



Poplar Bank News

We are a Respectful and Caring School

February 2014 Issue 6

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Board Launches New Mission, Vision, Values and Slogan

Mission: To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

The York Region District School Board is celebrating the launch of its new Mission, Vision and Values statements and slogan – *Inspire Learning!*

The Board last reviewed these statements in the late 1990s. Since that time, education in York Region has been influenced by a number of significant changes, including changes in technology, in our communities and in our learning environments.

Community members, parents/guardians, staff members and students had the opportunity to provide input and share ideas about the ideal future of public education in York Region. Thank you to everyone who participated in the process.

For more information, visit the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca.

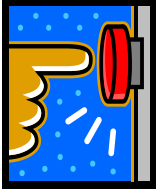
Cold Weather Action Plan

Our cold weather action plan is; between –14 to –19 we will shorten recess by half, anything colder than –20 means we will have a full indoor recess. Temperatures are taken from www.weathernetwork.ca before each recess period to determine what action to take. If you have any questions, please call the office.



UPCOMING DATES

Thurs. Feb. 6	Family Friendship Dance
Mon. Feb. 10	Pizza Day
Tue. Feb. 11	Report Cards
	School Council Meeting 6:45 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 17	Family Day, no classes
Fri. Feb. 21	Electives Day
Mon..Feb. 24	Pizza Day
March Break	March 10- 14



Locked School Doors

Starting **Monday, February 3**, our school doors, including the front door, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning bell rings. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the school day. All visitors, including Board staff, parents and guardians, will be required to buzz in **and** sign in at the main office.

In addition:

- *To access Before and After Care Programs, after school office hours, parents/guardians will use the outside kindergarten door. A Child Care staff member will open the door for parents to pick up their child/ren. There will not be access to the rest of the school building.*
- *If you are arriving late for school (after 8:20 a.m.), dropping lunch off for your child, or picking your child up early, you will need to buzz in through the main door.*
- *Evening permits will be buzzed in through the main door by their permit coordinator.*

Our school continues to be a safe place where we welcome and encourage parent and community member involvement. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place for student and staff safety, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we move forward with our Safe Welcome Program. If you have any questions, please contact our main office.

R E S P E C T

In their literacy unit on Social Justice, our Grade 7 students in Mme. Bimo's class have talked, read and written about people who have fought for social justice and how to respect and appreciate their cause. Students have learned about ways people show respect to themselves, to others, to the environment. They have read and written biographies that give information about people who have fought for equity in the world. At the end of the unit the students were involved in a fictive interview with the person fighting for social justice, honoring and respecting this way their contribution to our society and to human rights.



Winter Electives Update

All students have enjoyed one of their Winter Elective days. All grades will be enjoying another day of Skiing, Skating and in school activities on February 21st as scheduled.



February Family Friendship Dance

We will be holding our February Family Friendship Dance on Feb. 6 from 6-8 p.m. There will be a DJ and food! Come and join the fun. Tickets are now available. Hope to see you there!



Message from our Trustee, Martin Van Beek

This is an exciting time for our Board. We recently launched our new Mission, Vision and Values, and the Board's first slogan – *Inspire Learning!*

Our new mission statement – *to advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community* – will help to guide our work and move us forward in the months and years ahead.

Thank you to everyone who shared their input. We look forward to bringing these statements to life in our school communities.

We are now halfway through the school year, a good time to celebrate all that your children have achieved and to set goals for the rest of the year. I encourage you to speak with your child not only about what they are learning, but also how they are learning. There are so many exciting and innovative things happening in our schools.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and successful second term.

La cabane a collation

The Poplar Bank "Snack Shack" will be selling fun and healthy snacks from February 2 – 14 outside the Gym office at first recess. Students must listen to announcements for when "La cabane a collation" will be open again. Stay tuned for this Valentine's February special at "La cabane a collation"!

Looking for More School Information

View dates of upcoming events, school's newsletters, teacher websites moodles, inclement weather alerts, and general information on the new Poplar Bank Website

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

Library News

Tumblebook Library And Tumblebook Cloud Junior are Great Resources for Parents and Students

Poplar Bank has renewed the rights to two online book clubs that students can access at school and at home. These books can provide additional reading materials for you to share with your child or which they can read on their own.

