



PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

Pierre Berton Public School

[Pierre Berton Public School](#)

470 Via Campanile, Vaughan, ON

905-303-4540

Important Dates:

March 3rd	Sara Westbrook presentation @ 9:00am (For Students)
March 14th	Daylight Saving time Starts
March 19th	Feb/March Assembly @ 11:30am
March 26th	YRDSB EARTH HOUR
March 27th	International EARTH HOUR @ 8:30pm
March 31st	Sara Westbrook presentation @ 7:00 pm (For Parents)

Inside This Issue:

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

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

March 2021

I find it hard to believe that it has almost been a year since we have started the roller coaster ride called Covid 19. It has not been an easy year for many having to social distance from family and friends, as well as dealing with all the changes. I am proud of our families, students and staff at how they showed resilience and the ability to pivot with little notice. Both of these are great skills that serve us well in our lives and will help our children in adulthood. There have been moments of sadness, but being able to focus on the positive as there are many who are in far worse situations than ourselves can go a long way to keeping perspective on how fortunate we truly are. I am encouraged that we are starting to return to some sense of normal and that some of our families that work on the front line have received vaccinations. It is great to be back in school and our children seem happy.

Pink Shirt Day was on Wednesday February 24th. Pink Shirt Day is a globally recognized day in support of anti-bullying, upstanding behaviour and simple acts of kindness. On **Pink Shirt Day** (and everyday) we are encouraged to practice kindness and wear pink to show that we do not tolerate bullying. This year's theme was "Lift each other up"; a simple but powerful message encouraging us to look beyond our differences and celebrate the things that make us unique. When we lift each other up, we see past the things that separate us and see instead the things that unite us as people. It is important to help our children see how lucky they are and that even small things that they can do can mean a lot. We often talk about a positive attitude, and that it can help us have a better day.

Normally, I would wish you a happy March Break but that has been delayed to April, so I will wish you a happy month and save my ideas for the next newsletter. Happy March!

Cathy Martino-Porretta



Writing the Pages of our Future!

School Information



REPORT IT

Caring and Safe Schools

Our schools should be safe, welcoming and inclusive places for everyone. It is important that students know what to do if they witness or experience inappropriate behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination.

- There may be situations when you can safely step in and intervene and help.
- Talk to an adult at school, family member or other trusted adult.
- Report the event without the person involved knowing using our online reporting tool, **Report It**.

Report It lets you share information about inappropriate student behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination.

You can use the online form to report:

- Bullying, drugs, cheating, vandalism, harassment, violence or any other inappropriate behaviour
- Incidents of discrimination or hate, including anti-Indigenous racism, ableism, anti-Asian racism, anti-Black racism, antisemitism, classism, homophobia, Islamophobia, sexism, transphobia or other forms of hate

You can report events that happen at school, at school-related events, online or off school property if it negatively affects a student or the school climate. You can also choose to make a report anonymously.

Complete reports are shared with the school to investigate and respond.

Acts of discrimination, hate and bullying are never acceptable. Using the **Report It** tool is a way of standing up for each other and for ourselves.

You can find **Report It** on the homepage of the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca and on the homepage of every school website, or watch this [short video](#) to learn more.



MARCH ECO THEME

In March we remind our students to remember to shut off monitors and computers when they are not in use. In buildings, our school and homes we can maximize the overall energy consumption by encouraging staff and students to power off at the end of the day.

Thank you for your continued support to protect our planet.



Important! In 2021, Earth Hour will take place on 28 March. YRDSB EARTH HOUR will take place on March 26th

P.B.P.S. Yearbook Cover Contest

Design the cover for the School Yearbook. See the details below.

Criteria:

Open to all grades (Face to Face and EVS Pierre Berton P.S. Students)

Paper: size 8 1/2 by 11", orientation: portrait

Must be hand drawn

Write your name on the back in pencil

Include: the school's name, year (2020-2021)

The cover must represent our school's values.



Deadline: No applications will be accepted after **Monday, March 22, 2021** (feel free to submit it sooner). Please hand it in to Ms. Cottes (Room 123) or Ms. Hardy (Library). EVS students please send your covers to anna.gabrielli@yrdsb.ca

The Yearbook Committee will determine the top 12 entries. A school-wide vote will take place in April for the winning cover.

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

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 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
3. **Socks** - Parents please remember to give your child extra socks
3. **Snowpants** - Parents please remember to give you're child snow pants
3. **Gloves/Mittens** - Parents please remember to give you're child gloves/mittens



LUNCH ASSISTANTS

If you are available to work for one hour each day, please contact our office at 905-303-4540

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



During the month of March, we will be focusing on healthy eating and good daily eating habits. Our students will be learning about nutrition and the importance of eating a balanced meal both for our bodies and minds. Classes will engage in the month's Agent of Change challenge focused on healthy eating. Eating right can have such a huge impact on our mental health and we encourage families to think about meal planning together to ensure we are eating balanced meals. Students are also encouraged to help pack their lunches each night with a family member and check to make sure they are packing a good balance of healthy snacks to eat each day.

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. 211 is free, confidential and available 24/7 in 150+ languages to connect you to local community supports.

Important Information



IGNITE TECHNOLOGY GRANT

For students with SEA Technology

The Ignite Technology Grant is designed to create **leadership opportunities**, hone **communication skills**, and increase **self-esteem** for students with SEA equipment within their school community.

The goal is to bring **awareness** to the effective and successful use of technology for modern learning.

IGNITE your school and community now!
Go to www.yrdsb.ca/ignite now to learn how!

Important Information

SARA WESTBROOK



A child's emotional state affects their performance at school, their relationships and their physical and mental well-being. Emotions can be hard to identify, to move through and hardest of all...to talk about.

NURTURING YOUR CHILD'S EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

DATE: Wednesday, March 31 TIME: 7 pm - 8 pm

In this virtual presentation, parents and guardians will learn
3 Strategies to help develop:

Resilience and Emotional Well-Being in Children

Using the **3 Strategies** with your child will help them:

- Self-regulate
- Decrease anxiety and stress
- Have a closer relationship with others
- Communicate with empathy, respect & kindness
- Create healthier mental and physical well-being

"In a society that is increasingly difficult to be a child, Sara Westbrook makes a difference to parents who feel a growing need to gain helpful strategies to support their children emotionally."

VINCE MONACO – PRINCIPAL – HCDSB

As seen and heard on

