

BERCZY BANNER



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ISSUE 4

FEBRUARY 2018

Principal
Lindsey Rhamey

Vice Principal
Alex Pasta

Superintendent
Peter Tse

Trustee
Billy Pang

Lead Caretaker
Sebastian Dignoti

Office Administrators
Sunitha Krishnan
Joyce Chin

Character Matters!

Respect Honesty
Empathy Fairness
Initiative Courage
Integrity
Optimism
Perseverance
Responsibility



From the Administrator's Desk

Dear Families,

We welcome Mrs. Nadine Graham, who will be teaching Core French for a number of classes for the rest of the school year. Mrs. Graham will be taking over for Madame Sung, who retired from teaching at the end of the first term.

Kindergarten registration continues at the school for students born in 2014 and wishing to attend JK in September. We look forward to welcoming these new students and ask that you register as soon as possible. Please call the office for further information about registration and our Welcome to Kindergarten orientation on May 3rd.

What a spectacular turn out there was for our Movie Night on February 1st and we raised \$800 to support our Music and Art programs! It was a sea of children - all smiles and so proud to be out with their families. Even though there was inclement weather during the day, the Mathletes Parent Evening on February 7th was well attended by our families. We set an all time record for Mathletes and together Berczy completed 24,691 questions over the two days. We also had our first Well-Being Assembly of the year in our new gym and our students and staff performed in front of the crowd with great enthusiasm.

Our whole school enjoyed a dance party on Valentine's Day. Kindergarten classes began dancing first thing in the morning and our Grade 7 and 8 staff and students ended the day dancing and moving to great tunes and spot lights in the gym. On March 9th, just before the March Break, Berczy will be hosting a Talent Show and many of our students and staff are busy rehearsing and fine tuning performances.

We are looking forward with great anticipation to the Rogers Hometown Hockey event coming to Berczy on March 2nd and our afternoon of skating and visiting the Markham Civic Centre. Please be sure to pick up one of our Berczy Hometown Hockey sticks! These amazing, one-of-a-kind hockey sticks will be great mementos of the day and also help defray the cost of our bussing to the Markham Civic Centre.

Don't forget to save the date for Berczy's 50th Anniversary celebration on May 24th. After the formal ceremony from 2:00 to 3:15 pm, there will be an open house with decades displays, art and musical performances, special guests, food trucks, a fun fair and much more!

We look forward to a safe, engaging and productive second term!

Sincerely,

Ms Rhamey
Principal

Mr. Pasta
Vice Principal



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

BERCZY ASSEMBLIES ARE BACK!

First Well-Being Assembly: A Resounding Success

On Thursday February 1st, William Berczy held its first Well-Being Assembly of the year. It was an opportunity for students to share some of the great work they have been doing around the theme of Mental-Health and Well-Being. The assembly was hosted by our gracious emcees Amy Huang and Ben Nanderam, who did an incredible job of welcoming students and introducing classes who were performing.

The assembly began with a reading of the Land Acknowledgement by Samuel Yang. Samuel ar-

ticulated that Berczy is thankful to be sharing the land with our closest Indigenous partners in Education. The first presentation came courtesy of Mrs. Zions' grade 2/3 class who read two poems: one about healthy eating, and the other about how all families are different. Next, the choir, led by Mrs. Hancox, sang a beautiful song that had the audience mesmerized. Mrs. de Parra's grade 5 students then led a dance break that got the crowd energized. This was followed by very informative anti-bullying plays by Mrs. Bablani's grade 5/6 students.



ABOVE: Students congregate for the first assembly of the year.
RIGHT: Our excellent emcees, Ben and Amy.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

BERCZY ASSEMBLIES ARE BACK

First Well-Being Assembly: A Resounding Success

That concluded the student performances. Following Mrs. Bablani's class, Mr. Yuen and Mr. Spencer introduced our newly formed Student Council. After their presentation came the Berczy 50th logo reveal. Congratulations to Karen Guo for designing the logo that most Berczy students and staff voted for our "Berczy 50th" logo. Honorable mentions go to Amy Huang and Yousef Attia and Melody Xie for designing the second and third place logo designs.

