

PrincipalLindsey Rhamey

Vice Principal Alex Pasta

SuperintendentPeter Tse

TrusteeBilly Pang

Lead Caretaker Sebastian Dignoti

Office Administrators
Sunitha Krishnan
Joyce Chin

Character Matters!

Respect Honesty
Empathy Fairness
Initiative Courage
Integrity
Optimism
Perseverance
Responsibility



BERCZY BANNER

120 Carlton Road Unionville,

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ISSUE 5

M A Y 2018

From the Administrator's Desk

Dear Berczy Families,

Happy Spring! Our students are enjoying the wonderful weather these days at recess time and during our weekly Walking Wednesday. As we greet students in the morning at the front of our school, amidst blue skies and sunshine, we often discuss how privileged we are to be the administrators of such an excellent school with hardworking students, staff, and supportive families. The last few months of school are full of exciting events and we are very excited and proud to have them happening at Berczy!

Preparations are almost complete for our Berczy 50th Anniversary celebration on May 24th. During the day, we will have be holding a ceremony for students to commemorate Berczy's 50 years.

The evening celebration for our community begins at 5 p.m. The "Decades Exhibits" that students and staff have been working on for the past months will be featured prominently on our second floor of the school. In the gym, a slideshow featuring students, staff, and images of Berczy throughout the years will be displayed on the big screen. Also in the gym will be a photo booth with the opportunity for students to take a portrait with Mr. and Mrs. Berczy. Outside, we will have the City of Markham Parks and Recreation games, food trucks, and even a marching band from William Berczy's hometown in Germany! We will also be selling Berczy 50th merchandise during the evening celebration. All proceeds from merchandise sales go toward recovering the costs of hosting the 50th celebration. Berczy 50th Merchandise is currently on sale through School Cash Online or if you prefer to pay with cash or cheque, inside the school office.

We are hoping that you join us for our mini Well-Being Expo on the night of Thursday May 17th. Aussie X will be leading games for families that students participated in during the week. Our very own Eco-Team will have an exhibit with giveaways and raffle prizes and lots of eco-friendly information. We will also have exhibitors promoting healthy eating and nutrition. It is certain to be a great opportunity to learn about how to take care of our health and well-being.

Our students continue to engage in Scientist in the School workshops and take part in educational experiences outside the classroom, such as Swim to Survive for grade 3, the Water Festival for grade 4, the Camp Muskoka trip for grade 7, and of course, the Quebec trip for our grade 8 students. The rest of May and the month of June will undoubtedly feature more incredible experiences for our Berczy students.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Ms Rhamey

Mr. Pasta



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

GRADE 3 AND 6 EQAO TESTING

Our Grade 3 and 6 Students will be writing their **EQAO** tests from **Monday, May 28, 2018 to Friday, June 1, 2018.** If you are interested in information and resources that are available for you to download you can access them at http://www.egao.com/.



ARE YOU MOVING?

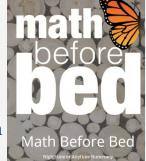
Please let the office know in writing if you are moving or you know your child will no longer be attending William Berczy in the 2018 – 2019 school year. This will help us plan our classes for the next year.



MATH CORNER

Parents, you may have heard about reading before bed; how about math before bed?

Click on this link: <u>MATHBEFOREBED</u>, to check out an amazing website called "Math Before Bed". This site is full of interesting visuals that prompt discussions you can have with your child about math, before bed, at dinnertime, or anytime of day, really. The purpose of the website is to have your children explain how they solved the question and to communicate their mathematical thinking. There are several prompts to choose from and there may be more than one answer to each property.



choose from and there may be more than one answer to each prompt. Have fun and sweet math dreams!

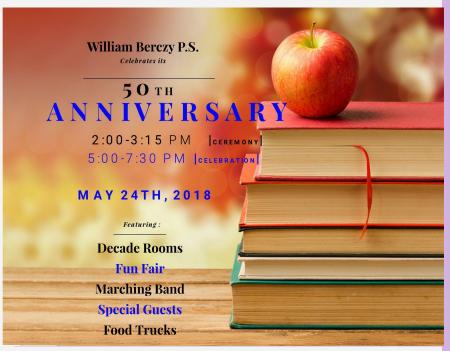
BIG DAY ALMOST HERE!

Berczy 50th Celebration Coming Soon!

