



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 4th, 2017 – Visit us on the web @<http://wrbscdsb.on.ca>

🐦 Follow us on Twitter @WRBestPS -There are 388 followers on Twitter!

Principal: Mrs. Dianna Wright-Drzazga Superintendent: Mr. Stuart Finlayson Trustee: Mr. Peter Beacock – Tel: 705.322.7816

Principal's Message:

The staff and students at W.R. Best have had a busy and exciting fall. We have many great things going on in our classrooms as we work together to develop both our minds and our character through our collective hard work and perseverance as we work towards our learning goals. During my visits to classrooms, I have observed students to be hard at work, collaboratively working to solve problems and develop their critical thinking skills. Please take a moment to celebrate with your children their successes, as well as to help them set some goals for the New Year.

Moving into the holiday season we have some exciting performances that we hope you will be able to join us for. Our Kindergarten students will be having a holiday sing-along on Dec. 5th at 2:15 and our Christmas Concert will be taking place on Thursday Dec. 14th at 2:00 and 7:00 pm. As well, our Kindergarten students will be travelling to the Oro-Medonte Township Office on Dec. 13th to share their holiday songs. How exciting!

A huge thank you to all of you who make W.R. Best such a wonderful community school! I have observed in my short time here that everyone takes pride in being a part of the W.R. Best community and we are so fortunate to have such wonderful and supportive families! I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, on behalf of the staff and students at W.R. Best Memorial Public School!

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 29th/30th, 2017
 December 5th, 2017
 December, 7th, 2017
 December 8th, 2017
 December 14th, 2017
 December 22nd, 2017
 January 8th, 2018
 January 26th, 2018
 February 3rd, 2018
 February 19th, 2018

Garden Club
 Kindergarten Holiday Singing 2:15 pm start
 Artshine – new session starts
 Food Orders are due
 Christmas Concert 2:00 p.m & 7:00 p.m.
 Last day before Christmas Holidays
 Return to school
 P.D Day
 Barrie Colts Night Out!
 Family 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

LAND/TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT INTRODUCED FOR SCDSB MEETINGS, EVENTS AND SCHOOLS

Over the past few months, the SCDSB has worked with Indigenous partners, local elders and the First Nations Education Advisory Committee to develop a land/territory acknowledgement. A land/territory acknowledgement is an act of respect and reconciliation, based on the First Nations’ tradition of acknowledging the land of others when they were guests in that territory. The statements will be used at SCDSB meetings and significant events, and daily in all schools to respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous people of this territory, their sharing of the territory and the benefits we have received, as settlers, from that sharing.

For school daily use:

“Simcoe County District School Board acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people. We acknowledge the enduring presence of First Nation, Métis and Inuit people on this land and are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect.”

For more information, visit www.scdsb.on.ca – ‘About Us’.

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 Saturday, February 3rd. The Colts are playing against the Windsor Spitfires! 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!

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 Canadian Tire money, 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!

Kindergarten Registration opens in January!

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2014? Is so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Beginning Jan. 22, 2018, Simcoe County's public schools will register children for Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.

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 fall and winter. This event gives an overview of what's new, what to expect, as well as a chance to check out the school and ask questions. Attend our local high school information night to find out what's offered: **Eastview Secondary School, 421 Grove St. East, Barrie, ON. on Thursday, February 22nd, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** Check out the full schedule of info nights and more information at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Update your child's immunization record

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is required to keep up-to-date immunization records for all students who attend elementary or secondary school in the County of Simcoe and the District of Muskoka. Parents are responsible for reporting immunizations to the health unit each time their child receives a vaccine from their health care provider. The immunizations that the health unit requires records for include: diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal, pertussis and varicella (chickenpox) for those born in 2010 or later.

It's easy to update your child's immunization status. Go to www.smdhu.org/immsonline to update your child's record or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 (toll free).

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

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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OHIP + provides free prescription drug coverage for children

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, the province will provide free prescription drug coverage for children and youth aged 24 and under, regardless of family income. Under OHIP+, Ontario children and youth will have access to over 4,400 medications and other drug products. Enrolment in OHIP+ will be automatic, based on age. There are no upfront costs, no copayment and no annual deductible. Those who are eligible for OHIP+ will only need their health card number and a valid prescription from their doctor or nurse practitioner when they visit their pharmacist. For more information, visit: www.ontario.ca/page/learnabout-ohip-plus.

DECEMBER 2017						
					1	2
3	4	5 Kdg. Sing Along – 2:00	6	7	8 Hot Lunch Orders Due	9
10	11	12	13	14 Christmas Concert 2 & 7	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Last day before Christmas Holidays	23
24	25 Holiday	26 Holiday	27 Holiday	28 Holiday	Holiday	

JANUARY 2018						
31	1 Holiday	2 Holiday	3 Holiday	4 Holiday	5 Holiday	6
7	8 Back to School	9	10	11	12	13
15	15	16	17	18	19	20
22	22	23	24	25	26 P.D. Day	27
29	29	30				

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS *



Mark your calendars with these dates!!

Kindergarten Holiday Sing Along – Tuesday, December 5th – 2:15 p.m.
Christmas Concert – Thursday, December 14th – 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.

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

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 \$14,000! This money is going towards literacy materials for the Primary Division as well as Sports Equipment including a tent for sporting events. 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 will use the funds to directly impact student achievement and well-being.

A special shout out to the executive crew of “behind the scenes workers”! They are Corryn Mounstephen, Michelle Walbank, Amanda VenLeusen, Jennifer Johnston, Adam Johnston, Laura Benson, Patti McCullough, Erica Engel, Terri Ann Gaynik, Jacqueline Yateman, Kristin Stouffer, Erica Engel, Laurie Graham, Allyson Desormeaux, Ryan Mounstephen, Darryl Weeks, Krista Tuck, and Emily Leach. These folks worked tirelessly to create a successful Bazaar and thought of every detail. Thank you all very much!

Once again, thank you to the “Best” community, for your overwhelming support!



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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.

Parents invited to information sessions about special education

The SCDSB is hosting a series of information sessions for parents and guardians to learn about special education in the SCDSB, and how to support students with special education needs.

Dec. 18

Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) Information for Families

Jan. 22

Assessments in Special Education: Psych Ed and Other Assessments

Feb. 19

Transition Planning Grade 8 to 9

March 19

Accessing Supports in the Community

April 16

Understanding Alternative/Non-Academic IEP Goals

All sessions take place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the SCDSB Education Centre, located at 1170 Highway 26 in Midhurst. No registration required.



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.



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Registration for French Immersion

Attend a French Immersion information night, registration opens in January

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

Information sessions take place 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 9 a.m. on Mon. Jan. 22, until 9 p.m. on Wed. Jan. 24, 2018 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. 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.

EYE SEE...EYE LEARN PROGRAM OFFERS FREE GLASSES FOR JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

The Eye See...Eye Learn program provides comprehensive eye exams by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten (JK) students. The eye exams are covered under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) when parents show their child's health card. There is no out-of-pocket cost for the eye exam and if the child requires a pair of glasses, they will receive them free of charge courtesy of a participating optometrist. For more information, visit www.Eyeseeyelearn.ca.



"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.

