





PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

Important Dates:

Oct 1st	Safety Week
Oct. 11th	Thanksgiving Day No School 
Oct. 14th	School Council @ 7 pm
Oct. 31st	Halloween 

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Administrators' Message

October, 2021

September, as always, has just flown by. September is one of the busiest times of year as we are getting to know students both new and returning. We are reintroducing new routines due to Covid and helping students who may not have been in our physical building in over a year and a half become reacquainted with our school again. We are helping our kindergartens settle in, as many of them have never been away from parents. All our students have risen to these challenges beautifully.

We are so appreciative of Indigo, who has adopted us for their Love of Reading program. Thank you to our families that have also donated. We are thrilled to see students using the library again, and appreciate all the new books that we will be able to buy with the funds raised.

We were happy to commemorate **Orange Shirt** day on September 30. Many of our students took part in a live stream event sponsored by our board to learn more about indigenous peoples and their struggles.

October is a special month. With Thanksgiving quickly approaching we should take time to give thanks for all that we have. At Pierre Berton, we are thankful for our wonderful students, staff and parent community. We look forward to Our Terry Fox Run, as we spread our message of "Be Like Terry", to live our best life, no matter what. October is also Learning Disabilities Awareness month. This month is about raising awareness and reducing stigma to allow people to get the supports they need to reach their potential. More information is available at <http://ldayr.org/>. It is also Islamic Heritage month, announcements will be made around both these focuses.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving. May you take time to be thankful and show those you love and matter that you care. Please be safe and thankful for the wonderful lives we have. A little positivity and looking for a silver lining each day will help keep us healthy both mentally and physically.



Take care,

Cathy Martino-Porretta



Writing the Pages of our Future!

Important Information From the Office

COVID-19 Daily Screening

While self-screening continues to be a daily requirement for all students, as of Monday, September 27, parents/guardians and students are no longer required to complete the confirmation form each day.

The Ministry of Education required families to complete a confirmation for the first two weeks of school only. Screening confirmation will continue to be required for staff members and visitors only.

Students and parents/guardians of elementary school students are still required to review and complete the [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) (Click on Check for symptoms) on a daily basis, prior to their child entering the school. Daily screening is an essential step in helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Please ensure you review this screening tool each day and follow instructions as outlined.

Additional information on [health and safety measures](#), as well as additional information and resources on the 2021-22 school year can be found on the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

School Start Up Package

Parents you have received our Online [School Start-Up Forms](#). The Board has sent a central email to all families with a link to a Google Form to complete the start-up forms. They can also be found on the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources under Family Start-Up Forms, along with some [information on how to complete the forms](#).

Student GAPPs login information will be required for families to complete the forms. The forms will include:

The Start-Up Permission Form (mandatory)

Student Information Consent Form (mandatory)

Request for Faith Accommodations Form

It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible

Student Information Verification Forms

On Friday September 10th, your child took home a [Student Information Verification Form](#). The form contains important information such as address, contact phone numbers and email addresses. Please verify the information on each form by:

- 1. Verifying all information is correct**
- 2. If there are any errors please correct with a pen**
- 3. Return to school with your child**

Please have all forms verified and returned by Friday, September 24th.

Litter less Lunches / Water Bottles

Pierre Berton is committed to being an ECO school, thus we ask families to send Litterless/ Waste-Free lunches. This reduces waste in the environment. This also lets parents see how much food is not being eaten and can therefore plan lunches accordingly. Using reusable containers vs. disposable packaging is great for the environment and is financially rewarding! Please also ensure you send a refillable water bottle with your child's name on it each day.

Parents please remember to provide your children with 3 masks a day, thank you



Important Information

On Monday September 13, Mrs. Martino and Mrs. Sood our School Council Co-Chair presented our crossing guards with a small token of our appreciation. We wish to thank them for all their hard work in keeping our students safe at the cross walks. Remember walking is the most Eco friendly and healthy way of getting to school!

Are you interested in becoming a School Crossing Guard? The City is hiring standby crossing guards for the 2021/22 school year! This is your opportunity to make a difference and help keep children and families safe when walking to and from school. With more than 114 crosswalks throughout Vaughan, both full-time and standby crossing guards are needed to serve all locations. Being a school crossing guard is not only a rewarding occupation – it also offers a flexible work schedule. If you or someone you know is interested in this opportunity, visit vaughan.ca/CrossingGuard to learn more or apply.



School Information

Terry Fox Run

Terry Fox was a Canadian athlete, humanitarian, and cancer research activist. After losing his leg to cancer at only 18 year old, Terry set out to do the impossible: run across Canada, one marathon a day, in pursuit of his dream to find a cure for cancer. In 1980, Terry's journey to raise money for cancer research began and he called it the Marathon of Hope. He ran 42 km each day, every day for 143 days. He ran a total of 5373km. Sadly, his marathon was cut short because the cancer returned. Since then, Canadians coast to coast keep Terry's dream alive by raising money for cancer research.

