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YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

LESTER B. PEARSON P.S.  
www.lesterbpearson.com

The Character Trait for the Month of November is:  
**HONESTY**

"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom."  
**Thomas Jefferson**

"No legacy is so rich as *honesty*."  
**William Shakespeare**

**SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

It is with pleasure that we introduce to you our new slate of School Council parent officers for the 2009 - 2010 school year. Should you have questions or concerns of a general nature, please feel free to contact the school and we will relay the message.

Marion Tripp Co-chair  
 Orisha Snider Co-chair  
 John Aldis Treasurer  
 Stephanie Crapper Georgopoulos Secretary

**EQAO RESULTS**

The purpose of EQAO's large-scale assessments is to provide comparable year-to-year data to give the public information on student achievement. They provide reliable, objective and high-quality data that can inform school boards' improvement planning and target setting. EQAO's assessments measure achievement against expectations from the Ontario curriculum and contain tasks that sample from and represent the curriculum from the subject area being assessed.

Individual EQAO results have been distributed to grade 4 and 7 students. Lester B. Pearson students continue to perform very well in both Math and Language surpassing the Board and provincial averages.

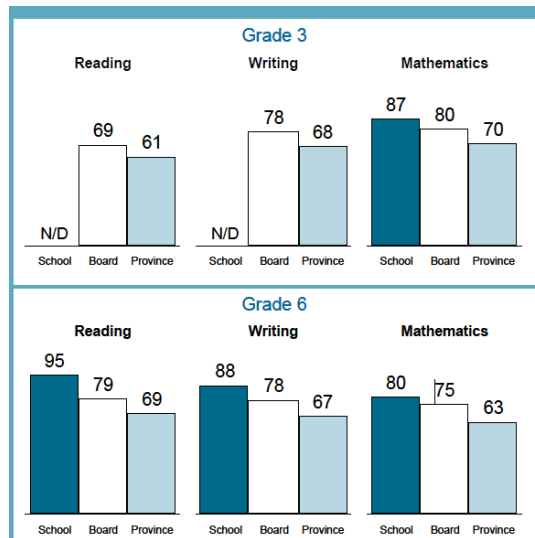
*What do we do with the results?* When the results are released, we share them with our teachers who use the information provided to enhance their teaching in order to focus on areas of growth. d substantially over the years in Math.

*Do we keep track of student performance?* Yes! We continually strive for excellence at all grade levels through professional development. Our writing scores in Grade 6 English have improved over the years following our introduction and use of the "First Steps" writing program and A.P.E. writing strategies. Through the integration of these

activities in their classrooms, teachers have been able to better meet the needs of the students. By tracking student progress, we can see how each child is progressing from grade to grade. On the September 25<sup>th</sup> PD Day, we compared overall results from previous years to measure where we need to improve and how we can do so. Results were also shared with the School Council at our October meeting.

For further information relating to our results, please visit: [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

**PERCENTAGE OF ALL STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE THE PROVINCIAL STANDARD (LEVELS 3 AND 4), 2008-2009**



**Every school day counts in a child's academic life...**

**WHY DOES ATTENDANCE MATTER?**

A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn. In this era of increased accountability for districts, and schools, the connection between student attendance and learning is being studied more than ever before. As a result, education agencies are asked with increasing frequency to report attendance data in a standard manner to allow comparisons across organizations and jurisdictions.



Better student attendance starts with interventions that are based on detailed attendance data.

The primary rationale for high-quality attendance data is the relationship between student attendance and student achievement. Teacher effectiveness is the strongest school-related determinant of student success, but chronic student absence reduces even the best teacher's ability to provide learning opportunities.

Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance. This relationship between attendance and achievement may appear early in a child's school career. A recent study looking at young children found that absenteeism in kindergarten was associated with negative first grade outcomes such as greater absenteeism in subsequent years and lower achievement in reading, math, and general knowledge.

Poor attendance has serious implications for later outcomes as well. High school dropouts have been found to exhibit a history of negative behaviours, including high levels of absenteeism throughout their childhood, at higher rates than high school graduates. These differences in absentee rates were observed as early as kindergarten, and students who eventually dropped out of high school missed significantly more days of school in first grade than their peers who graduated from high school. In eighth grade, this pattern was even more apparent and, by ninth grade, attendance was shown to be a key indicator significantly correlated with high school graduation.

