



The Bobcat News!

W.R. Best Memorial Public School * 2221 Old Barrie Road West, RR#2 Shanty Bay, ON L0L 2L0 - Tel: 705.728.9591

ISSUE NO. 4 – December 1st, 2016 – Visit us on the web @ <http://wrb.scdsb.on.ca>

Follow us on Twitter @WRBestPS -There are 345 followers on Twitter!

Principal: Mrs. Eileen Carl

Superintendent: Mr. Stuart Finlayson

Trustee: Mr. Peter Beacock – Tel: 705.322.7816

Principal's Notes:

Inside Christmas

By Wilfred A. Peterson

The outside of Christmas is visible. You can see it. It is there in Christmas trees, in holly, in toys, in store windows, in gifts. The outside of Christmas can be heard: in chimes, in carols, in organ music, in the voices of the choir, in sleigh bells. The outside of Christmas can be tasted – there's the turkey, the pudding and the candy.

In the hurry and scurry of the Christmas season, some of us limit our contact to the outside of Christmas. We are so busy that we do not have time to get inside Christmas, so Christmas can become just a surface experience. To discover the true riches of the Christmas season we must penetrate beneath the surface; we must get inside Christmas. And when we get inside Christmas, Christmas will get inside of us and we will have a truly mystical experience.

Each of us must go adventuring to find the inside of Christmas. We must get away from the turmoil and the crowds and the excitement that are so much a part of the outside of Christmas. We must get away from the visible and journey into the invisible.

We must quiet the mind. We must seek the inside of Christmas in the silence; we must look for it in our deeper selves. We may go into a cathedral or chapel to meditate. We may sit alone by the fire in our homes and open ourselves to the inflow of goodwill and joy and peace. We may take a long walk under the stars or through the softly falling snow. We may sit by the bedside of a sleeping little one and think about the miracle of childhood.

When we take the time to seek and find the inside of Christmas, the Christmas spirit will glow with a new radiance within our hearts.

WE'RE BUILDING CHARACTER!

OUR GOALS ARE:

- To promote virtues of a free and democratic society
- To guide students in their journeys toward becoming individuals of good character
- Each month we are highlighting an attribute we would like to further develop

DECEMBER'S FOCUS:

EMPATHY

We strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others.

"There is no greater loan than a sympathetic ear."

Frank Tyger

We demonstrate empathy by:

- ✓ Putting ourselves in other people's positions
- ✓ Doing what we can to help others
- ✓ Appreciating and enjoying people who are different from us
- ✓ Being sensitive to others
- ✓ Having compassion for others' feelings

Upcoming Dates

November 30 th , 2016	Garden Club
December 1 st , 2016	Garden Club
December 7 th , 2016	Dental Screening – JK, SK, Gr. 2 & Gr.8
December 8 th , 2016	Kindergarten Christmas Concert 2:30 pm start
December 9 th , 2016	Food Orders are due
December 15 th , 2016	Parent Performance Rehearsal – 2:00 pm
December 15 th , 2016	Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m.
December 23 rd , 2016	Last day before Christmas Holidays
January 9 th , 2017	Return to school
January 27 th , 2017	PD Day





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OUR DAILY “BALANCED” SCHEDULE

9:05 AM – 9:15 AM	Buses
9:20 AM – 11:00 AM	Instructional Time
11:00 AM – 11:20 AM	Nutrition Break
11:20 AM – 11:40 AM	Outdoor Recess
11:40 AM – 1:20 PM	Instructional Time
1:20 PM – 1:40 PM	Nutritional Break
1:40 PM – 2:00 PM	Outdoor Recess
2:00 PM – 3:40 PM	Instructional Time
3:40 PM	Dismissal

SCHOOL DAY PRACTICES

We would like to remind you of a few ways you can help us:

- If your child is late or absent from school, a phone call is required before 9:00 a.m. (705-728-9591). For absences of 3 days or more, a written note of explanation is **ALSO REQUIRED**.
- Students who are being picked up during the day (e.g. for an appointment) must be picked up from the school office and signed out. This is for the student’s protection.
- Please advise the office as soon as possible when you have a change of telephone number, address, employment, caregiver or medical information.
- Requests for school personnel to administer medication to students must be made through the school office and an authorization signed by the doctor must be submitted. Without this authorization, we are not permitted to administer any medication (not even Tylenol or antibiotics!).
- Valuable items such as iPods, toys, jewelry, collectibles, cell phones, cameras, etc. should not be brought to school. We cannot accept responsibility for any such items. Students are not permitted to take photos at school without specific permission in specific circumstances.

