



Poplar Bank News

We are a Respectful and Caring School

December 2013 Issue 4

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Happy Holidays Everyone!

The Staff at Poplar Bank would like to wish all the families and friends of our School Community a very happy holiday season. We also extend our best wishes for a happy, peaceful, healthy and prosperous New Year in 2014!

Holiday Heroes Campaign

Poplar Bank Staff and Students are participating in a Food and Toy Drive from Nov 25-Dec 16 to get in the spirit of giving this Holiday Season. We are contributing to the Holiday Heroes of York Regional Police. 100% of donations directly support the children from our community who are in need. Our collaborative efforts will provide holiday cheer to the thousands of families who have registered for assistance through the local Salvation Army programs and the York Region Children's Aid Society. Poplar Bank is collecting non-perishable food items, and new unwrapped toys to be able to put under our Christmas tree in the office. Please send in your donations! Your generosity is appreciated.

On November 27th Poplar Bank launched its new website

Please take the time to navigate through the website as it serves to assist you to become acquainted with our school and the many activities which take place. You can also view dates of upcoming events, school's newsletters, teacher websites, moodles, inclement weather alerts, and general information.

If you have any enquiries about our school, or you wish to become more actively involved, please contact the school.

<http://poplarbank.ps.yrdsb.ca/>

UPCOMING DATES

Mon. Dec 2:	Pizza day
Fri. Dec 6:	Milk order deadline
Wed. Dec 11:	School Council Meeting 6:45
Mon. Dec 12:	Holiday Concert 6:30 – 7:30
Mon. Dec 16:	Last Day for Food Drive
Wed. Dec 18:	Pajama Day
Thurs. Dec 19:	Sing Along Assembly, Red & White Day
Fri. Dec. 20:	P.A. Day, no school
Mon. Dec 23:	Holidays begin
Wed. Jan 1st, 2014:	Happy New Year!
Mon. Jan 6:	First Day Back to School
Thurs. Jan 16:	Grade 1 Information Night



Dressing Students in Cold Weather Wear

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 conditions. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

No Parking in the Fire Route at Front of School!

At the front of the school, we have a "Kiss & Ride" where parents may drop off or pick-up their child. It is not a place where parents or visitors can park their vehicle and leave it unattended. In recent months, a few people have received hefty tickets from the York Regional Police for parking in this "Kiss & Ride" because it is a FIRE ROUTE. Please do not park in the "Kiss & Ride" because, if there is a fire or emergency, fire trucks and emergency response vehicles will not be able to get proper access to the school. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this safety matter.

Bus Loop for Buses ONLY

The bus loop is to be used by buses only for the pick up and drop off of students. Cars are NOT ALLOWED to go through the bus loop as indicated by the "No Entry" sign.

Students Staying Indoors While Ill

Frequently we receive requests from parents to allow a child to remain indoors at recess or lunch hour due to illness or a cold. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate these requests. We have no staff to supervise these students; all our supervisors are in the school yard. It is our belief and the recommendation of the York Region Health Services that students who are too ill to go out for recess are too ill to come to school.



Bus Safety and Parking Lot Update

Student safety is our number one priority at Poplar Bank. Thank you very much for your cooperation this fall. We now have a clear routine for walkers and parent pick-up and drop-off. There still remains one area that our staff has identified as a safety concern. Each morning and after school, we have unsafe conditions when the following happens: Both before and after school, some parents and students run between parked buses and vehicles. As well, parents stay in their parked vehicle and instruct their child to make his/her way through parked cars to their parked vehicle. These are very unsafe practices. We ask your immediate cooperation and request that you follow these routines for your safety as well as the safety of your child and the student body at large. In the morning and after school, please use the south, east or north sidewalks to walk your child to the yard or back to your vehicle. When on foot, never cross through the parking lot or walk in front of or between buses or parked vehicles. This is absolutely critical to student, and parent safety. Your cooperation in this matter is of utmost importance. Thank you in advance for your increased vigilance and cooperation.

