

THE BERCZY BANNER

Edition #4 - Spring 2019

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

Spring is here and once again we wish to express our sincerest gratitude for all your support in partnering with us to provide the very best education for your children.

This past February, we held the first ever Family Festival at Berczy. It was a resounding success, as our students, from across several grades, worked together to perform in *Suessical: The Musical* for an audience of approximately five hundred family members and Berczy staff. Special thanks to Yo-Yo Ruan and Robert Huang, two parents in our community, who spearheaded the production, seeing it through from initial planning stages, to countless rehearsals, and finally to the performance on the night of February 18th.

In early March, we held our first ever Winter Wellness Day, where students participated in wellness activities that celebrated our coldest season, winter. Students sledged, snow-shoed, built snow sculptures and even sipped hot chocolate. The weather was favourable, and students had a fantastic time!

There are several opportunities over the coming weeks for students to get involved in school activities. We have Junior and Intermediate speeches, the Talent Show, Badminton, and the Girls Who Code Club. Student connections to and engagement in school life directly translates to positive self-esteem and confidence. Please encourage your students to get involved in a club or team at school. It makes a difference!

The third annual Well-Being Expo is an evening for families to visit Berczy and participate in activities like the Artonomy Art project, Hip-Hop Dancing, and to learn more about how we promote mental health and well-being at Berczy. Well-being week is on May 13th to the 17th, and the Well-Being Expo is in the afternoon and evening of Thursday May 16th. There will be more information provided closer to the event.

Thank you for all your support and have a wonderful April, Berczy!

Sincerely,

Lindsey Rhamey

Principal

Alex Pasta

Vice-Principal



FEBRUARY FAMILY FESTIVAL

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC, VISUAL ARTS, AND COMMUNITY



By: Aryan Ihsan, Grade 7 Student

The February Family Festival was one of the most important events at Berczy this year. The Festival took place on Thursday February 18th and was a show where over seventy Berczy students acted, sang, and danced in a production of *Seussical: The Musical*. The show was produced and directed by two incredible parents in our community: Yo-Yo Ruan, and Robert Huang. Yo-Yo and Robert volunteered hours of their time to rehearse and prepare and then produce the musical theatre that took place in our school gymnasium.

Students from Kindergarten to grade 8, who were involved in the festival, began to prepare shortly after winter break. Long, and intense hours of rehearsal time at school and at home were put in by all the actors, singers, dancers, producers, and parent volunteers. Lots of dedication and sacrifice were the keys for this incredible festival to become a success. The resulting production was an absolutely dramatic and memorable extravaganza. This wonderful show was definitely a show worth watching.

Meanwhile, on the same evening of the 18th, a silent auction was held on the other half of our school gymnasium. Classroom created artwork and items donated by local businesses were auctioned off. All funds raised from the show and auctions were in support of our school's music and art program. All in all we raised well over \$2000. Thank you to our School Council and to Robert and Yo-Yo for an excellent show and for bringing our Berczy community together.



SCENES FROM WINTER WELLNESS DAY



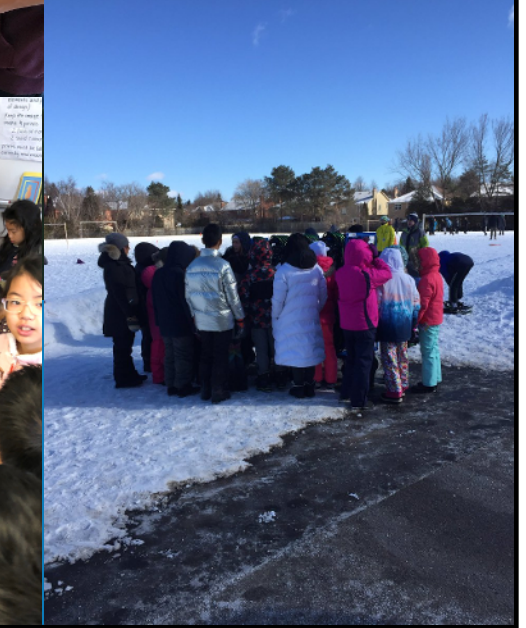
Winter Wellness Day took place this past Wednesday March the 6th. It was a smashing success organized and facilitated by our Ambassadors! Students from Kindergarten to grade 8 rotated through activities

