



PIERRE BERTON



PANTHERS

Pierre Berton Public School

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

Important Dates:

Sept. 7th	Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 9	1st day of School
Sept. 16th	Yom Kippur
Sept. 30	Orange Shirt Day

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Principal
C. Martino-Porretta

Vice-Principal
G. Avsec

Office Staff
E. Albazi
A. Gabrielli
E. Fabiano

Superintendent
Bill Cober
905 764 6830

Trustee
Dr. Sinclair

Administrators' Message

September, 2021



Happy New School Year! I love that I get to celebrate the new year twice each year. It marks a new beginning, new hope, new goals and a renewed sense of optimism for what is to come. I am feeling much more optimistic this year. It is great to see that many students will be returning to in person learning in the fall.

Many of our safety measures that we adopted last year will remain in place this year. We will continue to cohort students, minimized furniture in the classroom, and continue with our sanitization program. We are excited that we will be able to bring back some of our extra-curriculars with safety measures in place. We know how many students look forward to them and what an important part of student life they are.

Our staff have worked hard on setting up their classrooms, and have completed three days of training to be as prepared as possible for our first day. A big thanks to our caretakers, who have spent the last few months, giving our school an extra clean. A big thanks to our secretaries, who have kept the office humming and doing the thousand and one things needed to ensure we are ready to open.

A big pantherific welcome to our new students and families! We hope you will love Pierre Berton as much as I do. To those who are returning, myself and the staff can't wait to see you. For those who have decided to stay online we hope to see you back again soon. We will continue to communicate with all families whether you are online or in person.

Be safe and have a wonderful New Year!



Cathy Martino-Porretta



Writing the Pages of our Future!

Tentative School Organization

Pierre Berton Public School Staff List

Staff Name	Position
Erin Whaling/ Nickisha Stephenson	Kindergarten A
Melissa Diamanti/ Michele Vala-Fernandes	Kindergarten B
Daniella Panza/ Narinder Dhaliwal	Kindergarten C
Amanda Buttarazzi/ Irina Zabelina	Kindergarten D
Emily Burns	Grade 1A
Vanessa Monti	Grade 1B
Melissa Malisani	Grade 1/2A
Aisha Khan	Grade 2A
Laura Paglia	Grade 2B
Dave Abitbol	Grade 3A
Samantha Frankel	Grade 3B
Karina Starobinsky	Grade 3C
Adriana Rago	Grade 3/4A
Alexandra Bomba	Grade 4A
Nicole Gross	Grade 4B
Christopher Pennino	Grade 4/5A
Natasa Schicitano	Grade 5A
Pam Schipper	Grade 5B
Vanessa Augello	Grade 6A
Jessica Oliveira	Grade 6B
Jaswinder Khokhar	Grade 6/7A
Caitlin Morrison	Grade 7A
Shawn Sanghera	Grade 7B
Angelo Bilotta	Grade 7/8A
Derek Herbert	Grade 8A
Kristina Gerrard	Grade 8B
Stephanie Bezaire	SERT/SSCA
Melissa Rosato	SERT/SSCB
Diane Cipollone	Reading Recovery/Prep
Kerri Hardy	Library/ESL
Sharon Deleanu	Prep/SERT/ELL
Kalpana Vaze	Prep
Elissa Bottero	Prep
Daniel Cipollone	Music
Laura Stolf	French
Hina Bhalla	French
Katlynn Smith	Autism CC
Christina Direito	Educational Assistant
Nathan Thompson	Educational Assistant
Alessandro A. Ruberto	Educational Assistant
Sephora Bruno	Educational Assistant
Janice Liburd	Child and Youth Worker
Joan Ramlogan-Maraj	Child and Youth Worker
Elham Albazi	EOAA
Anna Gabrielli	SAS-A
Emilia Fabiano	SAS-B 50%
Mike Richardson	Lead Caretaker
Mark Acchione	Caretaker
Daniel Tansley	Caretaker
Arun Sharma	Caretaker
Helen Cao	Caretakers
Gisella Avsec	Vice-Principal
Cathy Martino-Porretta	Principal

This is our tentative school organization for the 2021-2022 school year. Please note that due to enrolment changes, we may need to reorganize classes. We appreciate your support.