The effects of lost school days build up one absence at a time on individual students. Penalties for students who miss school may unintentionally worsen the situation. Any absence, whether excused or not, denies students the opportunity to learn in accordance with the school's instructional program, but students who miss school are sometimes further excluded from learning opportunities as a consequence of chronic absenteeism.

Real students improved their attendance behaviors and educational opportunities as a result of educators acting on attendance data, working with families, and increasing the effectiveness of attendance intervention efforts...

Collecting detailed attendance data can help schools identify patterns in the frequency of student absences and reasons why students are missing school. Once education leaders understand how student absences are affecting their community, they are in a position to make the case for changes that will improve student attendance.

Please remember that all absences reduce a student's opportunity to learn.

*Every School Day Counts: The Forum Guide to Collecting and Using Attendance Data. NFES 2009-804 National Forum on Education Statistics, <http://nces.ed.gov/forum/>*

## CYBER-BULLYING & SOCIAL NETWORKING

Many thanks to the 65 families who attended the presentation by York Regional Police Officer C. Hazlett on Curriculum Night. We hope those in attendance benefitted from Constable Hazlett's knowledge and experience in this area – which is new to many of us and is rapidly becoming widespread amongst our young people. Our grade 7 & 8 students also received a presentation by the Community Police officer on the same topic. The more informed we are about new trends and fads the better. On that note, we thought you would appreciate the following excerpt from an article on "Sexting".

One of the latest trends in social networking is sexting – texting, posting or e-mailing sexually explicit pictures over the internet using a variety of devices: cell phones and digital cameras. When the subject in the pictures is under the age of 18, the pictures are considered to be child pornography, with very serious legal consequences. Most recent U.S. surveys have found that 20 per cent of teens have sent nude photos of themselves to others electronically.

Understandably, the law does not view the practice lightly. In Ontario, cases have been seen where teens with access to pictures have been charged with possession of child pornography, while those who forwarded the pictures on to others have been charged with distribution. It appears that many young people have very little or no understanding of the legal and moral implications of sexting.

Please assist us in making your child grasp the consequences of internet communications: there is no way of getting the pictures back once they have been sent. Please check your child's facebook page regularly and help your child understand that others can distribute the images they post to anyone without your child's consent or knowledge. Your child has to know that pictures remain in cyberspace indefinitely.

At school we have taken the time at the beginning of the school year, through assemblies, to review the appropriate use of electronic equipment at school. Please encourage your child to keep cell phones at home as student should not need them during the school day. A courtesy phone, located in the main office, is available to students for calls to parents. If your child must bring his/her cell phone to school then it must be turned off during the school day. We have also reminded students that they are not to take pictures of other students using their digital cameras without prior consent of those students. The best way to avoid problems is, of course, to keep the digital cameras at home as well.

Please help us take a preventative approach to your child's safety but discussing with your teen the perils of sexting.

*Adapted from Ontario Principals' Council Communicator, September 2009*

## Discover York Region District School Board's Secondary School Arts Program...

Specialized Arts programming available at four sites throughout the Region:

- Alexander Mackenzie High School, Richmond Hill
- Huron Heights Secondary School, Newmarket
- Unionville High School, Markham
- Westmount Collegiate, Vaughan

- ✍ A four-year intensive arts program for artistically talented students in York Region
- ✍ A package of 8 specialized arts credits offered as part of the high school curriculum
- ✍ Admission to Grade 9 through audition and/or portfolio presentation-January each year
- ✍ Applications for all Secondary Arts Programs due early December each year
- ✍ Arts programs include: Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music (vocal, instrumental)
- ✍ (Students applying for Strings and Piano apply at Unionville H.S. only.)
- ✍ Program details, attendance boundaries, audition requirements, contact information and applications are posted at respective school websites:

[www.alexandermackenzie.hs.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/index.html](http://www.alexandermackenzie.hs.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/index.html)  
[www.huronheights.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/artsHuron/main.htm](http://www.huronheights.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/artsHuron/main.htm)  
[www.artsunionville.com](http://www.artsunionville.com)  
[web.me.com/artswestmount/Site/Welcome.html](http://web.me.com/artswestmount/Site/Welcome.html)

## TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

This year many teachers have a "Moodle page" on which they will post classroom newsletters every month. The teachers may also choose to post the homework and upcoming assignments. In order to access these pages, you must sign in at home with your child's login and password from school.



