



Poplar Bank News

We are a Respectful and Caring School

October 2013

Issue 2

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At Poplar Bank P.S. We Show R-E-S-P-E-C-T! **À Poplar Bank P.S. Nous Démontrons Le R-E-S-P-E-C-T!**

Respect is a character trait that Poplar Bank will be focusing on throughout the school year. We will be working hard at building relationships with each other based on mutual respect. As respectful individuals, we recognize that all people have rights regardless of their race, gender, age or ethnicity. In essence, if we can all be respectful, then we are showing empathy, positive attitude, integrity, fairness, courage and optimism.

To launch our focus, we had an assembly on Monday, September 30th. Student leaders from the “Spirit Team”, presented the concept of respect with examples that students could relate to. They explained the importance of:

- Showing respect for oneself by being responsible for taking care of personal belongings, and by making an effort in class work
- Showing respect for others by being polite and by offering to help
- Showing respect for the environment by using reusable containers to reduce garbage, and by composting and recycling

In addition to the assembly, students will be engaged in a variety of classroom activities that address the meaning of respect and what it means to be respectful. Every grade will have a turn to display their work related to our school focus on the “R-E-S-P-E-C-T” bulletin board in the foyer. We will have announcements on this theme, and we will refer to the word respect in our interactions with each other on a daily basis.

We will keep you up-dated on how Poplar Bank students and staff are showing respect. À Poplar Bank P.S. nous démontrons le R-E-S-P-E-C-T à sois-même et aux autres à tous les jours et de plusieurs façons! At Poplar Bank P.S. we respect ourselves and others at all times and show respect in different ways.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 9	School Council Meeting @ 6:45	Oct. 18	Lamontagne Fundraiser order due
Oct. 9	Area Cross Country Meet-Grade 3-8	Oct. 21	Pizza Day
Oct. 11	P.A. Day, no classes	Oct. 22	Grade 7 / 8 Immunization Shots
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Day Holiday, no school	Oct. 23	Photo Day
Oct. 17	Regional Cross Country Meet	Oct. 24	Poplar Bank PS “10 th ” Anniversary



Family Meet the Teacher BBQ, Book Fair and Curriculum Night: A Great Success!

It was great to see such a terrific turn out! The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success! In the classrooms, teachers did a fine job outlining the various programs that the students will be following and explained the classroom routines and expectations as well as how to help students at home. Regular homework that includes the application of effective study skills is crucial to sustained progress. Do contact your child's teacher if you are unsure as to how to help your child at home. If you would like detailed information on the learning expectations for your child in each subject area this year, check the Ministry of Education web site at www.edu.gov.on.ca

Such an event is not possible without the help of a team of volunteers! A Special thank you to the School Council, especially Wendy Lebskin for organizing the BBQ and staff for helping with the food and drink stations.

Thank you to our fabulous School Council for organizing the welcome table and seeking volunteers for programs such as Crunchy Munchy Program, Milk Program, QSP Magazine Fundraiser and School Council. We thank Mrs. Hampton and her great team of volunteers for organizing the Book Fair! We also thank Mr. Allen, Mr. Papaevangelou, and Lisa Palmer, our Caretaking staff, for helping out with the logistics. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead! Thanks for your support and participation! It was a great event for all!!

EQAQ Results

Grade 3 and 6: May/ June 2012

Each year at the end of May, all Grade 3 and 6 students in Ontario take a ministry assessment. EQAO is one measure of academic progress for the end of Primary instruction (Grade 3) and the end of Junior instruction (Grade 6). The grade 3 French Immersion students do the math assessment in French and the Grade 6 French Immersion students do the language and math assessments in English.

The EQAO test results provide a snapshot of a student's achievement in relation to the provincial standards. We are very proud of the work of all our staff and students from grades 1 to grade 8, and of our grade 3 and 6 students on the May 2012 EQAO .

As a school, we use the detailed EQAO results with teacher classroom assessments in developing School Plan for Improvement to strengthen our instruction in particular areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. If you would like more information about EQAO (e.g., parent resources, sample questions), go to: www.egao.com.

For information about the Ontario Curriculum in all subjects and grades, go to: www.edu.gov.on.ca.

Grade 3, Mathematics, 2012-2013

	Percentage of students who received level 3&4
School (French Immersion students)	84
Board (French & English students)	79
Province (French & English students)	67

Grade 6, 2012-2013

	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
School (French Immersion Students)	87	92	77
Board (French & English students)	85	86	71
Province (French & English students)	77	76	57

Indoor/Outdoor Shoes: Please make sure your child has a pair of indoor running shoes for the classroom and the gym. Platform sneakers are not appropriate footwear for gym classes. Thank you for helping us to keep the school clean and the mud outside.



IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION:

Early communication between home and school is an important step in assuring that your child gets off to a positive start in his/her educational year. A school newsletter can be found on our school website each month or received by email. Individual classroom teachers will also send home letters or mount class websites. If you have questions or concerns that require a meeting with a teacher, please do not hesitate or call the school at 905-953-8995.



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIPOP)

Information collected by schools on the student registration form and on the Emergency form may be disclosed beyond the Board for the following purposes: School Council class lists for pizza lunch days, emergency phone networks, etc. In case of an accident or witness to an accident, the student's name and home address will be released to the board's insurer. The use of names, photographs, etc. may be used for displays in the school, newsletters and yearbooks. If you do not consent to the release of information for these purposes, please inform the Principal in writing by October 7. The school has provided you with a form in the September package to complete. Please send it back to the school as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.



Anaphylaxis-What is it?

Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction. Within seconds, symptoms such as itching, hives, tingling of the mouth and even death (due to breathing difficulty and low blood pressure) could occur. Immediate recognition and treatment is essential.

Under the legislation, *Sabrina's Law, 2005*, parents are obligated to:

1. Supply information on life-threatening allergies for your child.
2. Keep school informed with up-to-date information for your child's file.
3. Provide consent for the school administration and employees to administer an Epi-Pen® in response to an anaphylactic reaction.
4. Provide up-to-date Epi-Pens® to your child's school
5. Keep an Epi-Pen worn on them at all times

Poplar Bank is a "Nut-Aware" School

We are a Nut-aware School. We have students and staff who have life threatening allergies to nuts and nut products. The most important thing you can do is to avoid sending any foods from home that may contain peanuts, nuts or nut products. Please read the labels to see if peanuts/nut products are present in the foods you are packing for school lunches. Students who accidentally bring food containing nuts will be asked to take it to the office.

Due to student safety concerns, for student birthdays, we ask that you do not send cakes, cookies or other foods in to celebrate as many children have food allergies. Thank you in advance for your understanding and help. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter and your cooperation.

Bus Routines and Safety: We would like to thank Parents and Guardians for their patience in the first month of school as bus routines and routes were established and refined. To keep our bus loading zone safe, we ask that you never park your vehicle in the bus loop which is located at the north side of the school. If you have any questions about the bus service or related issues, please contact Mr. Helston, our Vice-Principal. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and attention to this matter.



BUS INFORMATION: Board Policy states that the walking distance for students from Kindergarten to grade 3 is 1.2 km and for students from grade 4 - 8 is 1.6 km. Students who live within our boundaries but beyond the distances stated above are eligible for bus transportation as long as they adhere to safety and behaviour rules. As well, students MUST ride the bus to which they have been assigned. They must also get on and off the bus at their assigned stop. Students will not be allowed to switch buses or to take friends home on the bus. Please keep the Board website (www.schoolbuscity.com) handy to check route updates for your child. Once set for the year, the school will advise you of any changes to your child's route.

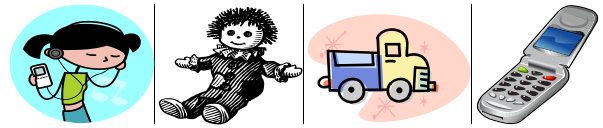
School Council Meetings: If you are interested in what is going on at the school and getting involved, please feel free to attend these meetings through the year. New members are always welcome. The focus of the Council is to find ways to engage all parents in the school and support the learning of all students. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 @ 6:45 in the Library. We will be holding elections for the Executive and forming the Council for the 2013-2014 school year.

Terry Fox Day at Poplar Bank PS!

On September 27, we held our 10th Annual Terry Fox Day! Parents, grade 1-8 students and staff ran and walked to commemorate Terry Fox, a great Canadian hero. Donations to the Cancer Society continue to come in and we will let you know exactly how much the donations totaled in the November Newsletter!



Toys, Cell Phones, Walkmans, MP3 Players, Gameboys, iPods and Other Valuables: We strongly discourage students from bringing these items to school as they can easily get broken, misplaced or stolen. They also become the cause of arguments. Should students bring these items to school, they must remain in their backpack and not be taken out in class or at recess. We are not banning these items at this time, but students need to understand that if they bring them to school, they do so at their own risk and staff will take the item and send it to the office and arrange for students to collect them at a later time.