Pierre Berton will participate in the Terry Fox Run on Friday, October 8th. Rain day Tuesday October 12th.

Classes will run with their cohorts at staggered times throughout the day. Due to Covid 19 protocols, we will not be collecting any cash donations. Instead, families are invited to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation online: our goal this year is to raise \$1200.00: <http://www.terryfox.ca/PierreBertonPSWoodbridge>

Thank you for helping raise money for Canadian Cancer research!



Regarding Visitors/Volunteers



Until further notice, visitor(s) are not to enter the school during hours of operation unless identified through a prearranged exception.

Visitors to schools are required to wear a medical mask at all times. In the event one is not worn, one will be provided and must be worn at all times when in the school.

Please, do not drop off any lunches for students or make dental/doctor appointments during the day unless students will not be returning back to school on that day.

School Council

The first virtual meeting of our Pierre Berton School Council will be held in Wednesday, October 14th at 7:00pm! School Council Nomination forms will be sent home electronically in the book of forms. If you are interested in being part of our School Council please submit/return the form by October 5th, 2021. If you are a parent of a Pierre Berton Student in the Elementary Virtual School, we welcome your nomination.

Create Edsby Account - For all students, if you have not created an Edsby account, please email anna.gabrielli@yrdsb.ca to send you an invitation to create one.

Agendas- In class students, if you wish to purchase agendas, please visit our school cash online. If you do not have a student number please email anna.gabrielli@yrdsb.ca

Fork/spoons -Parents please remember to pack forks/spoons for your children's snacks/lunches.

School Information



The Eco Theme for the Month of October is “**Lights Out.**” This month we are challenged to “Rethink” our use of lighting in our schools and homes. Simply turning lights off when not in use is one very effective way to reduce energy consumption and help the environment. A significant savings in energy is achieved when lights are turned off in classrooms during the lunch period. Our classrooms are focusing on shutting lights off in classrooms during the recess and lunch periods.

Safety Week

The York Region District School Board's priority is to provide and maintain safe and healthy environments for all students and staff. Each year safety week provides an opportunity to practice proper safety protocols and draw attention to our roles in providing a safe learning environment. This year Safety Week is scheduled from Monday September 27 to Friday October 1st. During this week, we hold a number of emergency preparedness drills including Fire Drill, Lockdown Drill, and Hold and Secure. These drills will be modified from regular procedures to ensure physical distancing. Fire Drills are to be done 6 times a year to ensure a safe and thorough evacuation in the event of a fire. Attendance is taken outside to ensure each student and staff is accounted for. A Lockdown is called in response to an intruder in the building. During a Lockdown, hallways are cleared, classroom doors are locked and students hide out of view from doorways and windows. During Covid students will not be required to hide during a drill. A Hold and Secure is called when there is potential danger in the area outside of the school. This can include severe weather or police activity nearby. During a Hold and Secure, external doors remain locked and no one is allowed in or out of the building. We close any blinds and carry on our day as usual inside. Please note that in the event of a Fire Drill, Lockdown, or Hold and Secure, you will not be able to pick up your child.



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year on September 30th, Canadians observe **Orange Shirt Day**. It is a day to educate and promote awareness of Residential Schools and their lasting legacies of trauma, suffering and genocide of Indigenous People. These institutions were designed to assimilate Indigenous children and to eradicate Indigenous cultural practices.

This year, the Federal Government has identified September 30th, **Orange Shirt Day** as a ‘**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**’. It is a day to reflect upon our dark history of residential schools and the many murdered children found in unmarked graves over the past year.

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Phyllis' Story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

The date **September 30th** was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It also gives teachers time to plan events that will include children, as we want to ensure that we are passing the story and learning on to the next generations.

