



Pierre Berton Public School

Pierre Berton Public School
470 Via Campanile, Vaughan, ON
905-303-4540

Important Dates:

Nov. 1	Change clocks back one hour
Nov.5	Westmount Arts info Night VIP Gr.3—Bully VIP Gr.6-Equity & Inclusive
Nov. 6	VIP Gr.7—Youth & the law —Ecrimes VIP Gr.8— Choices & Consequences
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day Gr.8 registrations for IB program closes today
Nov. 12 & Nov. 13	Parent/Teacher Interview P.A. Day
Nov. 19	Report cards go home
Nov. 26	School Council Meeting@ 7

Administrators' Message

November, 2020

Covid-19 has changed our lives in so many ways. It has made many of us anxious and scared and even regular things seem to take longer and can cause irritation. I encourage you to be as vigilant as possible. While we cannot control the actions of others, we can control our own. We can act as good role models for our children by wearing our masks, washing our hands and staying calm. There are many techniques people use to remain calm, deep breathing, exercise, meditation, praying, journaling, walking, listening to music etc. My own children and I have found that losing yourself in a book can help us find calm. As the month of November gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, I encourage you to read more. Not only will this help with your child's education but may help them find calm and joy. Remember you can visit the public library, either in person or online at <http://www.vaughanpl.info/>. You can even borrow digital copies of books from the library. Remember to encourage children to read and let them catch you reading. We learn many things by reading and we know that reading and writing are linked. Your child can listen to free books on-line at tumble books <https://www.tumblemobile.com> username is [pierrebert](#) and password is [books](#). or through the public library website at http://www.vaughanpl.info/materials/downloads_digital Another way to help your children is to practice writing every day. Many people find journaling a way to let out their feelings. Here are some tips.

Tips for Writing – K-3 Encourage your child to write. Children love to make their own birthday cards, write thank you notes, make place cards for the table, or send an email to a friend. Save old cards from birthdays and holidays to recycle for homemade cards. Whenever possible, let your child see you writing — grocery lists, instructions on the family whiteboard, emails, etc. — and get them to help. Writing can be done anywhere. Have lots of magnetic letters or words on the fridge. Get a box of chalk and write your names on the driveway or sidewalk. Get a white board — it can be used again and again.

Play writing games. Make a game of letter finding. Show them how to form a letter and then go letter hunting in your house or in a book — count the number of "Ds" on a page. Find a picture they like and have them write words or a sentence about it.

Tips for Parents - Writing 4-8 Read from a variety of sources. Reading and writing are linked — success in one supports success in the other. Read stories, articles, ads, instructions, etc. to your child and then talk about what you have read. Be a writing role model. Let your child see you writing when possible — letters, work assignments, letters to the editor, email. Help your child to understand about writing for different purposes like short stories, poems, letters, etc. Make sure they see all different types of materials such as books, magazines, newspapers, comic books and illustrated novels. Check out the guide from the Ministry of education for more resources <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideLit.html>

Another area to focus on is math. There are many recourses that can be found on-line.

Try supports at MathIES-Math Interactive electronic supports at <http://www.mathies.ca> or other kids sites at <http://www.kidsites.com/sites-edu/math.htm> Do a week of inspirational math at <https://www.youcubed.org/week-of-inspirational-math/> Check out math activities for your child from the University of Waterloo at <https://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/resources/elementary.html>

Have a great month of learning with your child.

Cathy Martino-Porretta



Principal
C. Martino-Porretta

Vice-Principal
G. Avsec

Office Staff
J. Purdy
A. Gabrielli
E. Fabiano

Superintendent
Dan Wu
905 764 6830
Trustee
Dr. Sinclair



Writing the Pages of our Future!

Important Information

For Parents:



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 your child re-fillable water bottles



Attendance / Lates

A special request to Parents . . . please make sure that you are getting your children to school on time for 8:30 am. Lunch time 1:10 pm

Make sure to inform the school if absent via Edsby,
Inform or call office :
905-303-4540

Remember Nov.1st set clocks back one hour



Covid Update Screening

Revised School Screening Checklist

Every day, parents/guardians and students over 18 are responsible for reviewing and adhering to the [checklist from York Region Public Health](#). This checklist has been recently updated to reflect the Ontario government's [revised COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in Schools and Child Care](#).

Please note that the new screening guide applies to children only and the adult screening has not changed. Thank you for working with us to protect the health and safety of students, staff and families and to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Important Information



PLEASE COMPLETE BEFORE ENTERING THE SCHOOL

1. Does your child have any of the following **new or worsening** symptoms?*



FEVER AND/OR CHILLS
(temperature of 37.8°C or greater)



NEW OR WORSENING COUGH



SHORTNESS OF BREATH



DECREASE OR LOSS OF SMELL OR TASTE

IF "YES":

- Your child should stay home to isolate
- Contact your child's health care provider for further advice or assessment, including if your child needs a COVID-19 test or other treatment

2. Does your child have any of the following **new or worsening** symptoms?*



SORE THROAT OR DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING



RUNNY NOSE, OR NASAL CONGESTION
(unrelated to seasonal allergies or returning inside from the cold)



HEADACHE



NAUSEA/VOMITING AND/OR DIARRHEA



FATIGUE, LETHARGY, MUSCLE ACHES AND/OR MALAISE

IF "YES" TO 1 SYMPTOM:

- Your child should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started
- Your child may return to school/child care if symptom is improving and they feel well enough (no test is needed)
- If the symptom persists or worsens, contact your child's health care provider for further advice or assessment, including if your child needs a COVID-19 test or other treatment

IF "YES" TO 2 OR MORE SYMPTOMS:

- Your child should stay home to isolate
- Contact your child's health care provider for further advice or assessment, including if your child needs a COVID-19 test or other treatment

3. Has your child travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Has your child been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Has your child been instructed to stay home and self-isolate?