WINTER WEATHER

1. Extra mittens/gloves and socks should be in every child’s schoolbag every day.
2. Indoor shoes are needed for classroom use. In the winter, outdoor footwear is always removed before entering the classrooms.
3. Students’ awareness of road safety must be heightened during this time of icy, narrowed, snow banked roads. Remind them to **BE EXTRA CAREFUL** while waiting for the bus.

Pack a Rainbow in your Kid’s Lunch!



Make sure your kids do not leave the house without a lunch kit full of colorful veggies and fruit to munch on during the day. Try some of these tasty kid friendly ideas to ensure they will eat what you pack!

- ✓ Add grated carrot to egg or tuna salad
- ✓ Pack veggies or fruit in small bite size pieces for easy eating
- ✓ Prepare veggies and fruit with different tools that change the shape and add interest to your child’s lunch. Use melon ballers, vegetable crinkle cutters, cookie cutters or even an egg slicer to make some great shapes
- ✓ Use a shake of cinnamon on cut fruit if it tends to turn brown ... they will enjoy the new flavour to their favourite apple or banana pieces.

If your kid is a dipper, add a small container of yogurt or pudding for fruit dipping or cottage cheese or hummus for veggie dipping. A healthy diet will help your child to learn.



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“We cannot do great things on this earth, only small things with great love.” Mother Teresa

Barrie Colts Night Out!



W.R. Best families are invited to watch the Barrie Colts hockey game on Thurs. Feb 9th 2017. The Colts are playing against the Mississauga Steelheads! The cost of the ticket is \$20.00 per person and \$6.00 from each of the ticket sales comes directly back to W.R. Best. Tickets will be on sale at the beginning of January. Stay tuned!

Kindergarten Registration opens in January!

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2013? If so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Beginning on January 23, 2017, Simcoe County's public schools will register children for Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

In keeping with our W.R. Best tradition, we are having our Annual Christmas Cheer Drive to help those in need! The greatest needs are FOOD ITEMS!!! Most needed are canned food items (meats, fish, pork and beans, stew, vegetables etc.) and other boxed food items (macaroni and cheese, pasta, cereal, dry soups, etc.). It has been requested that we not send items in glass jars due to their breakability. We are also collecting new unwrapped toys and new books. W.R. Best has such great energy and we want to use it to help our community. Go Bobcats! THANK YOU for making the difference in the life of a family in need!

High School information nights coming soon to a high school near you!

High School information nights coming soon to a high school near you Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this winter. Information nights give an overview of what's new and what to expect, and are a chance to ask questions.

High school is an exciting time—there are so many programs, clubs and activities for students to try. Attend an information night to find out what's offered at your local high school. See the info night schedule and more information on the SCDSB's website at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Healthy Celebrations

Healthy classroom/school celebrations are great opportunities for children to practice the healthy eating habits they learn in the classroom. Make it easier for students to choose healthy foods and provide a healthier option for your child's next classroom celebration – here are some ideas:

- Send a tray of watermelon slices, a box of clementine oranges or fruit kabobs.
- Make homemade mini-muffins with whole wheat flour and grated carrots or apples.
- Send a tray of whole grain crackers, cubes of lower fat cheese and grapes.
- Prepare chocolate-dipped strawberries for Valentine's Day!

For more information you can call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 and speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

VOLUNTEERS

Did you know that we have an army of volunteers, Moms, Dads, Grandparents and community members who come to our school every day to support our school community?

Thank you to all of you for your work at our school, it is much appreciated!!!



