



PAW PRINTS

<http://bayridgeps.limesothe.on.ca>

Twitter: BayridgePS_LDSB

February 2017

Our Diversity is our Strength!

In the words of Justin Trudeau, we recognize that Bayridge Public School is a microcosm of our wonderful country: Canada!

In our school, we have staff, families and children from all walks of life, from all cultural backgrounds, many religions and from many different countries. This is the opportunity of public education. Your children are able to grow up learning with a diversity that will prepare them for the real world!

We are fortunate to have students in our school who have Indigenous backgrounds. We recognize that our school and community exist on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land. We have a lot to learn with our Indigenous cultures and we are always working towards reconciliation with them.

We also celebrate all of the different cultures that are represented here. We have children from many different countries. When you are new to a country, as I was as a young girl in the 1960s, you know that it a real challenge to leave your home, even in peaceful circumstances, and move to a new place. The “Me to We” Syrian research group recently had a guest speaker who is working with Syrian refugees in Kingston. While she pointed out many things that we can do to help the single most important thing that she said was regardless of where someone comes from we need to make them feel welcome and at home. This is the Bayridge way!

Every day we have an opportunity to learn to speak French and understand the French, Quebecois culture. This gives us the incredible opportunity to contribute to our learning in

English as well as enhance our brain development overall. Later this year we will welcome Inuit students from Baker Lake, Nunavut to our school as part of the Heritage Canada Exchange Program. What a great opportunity this will be to see what diversities and commonalities we have with our fellow Canadians from the north!

We make every effort to ensure that no one tradition is recognized over any others. We learn about different countries, cultures, religions and celebrations.

While there are too many tragedies in our world and events that we find difficult to reconcile in our minds and hearts, there is also a lot of greatness and good. Here are some of the words from Malala Yousafzai.

“One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world. When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful”.

“We should all consider each other as human beings, and we should respect each other”.

On behalf of the staff, School council and community at Bayridge I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to instill a sense of hope in our children and prepare them to be a force for good in the world and a part of the solution!

Salut Mes Amis

Upon retirement, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for a pleasant time teaching here at BPS. It has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience due to everyone who makes BPS a wonderful place: students, all staff and members of the School Council. Accolades to parents for supporting your children in their learning endeavours!

Special thanks goes out to all those students who allowed me to share in their successes, whether on the field, the track, the court, in publications or at chess. I look forward to running into you in the community in the coming years and hearing of your continued success!

A Final "Merci Beaucoup", Monsieur Ross

School Council

Next coffee morning: February 13 2017

Next meeting: February 21, 6:00 pm

Next UP Speaker will be on February 8, 2017

Respect Each Other-Acts of the Heart

This month we will be focussing on helping others, volunteering and making our school and community a better place. Mr. Chase and our "Me to We" Committee will be running a volunteering event to be determined.

Talk to your children about volunteering and model for them if you can. If you put your name in to volunteer at the school and have not participated in anything yet, please contact us!! We can always use willing people to read to students, work in our Learning Commons and help in other ways!!

Music

Music is alive and well at Bayridge, thanks to our Music teacher, Mr. Aylsworth. We are in the process of planning a spring concert, stay tuned for more details!!

Graduation

The grade 8 graduation is June 27. The ceremony will be at 5:00 pm with a cruise to follow between 8-10. The grade 8 students are also going to Canada's Wonderland on June 20!

Kindergarten Registration

Families are encouraged to register their children for Kindergarten as soon as possible. Children have to be 4 years old by December 31, 2017. Early registration ensures that you receive an invitation to our Welcome to Kindergarten evening and that we can make plans to support if your child has any special needs.