The 50th Anniversary of the opening of William Berczy Public School will be happening in the evening of Thursday May 24th. Starting at 5:00 p.m., our community is invited to explore student-created 'decade rooms' that celebrate a decade of our school's existence. These museum-like exhibits will be located on the second floor of the school. As well, we will have food trucks, special guests, fun activities and more. Hope to see you there to help celebrate the 50 years of William Berczy Public School.

\$20,00

\$20,00



\$3,00

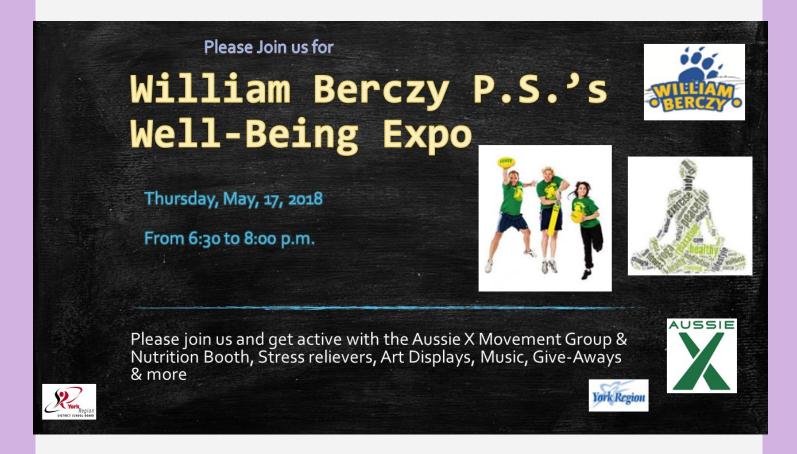
\$3,00

We are now selling limited edition Berczy 50th merchandise. You can purchase any of the items shown in the flyer below at the 50th Event or at the school office beforehand. Supplies are limited and so get your Berczy 50th Merchandise today!



\$13,00

WELL-BEING EXPO COMING NEXT WEEK



Hello Berczy Bears,

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school Monday May 14-18th. There will be a special evening opening during our school's Well-Being Expo & Aussie X Event on Thursday May 17th from 5:00-6:00. What better way to promote reading to our students than by supporting this important literary event? Parents or guardians interested in volunteering can contact Ms. Taylor at mary.taylor@yrdsb.ca. A schedule of when each class will attend will be shared shortly.

Did you know that for every \$10 you spend at the fair up to \$6 comes directly back to our school? Your support of this vital literary event is key in helping us obtain new books and resources for our library and classrooms.

BERCZY BAND EARNS GOLD AT MUSIC ALIVE FESTIVAL

A Grade 8 Student's Perspective

By: Samuel Boudreau, Grade 8 Student

On Monday, April 23rd, our Berczy band headed off to Unionville Montessori School to participate in the Music Alive Festival. This is a festival where schools from around the board can express their passion for music and perform in front of a public audience. Four schools performed that day: Kennedy P.S., Unionville Montessori School, Beckett Farm P.S., and our very own William Berczy P.S.

The Band played the two songs they had been practicing throughout the year: *The Legend of Castle Armagh* by Paul Murtha, and *A Knight's Tale* by Carl Strommen. Before the festival, both songs were also performed in front of other Berczy classes. The band had a great time performing for the other schools, as well as the parents present at the festival.

The adjudicator expressed his approval for the band's ability to play with dynamics and togetherness despite its large size. This year, over 40 of our students were part of the band! In addition, the audience was very impressed with our performance, and later it was announced that the Berczy band had earned gold, and a spot as one of the best bands in the festival!

Special thanks go out to Ms. Hancox and Mr. Yuen for their contribution to the band's success, as well as Unionville Montessori School for hosting. The band will continue for the remainder for the year as the grade 8s prepare for high school, where they will undoubtedly continue to pursue their musical passion. We hope that the band had an amazing experience and that next year's band will carry on our passion for music. Let's go Berczy!



CHOIR PERFORMS AT CIVIC CENTRE

Students Perform at Markham Volunteer Recognition Evening By: Karen Guo

On April 16, 2018, 12 of our students, Mr. Yuen and Ms. Hancox were invited to the Markham Civic Centre Council Chambers to perform at the City of Markham Volunteer Awards Night. There, we sang "O Canada" and the school song, "A Welcoming Place" in the presence of the Mayor, the City Council, and the volunteer award winners. We had a couple of run-throughs in the beginning, and then we were all set! All of us were very nervous, wondering about all the things that could go wrong during our performance. Everything had to be perfect. All of us did a fantastic job, and we sounded great! But afterwards, we were very proud of representing William Berczy Public School, and extremely glad that it was over.