School Day Organization

School Day Organization: Kindergarten—Grade 8

8:30 a.m.—2:50 p.m.
 8:15—8:30: Entry
 8:30—10:10: Instructional Time
 10:10—10:30: Recess
 10:30—12:10: Instructional Time
12:10—1:10: Lunch
 1:10—2:50: Instructional Time
2:50: Dismissal

Professional Activity & Training Days

Tuesday, September 7, 2021
 Wednesday, September 8, 2021
 Friday, November 19, 2021
 Friday, January 14, 2022
 Friday, February 4, 2022
 Thursday, June 2, 2022
 Thursday, June 30, 2022

School Holidays

First Day of Classes: Thursday, September 9, 2021

Last Day of Classes: Thursday, June 30, 2022

School Holidays

Labour Day Monday, September 6, 2021
 Thanksgiving Day Monday, October 11, 2021
Christmas / Winter Break Monday, December 20, 2021 to Friday, December 31, 2021 inclusive
 Family Day Monday, February 21, 2022
Mid-Winter Break Monday, March 14, 2022 to Friday, March 18, 2022 inclusive
 Good Friday Friday, April 15, 2022
 Easter Monday Monday, April 18, 2022
 Victoria Day Monday, May 23, 2022

Important Information

Health and Safety

We ask families to remember that, as a result of health and safety guidelines:

On a daily basis, parents/guardians of students under 18 and students over 18 are responsible to review and adhere to the [checklist from York Region Public Health](#). Any student experiencing COVID-19 symptoms **is required** to remain home.

- * Where possible, students must maintain a physical distance at all times, as they enter, move through and exit the building.
- * Students in Grades 1 to 12 will wear face non-medical masks while in school. Students in Kindergarten are strongly encouraged to wear masks while in school. Please send your child to school with a mask and sealable bag (Ziplock with your child's name on it). We encourage you to send three masks in case a new one is needed throughout the day.
- * Until further notice, visitor(s) are not to enter the school during hours of operation unless identified through a prearranged exception.
- * Floor decals and classroom set-up are designed to minimize close contact.
- * Hand sanitizers will be placed at the entrance to the school and in all classrooms and students will wash or sanitize their hands throughout the day, including when entering or leaving the classroom, before and after eating, after using the washroom and after touching shared objects

What to Bring for Kindergarten Students

Please send your child to school with:

- a mask (strongly encouraged) with a labelled Ziploc bag.
- snack and lunch
- change of clothes (labelled in a bag)
- sunscreen and hat
- water bottle

[Please label all of your child's items with their name.](#)

[First day of classes for Kindergarten-year one \(JK\) A-L – Thursday , September 9, 2021 at 1:10 pm](#)

[First day of classes for Kindergarten-year one \(JK\) M-Z –Friday, September 10, 2021 at 1:10 pm](#)

[First day of classes for Kindergarten –Year Two \(SK\) A– Z -Thursday, September 9, 2021](#)

School Start Up Package

A number of important forms have been included in the 'School Start Up Package'.

This year the package will be sent electronically.

Please take the time to read this material carefully and resend the forms as soon as possible.



Important Information

Lunch Time Consideration

Students are strongly encouraged to remain at school for lunch and eat in designated areas (ie. classroom)

Students are to wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after eating

Students are to be reminded not to share food, utensils or drinks

Students **must** bring their lunch, including hot lunches.

For safety reasons, lunch drop offs will not be permitted

All special lunch programs/food days (e.g., pizza, sub, etc.) have been cancelled

All food delivery services (UberEats/Skip the Dishes) will not be accepted



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.

Healthy Schools

We are committed to ensuring that we support Healthy Schools initiatives for the health and well-being of our students. Throughout the year, we will be participating in Healthy Schools initiatives, including walk to school days. In order to support this endeavour, we ask that you do not send any food or other items in recognition of birthdays or holidays. This not only supports the health of our students, but it also protects valuable instructional time. We greatly appreciate your support with this initiative.

Physical Education Classes

Students will participate in physical education classes weekly.