☐ Yes ☐ No

IF YOU ANSWERED "YES" TO QUESTION 3, 4 OR 5:

Your child must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days from the date of their last travel or the dates of last contact with a case. Follow the advice of York Region Public Health.

*Children who have an existing health condition identified by a health care provider that gives them the symptoms should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your child's normal symptoms.

Stay safe. Stay Informed.
york.ca/covid19

11/2 Last Updated: October 8, 2020

York Region

Important Information



Parent/Teacher Interview

As we prepare for the upcoming one-to-one Parent-Teacher Interviews/Conferences on November 12 & 13, parents are reminded that Edsby is the only online tool available for elementary interview/conference bookings.

[Edsby](#) is a cloud-based platform that lets families easily reserve times to meet with your child(ren)'s teachers. YRDSB in partnership with Edsby have created a secure platform that protects the privacy of information for families.

Families can use Edsby, an online platform, to schedule a meeting time with their child(ren)'s teacher(s) on Parents' Night. You will receive an invitation to sign up for a meeting time once the schedules are available.

Parent /Teacher Interviews will be Family Virtual Conferences this year, this will provide an opportunity to meet with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) and learn more about the classroom.

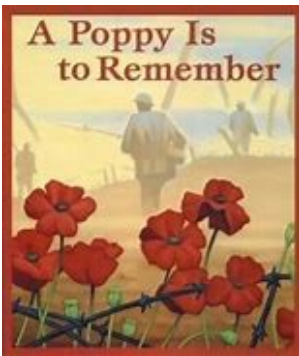
We regret that for health and safety reasons, we are unable to host an event at the school as we normally would, however we look forward to meeting with you virtually.

Families that already have an Edsby account may use their previously created account. The username is the full email address that is on file at your child(ren)'s home school and the password is the one created at activation. If you have forgotten your password, you can find [resources on the Board website](#) to help, including how to reset your password.

Families who **do not have** an Edsby account will need to create one to access the online appointment scheduler for their child's teachers for the virtual conference. **An up-to-date and valid email address must be provided to your child's home school.** For help creating an Edsby account, [instructions can be found on the Board website](#). An email from York Region District School Board with instructions on how to create an Edsby account will be sent to your email inbox. If you do not receive the email, please check your junk mail folder to ensure you do not miss this opportunity. Otherwise please send an email to our school secretary anna.gabrielli@yrdsb.ca



Important Information



November 11th Remembrance Day

In 1918, World War I ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of 11th month. The entire world celebrated. A truce was signed declaring the “war to end all wars” was finally over.

Every November, poppies are placed on our collars or lapels to symbolize the remembrance of the brave soldiers who fought during the war for our freedom and for our beautiful country.

Dr. John McCrae observed poppies growing between the white crosses on the soldier’s graves, it inspired him to write the poem “**In Flanders Field**”.

The poppy has since become known as “The Flower of Remembrance”, wearing the poppy on your left side close to your heart honours the Canadian fallen soldiers, and is a visual pledge to never forget.

On November 11th, our students will engage in a virtual Remembrance Day service in their classrooms.



Virtual Book Fair

Book Fair is a fun event that our students look forward to every year, and we didn't want to miss out! Our school’s Book Fair is going online, so save the date! From **November 16-22**, discover the newest books hot off the press, from the comfort of your home. Books purchased will be shipped directly to your home. Bonus: Every purchase supports our school and keeps kids reading.

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**



We will email the link to our school's shopping website as the date approaches.



In October we were striving toward building a “Growth Mindset.” That means empowering students to dig in deep and create the understanding that intelligence can grow, with effort. In doing this we let go of the idea “I’m not a math person” or “This is too hard”. We can change our thinking to “math is really challenging but if I work hard I will be able to understand more.” In class students are working together to complete digital Choice Boards that focus on building a “Growth Mindset” and “Positivity”. By changing our thinking, acknowledging our mistakes and working hard, we are better able to achieve success. Interested in becoming a Growth Mindset Parent at home, check out [MindsetWorks](#) for tips, tricks and scientific research.

School Information

School Council News

Co-Chairs

Kristy Sood
Nina Gill

Secretary

Annarita DiStefano

Treasurer

Erica Lien

Members at Large

Opi Marok
Rick Judge
Tharshini Sriskandarajah

Staff Representative

Lindsay Cottes

Principal

Cathy Martino-Porretta

Vice Principal

Gisella Avsec

November Eco Theme



The November Eco Theme for the month is What's In/What's Out. Staff and students are encouraged to 'Rethink', their actions before disposing of an item. That is, stop and consider the impact every disposal action will have on the world around us. It is important to be well-informed about what goes in the Blue Box for recycling and what goes in the garbage bin for landfill. Putting items in the Blue Box that shouldn't be there can ruin an entire batch of recyclable material. In the classroom our students refer to their posted signs as a reference point and are consistently reminded of this.

In October our entire school actively participated in saving energy during our Lights Out Lunch Program on Wednesdays. Our energy consumption reports showcase significant energy savings! Families are encouraged to continue to remind your children about the different ways to save energy at home, like remembering to shut off lights in spaces that are not being used. Thank you Pierre Berton Panthers for continuing to save our planet.

Future School Council Meetings

November 26, 2020

January 14, 2021

February 18, 2021

April 8, 2021

May 20, 2021

At this time all parent council meetings will be virtual, if you wish to attend as a non-member, please email our office: pierre.berton.ps@yrdsb.ca