Tumblebook Library is an online collection of animated, talking picture books which teach young children the joys of reading in a format they'll love. To use Tumblebooks at home please go to: www.tumblebooklibrary.com

Our username is: poplar

Our password is: books

Tumblebook cloud junior, read, watch, learn is an online collection of e-books, read-a-longs, graphic novels, videos and audiobooks for grade 4-8 students. See www.tbcjr.com

Our username is: poplar

Our password is: books

Forest Of Reading.

The Ontario Library Association Forest of Reading program begins this month .

Students in all grades will be participating in reading the nominees for best Canadian fiction and then voting for their favorite.

Eco Team News



Poplar Bank Conducts Waste Audit

On Thursday, January 16th, our Eco-Team spent the lunch hour conducting a waste and recycling audit to measure the weight of our garbage, and to check for contamination. Right after lunch, all homeroom garbage bags and blue boxes were collected and assessed. We are proud to report that we only produced a total of 1.52 kgs of garbage, which would total 294.8 kg over the course of the school year. Although this is a great result, we still have work to do by ensuring that we are not contaminating our recycling bins with food, garbage and non-recyclable materials. Thanks go to parents who continue to assist us with our Waste Reduction Plan by sending lunch in reusable containers and recyclable materials. Together we are making a positive difference for our environment!

French Immersion registration will continue to take place until February 14, 2014



In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2014, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, can visit or call the **home 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 by 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.

Student Safety is our #1 priority!

Before and After School Routines

Please note that supervision in the school yard begins at 7:50 am and after school, supervision ends at 2:45 pm. Parents are asked therefore not to drop off their children before 7:50 am. Upon arrival, Grade 1-8 students must make their way to the back of the school to their assigned entry doors. After school, students who walk home must be sure to leave school property and go directly home. This will help prevent unsafe situations from arising in and around school property.

Students Off Property During the Lunch Hour

Student safety is our number one concern. This note is to let you know of the safety guideline review that we have given to all students who walk to and from school and who go off property at lunch hour. We have reviewed the importance of walking on the sidewalk, crossing safely at intersections, not jaywalking, and using the Crossing Guards at the intersections of Bonshaw and Woodduck Lane and Bonshaw and Woodspring. Grade 7 and 8 students know that they may at lunchtime, with parent permission in writing to the school, go home for lunch, go out to nearby restaurants and mall, and in good weather, go to the park picnic tables visible from the road at Alfred Smith Way and Woodspring and at Harvest Hills Blvd and Woodspring. No Poplar Bank students may go the walking trails that extend to Bathurst or to the ponds in the forests just West and South of the school as these areas are too remote and the water makes for very unsafe conditions for any student to play around. Please review these guidelines with you child(ren). Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.



Use of Handheld Technology: Handheld technology

is as excellent tool for student learning and may be used in class when the teacher has incorporated it

into a lesson or student research activities. Please note that students may not however use cell phones or text message in class or on school property. Social networking with friends is important and we ask that it happen outside school hours.

If a student is ill, upset, hurt or would like to contact their parents, we ask student not to directly call or text their parents, but to let their teacher know and then, go to the office and seek assistance. That way, school staff can be aware of your child's needs, ensure that your child's needs are addressed and that you are contacted.

Should students bring cell phones to school, they must remain in their pocket or backpack on off mode, and not be taken out in class or on school property. Staff will confiscate a student's cell phone if it is used inappropriately in class or on school property and it will be sent to the office where the vice-principal or principal will address the matter.

Parking Lot Safety Bus Safety and Parking Lot Update

Student safety is our number one priority at Poplar Bank. Thank you very much for your cooperation. 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 afterschool, 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. **PARKING IN THE FIRE ROUTE IS ABSOLUTELY NOT PERMITTED. THE TOWN OF NEWMARKET BY-LAW OFFICER WILL BE ISSUING TICKETS TO THOSE PARKED IN THIS AREA.** Parents who stop or park on Woodspring Avenue when dropping off or picking up their children are asked NOT to block the bus loop. Due to the snow banks in winter, our busses require ample space for turning into the loop. 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



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.