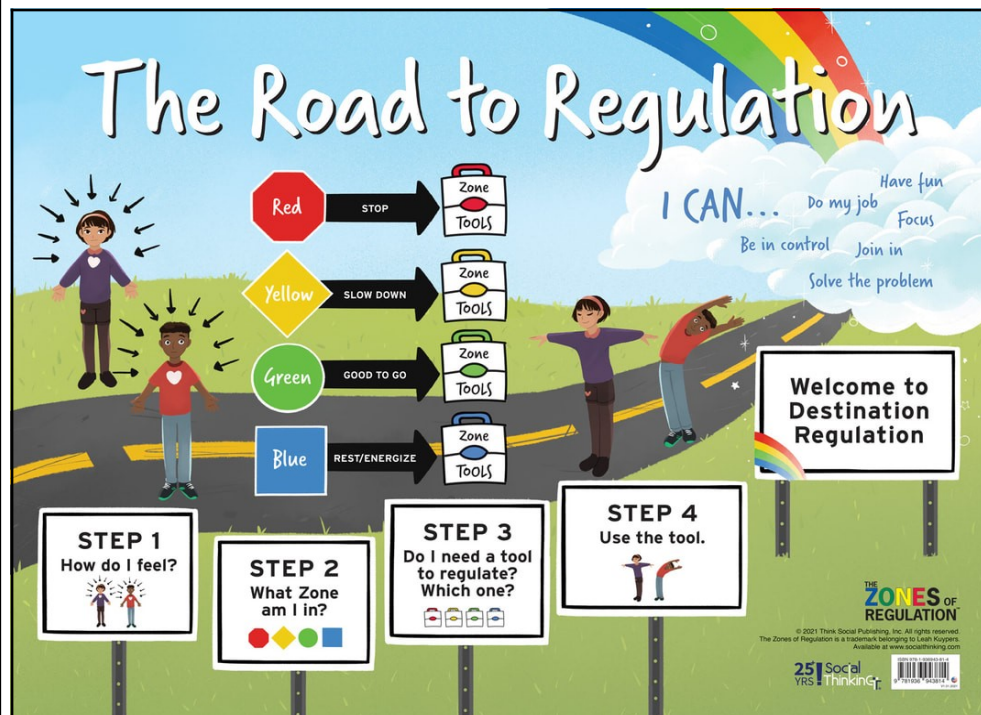
Pierre Berton Public School has honoured the resiliency and bravery of **Residential School Survivors** by wearing an **Orange Shirt** or anything **Orange** on Thursday, September 30th.

Binoojiinyag Mikwendaamowin Giizhigad
Day For Remembering Children
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September 30, 2021



School Information

Mental Health and Wellness



This month our focus will be on Self-Regulation. Why is Self-Regulation important?

"There is a growing awareness among developmental scientists that the better a child can self-regulate, the better they can rise to the challenge of mastering ever more complex skills and concepts. Self-regulation nurtures the ability to cope with greater and greater challenges because it involves arousal states, emotions, behavior, and – as the child grows older – thinking skills." - Calm, Alert and Learning, 2015

Our goal is for students to build self-awareness in recognizing how they are feeling, as well as identifying personal strategies for transitioning back to the green zone when they start to feel anxious or upset.

This month, as a family, check-in with your zones and come up with simple ways to identify your feelings and some strategies to help you get back to the green zone when you feel yourself moving towards a different zone.

ATTENDANCE/SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

If your child is absent:

- Send a note with a sibling, or neighbour before the absence if possible, OR
- Use our online process [via Edsby](#) Edsby®
- Please register for this user-friendly online service. All families should have received an invite to register your child. If you do not have an Edsby account for your child please send an email to anna.gabrielli@yrdsb.ca
- Contact the office if you have any questions.
- Parents/guardians telephone the school at 905-303-4540 to leave a message with your child's name, teacher, and the anticipated length of absence. Please leave a message on the school voice mail outside the school office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. or by email at: pierre.berton.ps@yrdsb.ca
- Contact the school if your child will not be returning for the afternoon or will be late arriving at school.
- Send a note when your child has an appointment which requires that he/she arrive late or must leave the school during the day.

* Make sure to keep all phone numbers up to date.

Students must sign in and out in the binder at the school office.

IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT AT SCHOOL AND IS NOT ACCOUNTED FOR BY A NOTE OR TELEPHONE CALL, THE SCHOOL SECRETARY WILL:

- Call home to check (and if not accounted for)
- Call the parents at work (and if the child is still not accounted for)
- Call the emergency numbers (and if the child is still not accounted for)
- We will then contact the **York Regional Police**

Punctuality is Important!

Students can enter the building between 8:15 and 8:30am. The instructional day begins at 8:30 am sharp.

Please note that there will be indoor supervision beginning at 8:15 am

Please help your child start each school day prepared to learn!

Severe cases will be referred to the York Region District School Board's Attendance Counselor.

School Information



Creating a Safe and Healthy School for Students with Allergies

This is an additional challenge for schools attended by children with allergies, especially life-threatening allergies. While we take every step to create a risk-free environment, school staff and parents can take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions as there are implications for the whole school, not just individual classrooms. It is especially important that parents communicate a life-threatening allergy to the school as soon as they are aware of it. Please notify the principal and your child's teacher so that we take the steps to create accurate records and inform staff of the established protocol.

