



# BYRON SOMERSET PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Principal : J. Pratt  
Superintendent : M. Moynihan  
Secretary: B. Ovtscherenko  
Trustees: J. Bennett , J. Skinner

**Newsletter #2**

**October 1, 2018**

## **Principal's Message**

It was great to see the amazing turn out at 'Meet the Teacher' night! Thank you to the many families who came out and to our School Council parents for organizing the food and information tables! The school staff enjoyed meeting all the parents who visited our school that evening and the students of course, enjoyed 'showing off' their new teachers ☺ and classrooms as well!

**Student Allergies:** We have several students with life threatening nut allergies. I would ask that you **DO NOT** send lunches/snacks that contain nuts of any variety, including *Nutella* and *WOW Butter* (even though this product is 'safe', it is difficult for supervising staff, which may include supply teachers from time to time, to discern the difference; 'If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck . . . ☺). As always, thank you for helping to keep all our students safe.

Additionally, I want to express my thanks once again to all those individuals who have kept their **dogs at home** during school hours as well as pick up and drop off times.

On a final note, please remind your children to walk their scooters, in-line skates and bicycles while on school property so that we can avoid any unnecessary collisions on the school yard - thanks!

Thank you to the many parents who continue to submit both their **Annual Offence Declarations** (which can be obtained from our school office) as well as their **Criminal Background Checks**. Your efforts in maintaining student safety are greatly appreciated. If you would like to obtain a police check so that you may volunteer your time to the students at Byron Somerset and have not yet done so, please see the office for information.

## **EQAO RESULTS**

Our school's EQAO scores for primary and junior students were recently reviewed. The following charts provide an overview of our school results compared to our board and provincial results. All data is reported in percentages. When comparing this data, we look at many factors which result in the percentage of students achieving the provincial standard, levels 3 and 4. As a school we will continue to analyze and discuss these results, so that we can generate learning strategies to further improve our scores, specifically in the area of Mathematics. Math represents an essential focus for not only our school, but also for our Thames Valley Board and the Province.

## **School Improvement Plan**

This year our staff has once again identified Mathematics as a specific area of focus for our professional growth. Collaboratively as a staff and with the expertise of system support staff, we will continue to examine student data and intentionally set learning and instructional priorities, as we move forward together as life-long learners in education.

**EQAO Primary (Gr. 1-3)—Level 3 or 4**

Year	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
2015-2016	79	90	76
2016-2017	83	90	79
<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>(+ / -)</b>	<b>+14</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>Same</b>

**2016 to 2018 Primary EQAO (Gr. 1-3) – Level 3 or 4**

	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
<b>TVDSB</b>	<b>59 to 64 (+5)</b>	<b>60 to 59 (-1)</b>	<b>54 (Same)</b>
<b>Province</b>	<b>72 to 75 (+3)</b>	<b>74 to 72 (-2)</b>	<b>63 to 61 (-2)</b>

Out of the 29 students who wrote the Primary EQAO assessment in Mathematics, 4 students scored level 2.9. These 4 students were extremely close to Provincial standard and represent an additional 13.8% of potential level 3 success, which would have resulted in 93% of our Primary students scoring at Level 3 or above in Mathematics!

**EQAO Junior (Gr. 4-6)—Level 3 or 4**

Year	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
2015-2016	91	96	65
2016-2017	90	86	76
<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>(+ / -)</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-23</b>

**2016 to 2018 Junior EQAO (Gr. 4-6) – Level 3 or 4**

	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
<b>TVDSB</b>	<b>73 to 74 (+1)</b>	<b>69 to 70 (+1)</b>	<b>44 to 44 (Same)</b>
<b>Province</b>	<b>81 to 82 (+1)</b>	<b>80 Same</b>	<b>50 to 49 (-1)</b>

The elephant in the room ....

