

bobcat buzz

YOUR BESSBOROUGH E&MS NEWSLETTER

211 Bessborough Drive Toronto, ON M4G 3K2

SAFE ARRIVAL bessborough@tdsb.on.ca | 416. 396.2319 LN5

MORNING BELL 8:40AM | LUNCH 11:40 – 12:40 | DISMISSAL BELL 3:25PM



FIRST SNOW DAY!

With no school yesterday due to the weather, plus a PA day today, it's almost like an early March Break for our students.

We hope that all our families stayed safe yesterday and that you are able to profit from this extra time to enjoy not only the snow, but quality time with your family.

january 16, 2026

Superintendent: Nadira Persaud

Principal: Sarah Kurita

Vice Principal: Katalin Roughton-Paré

Office Administrator: Renee Cronier

Secretary: Vasiliki Gioris



IMPORTANT DATES

PROLOGUE PRESENTION – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- FEBRUARY 10

FAMILY DAY

- FEBRUARY 16

MARCH BREAK

- MARCH 16 – 20

EASTER BREAK

- APRIL 3 – 6

VICTORIA DAY

- MAY 18

PA DAYS

- JANUARY 16
- FEBRUARY 13
- JUNE 5
- JUNE 26



IMPORTANT!

REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENCE

PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL MESSENGER DIRECTLY



School Messenger PIN

To maintain the security of Safe Arrival absence reporting, parents and guardians can set up a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for each student. This PIN can be used when reporting and explaining absences by phone. Please refer to the instructions provided in the associated [Knowledge Base article](#).

Parents and guardians can register through the SchoolMessenger mobile app or via the website at go.schoolmessenger.ca.



WINTER LUNCH PROGRAMS ARE HERE!

For those who are new to Bessborough, lunchtime activities are provided by local providers most days of the week. We're thrilled to announce expanded programming for our Grades 6-8 and subsidies for those who may need it. There are two spots per program that are being offered at a reduced price if needed, as well as further reduced-cost programming directly through some of the vendors. Feel free to email the vendors directly if needed.

Mondays:

JK/SK: Pawsitively Pets – meet all things furry, feathered, slithery and slimy and learn all about our wonderful animal team! [Register here](#)

Gr 2-8: Cartooning with CCSA – Experience a variety of artistic skills in cartooning classes – skill development includes learning about scene and location, character and characterization, time and sequence, voices in a story and points of view and narrative resolution. Cost: \$176.28.

[Register Here](#)

Tuesdays:

JK/SK: Young Explorers with Mad Science – Discover the amazing world around you: animal friends, creepy-crawlers, changing seasons and human senses through hands-on experiments and memories to take home each week! Cost: \$174. [Register here](#)

Gr 1-6: Coding with Extra Ed. [Register Here](#)

Wednesdays:

JK/SK/Grade 1: Sculpting with CCSA – Wonderful sculpture classes for those who enjoy working with their hands! [Register here](#)

Grades 3-6: Juniorpreneur: A proprietary, fun and engaging program for kids to gain hands-on experience understanding how businesses operate and make money. More information available at www.juniorpreneur.ca. Cost: \$165 + HST. [Register here:](#)

Thursdays:

Gr 1-4: Pawsitively Pets meet all things furry, feathered, slithery and slimy and learn all about our wonderful animal team! [Register here](#)

Fridays:

JK/SK: Music Club with Extra Ed. [Register Here](#)

Grades 1-6: Fantastic Forces with Mad Science – Investigate and discover fantastic forces! From exploring circuit electricity, to experimenting with gravity, children discover the magic of science and learn the science behind some well known magic tricks! [Register Here](#)

INDIGENOUS NEWS:

JANUARY 4 IS NATIONAL RIBBON SKIRT DAY

from APTN, Canadian Press

In Isabella Kulak's home are hundreds of letters, notes and pictures of ribbon skirts from across Canada and beyond from those who consider her story and the origins of "Ribbon Skirt Day" as inspirational.

