



PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

Pierre Berton Public School

[Pierre Berton Public School](#)

470 Via Campanile, Vaughan, ON

905-303-4540

Important Dates:

May 9th	Mother's Day
May 20th	Sara Westbrook Intermediate presentation 1:15 pm
May 20th	School Council @ 7pm
May 24th	Victoria Day
May 28th	Crazy Sock Day
May 31st	PA DAY/no 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

May 2021

Spring has finally sprung! It is nice to feel the warmer temperatures and nice sunny days. Spring to me always brings a sense of renewal. The flowers and trees start to bloom, grass begins to get green again, you start to see animals with their young and critters out and about.

I will admit to having a sense of déjà vu pivoting to virtual learning a year after we pivoted for the first time. It has been a year of learning and trying to remain positive and optimistic in a world of unanticipated continual change. I've learned we all need to find ways to take care of our mental health. People do this in many different ways. For many a walk in nature has helped them achieve better mental health. A walk is also a wonderful opportunity to talk to kids about the environment and so many other connections. Our science curriculum from Grade 1 to 8 includes a topic called Understanding Life Systems. Find the full expectations for Science at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/scientec.html> Topics range from **Grade 1, Needs and Characteristics of Living things**, **Grade 2, Growth and Changes in Animals**, **Grade 3, Growth and Changes in Plants**, **Grade 4, Habitats and Communities**, **Grade 6 Biodiversity**, and **Grade 7 Interactions in the Environment**.

All of these topics are great conversations on walks while noticing nature. Cheerios is offering free sunflower seeds so that you can grow your own plants and help the bees.

<https://www.cheerios.ca/bringbackthebees/>

If you need some mental health resources please check out the board supports at <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/about-us/covid-19/covid-19-mental-health-resources-students-and-families>, or reach out to us and we will be happy to help you.

I hope everyone gets out, enjoys the fresh air and the great outdoors, now that we finally have some good weather.

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.

Attendance

Please continue to ensure your child(ren) log on to their google classrooms on time. We have teachers taking attendance everyday at both 8:30am & 1:10 pm. We continue to take attendance each morning and afternoon.

Attendance will be reflected on your child's term two report card. If your child(ren) will be away, please let us know through our online process via [Edsby](#) or Inform.

In accordance with the stay at home order, our office staff will be working remotely but will be in the school as needed.

Please email us at pierre.berton.ps@yrdsb.ca or leave a voice message and we will get back to you in a timely manner. The phone lines are being checked several times a day by our secretaries.



Mrs. Vaze came by earlier this month and presented her book,

"The Allergens are Rejected",

for the PBPS library.

In this book, the Allergens learn about food allergies.



School Information

During the month of May, we will be focusing on the theme of diversity! Our students will be learning all about diversity and the importance of creating diverse learning communities that welcome everyone. As our students work towards becoming global citizens, it is very important that they learn and understand the importance of diversity within our school community and the larger global community beyond Pierre Berton.

Classes will engage in the month's Agent of Change challenge focused on Diversity. Each class will focus on questions such as who is telling the story and who benefits from the story, whose voice is heard and how, and who is not represented. We encourage families to think about different ways they can promote diversity learning at home.



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



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

School Information

Class Placement Information

As the final term continues, we will be making decisions later this spring regarding class placements for next year. When organizing classes, we take into account many important factors to provide an optimum learning environment. These include class size, student performance levels, gender and special needs.

The following criteria will be used to determine student placement:

Academic Ability: To ensure that all classes contain a balance of students with varying abilities

Learning Styles: To ensure that specific student needs (learning styles, organizational skills, work habits and behaviour) are addressed.

Special Education Needs: To ensure that placement maximizes support and opportunities for success.

Maintaining Peer Groupings: Students, where possible, will be placed to maintain positive peer support.

Should you have information that we are currently unaware of, and that you believe is relevant to your child's placement next year, please email this to pierre.berton.ps@yrdsb.ca by Friday May 7th, 2021.

Please only list one child per email and include their name and grade at the top. Requests after this date may not be accepted. **We will not accept specific requests for a staff member.**

We will consider all information but provide no guarantees as class placement is a very complex process.