Our initial reaction to the Junior results in Mathematics was of shock and concern. However, after analyzing the results more closely with the School Improvement Team, we gained more insight and rationale. Let me explain what we found . . . To begin, we had a total of 30 students write this assessment. Therefore, 1 student = 3.3% of a reportable percentage. Out of the 30 students who wrote, 4 students scored level 2.9 and an additional 4 scored level 2.7. These 8 students were very close to Provincial standard (Level 3.0) and represent an additional 26.4% of potential level 3 success. Additionally, 2 of the 30 students did not complete the Math portions of the assessments due to personal circumstances and programming considerations. Unfortunately, as a result of EQAO reporting rules, these student results still factor into our overall score, resulting in an immediate loss of a potential 6.6% out of a possible 100%.

Therefore, given our 8 near misses and 2 non-writers, we had a potential of an additional 33% of our Junior students achieve at level 3, provincial standard, resulting in an overall projected score of 86%.

This missed opportunity now becomes the 'work' of our school improvement efforts for the 2018-2019 school year. Our staff remains deeply committed to the achievement of our student's success at all grade levels, in all subjects and particularly in the areas of Reading, Writing and Math. We appreciate your continued support at home as we strive to achieve improved success for our students, specifically in the area of mathematics for the 2018-19 school year.

Sincerely,  
J. Pratt, Principal



### **Pizza Day Orders**

This month's pizza days are **October 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>** (note date change from Oct 25<sup>th</sup>).

Orders must be done online if you wish your child to have pizza these days. **NO LATE**

**ORDERS** will be accepted.



### **United Way Campaign**

It's that time of year again when the United Way campaign gets underway. This year, the staff at Byron Somerset will be holding several events to raise money for this great cause. For the students, we will be holding our "**Hat Day for United Way**" on **October 5<sup>th</sup>**. Please send a donation with your children so that they can wear their hats for the day and support the United Way and all of the wonderful organizations that it supports. Thank you and we can't wait to see everyone wearing their hats on October 5th!

### **Immunization Clinics**

The Middlesex London Health Unit will be offering clinics on the following dates:

**Grade 7 Students**—Two doses of Hepatitis B and Gardasil-9 Vaccine and one dose of Menactra vaccine.

**(October 22, 2018)**

(and any Grade 8 students absent last year and have a consent on file)

**April 17, 2019** – Hep B #2 and Gardasil-9 #2

(and any Grade 8 students absent on previous clinic dates and have signed consent on file)

Information packages will be sent home with all eligible students prior to the first clinic. Please read over all the information carefully with your child. Signed consents are to be sent back to the school before the date of the first clinic. If you have any questions regarding the school vaccination program, please contact the Middlesex London Health Unit at 519-663-5317 ext. 2330.



## School Photos

Individual student and class photos are scheduled for Monday, October 1st. Photo retakes are scheduled for Thursday, November 1st.



## Cross Country News

Our Grade 3 to 8 cross country runners will be participating in Regionals at Springbank Park on Oct 2 (rain date Oct 3). Our school has 110 runners and our grade 7 and 8 students are marshals on the course. Parents are welcome to come and support the students at the Meet but please stay behind the barriers while encouraging the runners. We had a Cross Country meet here at Somerset on Sept. 19th, where we invited four other schools and competed in different distances. Thank you to C. Sheridan and S. Shana'a for their help at the finish line. From your Coaches Mrs. Russell, Mr. Dawson, Miss Desrochers & Mrs. Fleming.



## Senior Soccer Team

The Co-Ed Senior Soccer Team have finished their season by playing in the West Regional Soccer Tournament on Wednesday, September 26th. The team had a great tournament. They won the opening game and tied the second game to win our pool. This allowed us to compete in a Semi-Final game against Sherwood Fox. The game was tied after regulation time so the team went to a shootout. Somerset successfully defeated them with more goals. In the Finals against Wortley Road, Somerset also needed a shootout to defeat the opposing team. The team came together and improved as the day went along. The team had great saves in net by Zach and Isabelle. Mrs. Fleming was very proud of how well the team conducted itself on and off the field. The rest of the team consisted of the following players: Rachel, Shamin, Gaby, Simon, Malcolm, Grant, Jenna, Hillary, Ana, Amanda, Alexis, Ryan, Maya, Michael, Caden, Tyson, McKenna, Peter, Connor and Rowan. Congratulations on a great season.