Lastly, Ms Rhamey and Mr. Pasta introduced special guests

from the City of Markham: Asare Kester-Akrofi, Lorraine Li, and Michael Blackburn. Our guests made a very special announcement: On Friday March 2nd, William Berczy P.S. will be hosting a kick-off assembly for Rogers Hometown Hockey! Furthermore, all Berczy students and staff will be travelling to Markham Civic Centre in the afternoon to skate and tour the Hockey Hall of Fame exhibit and play interactive games. The students were beyond excited at this news! The assembly ended with a video retrospective of the first half-year at Berczy.



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCY

ROGERS HOMETOWN HOCKEY IS COMING TO WILLIAM BERCY!

Greetings Berczy Families,

We are very excited to announce that on Friday March 2nd, William Berczy Public School will be hosting a kickoff assembly for the nationally broadcast television program, "[Rogers Hometown Hockey](#)".

Rogers Hometown Hockey is a weekly television program where sportscasters Ron MacLean and Tara Slone broadcast a National Hockey League game from a different Canadian city. For the weekend of March 2nd to the 4th, Rogers Sportsnet chose the City of Markham as their "hometown" location. William Berczy P.S. was selected by Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti as the school to host the traditional weekend "kick-off" assembly on the Friday.

Markham's Town Crier will be kicking off the festivities at 10:45 a.m. and Mayor Frank Scarpitti will also be in attendance to provide a few words of encouragement. The assembly is expected to last approximately one hour and Rogers Sportsnet has lined up various performers to help promote the love of hockey among our students.

After our students have lunch, they will then be visiting the Markham Civic Centre for a **recreational skate** and an opportunity to participate in the Rogers Hometown Hockey Interactive Hall of Fame Exhibit and interactive games and activities inside the Markham Civic Centre.

Please inform the office if you **do not want your child to be photographed or videotaped** during this event.

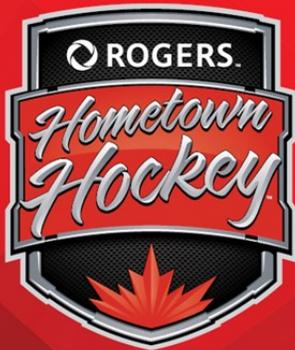
Our students are really looking forward to this event and know it will be an incredible day of fun and learning for our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Rhamey and Alex Pasta

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

ROGERS HOMETOWN HOCKEY



HOCKEY CELEBRATION WEEKEND

MARCH 2, 3 & 4

#HometownHockey

Not only is **Friday March the 2nd, Hometown Hockey Day** at Berczy, it is also **JERSEY DAY!** Students and Staff are encouraged to wear a jersey of any kind and/or from any sport. If your child does not have a jersey, they are encouraged to wear a sweater or shirt that is Berczy blue, or a sweater or shirt that has something to do with athletics. Let's show our school spirit Berczy Bears!



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

BERCZY MINI-STICKS ON SALE NOW



To help commemorate **Hometown Hockey Day** on Friday March 2nd, we are now selling Limited Edition **WILLIAM BERCZY HOMETOWN HOCKEY MINI-HOCKEY STICKS!** To order yours today, please bring cash or a cheque made payable to William Berczy P.S. Each stick costs \$7.00 and proceeds go towards the cost of transportation to and from the Markham Civic Centre.