Each child has been given his/her login information to take home so that you can login on your web browser at home. The students have also been given a specific enrolment key (password) that you need to input to access the teacher page. Here are the steps you need to take to access your child's teacher's web page:

1. Go to [www.lesterbpearson.com](http://www.lesterbpearson.com).
2. Click on "Teacher Pages".
3. Click on your child's grade and teacher name.
4. You will be directed to the Moodle link for your child's teacher.
5. Enter your child's login and password.
6. Fill in the email address field.
7. Choose "Hide my email address".
8. Scroll down to the bottom and hit "update".
9. Enter the enrolment key that your child has brought home.
10. You should now see your child's teacher's page.
11. Bookmark this page and you should not need to login with a password again.

As with any new initiative this large, it sometimes takes time to iron out any "glitches" that may occur, so we thank you for your patience and good humour as some of these minor issues with Moodle and e-mail are resolved by the Board's extensive IT department which is working hard to make sure things run smoothly.

## HOTMAIL & SYMPATICO PROBLEMS

We are aware that for a number of weeks users of Hotmail and Sympatico who sent emails to a board address have been blocked and their email did not reach the intended recipient. We know this has been a headache for many of you. We have been assured that the problem with Hotmail is fixed and the difficulty with Sympatico is on the verge (as of the printing of this newsletter) of being resolved. Once again – your patience is appreciated.

## QSP FUNDRAISER

Wow! What a **Olympic-sized experience** we have had in the past few weeks!

Thank you to all the families who so actively participated in our QSP magazine fundraiser. We all had a great time with the challenges and rewards. This fundraiser could not have been made possible without the efforts of our parent volunteers who spent countless hours sorting through orders, money and distributing prizes to the classes.

**A special Thank You to Mrs. Forster, Mrs. Metel and Mrs. Simmons who coordinated all the efforts for the duration of**



**the Fundraiser. These busy ladies organized the assembly, collection of monies and the overall fundraiser.**

The grand total for the magazine drive sales is a whopping **\$85,000!** The promotion of on-line sales alone amounted to **\$45,000.**

Congratulations to all who helped get the drive underway.

## PARKING AT SCHOOL



Please use the north parking lot of the building when picking up or dropping off your children. The daycare parking lot is reserved for the use of their parents only. Please also note the signs at the front of the school that ask parents not to use the bus loop in the times designated for buses only.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## CHARITY FUNDRAISER

This year, our school has chosen **The Southlake Regional Cancer Centre** as our charity fundraising focus. More details will follow at an upcoming assembly. We thank you in advance for your support.

## HALLOWEEN

A reminder to all the families not to send any replica of weapons to school even if they are part of the overall appearance of the Halloween costume of your child. This request is in keeping with the Board Safe School Policy. Thank you.



On Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, the grade 1 students will be parading throughout the school during the afternoon. Students are welcome to wear their costume in class. Some classes may be hosting special events. Please be mindful of the treats you send to school with your child over the Halloween season: they need to be peanut/nut free.

## SAFE HALLOWEEN:

Halloween is a great time for children. But, all the excitement may cause them to forget important safety rules when trick or treating. Safe Kids Canada has some tips.

**All about costumes:** Make sure that motorists can see your child. Use costumes with bright fabrics and decorate them with reflective tape. Give each child a flashlight and be sure they use it.

**Tips for safe trick or treating:** Children under nine years of age should be supervised by an adult when trick or treating. Children over nine years of age should trick or treat with an adult or in a group with older, responsible children.

If your child is trick or treating without an adult, make sure he or she knows how to cross the road safely. Children should walk, not run, from house to house and stay on the sidewalk or at the side of the road facing traffic. Children should stay in well-lit areas and should only visit homes that have outside lights turned on. Children should not go inside anyone's house.

Before your children eat their candy, make sure you examine it. Throw out any treats that are not wrapped, those in torn or loose packages, or any that have small holes in the wrappers.

Safe Kids Canada is the national injury prevention arm of The Hospital for Sick Children. For more safety tips, visit the Safe Kids Canada Web site at <http://www.safekidscanada.ca/>

## NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> IS A P.A. DAY



Please note that on this day the Staff will be working on curriculum initiatives. Children will not be attending school on this day.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

You are welcome to join us on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m. as we commemorate this important occasion. We remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and look forward to a peaceful world.



### JOURNEY THROUGH THE AMAZING RAINFOREST

On Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> the students had the privilege of being educated by an Amazing Rainforest presentation. Thank you to the SSA for providing such spectacular events as this as well as Hip Hop classes.

