

Bessborough Elementary and Middle School Newsletter

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Upcoming Events December

- ◆ Bessborough Café Continues - Dec. 10, 11, 12
- ◆ Toy Drive for Red Door Shelter ends Dec. 14th
- ◆ Grade 6 classes at True North Climbing Trip - Dec. 18th
- ◆ Grades 7/8 classes at Downsview Sports Day trip - Dec. 19th
- ◆ Pajama Day - Dec. 21st
- ◆ Winter Break Dec. 24th to Jan. 4th

Holiday Cheer & Appreciation

Thank you very much for all of the positive feedback about our Holiday Concerts on December 4th and 5! Hundreds of students on stage having fun and sharing their talents, amazing performances and audience participation ~ just the right recipe for holiday cheer!

Thank you once again to Sarina Condello and Sheila Philcox. This was the 4th consecutive year that they have worked with students at Bessborough and they will be back next year.



MANY thanks to our student leaders in the Wellness Club who invited students in Grades 2-4 to join the Singing Club and students in Grades 5-6 to join the Dance Club. Wonderful performances!

Send in your Holiday Concert Photos!

The yearbook would love to have any photos from the Holiday Concerts that you'd like to share with us. We are especially looking for photos from the Kindergarten Holiday Concert. So send in those photos and get your kids in the yearbook! Please send to bessboroughyearbook@gmail.com Be sure to send best quality and the largest file size you have (highest resolution) or if sending from your iPhone, please send "Actual Size".

Can you Spare Some Time for a Well-Loved School Tradition? The yearbook committee is also in need of some parent volunteers to lend a hand with the yearbook. No experience necessary, just enthusiasm. Anyone interested in learning more, please email Corey Ferguson at c.ginou@sympatico.ca

Trinket & Toronto Therapy Dogs

Has your child told you about Trinket, the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel that visits our school? We are truly lucky to have an ongoing connection with Sue Jamieson and Trinket, a St. John Ambulance therapy dog who has been visiting Bessborough since the 2015-2016 school year. I asked Sue to please share some information about Trinket who is VERY popular. Thank you, Sue for telling us about your own and Trinket's important work, and for sharing these photos!

"Trinket has been doing Pet Therapy visits for a little over 6.5 years. We started with Therapeutic Paws of Canada but are now with St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs. Her first "job" was at Sunnybrook Veterans Residence where we continue to visit every Monday morning. The unit that we visit is for end stage Alzheimer's residents. The residents aren't always able to interact with Trinket, so any smile she brings to their faces are a joy.



We also started at Sunnybrook Palliative care about two and a half years ago. This is the highlight of our week and we are always sorry when our visits to this special unit are over. It is quite amazing how uplifting these visits are and these dear people who don't have much longer truly enjoy Trinket. She is especially good with palliative patients. Trinket often falls asleep on people's beds and because sleepy visits make for good visits, no one reports her for falling asleep on the job.

This is Trinket's 4th year visiting Bessborough Elementary and Middle School. We originally started visiting the little grade 1 students and I believe that they must now be in 4th grade. It is fun to meet our old friends in the hall or sometimes just walking in the neighborhood...so many stop to say hello.

Trinket is truly a funny little girl...she doesn't do dog parks. Her favourite thing is to sit at outdoor cafes and watch the world go by. She is an observer. I do believe that she is meant to be shared with others."

Career Day & My Blueprint

Thank you, Ms. Angheloni for organizing Career Day on Thursday December 6th! It was a terrific experience for our Grade 7 and Grade 8 students. All Grade 8 students have now completed **My Blueprint** in preparation for high school.

Thank you to Shannon McLeod and Jim Corbett from the TDSB's **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)** for their introduction to OYAP and the Co-Op program! Students enjoyed learning about trades at sessions by TDSB skilled trades staff.

Students also had a session with Christopher Grafos, Ph.D., the founder of **BridgesEDU**, an academic programme that helps students meet their true potential in the high school to university transition. Christopher developed this programme after seeing too many of his undergraduate students struggle unnecessarily in university. **BridgesEDU** helps enhance critical thinking skills, analytical reading and writing, and scholarship applications.



BESSBOROUGH CAFÉ

This initiative of the Student Engagement Committee is in support of the WE Villages. All of our funds will support the **WE Organization** (formerly **Free the Children**). 100% of the funds collected will be donated for their global initiatives in education, water, health, food and opportunity. Each pillar is a critical component in breaking the cycle of poverty. (www.we.org)

In addition, we will be selling Rafiki bracelets soon*. In Swahili Rafiki means “friend”. These bracelets are handmade by Kenyan artisans (the “mamas”) and make a great life changing impact gift for the holiday season. Each Rafiki bracelet is \$10.00 (**The WE Group**).

**Rafikis will be available for sale as soon as they are delivered by Canada Post.*

Bessborough Café Dates: December 10, 11 and 12 (Room 31 at lunch)



The **Student Engagement Committee** is still collecting toys for the **Red Door Shelter**, which is located in downtown Toronto. This shelter supports single parents and families with kids. This Toy Drive continues until **December 11th** and donations can be dropped off in Rm 31.

Thank you so much for your donations, including those dropped off at our Holiday Concerts.

Bessborough Drive EMS Student Engagement Committee



Thank you to Cabrina Skillen and all the parent volunteers who came in to help out with Sub Lunch this week.

The Lost & Found



Has your child lost their Lightning McQueen lunch pail or favourite baseball cap? Visit the Lost & Found clothing bins outside each gym and the clothing rack located outside the office. Any items not claimed by December 21st will be donated to those in need. If you have any questions please contact Leila Baghdadi at baghdadi.leila@gmail.com.



Are you good with numbers and money and have a few hours to spare?

Treasurer Support candidates are needed now.

This volunteer supports the Treasurer in working closely with the Executive and Leadership to manage financial planning around fundraising dollars flowing in, and Operations and Enhancement Budget items being paid out.

Please contact Christine Davis (Bessboroughhomeandschool@gmail.com) if you would like more information about the Treasury Support role.



January 7 – Sub Lunch

Mayfair is Junefair!! June 1st - 11:00 - 3:00pm



STAY CONNECTED...

Find the latest Executive and General meeting approved minutes and what's coming up on the H&S website. www.bessboroughhomeandschool.com

Follow us on Instagram **@BessboroughHS** to get reminders of important dates and upcoming events.