We ask that you avoid sending any foods that may contain peanuts and/or nuts. Please check the list of ingredients for peanut oil/butter/sauce/flour/meal, mixed nuts, ground nuts, goober peas, and artificial nuts. Examples include: cookies, chocolate, granola bars, some cereal bars and some chocolate nut spreads. Avoid products that say "may contain peanut/nuts". Imported products have different labelling requirements, please read the labels carefully when sending these products to school.

A substitute peanut butter product is being marketed to consumers as a safe alternative for children to bring to schools in place of peanut butter. We ask that parents refrain from including these kinds of products in your child's lunches or snacks. These products tend to look, taste, and smell very much like peanut butter. While the product is nut free, it mimics a known allergen that causes anaphylaxis in some children to the degree that it is indistinguishable from the allergen. It is a convincing substitute, opening up the possibility that it can be confused as peanut butter, or worse yet, peanut butter could be confused as this soy-based product.

The safety and well-being of our students is our first priority, which is why our schools have procedures in place to minimize risk of anaphylaxis reactions in our students. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in avoiding the use of these products to assist in our continued efforts to create a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment for all students. We thank you for your cooperation. **Remember we must all work together to keep our children safe!**



A reminder to parents and students that Halloween is coming.

Please DO NOT SEND Halloween treats to school for snacks or lunches.

We prefer our students to eat healthier snacks. We also have several students who are severely allergic to nuts and nut products, that may be in the Halloween treats.



We are thrilled to announce that our school has been selected to participate in the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation. PBPS has been adopted by **Indigospirit Markville Place** and **Chapters Markham!** From **September 13 to October 3**, these stores are going to fundraise on our behalf. We're also going to be raising funds to support our library through an Adopt a School online fundraising page, which you can find by searching Pierre Berton Public School at loveofreading.org. Our school is going to receive every dollar raised to support our library and a 30% discount off books when we shop at Indigo, Chapters and Coles using program donations. **Please visit loveofreading.org from September 13 to October 3** to show your support for our library! With funds raised, we look forward to purchasing diverse books that will excite our students and inspire a love of reading!

Student Transportation

Student Transportation Services (STS) is a joint venture between the catholic and public school boards in York Region. The mandate of STS is to provide a safe, efficient and on-time transportation for students.

Transportation officers design and manage bus routes based on Board approved criteria as set out in policy #680. The school staff does not create bus routes or determine who is eligible to ride the bus. Parents and students can access a variety of information on the STS website www.schoolbuscity.com.

This includes eligibility for bussing and pick up locations (if eligible), time for pick-up and time of drop off. (please make sure you are at the bus stop for AM, 7 minutes before actual time of arrival).

Please note that only students who are eligible for bussing will be permitted to ride the school bus.



LUNCH ASSISTANTS

If you are interested in being School Lunch Assistant for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, please contact the school at (905) 303-4540 for more information. This is a paid position.

All School Lunch Assistants must have a Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) completed by York Region Police (YRP). The school lunch hour is 12:10 - 1:10 p.m.

Let's Work Together for a Safe Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up!

It is important for us to outline the Kiss and Ride expectations to ensure that all of our students, parents and staff are safe. As you know, the Kiss and Ride can become very congested in the mornings and after school. We ask for your cooperation in reducing the congestion. This is possible if we work together as a school community. We ask that families arrive prior to 8:25 a.m. in the morning to alleviate the last minute rush. Students may enter the building between 8:15 and 8:30am. If you are driving your child to school, please consider parking on Via Campanile to drop off your child. If you choose to use the Kiss and Ride, please ensure that you **drive your vehicle up to the FRONT of the drop-off zone before allowing your child to exit the car**. When parents stop their car closer to the school yard it creates an unsafe situation for our children and frustration for families who are trying to follow the established drop-off routines. A reminder that **YOU MAY NOT STOP AND LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE in the Kiss and Ride**. If you wish to walk your child to the yard, please park on Via Campanile or in a designated parking spot.

Bus Loop: Only board transportation vehicles are permitted in this area. Please use the Kiss and Ride at all times of the day, including lunch. We want to ensure the safety of all of our students.



PLEASE DO NOT STOP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LOOP BY THE YARD.



Please make sure that student's backpack is on their lap not in the truck of car.



Kiss and Ride Drop-Off: Only drop off in the area marked in white (not the passing lane). Please move up to the front of the marked area to allow other cars to stop.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- ◆ Please ensure that if you are using the Kiss and Ride that you proceed **SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY** through the parking lot. We want to ensure that everyone is safe.
- ◆ When pulling out from a parking spot or the curb, please ensure that you check for students/parents crossing and oncoming traffic.
- ◆ Also, please note that staff supervising at the front enter the school at 8:30 am as they need to be in class with students.
- ◆ When picking up at the end of the day, the only area permitted for stopping is the Kiss and Ride lane by the curb. Please **DO NOT** idle behind the parked cars.