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Wayhome for the Ukulele Club Holidays

On Nov. 23rd, students from the W.R. Best ukulele club boarded a bus for Toronto to play at the Phoenix night club as a part of the Wayhome for the Holidays event. The students absolutely rocked the house down in front of a packed house. They've really demonstrated what amazing things can be accomplished when you work hard, practice and have a flexible, positive attitude. They've now played on the same stage as the Tragically Hip, The Rolling Stones and the Darceys! Way to go Bobcat! You're really putting W.R. Best on the map. Thank you Mrs. Stevens, Madame Mullin & Mr. Stormes for all your work to make that evening a reality.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



Mark your calendars with these dates!!

Kindergarten Concert – Thursday, December 8th – 2:30 p.m.

Grades 1-6 Performance Rehearsal – Thursday, December 15th – 2:00 p.m.

Grades 1-6 Evening Performance – Thursday, December 15th – 7:00 p.m.

Kids need to be in assigned classrooms by 6:30 p.m.

PD Day on Friday, January 27th

Family Day – Monday February 20th

**THANK YOU – YOU'RE THE BEST!
THE BEST BAZAAR WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!!!**

Thank you so much for supporting our Best Bazaar at W.R.! It was a smashing success and we ended up raising almost \$13,000! This money is going towards new technology for the 7th and new portable as well as new library books and robotics. The community really pulled together AGAIN and contributed in a variety of ways! Generous volunteers donated silent auction goods, baked goods and soup for the luncheon, some people picked up and delivered tables in Barrie, some people worked in the café, ...the list goes on and on! We really appreciate the support and have used the funds to directly impact student achievement. A special shout out to the executive crew of "behind the scenes workers"! They are Corryn Mounstephen, Cara Crawford, Laurie Graham, Alyson Desormeaux, Lisa Harvey-Robinson, Patti McCullough, Lauren Hewitt, Laura Benson, LeeAnn Bjannes, Nadine Leiper, Michelle Walbank and Jacqueline Yeatman. These folks worked tirelessly to create a successful Bazaar and thought of every detail. Thank you all very much! We have already met to start planning for next year. Once again, thank you to the "Best" community, for your overwhelming support!

DECEMBER 2016

			Nov. 30 Garden Club	1 Garden Club	2	3
4	5	6	7 Dental Screening JKSR, 2 & 8	8 Kindergarten Christmas Concert 2:30	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Performance Rehearsal 2:00 Christmas Concert 7:00 pm	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Lat day before Christmas Holidays	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY 2017

	2 Holiday	3 Holiday	4 Holiday	5 Holiday	6 Holiday	7
8	9 Return to School	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 P.D. Day	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER'S SUCCESS!

- We have 4 successful athletic teams participating in games this month! We have an enthusiastic Intermediate Boys' Volleyball, Intermediate Girls Basketball, Junior Boys' Volleyball and Junior Girls Basketball.
- On Thursday, November 26th, all grades were given the opportunity to see KCP's The Little Mermaid at the Georgian Theatre.
- The Best Bazaar was a huge success – bringing in close to \$13,000 this year! Thank you everyone who donated products, their time and/or participated!



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Circle of Learning Parent Academy

Free workshops to help you boost your child's success

As a parent/guardian, you were your child's first teacher and you are still his or her most important teacher. Your involvement in your child's education has an impact on success. Register to attend workshops throughout the year designed to help you support your child's learning and development.

Sessions include:

- Successful transitions – how parents can guide their children to achieve their full potential
- Make the difference in math with a growth mindset
- Math 101 - all parents can support their children in math
- Resilience: Nine things kids need from their families, schools, and communities

Find workshop dates, times, descriptions and register online at

www.scdsb.on.ca/circleoflearning.

The Circle of Learning Parent Academy is hosted by the Simcoe County District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee and made possible with the support of the Ministry of Education through a Parents Reaching Out grant.