### GRADE 5 HIP HOP



*"From the end of September to the beginning of October, a lady named Micaela came to our school and taught us Hip Hop dance. She taught each grade a different dance to different songs. After Micaela taught a grade a dance, she would pick a few people from each class to present the dance they learned at an assembly.*

*Micaela taught our grade a dance to a song called "It Ain't Over" by Stevie B. It was really fun and our whole class performed the dance at the assembly.*

*I think that everyone had fun and we will look forward to doing it again next year."*

By: Stefanie Low

### THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



On Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the grade five classes, Mme Duggan, Mme Drapeau and Mme Belzile went to the Legislative Assembly. A student is sharing her thoughts:

*"It was a good time to go because there was a lot of discussion in the Chamber regarding the e-health scandal. We were able to sit in the Gallery for the question period. The question period is when the opposition party can ask the government questions. I was surprised to hear so much heckling from the opposition party; it was what I would call 'out of order'!*

*We were lucky that a lot of the politicians were present. Only the back row of the government side was not present. It was funny though, but disrespectful what the opposition side was saying. I even heard people saying things about "Kraft Dinner" and someone was judging someone by their appearance.*

*We had our picture taken on the front steps in the main foyer and were awarded a flag of Ontario and a picture with a letter from Frank Klees. For us, it was an honour. We saw Frank Klees in the front row, which I think was cool.*

*It was a beautiful day outside but we ate in a cafeteria. We took lots of pictures outside in the garden and in the front. Before that, we took a tour of the west and east side of the Legislative Assembly. We did an activity during our tour of the*

*Assembly. We had to write down a couple of answers regarding various objects found on the east and west side of the building. Something that we learned was that there were about only 10,000 books saved from the fire on the west side in 1909. The side that was burned down is now made of marble. It is very nice.*

*At the end of they day, politics is very interesting and fun. I would definitely go back to the Legislative Assembly."*

By: Carissa Muller

### A MULTICULTURAL NOTE

In each newsletter, we highlight the High Religious Holidays as defined by various faiths as our way to shape our collective appreciation for each other.



**Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>: Eid-ul-Adha** is the Festival of Sacrifice. It honours Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael to God. In commemoration, Muslims sacrifice a sheep or goat and donate the meat or its equivalent value in cash to charity. This is the "minimum" requirement for those who can afford it.

### A.P.E. AT LBP! A WRITING STRATEGY FOR STUDENTS

As part of our focus on improving student achievement in the area of writing, the teachers and staff at LBP have been focusing, together with other schools in our Board, on this area of our language program. Our school literacy team has been participating for more than a year in a Learning Network of several schools in the area that have a similar focus. Several beneficial insights and key learning have resulted from this collaborative work. One such strategy is called A.P.E. You may hear your child mention "APE" or see evidence on a written assignment. We thought it would be helpful to include an explanation for those parents who are not familiar with the strategy.

The **A** in APE stands for answering the question in general terms by using a bit of the question in the response.

**P** stands for using evidence from the text to prove your answer. One way of doing this is to cite examples from the text.

**E** stands for elaborating by making a text to text, text to self or text to world connection with what has been read. This strategy provides students with the framework necessary to write detailed responses to their reading.

Look for more updates on our work in writing in upcoming months.

### GRADE 3 - 8 CROSS COUNTRY AREA RESULTS



Once again this year the LBP students had great results with the Cross Country team. The children have been training during their lunch hours and they were all committed to doing their best. Congratulations to the following students:

### 3e/4e filles

7- Taylor Unger  
10- Nikki Graham  
16- Natalia Manjarres  
19- Samantha Rayner  
22- Ava Iannou  
23- Megan Schmitt  
25- Lindsay Morrison  
27- Kayla Chang  
28- Alexa Camick  
31- Jaclyn Fearnley  
34- Zoé Neal  
35- Melissa Cardona  
39- Sarah Neal  
48- Tahla Den Houdyker  
52- Emma Point  
53- Jillian Sproul  
59- Olivia Skinner  
60- Abigail Dombrovsky  
61- Robyn Wood  
62- Ana Stanciu  
64- Teigan Avery  
65- Bree Littlehales  
70- Emily Hargrave  
78- Abby McGregor  
85- Amber Lewtak  
86- Erin Ward  
95- Marcie Bodolai  
97- Brianna Violi  
98- Laurel Peters  
99- Alisiya Petrushkevich  
103- Emma McGregor  
107- Lindsay MacPherson  
111- Katie McCartney  
113- Caitlin Gilliland  
117- Madeline Georgopoulos  
125- Fion Yung  
129- Harper Papulkas  
130- Katelyn Leibold