All students from grades four to eight will be participating in gym classes but they will not be allowed to change their clothing for gym. **Change rooms will remain locked.**

Please make sure that all students are dressed appropriately for each class. Students are required to wear shorts or track pants, t-shirt, and indoor running shoes.

Important Information

Electronic Devices

Please do not send your child to school with expensive electronic equipment. The students should not have cell phones, iPods, etc. in class or during recesses at school. These devices will be taken from the student if they are found in a classroom. The school will not assume responsibility for these valuable items. Other items should not be brought to school as well.

This list includes, but is not limited to, skateboards, roller blades, wheelies, toys, scooters or laser pointers. These items are best used at home and are not to come to school. For personal safety and security, some parents want their children to have cellular telephones. We understand that desire and support it. Cell phones and other personal communication devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during all instructional periods, except with the clear permission of the classroom teacher. The school is not responsible for personal items that go missing at the school. If we see (or hear) a cell phone at school it will be confiscated and given to the office. The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.

Please note that cameras and cell phone camera functions are not permitted to be used on school property without explicit permission from the principal or teacher. The inappropriate use of cell phones, especially camera phones can become a problem in schools. Let's work together to ensure that it is not a problem at Pierre Berton Public School.

Student Agendas

Available on Cash ONLINE for \$5 is information for purchasing the agenda planner for students in **Grades 1 to 5**. Students will receive their agendas after the purchase is made online. Work and study habits are an important part of becoming an independent lifelong learner. Students learn valuable organizational skills such as recording homework, tests and assignment dates. The agenda also provides an excellent communication tool between school and home. We recognize that many of our intermediate students utilize technology as a tool for organization. For students who do not, we hope you choose to purchase an agenda as it is an effective way to help your child to develop homework routines and organizational skills.

Skateboard Park and Helmet Safety

A skateboard park sits just alongside our school. For safety reasons, we encourage students to keep their skateboards at home. Students will not be permitted to use the skateboard park during the instructional day or at lunchtime.

As well, please review the importance of wearing a helmet for all wheeled sports after school or on the weekends. Helmets should always be a requirement when skateboarding, rollerblading or bike riding.

All students for safety reason are encouraged to go straight home after school.



mabel's labels

FUNDRAISING

Label everything! We will be discouraging sharing. Mabel's Labels is a Canadian company specializing in personalized and durable labels. Purchase labels with your child's name on it so that everything can be easily labelled.

Please visit campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search for Pierre Berton Public School. Then, simply place your order (shipping is free) and a portion of the sales will go to our school. Put the labels on everything coming to school.

Orange Shirt Day also known as the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**, It was created as an observance in 2013, and is designed to educate people and promote awareness in Canada about the residential school system and the impact it has had on Indigenous communities for over a century. The colour of the shirt is connected to the experience of Phyllis Webstad who was sent to Cariboo Residential School near Williams Lake, BC, in 1973. The shirt has since gone on to become a symbol of a national movement that recognizes the suffering of Indigenous children at residential schools across the country and to show a renewed commitment to ensure that every child matters. We encourage our Pierre Berton community to wear an **orange shirt** on **September 30, 2021**, to recognize the resiliency and bravery of Residential School Survivors.



Safe, Caring and Supportive Schools

Medication

Either on a regular basis or at times throughout the year, some students may need to take medication at school. Parents are required to complete a Request for Administration of Medication Form signed by the parents and approved by the principal before the medication can be given or stored in the school. Written permission is required for ALL medications including inhalers, Aspirin, Tylenol, etc. All medication is kept locked in the office and students are supervised as they take any medication. Students are not permitted at any time to bring medication to school and keep it in the classroom, lunch bags, backpacks or lockers. Epi-pens should be worn by the student.


Keeping Our School Safe

In accordance with the Principal's responsibilities under the Education Act to ensure a safe and orderly learning environment, the school has a right to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice to or permission of any person. From time to time, the police may be invited onto school property to conduct their own searches, and these searches may be conducted without notice or permission of any member of the school community as per our Joint Board and Police Protocol. When conducting a search of school property, persons or personal property, the police are responsible for conforming to all legal requirements with respect to searches.



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®
- Please register for this user-friendly online service. All families should have received an invite to register your child. 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 telephone the York Regional Police**

Punctuality is Important!