We are collecting depleted markers

Crayola is all about innovative solutions ~ in particular for kids and the environment. Crayola and schools across North America are banding together to help kids understand the importance of their role in protecting the environment. That's why we have enrolled in the Crayola ColorCycle program. Through this initiative, students in K-12 schools across the continental United States and parts of Canada can collect and repurpose used Crayola markers. ColorCycle is also a great opportunity for students to explore eco-friendly practices. Crayola ColorCycle will accept all brands of plastic markers, not just Crayola markers. That includes dry erase markers and highlighters! ColorCycle will eliminate placing hundreds of tons of markers into landfills. We have a collection box at the school for the markers. Please participate in the program and divert markers from the landfill.

EARTH FLAG DAY!

Last spring we created a panel to the Earth Day Canada flag and every student had an opportunity to sign it. We have received a message from the organizers.

“ We were overwhelmed by the diversity and creativity of the flag swatches we received from volunteers, schools, universities, corporations, municipalities, government officials and organizations – ranging from bejeweled cotton to painted canvas! The wide variety of shapes and fabrics we received made it challenging to physically sew the flag together, so over the past few months, Earth Day Canada's Earth Flag team has been working to carefully photograph every flag swatch so that they can be incorporated into a curated flag that will be printed onto one giant piece of fabric. The Earth Flag's artistic design was created by world-renowned Canadian contemporary artist, Charles Pachter, and includes signatures from Al Gore, Robert Bateman, Elizabeth May and even Prime Minister Justin Trudeau! Unfortunately, the French Government has cancelled all public events scheduled during COP21 in Paris, including the climate marches. We are still eager to share the 2015 Earth Flag and we've found a new venue at the 2016 Green Living Show in Toronto. Once again, Earth Day Canada thanks our partners, sponsors, and everyone across the country that submitted a flag. Signing your name on the Earth Flag shows that you and the other students are united and working together to make the environment better....Stay tuned for more details and the official unveil!”



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Registration for French Immersion

Register your child for French Immersion, find out more at information sessions in January. The Simcoe County District School Board offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout the county beginning in Grade 1. This program gives students a bilingual education and the opportunity to become fluent in another language.

Information sessions will be held in January for parents of students in Senior Kindergarten. A letter will be sent home to those parents with more details. Information session dates will be posted at www.scdsb.on.ca under Programs, French as a Second Language.

The FI online application form will be available from 9a.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, until 9 p.m. on Wed. Jan. 25, 2017 at www.scdsb.on.ca under Programs, French as a Second Language. While every effort is made to accommodate all FI applications, available space and staffing will determine how many students can be registered in the program. Applications will be processed in the order they are received electronically.

Please contact the school if you do not have internet access at home or require assistance accessing the online application. Please note that the host sites for FI may change during your child's time in the program, and your child may need to move schools. This may also include splitting the program between two different sites.

Cash Register Tapes

The "SAVE A TAPE" program was discontinued. As a result, W.R. Best no longer collects Zehrs, Sobeys or No Frills cash register tapes.



CHRISTMAS CHEER

It's that "most wonderful time of year" again!! Our annual Christmas Cheer campaign has kicked off and we are asking for your kindhearted support. Please consider donating canned food (soup, sauces, veggies, fruit, stews, puddings, pork and beans), packaged food (boxed cereal, pasta, rice, macaroni & cheese, cake/cookie mixes) and unwrapped toys and books. Also needed are diapers, mitts, hats, scarves and socks!!! We are confident that our community will make this another very happy and special Christmas for those who might otherwise go without.

"LUNCHMATE CLUB":

"Lunchmate Club" is an online rewards program sponsored by Maple Leaf Foods Inc. Although we don't promote the purchase of prepackaged snacks (additional waste, cost, low nutritional value) W. R. Best does collect Lunchmate packaging and exchanges them for virtual dollars which is then redeemed for rewards. Please save your Schneider's Lunchmate packaging and return them to the school (put them inside the clear plexi-glass box across from the staff washrooms) so we can submit them for rewards. The rewards we receive are distributed to W. R. Best students for outstanding, consistent, exemplary positive character and random acts of kindness.