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

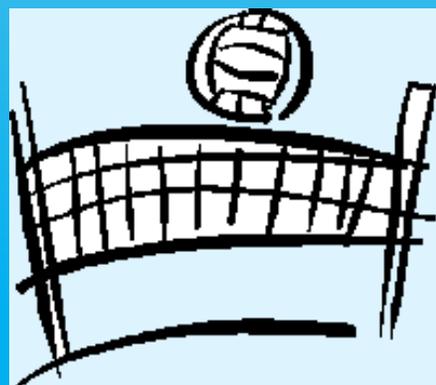
A BERCZY ATHLETIC UPDATE

Berczy Student-Athletes Excel on and off the Court

Written by Miyuki Mori and Andy Wei

Our Intermediate Girls and Boys Volleyball teams had an outstanding season this year! Our Berczy Bears played over 12 different schools and played exceptionally well at the Area Tournament. Additionally, the Intermediate Boys Basketball team has started the season off strong and has already played in a tournament and a few games.

We would like to thank Mr. Cordick, Mr. Kitching, Mr. Liu, and former student Mikayla Knapton for helping coach our stellar teams, as well as St John XXIII Catholic School for lending us their gym for practices. Lastly, thank you to everyone who participated in the teams and all the hard-working parents who took time out of their busy schedules to drive to games and practices to help cheer on our Berczy Bears. Because of you we have a thriving athletic culture at Berczy which we continually support. Great job Berczy!



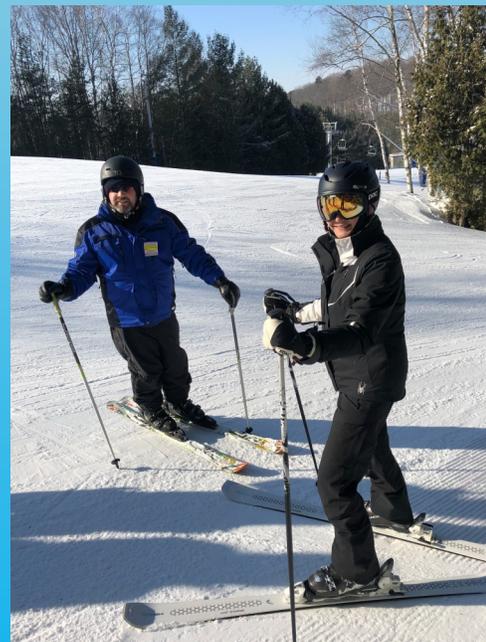
WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCYZ

SKI DAY EXTRAVAGANZAS

Berczy Students Shred the Slopes at Dagmar — A Grade 6 Student's Perspective

Written by Rishi Mehta

On January 17th and January 31st the junior division of William Berczy visited Dagmar Ski resort for a day of skiing. Students had the option of either skiing or snowboarding. There were a total of three different levels students could achieve. The levels consisted of yellow, green and blue. Yellow was the starter level where all the new skiers went to, green was the medium level for the slightly experienced skiers. Finally, the highest level students could go to was blue: this was where all the advanced skiers of William Berczy went. Each hill was ranked one of these 3 levels: if someone was yellow then they could only go on the one yellow hill. If someone was green they could go on the two green hills and the one yellow hill. If someone was ranked as blue they could go on all of hills. There were a total of 6 hills that students could ski on: Bunny Hill, Favourite, Lovers Lane, Rendezvous and Bomber.



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

SKI DAY EXTRAVAGANZAS

A Grade 6 Student's Perspective ... CONTINUED on Horseshoe Valley

Whenever our school goes to Dagmar we must take a test which will help us warm up and it helps to determine our ranking. The test took an average of 1 hr to 1 ½ hrs depending on your instructor. At the end of the test your teacher would decide where you would go for your test. By the time we were allowed to ski with our friends, it was around 11:30.

Some people went inside to eat lunch early so they could avoid the line ups when they went inside. Others went at 12:30 and some would be so caught up in skiing that they didn't eat lunch until 2:00! Once people finished their lunch they went wherever they wanted on the hills that they were allowed to go on. Something that made both trips very enjoyable was the fact that after we finished our tests we were allowed to ski with anyone we wanted.

At around 2:30 students started to come back inside and take off their gear. People who rented the gear returned the gear back to Dagmar and the people who brought their own gear put it back in their bags. Finally, all the students met in the place where we started off the ski sessions. Students said goodbye to the instructors and began to board the buses for home.

