Literacy in the 21st Century is the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable achievement, personal well-being and full participation in an interconnected and changing world community. –YRDSB, 2010.

What is Digital Literacy?

The York Region District School Board recognizes a need to achieve a cultural shift in how we understand literacy and in how we engage learners in order to increase student achievement and engagement. Pierre Berton P.S. students and teachers approach learning through the use of educational tools that can help them experience engaging, authentic learning and demonstrate their understanding. This approach prepares our students to be literate and successful in a digital, globally connected, and changing world. Through this approach we are all expanding our understanding of literacy, learning, knowledge, and skills. The process of integrating literacy and technology is referred to as 'digital literacy'.

What is Critical Thinking?

Critical thinking is criterial or evaluative thinking. It is a complex activity, not a set of generic skills.

- Concerned with judging or assessing what is reasonable or sensible in a situation,
- Focuses on quality of reasoning,
- Depends on the possession of relevant knowledge
- Can be done in endless contexts and is required whenever the situation is problematic
- Is effortful but not necessarily negative

(Garfield Gini-Newman)

How can I support my child at home?

Work with your child in thinking critically about which web tools would best help demonstrate or support his/her learning.

General	Primary	Junior/Intermediate
Kid friendly sites for researching www.yahooligans.com www.kidsclick.org www.howstuffworks.com www.factmonster.com http://www.kidrex.org/ Interesting and Educational www.school.discovery.com www.funbrain.com www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/ www.nasa.gov/home/ www.kidsites.com/ Science www.sciencemadesimple.com Music www.sfskids.org	Literacy www.pbskids.org www.kindersite.com www.starfall.com www.tumblebooks.com (Username: pierrebert Password: books) http://littlebirdtales.com/ www.abcya.com/ http://www.brainnook.com Math www.coolmath4kids.com http://www.brainnook.com	Literacy www.kidsreads.com History and Geography www.virtualmuseum.ca www.schoolnet.ca http://show.mappingworlds.com/world/ http://www.worldometers.info/ Math www.figurethis.org www.khanacademy.org/ Visual Art http://www.sumopaint.com

How can I encourage critical thinking at home?

Ask questions that require your child to choose from options when making a decision using criteria that you have both agreed upon.

Encourage your child to think about a situation/text can be reworked based on agreed upon criteria.

Ask the question 'why?' when your child makes a judgement which will encourage your child to explain his/her thinking.