Mrs. Fleming

## Student Council

The new Student Council for Byron Somerset is up and running. The representatives this year have been elected by their peers.

Gr. 8 **President – Kyenna S.**  
Vice – Camden S.  
Vice – Grant C.

Gr. 7 Peter P.  
Kayla V.

Gr. 6 Edward J.  
Tyler B.

Gr. 5 Madeline D.  
Aiden H.

Gr. 5/6 Sidney M.  
Simon H.  
Anderson W.

Gr. 4 Lyla B.  
Carter B.

Gr. 3/4 Maya M.  
Griffin G.

The student council would like to celebrate Halloween by having a Spirit Day on October 31st. The students in grades JK-Gr. 4 are welcome to wear appropriate costumes (no masks, weapons, guts or gore) and the students in grades 5 to 8 are welcome to wear Black and Orange.

# October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Day 9 	<b>2</b> Day 10 Cross Country Regionals Springbank Pk 11:00 am	<b>3</b> Day 1 Snack Day 	<b>4</b> Day 2 Carolinian Forest Festival –Gr 5/6, 6 & 7 Classes Steam Educ Centre Gr 4s	<b>5</b> Day 3 Hat Day For United Way 	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b> Day 4	<b>10</b> Day 5	<b>11</b> Day 6	<b>12</b> Day 7	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Day 8	<b>16</b> Day 9 X Country Finals @ Fanshawe 11:00 am	<b>17</b> Day 10	<b>18</b> Day 1 Pizza Day 	<b>19</b> Day 2	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Day 3 Gr 7 Vaccine Clinic 9:00 am	<b>23</b> Day 4	<b>24</b> Day 5 Gr ½ Classes to Circle R Ranch Pizza Day 	<b>25</b> Day 6 Fun Fair 5:00 – 8:00 pm	<b>26</b> PA DAY	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Day 7	<b>30</b> Day 8	<b>31</b> Day 9 	<b>Upcoming Events in November:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> – Photo Retake Day 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Hot Lunch 5th – School Council 6:30 pm 6th – Bus Safety – am 7th – Safety Village – Gr ½ & 2 Classes 8th – Pizza Day 9th – Progress Reports Go Home 14th – Gr 7 & 8s to Jewish Comm Centr 16th – PA Day 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Pizza Day		

# Home Connections in Mathematics



## Mathematics

We, as parents, want our children to succeed in school. We feel uncomfortable when our children struggle and often

want to make the work easier to help them (and us) escape the discomfort. While helping and making challenging material easier for our children may feel like the right thing to do, research shows us how being *less helpful* is more supportive of learning –permanent change in understanding. **Learning is greatest when children are given challenging tasks requiring thinking and reasoning. This active thinking is where sense-making, deep understanding, and self-confidence grows.**

**Productive struggle** in mathematics is the sweet spot we all experience when we have just enough support and prior knowledge to engage with a challenging problem. There is no learning without struggle. Doing the thinking for a child by explaining what must be done or providing a formula ensures there is zero thinking and, thus, no learning.

There are two important aspects to this idea:

- 1) *Productive*: children need support in the form of math tools (like coins or counters) and gentle guidance. E.g., “I wonder if a picture might help you understand this problem?”
- 2) *Struggle*: the task can’t be immediately obvious to the child

If a supported child struggles to the point of nearing frustration, it is appropriate to change the task to avoid unnecessary upset.

## Messages our children need to hear:

- “I would love to help you with your homework. Before I do, I’m really interested in how you thought about this problem.”
- “Problem solving is *what we do* when we don’t know what to do!”
- “You worked really hard on that problem to find a solution. That is impressive.”
- “How does it feel to know that you wrestled with that tough problem and figured it out?”
- “I’m glad you made that mistake. Your brain grew at that moment. When you realized you had made a mistake, your brain grew even more!”
- “Doing mathematics is about being challenged. This is hard. This is fun!”

## Links to Support You at Home



- <https://www.youcubed.org/>
- <https://www.mathplayground.com/tinkingblocks.html>
- <https://solveme.edc.org/mobiles/>
- <https://mathies.ca/>

So, let’s value and celebrate the struggle our children experience and forget the “*that was easy*” button.