



# Poplar Bank News

We are a Respectful and Caring School

December 2017

Principal: Natasha Baage  
Admin Assistant: Lana Grigorovich  
Secretary: Diana Hogan

Phone Number: 905-953-8995  
Superintendent: Dianne Hawkins  
Trustee: Martin Van Beek

[www.poplarbank.ps.yrdsb.ca](http://www.poplarbank.ps.yrdsb.ca)



*School Improvement Plan  
For Student Achievement and Well Being  
Respectful School, Modern Learning,  
Math and Mental Health*

## Upcoming Events

December 12th	Junior Boys Volleyball (Areas)
December 14th	Junior Girls Volleyball (Areas)
December 14th	Holiday Concert - "Celebration of Lights" 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm
December 18th	Last Day for Holiday Hero's Donations
December 19th	QSP Pick-up (2:00 pm to 6:00 pm)
December 22nd	Last Day of School

## Primary Holiday Concert



Poplar Bank's Primary (Grades 1 to 3) Concert entitled "CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS" will take place on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the gym. The students are busy preparing for the concert and we hope that you will all be able to attend! Your child will come home with more information as the date approaches.

## Lunch Assistance Needed!



We are in need of lunch-time school assistants, for Monday to Friday from 11:55- 12:55 p.m. This is a paid position. If you are interested, please contact the school office.

## Message from the Trustee



In November, about 1,000 students, staff members and community partners came together from across the Board to form a [Ring of Peace](#) and stand together against hate, discrimination and intolerance. The student speakers at the event shared meaningful messages about the importance of feeling welcome, valued and respected.

At York Region District School Board, we are committed to listening to the voices of our students and communities. We will continue working with our school communities to ensure our schools provide safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone.

Last month, our annual [Quest conference](#) brought together educators from across Ontario, Canada and around the world to share, learn and discuss how to foster well-being in schools. Some of the themes covered included equity and inclusivity, and safe and caring environments.

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about some of the positive things happening in our own schools and other districts. In recent months, we have had several international visitors come to our system and schools to learn more about the work in our system to support student achievement and well-being, including Qatar, the Netherlands, Texas and the United Kingdom.

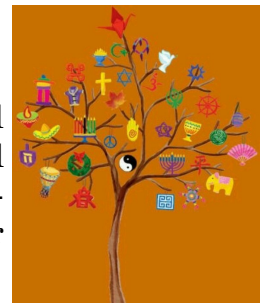
We are pleased to have these opportunities to continue highlighting and sharing the great things happening in our schools thanks to our outstanding students, staff members, families and community partners. Your engagement makes a difference in our schools and I encourage you to continue getting involved in the life of your child's school.

As we enter the holiday season, I am once again impressed by the generosity of our school communities and our students' commitment to helping others.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2018.

## Peace Tree Conference

On November 9th, five Poplar Bank students from Grade 5 and 6 attended the 10th annual Peace Tree Conference at Maple High School. We learned about the difference between equity and equality, as well as how to treat people for who they are. We also made stress balls and practiced strategies for dealing with stress.



## Snack Shack!



Thank you to those students who have been purchasing from our Grade 8 fundraiser—Snack Shack! Stay tuned for Candy Cane sales in December!

## Winter Electives



**Curling:** Our Grades 7 and 8 students will be participating in a Curling Day at the York Curling Club in Newmarket. Grade 7's will go on Thursday, January 18th or 25th, and the Grade 8's will go on Thursday, January 11th. Please go to SchoolCashOnline for payment as soon as possible!

**Snow Valley:** Our junior/intermediate students are scheduled to attend Snow Valley on Tuesday, February 13th for tubing, skiing or snowboarding. Please go to School-CashOnline for registration and payment as soon as possible!



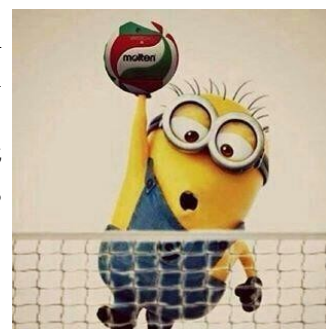
## Junior Girls Volleyball

Coaches Mme Hampton, Mme Nicholson and Mme Tummon would like to congratulate the following girls who are now a part of our Junior Girls Volleyball Team: Aryanna, Alisa, Tia, Adrina, Vanessa, Audrey, Jaylah, Sabrina, Lily, Jillian, Nadia, Emmy, Grace, Eunice, Emily and Julia

Please wish us well as we play 3 exhibition games and attend our area Junior Girls Volleyball tournament in December!

## Senior Boys Volleyball

This past month, the Intermediate Boys Volleyball Team trained hard at practices and improved their skills and teamwork during exhibition games against Pheobe Gilman and Mazo de la Roche. On Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, they played in the Tier 1 Area tournament, hosted at Poplar Bank. They played hard and finished in fourth place! Coaches Sampson and Lauzon would like to congratulate Ethan, Bradley, Peter, Michael, Luka, Austin, Max, Noah, Joshua and Brody.