that promoted well-being and an appreciation for winter. The outdoor stations included: Sledding on the Banana Hill, Snowshoeing, and Fort-building. Indoors. Students had an opportunity to warm up with hot

chocolate, play an indoor game in the gym, and even participate in the Artonomy project facilitated by Ms Talwar, Mr. Yuen, and the Art Club. The Artonomy project had students create a self-portrait inspired by music

and reflecting on well-being.

Luckily, the weather was favourable, and everyone had a lot of fun being outdoors with their friends, peers, and teachers. We are looking forward to next winter's event!



OUR ENTREPRENEURIAL ADVENTURE

By: Trinty Hao, Veer Sharma, Selah Wang, Elena Zhong, Grade 6 Students

This year, Mrs. Lee's grade 6 class will be among the many classes from schools all over Canada participating in an experiential learning program known as the Entrepreneurial Adventure. The Entrepreneurial Adventure is a program designed to help students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 create a full-functioning company right in the classroom! With help from teachers and even professional businessmen and women as mentors, students work to create unique products to be sold as a fundraiser for a charity of choice. With Adrian Costea, an AVP working at the Bank of China, along with Mrs. Lee as mentors, the grade 6 students are working to operate

a fully-functional company with unique products to help fundraise for our chosen charity, Hope for Paws!

Steadily, the environment is becoming more polluted each year. Learning about biodiversity and global issues helped open our eyes to what we are doing to our environment. We are overfishing, burning fossil fuels, causing global warming and deforestation. Even when we know this, we still do not make it a first priority to save our planet.

As we learned more about the global concerns in Science and Social Studies, we began to think more about our future. It made us think, "What am I doing to make a difference in saving the Earth?" Is it too late? We may not be able to take

back all we have done, but we can certainly come up with eco-friendly solutions. So, I would like you to take this opportunity to ask yourself, What are YOU doing to make a positive difference?

As you know, we are trying to help animals by donating any profit we earn to Hope For Paws. In order to achieve our goal, we hope to sell our eco-friendly products and earn a profit as well as educate our consumers at the same time.



CONTINUED... ENTREPRENEURIAL ADVENTURE

In our groups, we came up with 5 eco-friendly products: Eco-Straws, Kool Kanvases, Eco-Cards, Eco-Tainers and a used book sale. The Eco-Straws we will be selling consists of metal, paper and edible straws made out of rice and tapioca for \$1.00 to \$5.00 each. The Kool Kanvases are biodegradable canvases that have been painted with an eco-friendly theme and message attached which we will be selling for \$5.00 each. The Eco-Cards are biodegradable greeting cards made out of cardstock and are uniquely designed by the artists in Mrs. Lee's class. One will be sold for \$1.50 and 3 for \$3.00. For the Eco-Tainers, we reused non-recyclable pringle cans and made them into pencil cases for \$3.50 each. In addition to all the eco-friendly products, we will also be selling used books to Berzcy students. All the items mentioned above will be sold from May 1st to May 3rd at the

pit during lunch recess.

We would like to take this opportunity to ask for your help in supporting our cause. We will be accepting used books in good condition. Students will get a raffle ticket for every book they bring in for a chance to win a prize in our raffle draw. The used books collected will then be sold during our sale. We will be collecting the used books every Tuesday at morning recess in the pit during the whole month of April.

Students in Mrs. Lee's class are trying to save innocent

animals that have been abused, abandoned and need help. If you want to help save them, one way is to bring in your old books. The gently used books will then be sold and all proceeds will go to a charity called Hope for Paws. If you don't have any books to donate, please consider other ways to help by buying the products we will be selling on May 1st-3rd. We hope you can help support this good cause. We look forward to your kind generosity!



MONTHLY MATH MESSAGE

Spring Math - Math is Outside Too!