Punctuality is a life skill that is valued by school, employers in the workforce, and society. Regular attendance ensures continuity of program and assists students in achieving academic success as well as maintaining social ties. 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!***

Last year, there were a tremendous number of students arriving to school late on a regular basis. At times, we had approximately fifty students receiving late slips in the morning. We ask all families to put morning routines in place to ensure that children arrive on time for school. They should plan to enter between 8:15 and 8:25 a.m. Several strategies will be used to help students who are repeatedly late to school. Students will be expected to make up lost time during recess or after school. We will inform parents if a student's attendance is a matter of concern. Severe cases will be referred to the York Region District School Board's Attendance Counselor.

Safe, Caring and Supportive Schools (continued)



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!**

School Yard Safety

In order to prevent physical injury and because of our concern for student safety, students at Pierre Berton Public School are expected to avoid activities that involve aggressive play and touching. Activities that are not acceptable include wrestling, piggy-backing, tripping, pushing, shoving, body-checking, poking, punching and other forms of play in stairwells, hallways and playgrounds.



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 available to work for one hour each day, please contact our office at

905-303-4540

Important Information

Message from Our Trustee, September 2021

We have many reasons to feel optimistic as we begin the 2021-22 school year. Schools are reopening to in-person learning, vaccination rates continue to increase, and our students can start to resume some of their favourite school activities.

As we return to school, our [reopening plan](#) continues to prioritize the health and safety of students, families and staff members. We are working with public health to ensure we are taking all appropriate measures. For more information on the plan, including health and safety measures, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening. You can also find additional information from York Region Public Health at www.york.ca/safeatschool.

The pandemic and last year's school closures affected students and families in many different ways. This has been a challenging time. Our caring, skilled and dedicated staff members are prepared to prioritize the mental health and well-being of students as they transition back to school, as well as supporting their academic learning and growth. If you are worried about your child, please speak to your child's teacher or principal. You may also find some of the [learning and well-being resources](#) on our website helpful.

Whether your child will be attending school in person or online, we know how important it is that they feel safe, respected and valued. We want every student to feel supported, to take pride in their identities and to know that they matter. Any form of hate or discrimination in our schools is not acceptable. This school year, we will continue to implement the [Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#) launched in March to address anti-Black racism in schools. We also remain committed as a school board to honouring the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action](#). As an education system, it is imperative that we create learning environments that enable all of our students to feel valued and to be successful.

As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#). We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

The relationship that we have with families is so important, and I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website. You are welcome to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

There are also many other ways you can stay connected with what's happening in the school board. Visit our [newsroom](#). Listen to our [podcast](#). Follow us on [Twitter @YRDSB](#) and on [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#). Watch the latest videos, including news, features and profiles about our schools, students and staff members on our [YouTube channel YRDSBMedia](#).

As we begin another school year, I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, healthy and successful year ahead.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair
Trustee – Vaughan Wards 3 and 4

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.



Positive Climates for Learning



*EcoSchools—We received a **Gold** standing!*

As we embark on a new school year, our Eco team looks forward to maintaining our Gold EcoSchools status.

In the spirit of the 4R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink - with **Reduce** being a priority, our Litterless/Waste-Free Lunch Program is the preferred method of waste reduction and diversion. This program can work well in conjunction with our Green Bin/Organic Waste program.

Litterless/Waste-Free Lunch programs provide students and parents with an opportunity for students and parents to realize the environmental and financial benefits of reusable containers vs disposable packaging.

A Litterless/Waste-Free lunch contains no throwaway packaging or food leftovers. Lunches are packed in servings that will be completely eaten. To avoid or minimize packaging, all food and drinks are packed in reusable containers with a reusable lunch bag or box. Waste-free lunches are not only a wise environmental choice; they are less expensive as well.

In light of this, our September Eco Theme focus is "Litterless Lunches". The Eco team reminds us to continue to bring reusable containers and water bottles to school. In doing so we dump less garbage in landfills. If any parents are interested in supporting our Eco Team with our Eco-Schools initiatives this year, we encourage you to contact the office with your interest.

Thank you for continuing to support your child and our community with our Eco-Schools initiatives.