This year at Dagmar was one of the best experiences the students had ever had! It was not just the skiing that made this trip fun, it was also the freedom we felt when we were allowed to go with anyone we wanted. Everyone had so much fun and enjoyed the time with their friends and instructors. Everyone who went on the ski trip should thank the people at Dagmar and their teachers, as they are the reason we had an enjoyable time there. We all only hope that next year's trip will be as memorable as this years.



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

SKI DAY EXTRAVAGANZAS

Berczy Students Shred the Slopes at Horseshoe Valley—A Grade 8 Student's Perspective

Written by Rysisca Yau

On the morning of Thursday, February 8, 2018 the Grade 7 and 8s of William Berczy were getting ready for this long awaited ski trip. We spent about 2 hours on the bus, enjoying the view and having fun. When we finally arrived at Horseshoe Valley, we were all excited to head out onto the slopes. There was a big snow storm the previous night, therefore, the snow on the slopes was very smooth and fluffy. Even though it was a bit chilly outside, both the students and teachers had a blast on the slopes. The instructors were outstanding and everyone learned something new.

The beginner students were able to practice on the Bunny Hill. The intermediate students enjoyed their time on the blue hills. Furthermore, the advanced students challenged themselves on the red and black hills. After 6 hours of skiing and snowboarding, everyone was very tired, but we had a joyful time skiing, snowshoeing, tubing, and snowboarding with our friends and teachers. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered and Mr. Kitching for organizing this event. We hope all the Grade 7 & 8 students are looking forward to the next ski trip on Feb 22th.



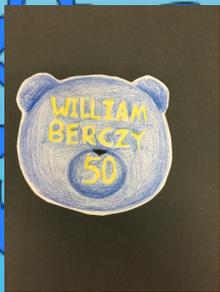
WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

BERCZY 50th LOGO SELECTED!

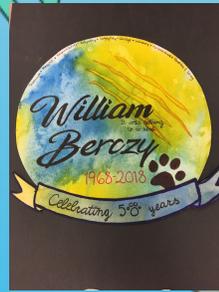
Student-Designed Logo Chosen for the Big Day

Written by Aidan Dhalla , Raina Dhalla, Yousef Attia, and Alexandra Anderson

The Berczy 50th logo team organized a competition in which all students and staff chose a logo to be use in promotion of the Berczy 50th Anniversary celebration. When we organized this event in the Learning Commons, we created two tables and on those tables was a choice of 14 different unique logos, designed by our students. Every student from each class and all the staff came up to the Learning Commons to vote with one sticker dot that they were given, with the assistance of our associates. All students and staff participated in voting for which logo they thought had the most outstanding design and should be *the* Berczy 50th logo.



WHICH ONE WOULD YOU PICK?



