



PAW PRINTS

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November 2017

We are off to a great start at Bayridge!

November is Indigenous Education Month. *“The Limestone District School Board is located on the traditional territories of the Anishanaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Metis, Inuit and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land.”* Over the month of November and at all times, we will be infusing Aboriginal education into our learning at school.

This year we are going to focus on **Diversity** and the six **Learning Skills** that are taught, modelled and assessed as part of the Progress and Report cards. Our focus for November is **Self Regulation**.

Self Regulation means that students take responsibility for their success at school. This involves having effective work habits as well as productive and responsible behavior.

Our **Professional Activity Days** are spent looking at all of the data that helps us see how well our students are achieving. Our **EQAO** results showed excellent progress:

Grade 3 students at or above the provincial standard:

Reading	Writing	Math
82%	78%	64%

Grade 6 students at or above the provincial standard:

Reading	Writing	Math
80%	73%	39%

We also look at report card data from last year as well as classroom data which includes diagnostic and formative assessments. Our students in grades 4-8 are also surveyed every year so that we can 'hear' their voice about various aspects of school life. We have started to develop our School Improvement Plan with a focus on Mathematics, answering Open Response questions in Literacy and further developing a sense of belonging and inclusivity throughout the school. Results will be shared at the next School Council meeting on November 21 at 6:00 pm.

Progress Reports will be sent home on November 16. Please look at these carefully and set some goals for your child. Also, our teachers are happy to discuss the results with you. We know that a strong relationship between home and school is one of the strongest determinants of students' success in school.

UP United Parents of Bayridge

Please join us on November 2 at 6:00 pm to hear Dr. Garth Smith, a Developmental Pediatrician at Queen's University speak about Circle of Friends and Peer Buddies.

Terry Fox

Once again our Bayridge Bears did a stellar job of the Terry Fox Walk. We raised over \$900.00 to support cancer research!

Community Garden

Again this year, our Community garden was a huge success. Planting was done in the spring, made special as our Exchange friends from Baker Lake, Nunavut helped us! We thank everyone who helped to water and weed over the summer. Our abundant crop of kale and carrots went to Martha's Table just before the Thanksgiving weekend.

Food Policy

This is a reminder about our Food Policy at Bayridge. After extensive consultation last year and feedback from a variety of stakeholders, we determined that no food should come in to the school from families other than what is in students' lunch kits. We have many students with serious/life threatening allergies. We have a number of classrooms that have specific restrictions. When treats and other foods come in to the school these children are at risk. Some students who cannot eat certain foods for a variety of individual, medical and cultural reasons are excluded when outside foods are brought in.

We would like to thank everyone who gave us feedback about our hot lunch program. Including the survey feedback and the above considerations, we have decided to stop our hot lunch program.

The reasons include the following;

- The program is not inclusive of all of our families
- It takes a lot of volunteer hours to run
- It brings minimal fundraising return
- It is disruptive to instructional time
- It contradicts our litter less lunch program and creates a lot of waste

We do recognize that there will be some disappointment in this decision, but taking everything into consideration we believe this is a sound decision.

School Council

Next meeting: November 21 @ 6:00 pm

Fundraising

Thank you to all who participated in our fundraising survey during the evening of our Open House. We also surveyed our students last spring to give them a voice on what improvements and priorities they see for the school.

Our conclusions are as follows:

Families want to see environmentally friendly fundraisers.

Families want to see healthy fundraisers.

Families only want between 1 and 4 fundraisers per year.....we are looking at two or three per year as well as Bingo.

Interestingly, there was a strong alignment of priorities between families, students and staff. The following initiatives were common goals for all: the arts, field trips, equipment to support healthy and active pursuits.

We will continue to run Bingos on behalf of the school. Bingo raises significant funds. If you are willing to work a Bingo, even once a year for two hours, please contact the office. This is an easy way to make a big contribution with just a couple of hours of your time.

We have already had our fall magazine fundraiser. Look for two others in the coming months. The fundraising dollars will go towards subsidizing field trips, the arts and providing for healthy, active exercise for our students.

If you would like to simply make a donation to the school we are happy to receive them!

Student Council

Our Student Council is comprised of representatives from grades 4-8 classes. Their first task this year was to survey their classes to brainstorm ideas for the school and spirit days. They have lots of ideas for clubs and activities as well as school improvements! We are very proud to have such great student leadership in the school. Our first spirit day is October 31: dress in black and orange!

Me to We

Our Me to We Committee is up and running this year. We had a large number of students wanting to get involved. Me to We is an organization that is part of Free the Children, started by two Canadian brothers, Craig and Mark Keilberger. This organization facilitates youth helping in local and global ways to make a better world!

Change for Families in Need is hosting their annual Handbags for Hope event. They are collecting gently used or new purses and items to fill them (toiletries, candy, makeup, etc). Filled bags will be delivered to women in need in our community on December 6. Bayridge public school will be accepting donations from November 1 to 30th.

Parents/Guardians in hallways: we respectfully request that parents/guardians drop off and pick up students outside at the doorways. Being on school on time and waiting to pick up after the bell rings helps to keep us focussed in class at the beginning and the end of the day! We recognize that sometimes you have appointments, when you do, please sign them in and out in the office and let them go to class themselves. Thank you for helping us to minimize distractions during instructional time.