Spring and nice weather make for a great time to get outdoors and connect with math. Whether you are taking a walk, filling compost bags with leaves or starting to build that garden shed, there are many opportunities to engage in rich mathematical discussions with your child.

Here are some questions you can pose to your child as you engage with nature:

- What shapes do you see in that house?
- How tall do you think that tree is?
- How far do you think we walked today?
- How many piles of leaves do you think will fit into this bag?
- How many ___ did you see on our walk?
- How many windows do you think are in that building?
- How long do you think it will take us to walk one kilometer?
- If we double our pace how long do you think it will take us to get home?

So the next time you spend some time outdoors with your child, take some time to engage in some math talk!

You may also be interested in reading a new article for parents written by Jo Boaler, Professor of Mathematics Education at Stanford University.

[Developing Mathematical Mindsets, The Need to Interact with Numbers Flexibly and Conceptually](#)

Games

Using games to support your child at home to reinforce math concepts they are learning in class can be fun for the whole family! Games provide children with opportunities to explore mathematical concepts such as number concepts, patterns and relationships. It also allows them to use models and strategies they are familiar with (e.g., arrays, ten frames, skip counting). Some math games are commercially available, but most can be played with common household objects. In fact, most games that are not considered “math” games have many math concepts already in them. Try highlighting some of those concepts as you are playing.



BERCZY BEARS NEWS

AMC MATH RESULTS Congratulations are in order for all 35 Berczy Bears who took the AMC 8 Math competition, a 25 question competition for elementary-aged students from across North America.

Special recognition goes to grade 8 student, Ethan Huang, for receiving the highest score among Berczy students. Di Hu placed second and Kailyn Shao placed third. Ethan and Di both scored within the top 5% of students from across Canada. Congratulations to these students and all participants for persevering through a challenging test! (Pictured below from left to right: Di Hu, Ethan Huang, Kailyn Shao)



CHRIS LIU, ROBOTICS CHAMPION

Congratulations are in order for grade 7 student Chris Liu. Chris and his Robotics team ID#35353A recently participated in the Ontario Vex IQ Provincial Championship Competition. Chris' team showed very strong Robot skills and finished in second Place in the January qualifying competition and then placed third in the finals. Only the top twenty teams were selected to advance to the Championship round. We are all very excited and proud of Chris and his team and would like to share this news with the school community.

SPRING SAFETY UPDATE

Spring is a good time to remind children about being safe in our community and a good time for parents to remind children about personal safety. Here's what children need to know:

- Their name, age, telephone number, address, city and province. This can be done through rhyme or song.
- How to contact their parents at any time, by memorizing cell or work numbers.
- How and under what circumstances to call 911.
- To never approach or enter a stranger's vehicle. A responsible adult would never ask a child for directions or any other question for that matter.
- Make sure they know they have a right to say "no" to an adult, especially when the adult is asking them to do something they have been taught is wrong or feels uncomfortable. Reminding children of this right is important because children are taught from a young age to respect adults.
- To always tell parents where they will be and to never enter someone's home without their parent's permission.
- If home alone, never admit it when answering the phone. Never answer a knock at the door or speak through it. Adults can be very persuasive. Teach your child to call you if there is a knock at the door and if they fear for their safety, teach them to call 911. Make sure they know that police officers are there to help them and would not get mad if it were a false alarm.
- If they think they are being followed or are in danger they should run home or to a public place. If someone grabs them, they should try to get away, yelling and screaming while doing so.
- It is important to play in safe areas, never take shortcuts and stick with a buddy whenever possible.
- It is never too early or too late to teach children the importance of personal safety. Common sense, communication and consistency are the keys. Remind children to alert a responsible adult if something strange happens that makes them feel uncomfortable. Remember, crime prevention is everyone's responsibility.

For more information on this subject, visit www.yrp.ca.



TRAFFIC SAFETY @ BERCZY

In the previous edition of the Berczy Banner, we shared some important safety information with you so that you are aware of how we are keeping your children safe when they come to school.