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

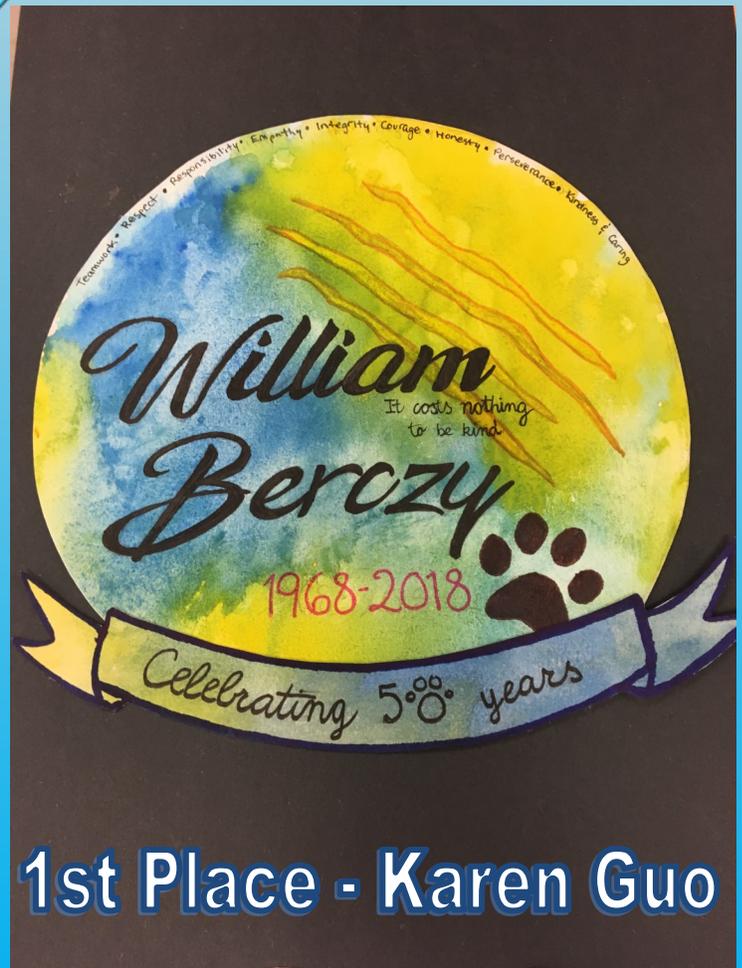
BERCZY 50th LOGO SELECTED

... Continued

Even though all of the logos submitted were awesome, there was a final outcome from those that were submitted and displayed. In 3rd place was a tie between Youssef Attia and Melody Xie. In 2nd place was Amy Huang, and in first place was a logo designed by Karen Guo. It was an amazing leadership experience and the team and I had a lot of fun organizing it. A special thanks to Ms. Talwar, Ms Rhamey, and Mr. Pasta for helping us complete this task and for making this experience fun. Congratulations again to Karen Guo. Great work on your outstanding design!



TOP: Our students are participating in the 'Dot-Mocracy' voting process.
ABOVE: 2nd Place—Amy Huang
ABOVE LEFT: 3rd Place—Yusuf Attia
LEFT: 3rd Place—Melody Xie



1st Place - Karen Guo

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCYZ

WE ARE AMAZING MATHLETES!

Berczy Breaks Mathletes All-Time Record

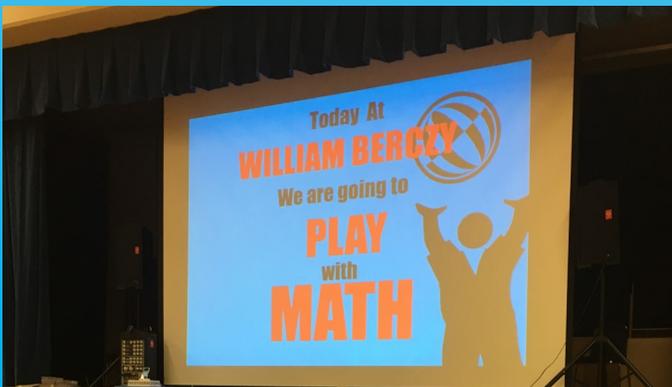
Written by Dong Jin

On February 6th and 7th, every Berczy student from grades 2 to 6 participated in Mathletes. Mathletes is a full day of Math challenges and puzzles and on those two days and in the evening of the 7th, Berczy students and parents answered 24, 961 math questions! This was a new all-time record for Mathletes.

There were 4 activity stations in the gym. The first station was the pentominoes. In 2D pentominoes, you have a few puzzle sheets and you use some pentominoes (there are 12) to fill in the shape on the sheet. The sheet also says how many pentominoes to use. Only Grade 5 and lower use 2D pentominoes and Grade 6 and above use 3D pentominoes. 3D pentominoes are pentominoes, except 3D.

The second station is the word problems and brain teasers. These are word problems that range from really easy to harder. Some of them need to be written out while some don't need to be.

The third station is tangram puzzles. Tangrams are like pentominoes except they vary in shape and are not square/cube.

