



# THE BEAR'S DEN

THE NEWSLETTER FOR BELFOUNTAIN PARENTS  
NOVEMBER 2009

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

October has been a very busy month!

The Kindergarten students visited the Dixie Apple Orchard. Although the weather was not very co-operative, they managed to pick apples, jump in the straw, and run through the corn maze. The follow-up activities included sampling apple treats, print making with apples, gathering and counting seeds, and organizing the data they collected.

The Grade 1's have all adopted a tree on the school yard and visit them regularly, making observations and recording data.

The Grade 3's welcomed the Scientist in the School for their soil study unit. They also visited Black Creek Pioneer Village to bring to life the era they are studying. Being able to see, touch, and walk around in the history you are studying makes the learning you are doing more meaningful.

The Grade 4's hiked to the forest to research native species for the planning and planting of the trees and shrubs at the school.

The Grade 5's and 6's went to the PowerAde Centre in Brampton for the annual Leadership Now! conference for students in Grade 4 to 8. Participants heard from keynote speakers Jessica Jackley Flannery, co-founder of the micro-credit organization Kiva, and Craig Kielburger and Michael Chikwanine from Me to We. This also gave them the opportunity to explore their leadership potential and their ability to effect positive change which they will be able to apply in school and their day to day life.

The Grade 6's have also released spawning salmon into the Credit River under the direction of Mark Heaton of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Grade 4's, 5's, and 6's met with Credit Valley Conservation Authority forester Brian Boyd, to discuss native trees and shrubs that would do well when planted on our school property.

The Junior classes will share their new knowledge with the Primary classes before we all venture out to plant the trees and shrubs.

All classes have been outside studying the preparations and changes happening with the change of seasons. Plants and wildlife are all preparing for that first cold blast of winter.

On that note, I would like to remind all families that we all need to dress for the weather. Listen carefully to the forecast on your favourite radio or television station. At this time of year the weather can change quickly, so we need to be prepared. Students will be spending time outside each day, except for the days when there are high wind chill values or days with steady rain. We start considering shortening outside exposure between -20 C and -25C with or without wind chill and keep students inside below -25C with or without wind chill (Peel Health Guidelines, 2003).

## ANAPHYLACTIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS

When packing snacks and lunches for school there are some suggestions of products that are "nut free". Looking for the "No Nuts" symbol is a great way to tell if a product truly is free from nut products. Reading the label is not always 100% accurate because of hidden "nut" ingredients.

Some examples of "Nut Free" products are:

### **President's Choice Peanut Free:**

Teddy Bear Arrowroot Animal Crackers  
FunShine Biscuit Cookies  
Honey Crunchy Cub Graham Crackers  
Zookies Animal Crackers  
Cereal Bars (Strawberry, Blueberry, and Apple)

### **All Dare Products:**

Wagon Wheels  
Bear Paws  
Bear Paw Minis  
Grain First Whole Grain Crackers  
Grissol  
Simple Pleasures  
Real Fruit Gummies

### **Principal:**

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### **Trustee:**

Mrs. V. Arnold-Judge  
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### **Student**

### **Transportation:**

1-800-668-1140

### **Bus Companies:**

**First Student (Orangeville)**  
519-927-2582

### **Parkview Transit**

905-846-1070

## GOOD BYE!! AU REVOIR!! FARE THEE WELL!!

The staff and students of Belfountain are bidding farewell to Mrs. Joanne Rankin. After a long career with the Peel District School Board, Mrs. Rankin is retiring.

The students had a chance to say au revoir to Mrs. Rankin at the assembly on Friday, October 30th.

While at Belfountain, Mrs. Rankin has contributed in many ways and has worked tirelessly supporting students and teachers.

We wish Mrs. Rankin all the best in her future endeavors and take this opportunity to thank her for the years of service she has put in helping students achieve success.

## HELP WANTED!!

Are you interested in volunteering on a regular basis? Would you like to directly assist students in becoming successful readers? We are looking for additional parents to work individually with students in the Primary Boost Reading Program. Training is provided for this position.

Interested parents should contact Andrea Broersma at 519—27-5212.

