have spent the full year learning virtually as part of our Elementary and Secondary Virtual Schools. Whatever option you have chosen, this year has been challenging and has asked a lot of all of us - students, families, staff members and community partners. We have had to be flexible and adaptable in how we learn, teach and work. We have had to be diligent in learning new routines and adhering to public health measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. And, we have had to pay more attention than ever to supporting mental health and well-being during this challenging time.

This pandemic has affected different families in different ways, and I want to thank you for your patience, support and resiliency throughout this challenging year. I also want to take this opportunity to remind you that resources are available on the Board website, including [community resources](#), [mental health supports](#), [tips](#) and [resources](#) to support online learning, and [tips for speaking with your child about COVID-19](#). These resources will continue to be available throughout the summer.

Despite the challenges this year, we have seen incredible examples of student learning and achievement. I am incredibly proud of the determination, resilience, creativity and perseverance demonstrated by our students. I also want to wish a very special congratulations to the graduating class of 2021. This is an important milestone and while we are all disappointed that we are unable to celebrate in person as we would have hoped, we look forward to honouring our graduates virtually. Schools are working hard to make their virtual graduation celebrations a very special occasion. We are very proud of our graduates and wish you all the very best in the next chapter of your journey.

I also want to acknowledge the hard work of our educators and staff members who have maintained a focus on supporting students while navigating the challenges of the past year. Our staff members have shown a true commitment to their own learning in the service of our students, and have been participating in webinars, online training modules and other **professional learning opportunities** throughout the school year to enhance their own practices.

Earlier this spring, we launched the [Board's Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#), with the goal to "achieve racial equity in YRDSB schools for Black students and staff." The strategy was co-developed by York Region Black community leaders, YRDSB staff and in consultation with students. Thank you to everyone who supported this work and participated in the launch. We look forward to continuing this essential work.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the schools and school staff who took the time to nominate students for the Affirming Black Joy award.

The Board is also preparing for the 2022 Municipal Election by undertaking a **review of school board trustee electoral areas**. The boundaries of the areas the trustees represent change over time due to population growth and changes in student numbers. We are committed to ensuring that, as the region's population changes, electoral areas continue to reflect the communities we serve. Public input is important to the Board of Trustees during the electoral area review. Throughout the process there will

# School Information



be a number of ways for you to learn more about the review and to provide input. Information about the [Trustee Determination and Distribution](#) is available on the Board website.

As was communicated to families in May, we are looking ahead to the 2021-2022 school year. Our goal is to create a learning model within the provincial funding allocation that meets public health requirements and is centred on the safety and well-being of our students and staff members. To help meet this goal, we are planning to implement a hybrid model of learning for elementary and secondary schools, a model several other school boards have been using during this current school year. Through this model, families will continue to have the ability to opt for in-person or remote learning, and placement for all students will be in their home school. I know there are many questions about what this will look like and what to expect in September. The Board continues to provide as much information as possible and has shared some [frequently asked questions on the Board website](#) about the model change for 2021-2022, this page will continue to be updated. As planning continues and information becomes available, we will provide regular updates to families. Please know that health and safety of our students, staff and families remains our top priority. You can also continue to find information on the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca) and on Twitter [@YRDSB](https://twitter.com/YRDSB).

As we go into the summer months, I want to thank you once again for your support over the past year, and to wish you all a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer.

As the school year comes to a close, I want to wish you and your families a safe, healthy and happy summer. I look forward to a time when we can welcome your children back into our schools again. We know that families have questions about what the return to school will look like. We will continue to share information with you as it becomes available. In the meantime, we encourage you to continue following public health guidelines and to stay connected.

# School Information



## Visit our new website

YRDSB has refreshed its Board website to make it easier for families to find the important information they are looking for at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

The new website has been designed to be mobile friendly, translatable, accessible, searchable, easy to navigate and to better reflect York Region District School Board and our community. This includes:

- Built-in translation tool
- Enhanced search capabilities
- Built-in accessibility features to meet accessibility legislation
- Revised navigation based on user testing, website analytics and research

Quick access to six of our most accessed pages, including school calendars and school transportation information.

The new website also includes:

A [Family Resources](#) that provides quick access to online tools like Edsby, Google Classroom and School Cash Online, as well as links to information about translation tools, IT support for families and more. Use the “need help” button to access tips and support in using these tools.

Updated [Online Student Tools](#) pages provide quick access to students to online learning platforms and resources to help with homework. Use the “need help” button to access tips and support in using these tools.