Personally, I thought it was a wonderful experience to be able to sing for such important individuals of the Markham community. We were fascinated by the award winners, and how they helped around Markham and what they do around the community. After the awards presentation, we had some delicious treats to finish the day off, and some fun pictures! We got to take a picture with Mayor Frank Scarpitti; but, not just any normal picture. We "whipped" with the Mayor! It was amusing to watch and and to do! Great work and singing goes to: Meagan Keehl, Jaime Keehl, Hilary Man, Yvonne Huang, Devlyn Sun, Richard Wei, Riley Frans, Stella Chen, Sherry Hu, Vismaya Theertha, and Timothy Yoon!



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS



get · your · 2017-2018

YEARBOOK

bit.ly/wbps2018

price:\$22.65USD

deadline: May 17

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BERCZY JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

School Raises Funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation

By: Jaden Zhu and Michelle Wan

This April, William Berczy participated in an exhilarating day of excitement and physical exercise in our gym. *Jump Rope for Heart* motivated everyone to be physically active all the while stimulating excitement in students. Hosted in the gymnasium, all funds raised for *Jump Rope for Heart* went directly to crucial research for heart disease prevention and care.

After talking to multiple student representatives, the majority of students said that it was an enjoyable experience. Melody Xing from Mr. Doss' class stated, "Jump Rope for Heart was honestly such a fun activity for a great cause. I think I speak for everyone when I say we all had a great time, and wanted to continue even after it was done."

Students participated in various activities such as Jump Rope, of course, Helicopter, Limbo, and Over the Line. Helicopter is a fun activity involving a long rope, typically a skipping rope and a student in the centre. The centre person would spin the rope, while surrounding students jump over it. Should a student be hit by the spinning rope, he/she would then replace the student in the middle. Limbo, a dance with Afro-Carribean origins, is an enjoyable game involving a stick. Students are told to bend their backs in order to pass under the skipping rope, until the stretch is unbearable and eventually give up. Skipping rope was the alternative used for the stick in Limbo. Another game students enjoyed at the event was Over the Line. Invented by Berczy's very own, Over the Line is similar to jumping activities in Track and Field. Using a skip rope, students are told to jump over it, using two feet. It was both challenging and amusing to both participants and those watching. In brief, the many fun happenings in the gymnasium created a very enjoyable experience.



All About Jump Rope for Heart

By: Christine Zhao, Grade 1 Student



Jump Rope for Heart is a way to donate money for people with Heart Disease or other heart problems by donating money (and exercise too!). To help people, last month, our school, William Berczy, held the event.

CAMP MUSKOKA REVISITED

By: Dylan Yao, Grade 7 Student

On April 9th to 11th, the grade 7 students of our school went on a trip to Camp Muskoka for an outdoor education overnight experience. Camp Muskoka taught them many useful outdoor skills. These included fire and shelter building, archery, and balance on the low ropes. As well as teaching physical skills, Muskoka gave campers insight into the outdoors. The students learned about ecosystems, team strategy, and the importance of minimizing food waste. It was an excellent trip that all students will remember for a long time. There were campfire songs, games like "screaming dinosaur", and a tuck shop visit. The camp ended with a bang: a stunning dance party featuring a karaoke night. Many students returned to school with an optimistic view of the wilderness and a desire to learn more about the outdoors.





BERCZY'S INFLUENTIAL SPEAKERS

Highlights from the 2018 Berczy Speech Competition By: Stella Zhu, Grade 7 Student

For the past month, intermediate students have been working arduously in class on their speeches: writing, practising and presenting. On April 30th, we held our annual speech competition, and one outstanding speech was chosen from every Intermediate class to be presented at the assembly. Berczy welcomed back our very own Mrs. Shields, former teacher at WBPS, to judge the wonderful speeches alongside Mrs. Evans, one of our past secretaries, and Mrs. Bailey, one of our Occasional Teachers. We kicked off the competition with Ben from Ms Buchmayer's class, who delivered a persuasive speech on Space Laws. This was followed by Joshua Lin from Ms. Kattis' class who spoke about fables - short stories that convey a moral. Jonathan Wang presented a phenomenal speech on books/literature. Julia Guo wrote and presented an amazing speech on trophies, debating if everyone deserves a trophy for participation. A huge congratulations to the top 3 winners: Ethan Huang, who placed third on his speech about Drones; Samantha Viero placed second for her speech on selfishness; and the first place winner, Sam Boudreau, who presented a speech on the dangers of recycling cell phones! All the speakers were amazing and they all did a great job. We can't wait for next year's speech competition!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2018 JUNIOR SPEECH CONTEST