Reminder about the Lunch Lady and Pizza Days

Please remember that if buses are cancelled, then Pizza Lunches and Lunch Lady lunches are also cancelled. We do not have the provisions to provide lunch to these students when buses are cancelled. On days where buses are cancelled, students who come to school are expected to bring their lunches. Please listen to the radio for bus cancellations. The Pizza days and Lunch Lady will be made up at another date. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Throwing Snowballs: Not Allowed at School

Now that the snowy weather is here, we need to remind all students that we enjoy the snow, we play in it, we make snowmen and even snowforts, but we do not throw or kick snow. Students who throw snowballs or kick snow will receive immediate consequences. There are no warnings. Please counsel your child(ren) that throwing and kicking snow can result in serious injury to others and is not allowed.

Message From Our Trustee

As 2013 draws to a close, I hope everyone has had a wonderful school year so far. As a trustee, I am always very proud to hear about the great things happening in our schools, thanks to the hard work of our students, staff and community members.

With the school year well underway I hope you have had an opportunity to get involved with the school community. There are many different ways to get involved. Our great schools become even better when everyone in the school community – families, students, staff and community partners – feels welcome and engaged in the school.

We will begin 2014 with a renewed Mission, Vision and Values statement. They are being updated to better reflect the school communities we serve, and the changes we have seen in education over the past decade. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views.

As we enter the winter months, on behalf of the trustees and staff of the York Region District School Board, I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season, and a wonderful start to the new year.

Martin Van Beek

School Council Update – December 2013

The Poplar Bank School Council has been working on a number of fall fundraisers that will support activities throughout the year. Thank you to all the families who supported **Lamontagne, QSP, Pizza Days, and the Poinsettia sale**. Funds are still coming in and we will highlight our profits in the next newsletter. We have already been able to set aside \$5000 along with \$7500 from the board for 12 iPads with Retina Display with a Macbook, cart for iPad storage, capable of charging the iPads and iRover with a smart board and a projector for our classrooms in the New Year.

Thanks to parent volunteers the **milk program** is back at Poplar Bank. Forms are due on December 6 and include orders January through to June. We are still looking for volunteers to help coordinate some of our Healthy Schools initiatives (**Crunchy Munchy, Smoothie Day**, etc). We are hoping to soon have Crunchy Munchy available for students who have forgotten or don't have a snack.

Thank you to all the parents (and grandparents!) who volunteer their time to make school council activities possible. An hour helping at Pizza Day or a few hours helping organize the milk program makes these initiatives possible. If you have some time to contribute please e-mail Nina Dorion ninadorion69@gmail.com

We'll continue to update you on council activities in the school newsletter, by posting our minutes on the new school website, and you can also visit the school website to view the council Twitter feed, which shares council and community news. Follow us on Twitter @PoplarBankSC.

Our December 11th meeting is an allocation meeting, where we will fund other projects. All parents are welcome to attend, 6:45 pm in the school library.



Lunch Assistants needed at Poplar Bank

If you are interested in a paid position that involves supervising students during the lunch hour, please call our school office for more information.

R E S P E C T

This month, for our school focus of RESPECT, the grade eight students discussed Remembrance Day. The common word repeated throughout the discussion was "respect". They identified that this day, November 11th, including Veterans' Week, represents a time to show respect for those who fought in the wars, and to respect the sacrifices of many people. In addition to this discussion, the students recognized that military personnel provide a service. We continued identifying other employments in the service industry, such as law enforcement individuals, teachers, caretakers, medical personnel, and many others. We are confident that our grade eight students are respectful!

Remembrance Day Assembly

On November 11th, we joined together as a school community and had a memorable Remembrance Day Assembly. It was great to see parents and friends of Poplar Bank at the assembly. Such an assembly is not possible without the work and collaboration of many people. Thank you to all of the classes for making the beautiful wreaths. Thank you also to our staff organizing committee and their students

- Frequent absenteeism leads to gaps in a child's skills and knowledge base and can cause the child to fall behind peers and decrease self-esteem.
 - Too many missed school days can increase isolation as the child stands out from his/her classmates and misses opportunities to develop socially.
 - Absenteeism makes it tougher for the child to develop a good rapport with the teachers.
- Please contact the school if you would like more information.

Attendance Matters

Getting to school – every day and on time – is very important. Learning occurs daily, right from the start of class. By establishing patterns early on (i.e. by being punctual and responsible) children acquire positive habits about school attendance.