An enhanced [newsroom](#) with access to the latest news, events and videos so you can find out what’s happening around our Board.

Easy access to information about [supports for students](#), [elementary school](#) and [secondary school](#) programs, [adult learning opportunities](#) and more.

Information about COVID-19 and schools, including update information, screening tools and frequently asked questions can still be found at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening).

We hope that the website makes it easier for families to find and access the information you are looking for. When you visit the new website, please take the time to share your feedback, so we can continue to ensure our website meets the needs of the community we serve



# Important Information



Government  
of Canada



## **SANKOFA** **VIRTUAL SATURDAY MORNINGS** **STORYTELLING & POETRY PROGRAM** **with Drumming**

Rooted in African & Caribbean Art

**Free...For Black Students Grades 5-7**

**Every saturday till June 19th**

"Until the lions have their own historians, the  
history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter."



[www.yorkregionaacc.ca](http://www.yorkregionaacc.ca)

gistration email

[Sankofa7@yorkregionaacc.ca](mailto:Sankofa7@yorkregionaacc.ca)

647 807-6306

# Important Information



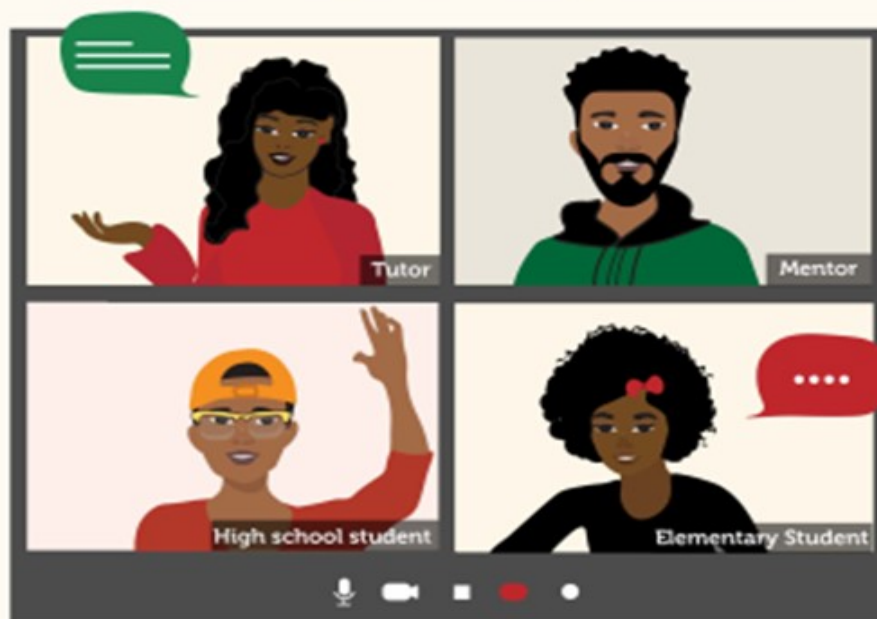
## THE SANKOFA MENTORING PROGRAM

FOR BLACK STUDENTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 11-18

*"Bridging the Past with the Present...Navigating the Present into the Future"*

- MENTORSHIP • LEADERSHIP • CULTURAL EXPERIENCE • FIELD TRIPS
- LIFE SKILLS • RETREATS • SELF AWARENESS • CAREER EXPLORATION
- ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The Sankofa Mentoring Program is rooted in an African Rites of Passage framework that highlights the principles of Unity, Self Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, Faith and Self-Respect.



### WHEN WE MEET:

Now Open for new registration (space limited)  
Virtual program/workshop (Due to covid-19)

For more information please contact  
Program Manager @  
[pgmcrd@yorkregionaacc.ca](mailto:pgmcrd@yorkregionaacc.ca) or call  
647-807-2016  
[www.yorkregionaacc.ca](http://www.yorkregionaacc.ca)



# Important Information



## HERE TO HELP LINE



**905-503-9561**



**Monday - Thursday  
2:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**STARTING  
IN APRIL**



*For children and youth (0-18 yrs)  
and their parents, caregivers or  
adult supporters.*

**Call us if you have concerns that could  
benefit from quick access to phone  
counselling.**

**Topics include (but are not limited to):**

- **Anxiety, stress and depression**
- **Family relationship issues**
- **Managing stress and anxiety related  
to COVID-19**
- **Parenting resources and concerns**

Visit [www.yorkhills.ca](http://www.yorkhills.ca) for more information.