Berczy Students Impress Judges with Depth of Research and Public Speaking Skills By: Daniel Long, Grade 6 Student

From electronics use in our everyday lives, to the very concept of speeches itself, the topics varied in Berczy's Annual Speech Competition. The process students took to complete their speeches was as follows: after deciding upon their topic, researching about it, writing, editing, and then practising the oral delivery, each student presented to their homeroom class. From there, one class representative was selected to present their 3 minutes and 30 seconds speech on stage in front of the Junior students, and most met that time.

Congratulations to all students who made it into the finals, and congratulations to Megan Keihl for winning the Junior Speech Competition for her speech about why one should not fear giving speeches. Our second place winner was Zaki Nanji for his speech about the Special Olympics, and in third was Rishi Mehta, for his speech about Wi-Fi. Even those who didn't get the opportunity to present on stage worked hard to write and present their speeches. One thing is for sure: it is very hard to present a speech in front of a class, let alone an entire school. Congratulations all participants and good luck to everyone for next year's speech competition!



WHY YOU SHOULD CHERISH EVERY MOMENT

An Inspirational Speech

By: Annie Li, Grade 7 Student

Opportunities are similar to birds, who are always fleeting. If you catch one of them, you will benefit from it. Some people compare opportunity to a monster. Its hair grows in front of the head, so the back of its head is bald. When it passes by, you don't recognize it, but when you finally realize that it is an "opportunity", it is too late to catch it because there is no hair behind it. Honourable judges, ladies, gentlemen and fellow students, good morning. My name is Annie. Today, I would like to speak to you about why should you cherish every opportunity. The word "opportunity" may seem easy to say, but it is not simple to understand or cherish it.

Sometimes there is only one opportunity in life, and if you miss it, it's not going to come back. For example, your best friend is transferring to another school. However, the two of you had a fight the day before she transfers to her new school. She came and apologized to you on her last day. However, you decide you will never talk to her again, so you ignored her. Days after she left, you suddenly realize you want her friendship back. As you can see, you missed the only opportunity you had to make up with your best friend, leading to a result where they probably won't have the chance to be friends again. In our actual life, we often face opportunities like the previous example. When you miss an opportunity, it won't come back. So instead of wasting your opportunities, start cherishing them so that you won't regret it.

Many people may think that missing one opportunity isn't a big deal, because there are going to be opportunities similar to the one they've missed. Unfortunately, every opportunity is different. Therefore, if you miss an opportunity, finding another one that is similar to the one you already missed won't substitute what you miss. For example, if you decide to skip a band practice, no matter how much you practice afterward, one of the opportunities to practice with everyone is gone. As a result, you have one less practice than everyone else, because you choose to skip the band practice. Rather than finding an opportunity that is similar to the one you've missed, which won't replace what you already missed, why not try and cherish your every opportunity?

At the end of your life, you don't want to regret the things you didn't attempt to try. It's easy to miss an opportunity, but it is easy to regret as well. For example, you want to try doing the triple jump for Track and Field this year. Everyone else who is participating is already lined up, but you're staring at them thinking about questions like, "What if I can't do a triple jump properly?" While you're thinking about the consequences, the triple jump event is already over. In situations like that, won't you regret that you've missed the opportunity of doing your favourite activity? If you cherish your opportunity when the event is running, you won't regret at all.

WHY YOU SHOULD CHERISH EVERY MOMENT

An Inspirational Speech Continued...

By: Annie Li, Grade 7 Student

Some people are confident in saying, "I'm certain I will never regret missing that opportunity." Well, perhaps you may not immediately regret missing an opportunity, but eventually, you will. I know this is challenging to believe. But in fact, a hospital study was recently done on one hundred elders. These elders were asked to reflect on their life's biggest regret, and nearly all of them said they don't regret the things they have tried to do, but the things they have never tried. As can be seen, the elders are regretting not trying new things. In other words, they missed many opportunities they wanted to accomplish. So when an opportunity reaches out to you, no matter what it is, don't avoid it. Think about it and try it, because you will regret missing it.