All final decisions regarding student placements remain the responsibility of the principal, in collaboration with school staff. Student class placement may also change in late September due to Ministry of Education requirements related to Primary Class Size reduction.

2020-2021 Yearbook is on sale now!

We are excited to announce that the 2020-2021 yearbook is now on sale! This will be the most unique yearbook yet! Purchasing a yearbook for your child is a great way for them to hold onto the memories of their friends and all the exciting things that happened this year. While this year was different, the yearbook is a way to celebrate our Panther spirit and all the ways we have made this year amazing! We have added some new things and brought back some of the great parts of yearbooks from the past.

This year's yearbook will include:

- * Full colour pages
- * Individual and Class Pictures
- * Candid classroom pictures
- * Special Events
- * Grade 8 Grad Section
- * A cover designed by the Cover Contest Winner! (AND the 13 semi-finalists)



Don't miss your opportunity to purchase the 2020-2021 yearbook.

Go to **CashOnline** it's open to order your yearbook for **\$25.00**.

All orders are due May 31st, 2021

Don't delay, buy the yearbook today!

Thank you for your support,
The PBPS Yearbook Committee

School Information



MAY ECO UPDATE



The Eco Team would like to remind the community that water conservation is the focus for May. It's a good time to prompt ourselves to "Rethink" our use of water and to treat our water as an essential resource that should be used sparingly and not wasted. Every drop counts and every person can make a difference.

Here are a variety of simple ways we can conserve water in our homes and community:

Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth and when washing items by hand

Wait until the dishwasher is full before you let it run

Do a full load of laundry not half

Take shorter showers

Choose not to water your lawn during peak hours.

Collect water from the environment with water collecting basins to water your garden

Never pour chemicals or pollutants in any waterbeds, such as in lakes, rivers or ponds, or down the sewer.

In addition, we encourage our community to use reusable containers or glasses at home. Using reusable water bottles rather than plastic water bottles create less waste and reusable containers minimize the amount of garbage we dump in landfills.

This past April, several of our classrooms engaged in **Earth Day** activities on April 22, 2021.

Our students went on virtual nature walks, created Earth Day Digital posters and our Panthers engaged in Eco friendly conversations within their google classroom.

Below are a few images that display their great work.

Thank you Panthers for continuing to work towards saving our planet.



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.

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.

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

gistration email

Sankofa7@yorkregionaacc.ca

647 807-6306

Important Information



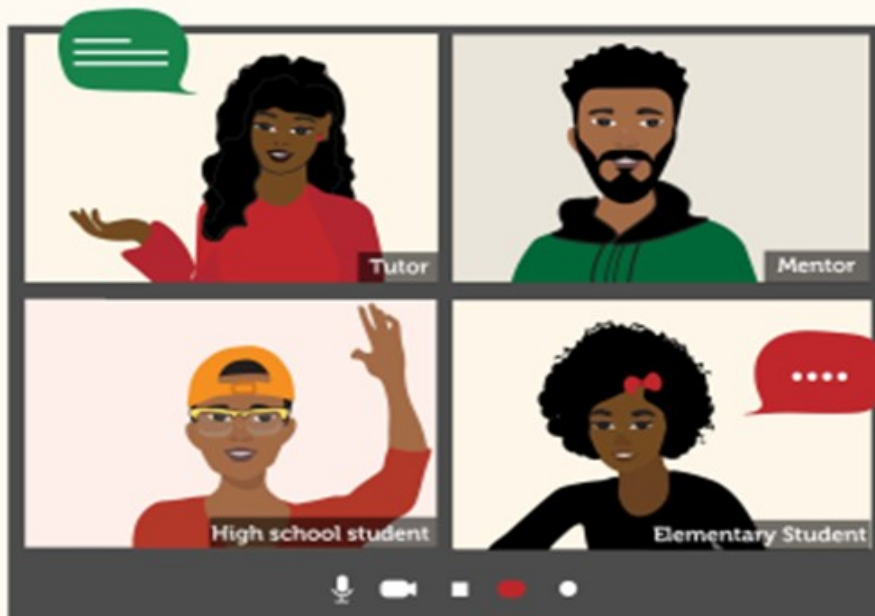
THE SANKOFA MENTORING PROGRAM

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 or call
647-807-2016
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 for more information.