## Senior Girls Volleyball

A big congratulations goes to Maia "Rock Star", Abby, Olivia, Alejandra, Caroline, Janna, Maggie, Claire, Alijah, and Aryn for their amazing performance at the Tier 2 Area Championship Tournament! On November 22nd, at Phoebe Gilman PS, the girls fought through a grueling day of tough match-ups to meet up against Maple Leaf Public School in the final championship round. Having lost to Maple Leaf earlier in the day, the odds may have been stacked against us. As you may have guessed, the Poplar Pride rose to the challenge and defeated their opponents in a nail-biting third and final match of the best-of-3 championship round. Yet another banner rises to the rafters of the Lions' Den (that's our gym)! Way to go girls!

Coach Maccarone

## Greetings from the Learning Commons



Our French Book Fair with vendor-partner Éduco Entrepôt was a resounding success! Many families were able to visit the Fair during the week of November 23rd. The 2 winners of the draw were Lauren in Mme Roach's Grade 1 class and David in Mme Bachand's Grade 4 class. These students have won \$15.00 worth of French books. They will receive their prizes within the next few weeks.

Special thank yous are extended to several Grade 7 and Grade 8 Library Monitors. Sophi, Diana, Asal, Danielle, Madeleine, Maggie, Maia, Caroline, and Kaitlyn gave up many recesses to assist with the set-up, organization and running of the fair.

Students of all ages continue to visit the Learning Commons daily. Our Makerspace/Zone de créativité has been recently enhanced. This is thanks to the generosity of the Moy-Glauser Family, for donating books, a gigantic puzzle of the map of Canada as well as construction sets. Mille mercis!

I wish all of you a happy and restful holiday season.

Chantal Jenicek



## Holiday Food and Toiletry Drive



**THE  
HOLIDAY HEROES**

Poplar Bank is having a **Holiday Food and Toiletry Drive!** As a demonstration of the important Character Trait “Empathy”, we are still collecting non-perishable food items (e.g., canned beans, peanut butter, cereal), new toiletry items (e.g., toothbrushes, soap, shampoo), or new winter wear accessories (e.g., hats, gloves, mittens). These items will be donated to the **Holiday Heroes Program**. This program works directly with families in York Region that are in need of various items. York Regional Police and Fire Department are also part of this organization.

We are encouraging Poplar Bank students and families to bring in donations. We will be collecting until Monday, December 18th.

A “Mitten Tree” is set up in the front school foyer. Please help us decorate it with new winter accessories (mittens, hats) and fill the “present boxes” below the tree with food and toiletry items.

Thank you in advance for your contributions!



## Eco-Team News

*What is the ECO Team?* The ECO Team at our school is a team of grade 3's to 8's who have meetings every week to discuss what our school can do better to help the Earth, and who also organize events or programs to tell the whole school what to do better and what they're doing great at.

*What is the ECO Team currently doing?*

**Collecting MILK BAGS**—The ECO Team is currently collecting milk bags to be reused and made into mattresses. Every class is participating in a little competition to collect the most milk bags in order to win a class prize. After we collect a certain amount of milk bags, they will be sent to a local retirement home to be weaved into mattresses.

- ◆ The reasons that we're collecting milk bags for mattresses are as below:
- ◆ Water proof - if you're sleeping with your mattress in a shallow puddle and need to sleep well and dry, it will keep you dry!
- ◆ Strong - if you are accidentally dragging your mattress over rocky plains, it won't rip and you won't need to find a replacement.
- ◆ Bacteria free - when you're in the middle of sleeping, you won't suddenly realize that your bed is rotting at the exact moment!
- ◆ Soft – who doesn't like a comfy bed?
- ◆ Free!

**Markers**—The ECO team is currently collecting dried up markers. We're collecting dried markers to be recycled because otherwise they would just be filling up our landfills. Over the holidays consider making your own wrapping paper or use gift bags that can be reused instead of single use wrapping paper.

### RECYCLE! THE HUMAN SPECIES IS EARTH'S ONLY HOPE!

Written by Eco-Ambassador Hannah L.

## Dressing for Cold Weather

We ask that children are appropriately dressed for the weather including a warm hat, gloves, scarves, coats, snowpants and boots at this time of the year. We send the students out for either the full or shortened recess in the cold winter weather. We keep a close eye on all weather conditions, including wind chill before making our decisions. When conditions necessitate, we may decide that the students remain inside for recess. We are aware that during the winter we will see changing temperatures, however, it is best to be prepared for the coldest weather conditions. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



## Remembrance Day at Poplar Bank

A BIG thank you goes out to everyone who played a role in this year's celebration, making this Remembrance Day a great success! A big thank you goes out to the Grade 4, Grade 5 and Grade 8 students, who performed various songs and dramatizations that were both heartwarming and inspiring. Thank you to Mme Smith for directing all of us in music with her guitar and in song. To the parents who attended our celebration, your presence is always welcome. Thank you to our four military Cadets, who represented our men and women in uniform. With their outstanding performance,



Photos courtesy of the Dept. of National Defence

all four youths displayed honor and respect to our falling veterans. To the staff and students of Poplar Bank, thank you for your beautiful wreaths and for being such a wonderful and respectful audience during this special event. Finally, to my Grade 8 class, you have displayed exemplary leadership skills. To the students in charge of tech, your assistance was greatly appreciated in making the transitions between presentations seem effortless. To the students who placed the wreaths on the display panel on the stage, to the six readers and to the two MCs, your courage and dedication were truly appreciated. Being able to present in front of such a large crowd is an achievement that you all should be proud of.