Most of you know we have new opportunities every day. Going out for DPA, field trips, and even reading books are excellent opportunities for you to learn new things and have fun. Furthermore, you can build up your skills through different opportunities. For example, if you are a very artistic person, joining the art club is a great opportunity for you to express your artistic talents. If you are a very athletic person, track and field is a great opportunity for you to run and have fun! Opportunity can hook you with all the things you like to do. Why shouldn't we cherish it like how we cherish our favorite things?

As you can see, most of the opportunities can generate a positive attitude. However, there are some opportunities that do not sound positive to teens. In fact, some of them, like the opportunity for presenting a speech, writing a test, and doing assignments, can scare a lot of us. But think about it, even though cherishing opportunities like these sounds uncomfortable, they're a great way to gain more knowledge. After gaining knowledge, you can have fun with the knowledge you learn, just like how we need to learn a sport first before professionally playing one.

Every opportunity is different, just like there aren't two leaves that are completely identical. Therefore, when you choose to miss an opportunity, that opportunity will not come back to you easily. As a conclusion, no matter if that opportunity is as scary as doing a speech in front of ten million people or as boring as finding a hundred words in a dictionary, we still need to cherish it because we benefit from it. Thank you for listening to my speech.



Congratulations to these Berczy Bears

My name is Camille Ding and I am in Grade 2 in Mr. Jeffries' class. I am writing about how I participated in a skating competition. I went to the competition on Friday April 20th, 2018. I won the second place prize. My Mom and Dad were very proud. I skate because it is my dream to be in the Olympics. That is why I like skating!

Camille Ding, Grade 2 Student





Lin Yu Liu, Grade 2 Student

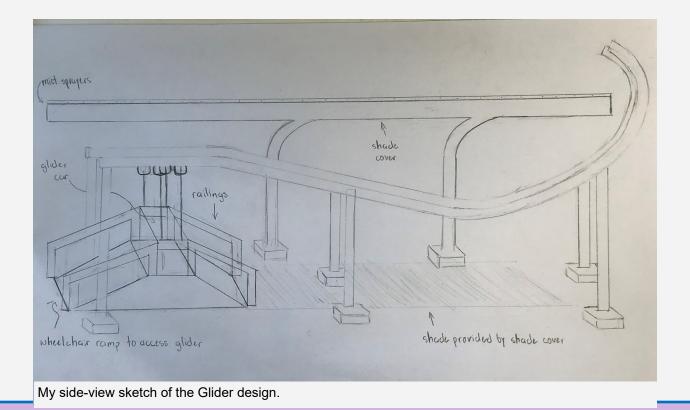
My name is Lin Yu Liu and I am in Grade 2 in Mr. Jeffries' class. I am writing about me dancing on stage. I went to the dancing place on Saturday April 21st, 2018 at Bentley Street in Markham. I went there because when I grow up, I am going to be a dancer. I danced really well to a Chinese song. I enjoy dancing and that is why I am going to be a dancer one day.

BERCZY STUDENT NOMINATED FOR DIFFERENCE-MAKER AWARD

Ben Nanderam's Accessible Playground Design leads to Rick Hansen Difference-Maker Nomination

Congratulations are in order for our very own Grade 7 student, Ben Nanderam, whose Accessible Playground Design was featured in last month's Berczy Banner. Ben has been nominated for the Rick Hansen Foundation School Program Difference-Maker Award. Ben's class project entitled, "Play Time is the Best Time" included a design for a glider within a playground that is universally accessible to all, including those with physical disabilities, who would be unable to access traditional playground equipment. The winner of the Rick Hansen Foundation School Program Difference-Maker Award will be announced in the second week of June. Good luck to Ben and we are very proud of you and your work here at Berczy! For more information about the award and the Rick Hansen Foundation, please follow this link.

http://www.rickhansen.com/Our-Work/School-Program/Inspirational-Stories



IMPORTANT NOTICES



MAY 2018 UPDATE

MAY SPECIALS

Each month we feature specials and combos to bring you more variety. For the month of May your child can enjoy:

1. Sweet & sour chicken with steamed rice

Lightly breaded chicken pieces tossed in a sweet & sour sauce served over a bed of steamed rice



2. BLT on a Kaiser bun

Crispy turkey bacon topped with sliced tomato and lettuce on a kaiser bun.

3. Grilled Veggie Sandwich

Grilled peppers, eggplant and onions, topped with cheddar cheese on a kaiser bun.



These items are available as a combo or entrée only. Visit us on-line to see our full menu.

These specials are available until May 31st. Place your orders today!

Ordering is easy!

Login to place your orders at www.kidskitchen.ca

Orders are accepted until 10am the previous business day (on Friday for Monday orders). A valid credit card is required.