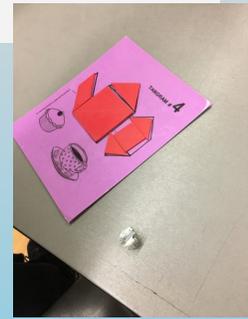
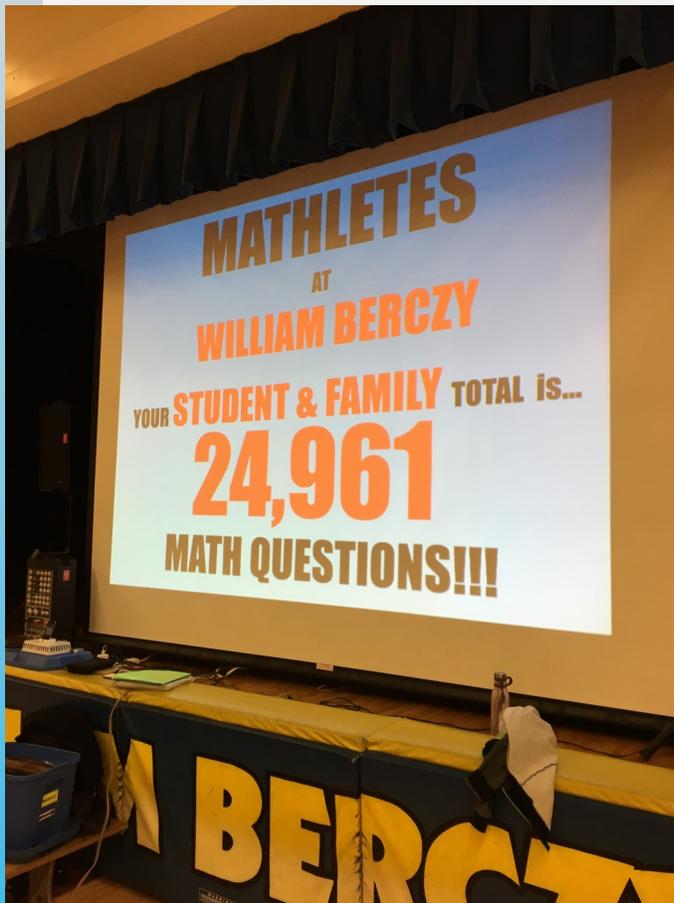


WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCYZ

WE ARE AMAZING MATHLETES

... Continued

Mathcodes are last and they are questions where you have to solve the questions and then the shape is the answer and the shapes at the bottom are numbers and there is a decoder. All in all, it was great to practice our Math skills in a fun and exciting way. Go Berczy!



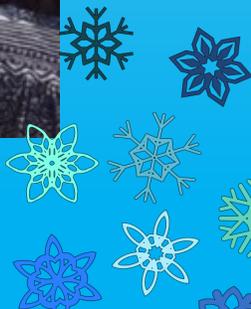
WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCYZ

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Written by Samantha Viero

This year, William Berczy Public School has created a Student Council to help support our school! The Student Council members were selected from all Intermediate classes in the school. From each class, a few student representatives were chosen to help represent their class and students from all grades. Although the members are only from Intermediate classes, we will be capturing the voice of each and every student, no matter the grade. The goal of our Student Council is to incorporate all of the students' opinions and thoughts to create the best learning environment achievable. We would like all of the students to feel welcome and comfortable with all of their peers and staff.

To start us off our journey, we will be analyzing data from the school climate survey students completed last year. In this survey, all students responded to multiple questions expressing their thoughts and opinions about the school. The students shared feedback and hopes for the school in the future. We will be taking all of the responses and coming up with ways to help bring these ideas to reality! We are looking forward to continuing our work. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, feel free to ask a teacher for the name of a student council representative. Looking forward to a great year!



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

OH LA LA! MADAME SUNG RETIREES FROM TEACHING



It is with bittersweet emotions that we announce the retirement of Madame Youn Sung. Madame Sung has had an illustrious career teaching primarily “Le Français” to many students in the York Region District School Board and beyond. She is looking forward to spending more time with her family and enjoying the exciting experiences that retirement will offer.