**\*L'équipe de 3<sup>e</sup>/4e année filles ont terminé en deuxième place**

### 3e/4e garçons

9- Luke Jarvis  
14- Julien Dowson  
15- Noah Hulton  
22- Carver Delmas  
25- Dylan McFee  
32- Carter Wilmsmeyer  
51- Evan Holtby  
55- Ryan Farewell  
59- Diam Matthew  
72- Chris Sands  
76- Cameron Goodyear  
77- Wells Karabin  
78- Matthew Steeles  
83- Christopher Walker  
88- Jack Weaver  
89- Brendan Dodd  
108- Michael Vivian  
121- Joshua Edwards  
123- Zacchary Nabaee-Tabriz

**\*L'équipe 3e/4e garçons ont terminé en troisième place**

### 5e année filles

6- Kristina Ryssina  
8- Gisèle Murphy  
24- Bianca Venchiarutti  
36- Cassidy Royslance  
42- Emma Robinson  
44- Carson James  
45- Rachel Von Holt  
50- Makenna Graham  
60- Emma Denton  
61- Ffion McKay  
72- Stefanie Low  
82- Charley McCann

**\*L'équipe 5e filles ont terminé en première place**

### 5e année garçons

3- Aidan Burbank  
10- Niklas Seidel  
14- Cameron Dyer  
15- Nick Reid  
23- Devlin Kauffeldt  
48- Finn Dodgson  
52- Charles Peters  
55- Evan Lambert  
70- Graham Wyndham-West  
74- Leo Branigan  
80- Colin Boorn  
98- Kaivon Ghajary  
102- Adrian Cogswell

**\*L'équipe 5e année garçons ont terminé en première place**

### 6e filles

9-Brooklyn Underwood  
10-Madison Jakubus  
11-Megan Howe  
16-Samantha Steeles  
18-Emer Cummins  
31-Davina Palmer  
39-Skye Nip  
45-Dannica Matta  
46-Hanah Ballou  
60-Molly Brenzel  
65-Riley Campbell  
67-Madeline Neufeld

**L'équipe de 6e année filles a terminé deuxième place**

### 6e garçons

3-Harrison Jarvis  
8-Keegan Matthew  
10-Joshua Salama-Frakes  
12-Walter Karabin  
20-Jack Bishenden  
28-Thomas Sauer  
31-Evan Woodhead  
43-Blake Holtby  
72-David Townshend  
74-Ismail Aslam

**L'équipe de 6e année garçons a terminé en première place**

**CROSS COUNTRY AREA RESULTS CONTINUED**

**7e filles**

- 5- Amanda Barnes
- 11- Alyssa Point
- 12- Michaela Point
- 15-Lyndsay Corrick
- 20- Natalie Mangialardi

**L'équipe de 7e année filles a terminé en deuxième place**

**7e garçons**

- 4-Christian Bilé
- 5-Brentyn Hall
- 8-Matthew Fleck
- 14-Lukas Camick
- 23-Bryn Burbank
- 31-Jason Morris

**L'équipe de 7e année garçons a terminé en deuxième place**

**8e filles**

- 10- Ashleigh Calvert
- 11- Lauren Sergejewich
- 21-Claire Walker
- 25-Tori Miller
- 29-Sydney Sekulovski
- 33-Sidney Lambert
- 35-Kendra Zamick

**L'équipe de 8e année filles a terminé en quatrième place**

**8e garçons**

- 23-Graeme Nugent
- 26-Mitchell Rath
- 45-Johnathan Clark

I would like to congratulate all the participants from Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Area Cross Country competition. Lester B. Pearson performed extremely well. I am very proud of the outstanding results we achieved. Your hard work has paid off.

I would also like to thank Mme Beatty, Mme Duggan, Mme Giguère, Mme Iannicello and Mme MacKillican for their participation and devotion. Your team spirit is appreciated and I thank you all.

Mme Bossé  
Head Coach

**FRENCH BOOK FAIR**

This year's French Book Fair will be hosted by Éduco-Entrepôt Canada on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. We will need some volunteers who can help on these dates.

If you are able to help, please contact Mme Reed at (905) 841-3030 or complete the section below and return it to school with your child and you will be contacted.

Your help is sincerely appreciated. Thank you Mme Ledlow and Mme Reed.

✂-----

I am able to help on:

**Wed. Dec. 2 morning (9 - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ afternoon (2 - 4) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Thurs. Dec. 3 morning (9 - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ afternoon (2 - 4) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Fri. Dec. 4 morning (9 - 12) \_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