Use of Cell Phones, I-phones and Blackberries

Many students bring these communication devices to school. These items are ideal for communication before and after school. During instructional time and at recess, students are not to be using these tools to communicate with family or friends. Should students feel ill, get hurt or need to call home, they must speak to their teacher and then, come to the office where a member of the office team will assist them. As well, using electronic devices of any sort to voice record, video tape or take pictures at school is not permitted as this breaches personal privacy laws.



School Photo Days

Oct. 23

***Bring your best
and brightest smile!***

THE FACTS OF LICE

Now that we are back in school, it is a good idea to check your child's head for head lice and nits. Head Lice infestation (Pediculosis) can happen to anyone. There is no reason to panic if your child has head lice. Although head lice are a great nuisance, they are definitely not a health problem. As well, the treatment is safe and effective, but you must follow the directions carefully and follow certain procedures to get rid of the nits. It would be greatly beneficial if you check your child. If you are unsure of how to do this, information pamphlets are available in the school or at your local pharmacy, along with special shampoo needed to get rid of the lice and nits

Grade 1-8 Fall Progress Reports

On **November 12**, your child will be receiving his/her **"Progress Report."** Parent Interviews will be scheduled for the evening of November 14th and the morning of November 15th.

The progress report is intended to communicate if your child is:

- Progressing Very Well or
- Progressing Well or
- Progressing With Difficulty

There are Learning Skills and work habits that students will be taught, provided feedback upon and assessed on throughout the school year:

- o responsibility
- o organization
- o independent work
- o collaboration
- o initiative
- o self-regulation

These learning skills and work habits will be assessed and reported on the Progress Report Card and assessed, evaluated and reported on your two Provincial Report Cards later in the school year using this evaluation scale:

E= Excellent

G=Good

S=Satisfactory

N=Needs Improvement.

The first term report card will go home in mid-February 2014; the second term report card will be sent home at the end of June 2014.

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. The only time students are permitted to stay in at recess times or lunch hour occurs when Environment Canada announces severe winds and cold conditions.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES AT POPLAR BANK

On Thursday, October 31st, students are welcome to wear a costume if they wish. If your child plans to do so, please make sure of the following:

- Your child should come to school already in costume, especially the younger students who often require help to get dressed;
- The costume should be kept simple so that it does not interfere in the student's mobility and learning;
- No masks; and
- No weapon replicas
- In support of our school initiative to provide a healthy school environment, we also ask parents/guardians to **not send in any candy or junk food**



NO NUT OR NUT PRODUCTS!

MUSIC NEWS!

The music program at Poplar Bank is off to a very musical start! There are many ensembles that practice and fill the halls with beautiful music throughout the day. In order to be a part of these ensembles students must attend **every** rehearsal. The ensembles will be performing throughout the year and every student *must* wear the following: **black music t-shirt, black/dark bottom, black/dark socks, black/dark shoes**. An order form for the students has been sent home with the students. There are more forms available in the *music room*. T-shirt orders will be accepted until Friday, October 4th.

Music Rehearsal Schedule

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>Recess</u>	Primary Choir	Calixa Lavallee	No Rehearsal	No Rehearsal	Bucket Drumming Grade 7-8
<u>Lunch</u>	J/I Choir	Stage Band	Advanced Band	Junior Band	Beginner Band (beginning in late October)
<u>After School</u>	TBA	TBA	Glee Club Grade 8	TBA	TBA

I am looking forward to another very musical year!!!

Musically Yours, Mme Smith

The **Cross-Country Team** has been practicing the past few weeks in preparation for the Area Meet to be held on October 9 at George Richardson Park. The students from grades 4-8 have been training hard by running at lunch time from Monday – Thursday. Great dedication and teamwork has been shown.

Good Luck at the Meet and “GO POPLAR PRIDE”



Coaches – Mme Sampson, Mme. Wansbrough
Assistant Coaches - Mme Tummon, Mr. Maccarone

Save Tabs for Wheelchairs

17,005 wheelchairs have been donated to families in need through pop tab collections. Now Poplar Bank P.S. will participate in this recycling effort that will be great benefit to many people. Class competitions have begun for the most tabs collected. Watch for updates!



We are Celebrating Poplar Bank Public School's 10th Anniversary on October 24th, 2013

1:15 – 2:15 p.m. Concert Performances by
Primary Choir, Junior/Intermediate Choir & Junior Band
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Concert Performances by
Primary Choir, Junior/Intermediate Choir & Advanced Band
More information will be sent out in early October