PARKED CARS IN POPLAR BANK'S PARKING LOT WE HAVE BEEN FINDING CARS PARKED OVERNIGHT IN OUR PARKING LOT AND THIS HAS IMPEDED THE CREW'S EFFORTS IN CLEARING THE SNOW. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ANY UNAUTHORIZED CARS FOUND PARKED IN OUR PARKING LOT WILL BE TOWED AWAY AT THE CAR OWNER'S EXPENSE.

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.

What is Cyberbullying?

"Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies such as e-mail, cell phone and pager text messages, instant messaging (IM), defamatory personal Web sites, and defamatory online personal polling Web sites, to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others."

—Bill Belsey is President of Bullying.org.

Bullies are notorious for tormenting their victims face to face - usually at school - on the playground or in the cafeteria. But in recent years the Internet has not only increased the ability to bully at school, but has brought the problem into our homes and elsewhere - actually just about anywhere - at any time. Here are some easy things that you can do to stay safe when using the Internet, cell phones or webcams:

-Monitor Online Activity

-Report any suspicious online activity to

www.cybertip.ca

- If someone you don't know approaches you or makes you feel uncomfortable online, tell your parents and do not write to them.
- Never meet anyone in person who you have met online without your parents' permission.
- Do not buy or accept gifts from anyone you meet online
- Never call anyone you met online.
- If you are unsure about something ask your parent or guardian.
- Remember that the people you meet online may not be who they say they are.
- Make sure that an adult is nearby when chatting on the Internet.
- Always check with your parents before entering a chat room and tell your parents about your online friends.
- If something online is making you feel uncomfortable there may be a good reason for you to leave that internet location and tell someone about it.
- Share e-mail addresses of people you write to with your parents.
- Remember that nothing you write on the web or email is completely private
- Immediately delete unknown e-mail attachments without opening them as they can contain harmful viruses.

These tips have been used with permission and further information can be found at: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/

More information can be found at www.cyberbullying.ca

Later this spring, our Grade 4-8 students will take part in a Cyberbullying Safety Talk from Constable Jon from

Crime Stoppers.

Reminder about the Lunch Lady, Milk Program, Pita and Pizza Days:

Please remember that if buses are cancelled, then Pizza Lunches, Milk Program 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.



The Importance of Regular Attendance:

It's a fact that students who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful in school than students who do not. Parents who make regular school attendance a priority also are helping their children learn to accept responsibility. And that's an important lesson for a successful life.

Attendance patterns are formed early in life. Children who develop good attendance habits in the early grades will be more likely to continue them throughout their school career. That's important, because students who miss school miss out on carefully planned sequences of instruction. They miss out on active learning experiences and class participation. They miss out on the opportunity to ask questions. They are more likely to fall behind and they are more likely to drop out.

What Parents Can Do:

1. Let your child know that you expect his/her to attend school every day. Explain that, just as you have a job, it's their job to go to school and learn.
2. Set a time for doing homework each evening and a time for going to bed. Unfinished homework and too little sleep are common reasons why parents hear the words, "I don't feel good," on school mornings.
3. Making sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality
4. Taking an interest in their education - ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities
5. Discussing any problems they may have at school - inform their teacher about anything serious not letting them take time off school for minor ailments - particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work Please contact the school if you would like more Information.





By now your subscriptions should have started or should be starting very shortly. Remember, if you ever have a question regarding your order, please call: QSP Customer Service at 1-800-667-2536. Don't forget we will again be running this reading fundraiser next fall and that some publishers may send you early renewal notices. If you renew with the publishers the school does not receive any profits or benefit.

If you would like to renew early, please visit www.QSP.ca where you can renew your subscription or order new subscriptions and still support the school. Thank you! Merci Beaucoup!

Grade 8 News

Grade 8 parents should be aware that this year's **Grade 8 Graduation** will take place on Tuesday, June 24, at 6pm, at Poplar Bank P.S. Further details will follow. High School Registrations for Grade 8's are due Jan 31 and the course selection process is beginning now. Course selections are to be completed by Feb 18, 2014.



The Senior Girls Basketball team is practicing hard in preparation for the Area Tournament which will take place at the end of February. The girls will participate in a number of exhibition games during the season. Best of luck to team members: Crystal, Hannah, Jade, Maya, Megan, Rayden, Sara, Slava, Stephanie, Tamara, and coaches Mme Hodge and Mme Hazlewood.