The Berczy community bid “Bon Voyage” to Madame Sung at a surprise assembly on Tuesday January 30th. Madame was completely taken aback when she entered the gym to find the entire school waiting for her, wearing French mustaches and dressed in les tricolors: blue, blanc, et rouge.

Many exceptional presentations of gratitude and best wishes were made to Madame by the classes that she has taught over the past year. Students and staff presented her with a stunningly decorated book of signatures and well-wishes. We will truly miss Madame Sung and wish her all the best as she embarks on this new journey in her life.





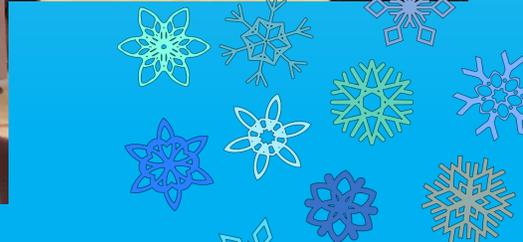
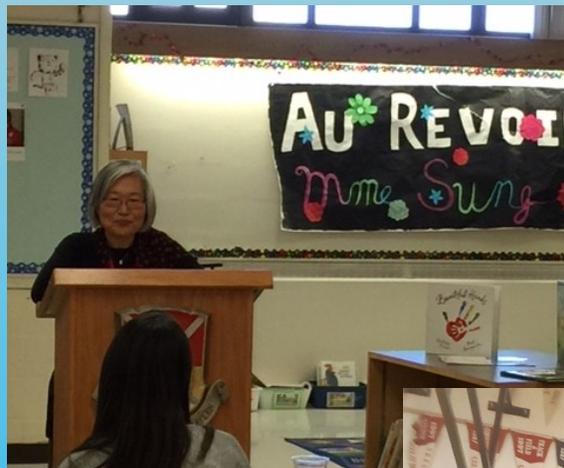
WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

MERCI MADAME SUNG!

A Student's Farewell to Madame

Written by Miriam Pedrozo

For those of you who don't know Mme. Sung, let me introduce her to you. A teacher, a mentor, an inspiration. She teaches you that no matter how much you struggle at learning something, as long as you try, you will become better. She taught us that French can be a class you look forward to. She gives you second chances, and offers her time to help you improve. She has an intelligence that none can match, and a genuine care for those she meets. So to all those who had the chance to be taught by her, and all the people who have worked alongside her, I am proud to say on all of our behalf, Thank you. For becoming the inspiration you are to me and many others, the influence you've had on our school, and the never ending contagious joy you've spread to those who know you. On behalf of the Berczy community, I wish you a wonderful retirement, and best of luck on your next adventure.



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ BERCZY

MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEE

Message From Our Trustee, Billy Pang

With report cards having just gone home, this is a good time of year to review your child's progress and to set goals for the rest of the school year.

As trustees, our goals are set out in the Board [Multi-Year Plan](#). In the coming months, trustees will be reviewing and updating this plan. This process will include opportunities for public input, and trustees will be out in the communities talking about this. More information will be shared about this in the spring.