## THE SEASON FOR PLAYS AND MUSICALS.

At this time of year there are great opportunities to take in live theatre in the local area. We have been provided with information about two such performances.

Mayfield Secondary Drama Department proudly presents "The Music Man". Show times are Thursday November 12th, Friday November 13th, and Saturday November 14th beginning at 7:30 p.m. Mayfield has indicated to us that tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15 and that this is a family show and would be enjoyed by all ages.

The other opportunity for a seasonal theatre performance is Theatre Orangeville's presentation of "A Christmas Story". The play runs from November 26th to December 20th. There are matinees and evening performances throughout the run. The play features Belfountain's own Adam Bartley in the role of "Ralphie Parker". We have been told that tickets are limited and can be purchased on-line at [www.theatreorangeville.ca](http://www.theatreorangeville.ca) or by calling the box office at 1-800-424-1295.

## WELCOME!!! BIENVENU!!!

In saying goodbye to one person it usually means that we are going to be welcoming someone else. In this case, I would like to formally welcome Maria Ierullo to Belfountain as a full time Teaching Assistant. Maria is replacing Joanne Rankin. Maria brings a great deal of experience with the Peel District School Board to her new position. I look forward to working with Mrs. Ierullo and will introduce her to the community at the first opportunity. I know that staff, students and parents will welcome her to our wonderful school.

## "REFORESTATION" OF THE LEARNING GROUNDS

As was mentioned in the Principal's Message, the Learning Grounds are going to be undergoing a "reforestation" of sorts. In consultation with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Streams Ontario, and the Ministry of Natural Resources a planting plan is being developed. Funding and donations have been made by the TD Friends of the Environment Fund, The Town of Caledon Green Fund, and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. Consideration was given to what native or endangered species of plants and shrubs should be added to our school yard to complete the wildlife corridor and to boost the natural habitat and food source for the native insects, birds, and animals. CVC forester Brian Boyd presented a list of species to the junior grades and discussed the issues currently facing some of the species, such as the Emerald Boring Beetle which is attacking Ash trees and the Butternut Blight which is a fungal infection infecting Butternut trees, an endangered species.

There are three main areas on the playground that will be looked at. The older students will be paired with the younger students to plan and plant their assigned area. The Grade 6's and 3's will be responsible for the North end of the playground. They will be planting species for observation and data collecting purposes. This will be a managed planting. The Grade 5's and Grade 2's will be adopting the South end of the playground and will be looking at species that provide habitat and food for birds and small animals. The Grade 4's and Grade 1's will be working at rebuilding the wildlife corridor situated at the Eastern edge of the playground. The Kindergarten classes will be responsible for planting a cedar hedge in the area between the tennis courts and the rain garden. This hedge will be their legacy and upon their graduation from grade 6 it is hoped they will have fond memories of their time at Belfountain.

## CLOSING SCHOOLS BECAUSE OF BAD WEATHER

During the winter months, we may need to cancel buses or close schools because of bad weather. The board decides by 6:45 a.m. whether to cancel buses or close schools. To find out if busing is cancelled or schools closed, visit [www.peelschools.org](http://www.peelschools.org) or call 905-890-1010 or 1-800-668-1146. You will receive one of the following messages:

**Peel District School Board buses are cancelled.** Schools remain open for students and staff, but buses are cancelled. Buses will remain cancelled all day. All activities that require busing will also be cancelled. Permits, night school classes, daycare and other activities in schools will operate as usual.

**All Peel District School Board schools and board offices are closed.** Due to weather conditions, schools and board offices are closed to students and staff. All activities in schools and board offices are also cancelled, including daycare, night school and permits.

**All evening programs and permits at the Peel District School Board are cancelled.** Due to weather conditions, all activities in schools and board offices are cancelled, including continuing education courses and events. The buildings will be closed.

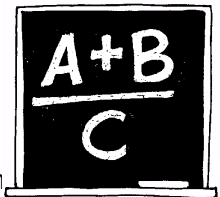
**All weekend programs and permits at the Peel District School Board are cancelled.** Due to weather conditions, all activities in schools and board offices are cancelled, including continuing education courses and events. The buildings will be closed.