Mme McDonald—  
Coordinator

## Student Safety

When dropping off and picking up your child, please do not park in the drive through at the front of the school or in the north bus loop as these areas are out of bounds. **ABSOLUTELY NO CARS, STUDENTS OR PARENTS** should be in or crossing through the bus loop area at arrival or dismissal times. **SAFETY** for our students is our priority!



## Punctuality Counts!



Punctuality is an important life-skill valued by school, employers in the workforce, and society. The morning entry bell rings at 7:55 a.m. and classes begin sharp at 8:05 a.m. Students who walk to school or who are driven to school **must** be in class before the start of the National Anthem. Otherwise, they are marked as late and this is recorded on their report card.

## School Council Update

**DANCE-A-THON UPDATE:** School Council would like to extend a huge thank you to all our families, students, and local businesses who supported our Halloween Dance-a-thon. With your help, we were able to raise over **\$11,000** to put towards



technology needs, improvements to our school Learning Commons, guest speakers, in class events (such as STEM Minds and Scientists in the School), the music program, our sports teams, and so much more. Congratulations to all the students who won prizes in our draws, and to the five classrooms who won pizza parties for the highest participation. Most important of all, thank you to the teachers who volunteered to be mummified or pied in the face as part of our closing assembly. It was undoubtedly the highlight of the entire event!



**QSP ORDER PICK-UP – DEC 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-6PM:** Thank you to all families who purchased cookie dough, wrapping paper, or magazines through our QSP program. Items will be available for pick up on December 19<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 6 pm, and magazines will be mailed directly to the recipient. Magazines can be purchased year round at [www.qsp.ca](http://www.qsp.ca); our group code is 373891.

**SAVE THE DATE – FEBRUARY 1st:** On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Knowledgehook will be holding a parent information evening to present ideas on how to create a love of math in our children. This presentation will be free to all families thanks to a PRO Grant from the Ministry of Education. More details and information on how to sign up will be included in the January newsletter.

**COUNCIL MEETING:** Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10th at 6:45 p.m. in the school staffroom. You do not need to be a council member to attend...All parents are welcome! We will be providing child minding in an adjacent room for those who require it.

**COMMUNICATION:** As well as reading the school newsletter, or attending a council meeting, you can stay up to date on volunteer opportunities, community events, and educational resources by following us on Twitter: [@PoplarBankSC](https://twitter.com/PoplarBankSC). If you are not on Twitter, you can visit the school website to scroll through our Twitter feed. We are also on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PoplarBankPS/>

As we close out another calendar year, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents who volunteer in our school for a few hours each month to many hours every week! Pizza, Milk and Lunch programs, Healthy Schools, Crunchy Munchy, Fundraising, Library/Classroom help, and School Council, are made possible by these wonderful volunteers! **THANK YOU!!**

On behalf of everyone on School Council, we wish all our PBPS families a safe and happy holiday season, and all the best for the new year!!



## Bus Information—Inclement Weather



The cold weather season is just around the corner. We would like all parents to be aware of the following bad weather procedures followed by the York Region District School Board. If the road conditions force the cancellation of the school buses, local radio stations will be notified as

soon as possible, normally no later than 6:30 a.m. During severe weather conditions, please tune in to one of the radio stations listed below for up-to-date

information. Remember that buses are cancelled in the morning then the buses will not be operating in the afternoon. Therefore, if you drive your children to school in the morning you must also be able to provide transportation for them after school at 2:35 p.m. Radio stations that will be notified of bus cancellations are: CFTR 680, CKEY 590, CFRB 1010, CHFI 98.1 and CKAN 1480. You have the right, as a parent, to keep your child(ren) at home in severe weather conditions; however, the school will probably be opened even though transportation has been cancelled.

A bus cancellation message will also be available at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) and by following the YRDSB on Twitter.

## French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

**French Immersion registration will take place from January 19th - February 9th, 2018**

Our Board has recently completed a year-long [review](#) of the French as a Second Language (FSL) programs, including Core French and French Immersion (FI). One of the outcomes of this review was a long-term FI accommodation plan for students across York Region. YRDSB's FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. Students may begin the French Immersion program in one location, but continue in a different location. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. The new accommodation plan will provide consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol.

Please note that some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision.

You can use the [School Locator](#) beginning in January 2018 to locate YRDSB schools offering the FI program for your address for the 2018-19 school year. Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on January 18, 2018 at 7 p.m. Registration will take place January 19 to February 9, 2018.