Some other things to consider:

- If children are late arriving to school, they miss important social time with their peers before school begins.
- Students who are late often feel embarrassed or self-conscious.
- Late arrivals disrupt the routine of the classroom.
- A last-minute rush can be stressful for the child, and get him/her to school in the wrong frame of mind.
- Missing even five or ten minutes of the day can make it harder for a student to understand the material being taught.

Fall Term Progress Reports

On November 13th, we were very pleased to see so many parents come out for parent interviews and discuss their child's progress, strengths and next steps for growth. If you have not had a chance to speak to your child's teacher this fall, please feel free to contact him/her by calling the school office. Your feedback is very important! In February 2014, you will receive more information on your child's progress and achievement in the provincial Term One Report Card.

Before and After School Child Care Available at Poplar Bank Public School

We are happy to say that we have Denison Child Care in site here at Poplar Bank. Denison Child Care offers a before and After School Program for children 3.8 to 12 years of age. For more information about the fee schedule and times, please contact Amy @ (905) 953- 1850

Scholastic French Book Fair: Our French Book Fair was a success this year. Our goal was to raise monies to purchase more books for our library while fostering a love of reading....and we have done just that. Thank you for supporting it!



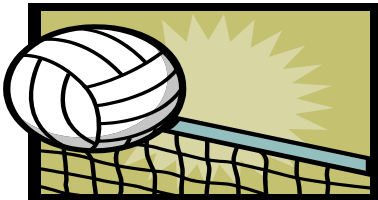
Forest of Reading: The Forest of Reading program is coming soon to Poplar Bank PS. It is Canada's largest recreational reading program! This initiative of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) will offer five reading programs this year. These programs are designed to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. The Forest helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators. We are thrilled to be a part of this wonderful reading program this year and we encourage all students to participate in it! The Forest of Reading invites children and young adults to read and vote on their favorite nominated Canadian books. Our goal is to improve literacy while fostering the love of reading throughout our wonderful school.

Green Team--Energy Conservation Team

During the lunch recess we have continued to send our team to monitor whether the lights are out when the classroom/office is not in use. You will see how the school has fared in this regard during the month of October. On each floor we have posted a graph of our findings. On the first floor it can be found on the bulletin board near the office and on the second floor it is on the bulletin board near the stairwell.

We hope that the school continues to be diligent in its effort to reduce the energy consumption while at school.

Volleyball News



The Senior Boys and Girls Volleyball teams have been practicing during the month of November. They participated in a few exhibition games as well as in the Boys Area Tournament on Nov 19th and the Girls on Nov 21st. They represented Poplar Bank with Pride! Congratulations to the following team members for all their efforts and thank you to their coaches!

Boys Team Members include: Nicholas T., Nicolas B., Kuros, Danny, Bilal, Ethan, Liukkor, Daniel, Richard, Yussef and Nicholas and Coaches Mme Sampson and Mme Wansbrough

Girls Team Members include: Jordanna, Slava, Hannah, Tamara, Maya, Madeleine, Stephanie, Ashley, Crystal, Juanita, Katrina, Madison and Coach Mme Green

The Junior Girls Volleyball Team has been practicing hard and participating in a number of exhibition games in preparation for the Area Tournament on December 12th. Team members include: Abigail, Amanda, Avery, Charlotte, Hailey, Jenna, Kaitlyn, Maia, Rachel, Robyn, Talia, and Tristan. Coaches Mme Nicholson and Mme Hodge are enjoying working with the team and wish them good luck at the Areas!

Junior Girls Volleyball Members include: Maya, Tamara, Stephanie, Slava, Jordanna, Juanita, Crystal, Ashley, Katrina, Hannah, Madeleine, Madison

Junior Boys Volleyball Members include: Gabriel, Kieron, Sean, DJ, Noah, Ethan, Kaleb, Adam, Denton, Adiyen

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM!!!!



Holiday Concert –“Winter Celebration of Music”

This concert will take place on **Thursday, December 12th** from **6:30-7:30** in **Poplar Bank’s gym**.