"I have like a whole notebook of letters, a whole stack of drawings from all these schools and it makes me feel so happy and it warms my heart," said Isabella, a shy 15-year-old,

About five years ago, Isabella, a member of the Cote First Nation in Saskatchewan, wore a ribbon skirt to formal day at her school. It was the last day before Christmas break. Her school told her that she should have worn a store-bought dress. She returned home and cried. The Good Spirit School Division later apologized.

Her story was met with mingled anger over the perceived racism and with support for the Isabella. Isabella's experience in December 2020 was the thread that stitched together a national Ribbon Skirt Day in Canada. In December 2022, an act to establish Jan. 4 as National Ribbon Skirt Day received Royal Assent. That was the first day Isabella returned to school after Christmas break, alongside family members who were wearing ribbon skirts. "It's like the world woke up and decided it was time to have a change happen," said Lana (Isabella's mother), looking back.

Ribbon Skirt Day means much more to Lana than the cultural attire. She sees it as a symbol of dealing with intolerance.

"With Isabella's story opening up so many different eyes and so many different positive stories coming from this, it really, really makes me happy to see what's happening for my children and the future generations seeing such a positive change," said Lana.



PARENT WORKSHOP SERIES



3 Weekly Sessions on Wednesdays
January 28 and February 4 & 11th, 2026



6:00-8:00pm EST



Virtual

Program is FREE
Full attendance is required

Who is the program for?

This program is for parents and guardians of students with learning disabilities and/or ADHD in Grade 7 or 8 in Ontario.

Overview

The Parent Workshop Series is a virtual, parent-only program consisting of 3 evening sessions. This program was designed by the Regional Assessment and Resource Centre (RARC) to support students with learning disabilities and ADHD as they transition from elementary to post-secondary school by providing programming to their parents/guardians. Based on the parent component of RARC's long-running STEPS (Successful Transition from Elementary to Post-Secondary) program, the Parent Workshop Series will offer parents this same valuable content in a virtual format.

The goal of the program is to provide parents:

- Information and support to understand their child's experience and potential more fully
- Skills to navigate the school system
- Ability to provide timely and targeted support
- Support to know they are not alone



Parent Program Overview



Session 1

Exploring Neurodevelopmental Disorders

- Understanding these disorders
- Academic and socio-emotional impacts
- Self-knowledge and self-esteem



Session 2

Setting Up for Success

- Self-advocacy
- Accommodations and strategies
- Assistive technology



Session 3





Navigating the School System

- Understanding the IEP and IPRC process: purpose and impact
- Working with the school team

If you would like to participate in the Parent Workshop Series, please complete the registration form by January 16th, 2026. You can access the form using the link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/rarcparentprogram>

Contact Info

-  (613) 533-6311
-  rarc.transitions@queensu.ca
-  www.queensu.ca/rarc
-  Mackintosh-Corry Hall, B100
-  68 University Avenue
-  Kingston, Ontario
-  Canada K7L 3N6

Register TODAY!
Spots are limited.



BESSBOROUGH DRIVE P.S. ATHLETICS

WINTER SPORTS

Grade 7/8 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Coach: Mr. Ivan

Tryouts/Practices: Monday & Wednesday @7:45am

Grade 7/8 BOYS BASKETBALL

Coach: Ms. Balshin

Tryouts/Practices: Tuesday at 7:45am & Wednesday at lunch

Grade 5/6 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Coaches: Ms. Backus & Ms. Malouin

Tryouts/Practices: Tuesday at 3:30pm and Thursday at 7:45am

Grade 5/6 BOYS BASKETBALL

Coaches: Ms. Malouin & Mr. Day

Tryouts/Practices: Monday at lunch & Wednesday at 3:30pm

Grade 5/6 ALL GENDERED BALL HOCKEY

Coach: Ms. Buksner

Tryouts/Practices: Monday at 3:30pm & Thursday at 3:30pm

Grade 7/8 ALL GENDERED HOCKEY

Coach: Ms. McNanamara