## CHILDREN AND PARENTS CAN FIND MATH HELP ON THE WEB

The Peel District School Board provides an excellent math resource for parents, students and teachers. You can use *Math Online* on any computer connected to the Internet by going to:

<http://mathonline.peelschools.org>

*Math Online* is a collection of math websites—picked by teachers and sorted according to the math topics in the provincial curriculum. The website shows you topics by grade and by math strand—for example, number sense measurement, geometry, patterning and probability. It also lets you search for topics and activities of interest in the database.



Here are some of the other features that you and your child may find useful:

**Resources**—Find the "Best of the Web" in this collection of the best math sites

**Homework Helpers**—This button provides several sites for students who run into difficulty while doing their math homework

**Math Tools**—Visit sites with online tools—such as calculators and pattern blocks—to help with assignments

## HELP YOUR CHILD BE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL

The Peel District School Board is committed to parent and community involvement in our schools. As part of this commitment, we strive to provide up-to-date, factual, relevant information about what is happening in education, in our schools and in the classroom today.

Parent fact and tip sheets are available online at [www.peelschools.org](http://www.peelschools.org). They provide practical suggestions to help parents get involved in their children's education. Topics include:

Getting results—Helping your child prepare for provincial tests for students in primary and junior grades

Help improve your teen's reading comprehension skills

Smart from the start—Helping your kindergarten or grade 1 child

How to influence your teen's choices about education after high school

Help girls improve their self-esteem

To access the online tip sheets, go to the "Parents Boost Learning" section of the Peel board website at:  
[www.peelschools.org](http://www.peelschools.org)

## FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION NIGHT

The Herb Campbell P. S. French Immersion information night is November 25th at 7:00 p.m. ALL SK students who are interested in French Immersion must be registered by January 2010 for entry into Grade 1 F. I. at Herb Campbell in September 2010.

## BASIC FIRE PREVENTION TIPS FROM CANADA SAFETY COUNCIL



Fire is the third leading cause of accidental death in Canada. Approximately 85% of fire deaths occur in the home, and most deaths are due to smoke inhalation. Smoke alarms will warn you of a fire in time to let you escape.

Here are some basic fire prevention tips from Canada Safety Council:

- install a certified smoke alarm on each level of your home
- have and practice a fire escape plan with your family
- know your fire department's phone number
- have and know how to use your fire extinguisher
- keep matches and lighters out of children's reach
- don't overload electrical outlets
- always barbecue outside
- never leave grease cooking unattended
- clean grease from burner pans and stove top regularly
- install a smoke alarm outside each sleeping area
- install smoke alarms on each level of your home
- purchase smoke alarms that have the label of the underwriter's Laboratories of Canada
- test your smoke alarm at least twice a year
- test the battery once a month (by pushing the button on the unit)
- never remove the battery for any reason and replace the battery once a year
- replace smoke alarms every five years

For more information on fire safety, visit the Canada Safety Council website at [www.safety-council.org](http://www.safety-council.org).

## SAFETY REMINDERS ENSURE SAFE TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Help make sure your child stays safe in and around school buses by reinforcing the following safety reminders:

### Tips for riding the bus

- Take a seat as quickly as possible, put belongings under the seat and stay seated.
- Never stick anything out of the window, including part of your body.
- Don't eat snacks on the bus—if a choking incident happens, it may be difficult for the driver to help.
- Wait until the school bus stops before standing up to exit.

### Tips for exiting the bus:

- When getting off the bus, take two large steps away from bus. If you have to walk in front of the bus, do so at least three metres (10 giant steps) away from the bus.
- The driver must be able to see students exiting the bus and will give a signal when it is safe to cross. If more than one student is crossing in front of the bus at the same time, they should cross in single file.
- Children must **never** reach for something that is under the bus without the driver's permission. Let the driver know that something is under the bus or wait until the bus moves out of the way.

For more information about school bus safety, visit [www.elmer.ca](http://www.elmer.ca) or [www.safety-council.org](http://www.safety-council.org).