We would also like to remind parents that, with temperatures warming up, more and more students will be walking and or biking to school. Please reinforce these key messages adapted from York Region Police, with your children:

- Many children bike or walk to school. Teach children safety while on the streets, especially younger ones
- Kids should be taught to walk on the sidewalk, not on the road, and to cross at intersections by looking both ways for oncoming traffic
- If they are riding a bike, they must wear a helmet at all times
- Children should cross the road at intersections and always cross with caution
- Children should wait for the Crossing Guard to direct them to enter a crosswalk
- Kids should never wear headphones while riding a bike. They won't be able to hear car horns or warning shouts

A reminder that the parking lot to the west side of the school building will be closed off to families at 8:30 a.m. Please continue to use the Kiss and Ride lane to drop off your children. Rosa Christopoulos, our incredible School and Lunch Assistant, will walk your child across the crosswalk to the front of the school. Kindergarten children will be escorted by our ambassadors to their classrooms.

The same parking lot will be closed off to families at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Please refrain from double parking and blocking other cars if you are in the parking lot before this time. If you do so, you will be asked to move. As well, please pick your child up from their exit doors and walk them (holding hands) to your car. Do not let your child wander into the parking lot unattended!

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to more safe days at Berczy!



GRADE 3 & 6 EQAO

Our Grade 3 and 6 students will be writing their EQAO tests from Monday May 27th to Friday May 31st. If you are interested in information and resources that are available for you to download you can access them at <http://www.eqao.com/>

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



ARE YOU MOVING?

Please let the office know in writing if you are moving or if you know your child will no longer be attending William Berczy in the 2019-2020 school year. Email the office: william.berczy.ps@yrdsb.ca, as soon as possible. This will help us plan our classes for next year.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2019-2020 NOW OPEN

A Reminder to All Families: KINDERGARTEN
REGISTRATION for September 2019 is OPEN!!!!

TRUSTEE GREETING

Dear Berczy Families:

I hope everyone has had a great start to the second half of the school year. Over the past few months, I have had an opportunity to connect with families, students, staff members and with our broader community. I have seen a lot of exciting opportunities for students to explore their interests, celebrate their identities, and develop skills and knowledge that will benefit them in the future.

Many students are participating in [skills competitions](#) or other events where they problem-solve, innovate, collaborate and further develop their technical skills. Students compete in robotics, construction, hairdressing, transportation, 3D animation and much more. These events are among the many options available to help students explore different careers and [pathways](#), and gain valuable experience. We are grateful for the support of community partners in helping to provide these great learning opportunities to our students.

I also want to express my appreciation to our broader school community. One of the priorities in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) is to build collaborative relationships. The relationships that our schools have with families is so important. There are many different ways you can be involved - talking to your child's teacher, asking your child about homework, or volunteering on a field trip or the school council. Your contributions make a difference to your child's success and to the success of our schools.

I look forward to meeting and working together more with families, students and staff members in spring and summer. Feel free to contact or communicate with me and I wish you all a great spring.

Ron Lynn

Trustee

UPCOMING DATES

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

APRIL 8 -10	PAUSE TO PLAY CHALLENGE
APRIL 11	AREA BAND PERFORMANCE (Grades 4-8)
APRIL 19 - 22	EASTER HOLIDAY
APRIL 30	JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE SPEECHES
MAY 9	WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN EVENING, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
MAY 10	TALENT SHOW
MAY 13 - 17	WELL-BEING WEEK
MAY 13 - 17	HIP-HOP DANCE CREW
MAY 16	WELL-BEING EVENING EXPO
MAY 20	VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY
MAY 22	SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 27 - 31	GRADES 3 & 6 EQAO
JUNE 12 - 14	GRADE 8 GRADUATION TRIP
JUNE 17	GRADE 8 GRADUATION
JUNE 18	SCHOOL COUNCIL MEET AND GREET
JUNE 27	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

THE NEXT SCHOOL
COUNCIL MEETING IS
SCHEDULED FOR
WEDNESDAY MAY
22nd FROM 7 TO 8 PM
IN OUR LEARNING
COMMONS.

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
CHAIR: MICHELLE FONG
TREASURER: SHUANG LI
SECRETARY: GILBERT LEE

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