School Council

The December School Council meeting was one of two fund allotment meetings held every year. Poplar Bank families make many activities and extra resources available in our school through the support of our fundraisers. Thank you for participating in Pizza Days, Lamontagne, QSP, and Poinsettia sales.

In addition to \$5000 towards new technology allocated in November, Council has been able to meet requests from the school for \$1000 to the Forest for Reading program, \$1500 for French comics and graphic short stories, \$1500 for a Junior/Intermediate literacy room, \$2000 for the music program including cleaning of instruments and support of choirs and bands traveling to competitions. Sports team uniforms will be purchased for \$900 and \$450 for head lice checks. These allocations were made based on priorities from the school administration.

Many students also enjoyed Rocks and Ropes week during our first week back to school. Rocks and Ropes was fully funded by School Council. It was wonderful to see a few students and families from every grade at our December skating party at Riverwalk Commons. Thanks for joining us!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who work hard on council fundraisers and activities, as well as in the classroom.

A reminder that the school council is now on Twitter! You can follow @PoplarBankSC for council & community information, or simply visit the school website and view our updates on the homepage.



School Council will be meeting on February 11th at 6:45 p.m. in the Library. All welcome.



Heart and Stroke Corner – February 2014 Edition

Tip of the Month

Winter provides a wonderful opportunity to get active and discover the great outdoors...don't hibernate! Participate! Although Canadians tend to be less active in the winter that might change if they knew physical activity actually boosts the immune system. What really helps people become and stay physically active all winter long is the pure enjoyment of it. Review these tips and pick one or two that you would like to try with your family: * Create a 3-D family portrait. Build a snowperson look-alike for each family member. Make a family of snow angels. *Build snow castles, mazes, or snow sculptures *Go tobogganing. Remember the helmets! *Plan a family game of snow pitch (slow pitch in the snow) or neighborhood game of Capture the Snowball. *Use food colouring in a spray bottle to create a hopscotch game on the snow. *Enjoy the winter wonderland while hiking nature trails or walking on a beach. *Try skating on an outdoor rink. *Snowshoeing and cross country skiing are wonderful family outings. You can rent equipment at some outdoor activity centres or parks.



Recipe of the Month

Food With Heart

Put even more love in your family's meals and snacks with these fun ideas! Make some heartfelt food!

Carrots: Peel a carrot, cut a small v-shaped notch down the length of the carrot and then slice crosswise. Voila — carrot hearts! They're great for dipping, throwing in a stir-fry or simmering in a soup.

Apples: Cut a big round slice from a green and red apple. Using a small heart-shaped cookie cutter, cut out a heart shape from each and switch them into the other slice.

Muffins: Cut a small heart out of a piece of paper. Place over a homemade muffin and dust lightly with cinnamon sugar. Remove paper.

Rice: Lightly coat the inside of a heart-shaped cookie cutter with cookie spray. Place on a dinner plate and fill with cooked rice. Carefully remove cutter.

Ice cubes: Using a heart-shaped ice cube tray (most kitchen stores stock them around Valentine's Day), freeze milk, yogurt, juice, pureed fruit.

Melon kebabs: Cut chunks of watermelon, honeydew and cantaloupe into heart shapes with a cookie cutter; skewer one of each melon onto a popsicle stick.

Pizza: You can shape pizza dough into a heart then get your gang to arrange the toppings in a heart shape too.

Question of the Month

Q: "My son would be happy if every meal was pasta and tomato sauce. He doesn't like meat or beans. Should I be concerned about his protein intake?"

A: Kids need carbohydrates, proteins and fats for healthy growth and development. Protein helps the body make and repair cells – in fact, every cell in the human body contains protein. Your son's pasta with tomato sauce more than covers his carbohydrate needs. But it is not enough to meet his daily requirement of protein if that's all he likes to eat. The good news is that there are lots of high-protein foods to choose from, even if meat is not your son's favourite. Protein-rich foods are found in the "Milk and Alternatives" and the "Meat and Alternatives" food groups in Canada's Food Guide. These are also all high-protein foods: milk, cheese, yogurt, nuts, seafood, eggs and tofu. Here are some tips to get protein into your son's favourite food:

*Blend silken tofu or pureed chicken into his tomato sauce * Make a rose sauce with tomato and greek yogurt
* Add cubed cheese to hot pasta and let your son have fun with the melty strings