We're here to help!

Live customer service: 8am – 3pm Monday to Friday.

Spend more quality time with your kids. Leave the lunches to us!

905.944.0210 | www.kidskitchen.ca | information@kidskitchen.ca



IMPORTANT NOTICES



Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC)

Call for Membership Applications

Online Applications Begin: May 1, 2018

Online Applications Close: June 15, 2018

Available Positions

- A. York Region District School Board (YRDSB) invites parents/guardians of students attending schools in the following areas:
 - Central ONE Elementary Position
 - North ONE Elementary Position
 - West ONE Elementary Position and ONE Secondary Position
 - East ONE Elementary Position

Membership is available for one-year or two-years on the Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) to commence in November 2018. The Board will approve membership terms, as required. There are currently five (5) positions available. (To check the respective areas that schools are in use our school locator.)

- B. York Region District School Board invites one (1) community member from any part of the region to participate as an advisor for a term of up to four (4) years.
 - Regional ONE Position Not required to have child/ren in school

PEAC supports encourages and enhances parent engagement at the Board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being. PEAC does this by providing information and advice on parent engagement to the Board, communicating with and supporting school councils and undertaking activities to help parents support their children's learning. The Committee's mandate is to:

- a) develop strategies and initiatives that the Board and the Board's Director of Education could
 use to effectively communicate with parents/guardians and to effectively engage
 parents/guardians in improving student achievement and well-being.
- b) advise the Board and the Director of Education on ways to use the strategies and initiatives referred to above.
- c) communicate information from the Ministry to school councils of schools of the Board and to parents/guardians of pupils of the Board.
- d) work with school councils of schools of the Board and, through the Board's Director of Education, with employees of the Board to;

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- share effective practices to help engage parents/guardians, especially parents/guardians who may find engagement challenging, in their children's learning.
- ii. identify and reduce barriers to parent engagement.
- help ensure that schools of the Board create a welcoming environment for parents/guardians of its pupils.
- iv. develop skills and acquire knowledge that will assist the Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee and school councils of the Board with their work.
- e) determine, in consultation with the Board's Director of Education and in keeping with the Board's policies and procedures, how funding, if any, provided under the Education Act for parent involvement is reported.

The Parent, Family and Community Engagement Committee (PEAC) is established according to Ministry legislation and members must be prepared to attend each meeting. PEAC meetings are generally scheduled on the second Tuesday of the month. Members are required to attend a minimum of six meetings and will have opportunities to participate in other workshops and events. The first meeting date for the new membership is November 13, 2018.

PEAC is composed of:

- 12 parents/guardians (2 Elementary and 1 Secondary for each Community Education Center)
- 1 Director of Education or Designate
- 1 Trustee and 1 alternate
- 1 Special Education Advisory Committee member
- 1 Equity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee member
- 1 Community Member at Large

Members are selected based on principles of representation that include diversity in all its manifestations, a variety of skills, experiences, location and knowledge. The contents of the Membership Applications are kept strictly confidential.

Two references are required, one of whom should be any YRDSB staff member. Parents/guardians who are also employees of the Board are asked to self-identify when applying. References are kept strictly confidential.

Further information about the role of PEAC may be found at the Ontario Ministry of Education website <u>School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees</u>. Parents/guardians interested in serving as a member of PEAC are asked to submit an electronic application between **May 1, 2018** and **June 15, 2018** (final deadline) using the on-line <u>Application Form</u> or calling Education and Community Services at 905 727-0022 ext 2242 to submit a paper application.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

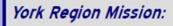
Wednesday
June 13, 2018
at 7:00pm — 8:00pm

School Council Meeting

Please mark your calendars!

All parents are welcome, and encouraged to attend; babysitting services will be provided if requested.

Upcoming Dates Mark your calendars!	
May 14-17	Aussie X
May 17	Well Being Mini – Expo + Aussie X Family Event, 6:30—8 pm
May 17	Grade 4 Water Expo Trip
May 18	Track and Field Day
May 21	Victoria Day Holiday
May 24	Berczy 50th Ceremony and Fun Fair
May 28—June 1	Grade 3 and 6 EQAO Testing
May 28	Grade 7 Spring Vaccinations
June 4	P.A. Day
June 13	Volunteer Appreciation Tea, 4—5:30 pm
June 13	School Council Meeting Mix + Mingle, 6—7 pm
June 13	School Council Meeting, 7—8 pm



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