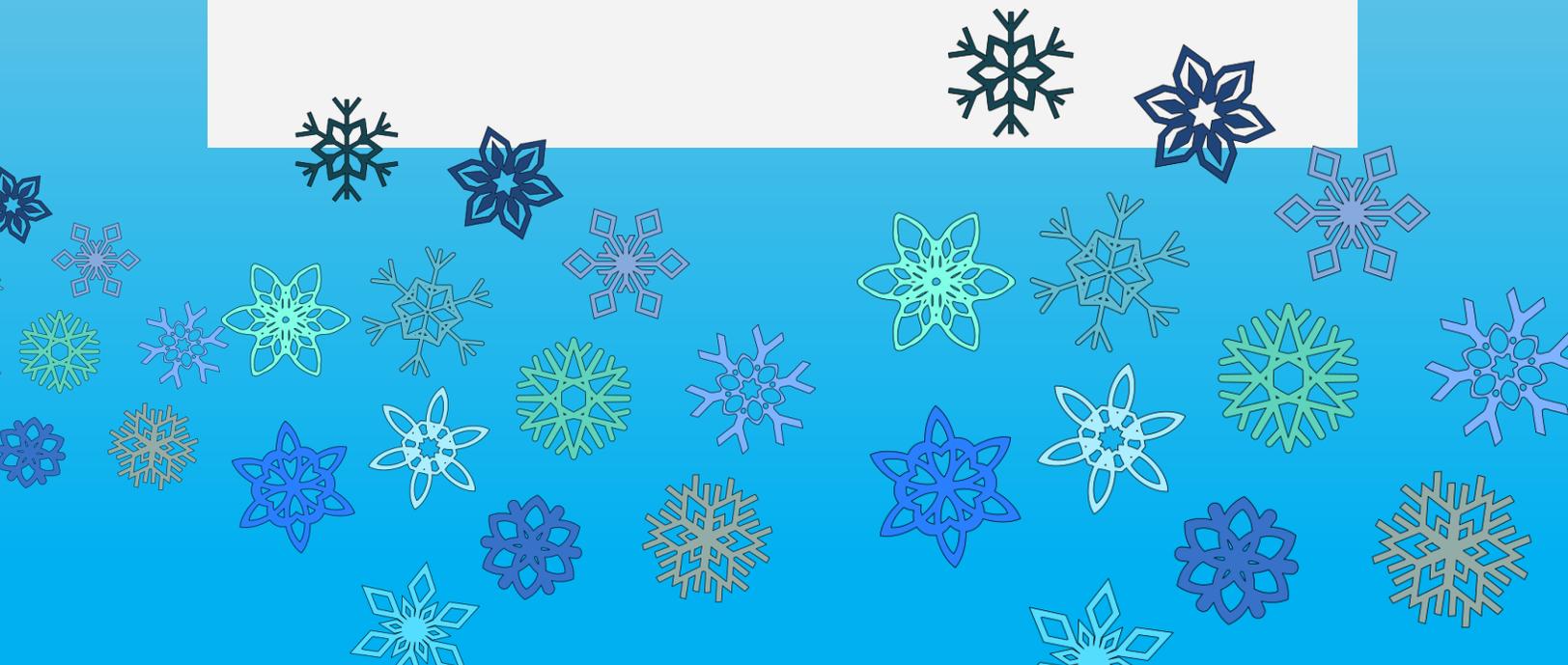
Developing and reviewing the Multi-Year Plan is just one of our responsibilities as publicly elected officials. Trustee responsibilities also include hiring the Director of Education, setting [Board policies](#) and the [annual budget](#), and communicating with the public.

This is a good time to learn more about the [role of trustees](#) with the next [municipal election](#) taking place later this year on October 22, 2018. York Region District School Board has [12 trustees](#), elected by ratepayers. As a trustee, listening and communicating with families is an important part of my role. Students, families and members of the public are welcome to attend and observe any public Board, Advisory or Board Committee meetings and to share their views with us on policy and Board governance.

As we move into the second half of the year, I hope that you are seeing evidence of your child's learning and progress, and finding opportunities to get involved in their learning and the life of the school.

I wish you all the best for a successful second term.

Billy Pang



SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Wednesday
February 21st, 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!*

February 20	Intermediate Girls Basketball Tournament
February 21	Intermediate Boys Basketball Tournament
February 22	Horseshoe Valley Intermediate Ski Trip
February 22	School Council Meeting
March 1	The Big Crunch
March 2	Hometown Hockey Day—Jersey Day
March 2-4	Rogers Hometown Hockey Weekend
March 12-16	March Break Holiday
March 30-April 2	Easter Holiday
May 28 - June 8	EQAO Testing for Grades 3 and 6

York Region Mission:

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

Inspire Learning!