The groups that will be performing at this concert are:

- all grade 1 classes
- all grade 2 classes
- all grade 3 classes plus Mme McGraw’s 3/4 class
- Primary Choir
- Calixa Lavallee
- Stage Band
- Beginner Band

If your child is part of the Primary Choir, Stage Band, Beginning Band or Calixa Lavallee, then he/she must wear the Poplar Bank music t- shirt, black bottom and black top. The students are asked to wear something festive/seasonal as well; reindeer ears, Santa hat, elf hat, winter hat... If your child joined the primary choir late, and doesn’t have a music t- shirt, then he/she must wear a black plain t- shirt with black bottoms.

Grade 2 and 3 students who are not in the Primary Choir are asked to wear a black t-shirt as well for their class performance.

Arrival times: **Beginner Band** and **Stage Band** must arrive at **6pm**.

All other performers must arrive at **6:15**.

Holding rooms will be given at a later date.

There will be 2 draws for Poinsettia floor planters on the night of the concert for \$2 a ticket. All proceeds raised will go towards the music program. Thank-you in advance for your support.

Looking forward to a wonderful evening of music,

Mme Smith

Parents are welcome to join us in our School Sing along which is taking place on December 19th at 9:10 am.





Winter Electives Day

Winter Electives are here again! On January 24 and February 21st, 2014, students from Grade 1 to 8 will be participating in a variety of different electives. Primary students will be skating and may want to try on their helmets and skates to make sure that they fit



Information session for the French Immersion program will take place at Poplar Bank P.S. on January 16, 2014 at 7 p.m.

French Immersion registration will take place from January 17 - February 14, 2014

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at [French Immersion schools](#) on January 16, 2014 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 17, 2014. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2014, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an Office Index Card - short version. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to your [designated French Immersion school](#) to register between January 17 and February 14, 2014. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

Families registering students who do not currently attend a YRDSB school will need to complete full registration paperwork at their designated FI school.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term 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 enroll. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. Please note: 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. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in [Policy #108](#).





Are you looking for great holiday gifts for family and friends?

Go SHOPPING at www.QSP.ca and you'll be supporting our school at the same time.

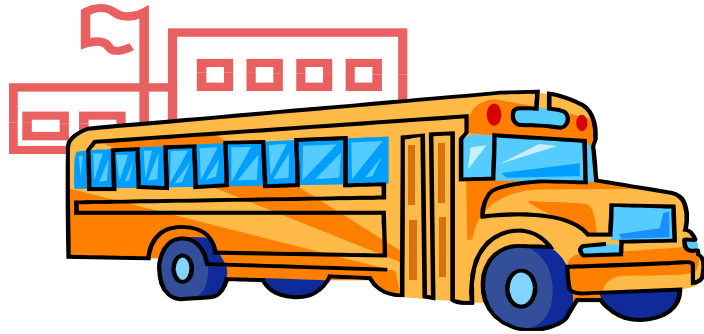
Our school group number is 18405 and the internet site is open to take your order 24 hours a day.

No line-ups, no gift wrapping and free delivery anywhere in Canada. QSP also offers a free e-card service.

A gift of a magazine subscription is like giving a gift every month for an entire year!

***THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR
FAMILY READING MAGAZINE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN!***

*Many magazines will begin to arrive over the next few weeks, but some subscriptions due to different publishing schedules may take longer to start. If you have any questions, please contact QSP Customer Service at **1-800-667-2536.** They offer a 100% satisfaction guarantee.*



School Bus Cancellation Notice

On occasion service cancellation due to inclement weather conditions may be required.

To ensure all education partners (staff, parents and students) understand how they can be informed of any service cancellation, please take the appropriate steps to distribute the attached **School Bus Cancellation Notice**.

Suggestions for sharing the information include but are not limited to:

- Sending copies home with students;
- Sending copies home in Report Card envelopes;
- Including notice in school newsletters and/or websites.
- Posting Notice in appropriate locations (hallways, staff rooms);

A decision to cancel school bus transportation will be **region-wide** meaning all buses, vans and taxis will not operate.

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access local radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information. A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and 1-877-330-3001 or by following the YRDSB on Twitter.

Please note that **school bus charters will not operate when regular home to school service is cancelled**.

Student Transportation Services thanks you for your efforts to distribute this information as we continually strive to improve service levels to our schools and students.