



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. 5 – January 9th, 2017 – Visit us on the web @ <http://wrb.scdsb.on.ca>

Follow us on Twitter @WRBestPS

Principal: Mrs. Eileen Carl Superintendent: Mr. Stuart Finlayson Trustee: Mr. Peter Beacock – Tel: 705.322.7816

Principal's Notes

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that, besides a well-deserved rest, you had an opportunity to enjoy some family time together. The spirit of giving is alive and well here and we are very fortunate to be a part of such a caring community. Thank you to the families who were able to support some less fortunate people in the community by donating to Christmas Cheer. Over 1500 food items were donated on behalf of our school. Last year over 1300 items were donated. You really do make a difference! We trust the year 2017 dawns with hope and anticipation for you and your family. Sincere best wishes from the W.R. Best Staff.

Yours truly
Mrs. Carl

THANK YOU ...

- *to two very dedicated volunteers who spent a lot of time and energy helping us with our very successful Christmas Bazaar. Jennifer and Adam Johnston, (my apologies for leaving your name off the Dec. Newsletter!)
- To our food program volunteers who keep our lunch program going full steam ahead!
- *To our School Council who actively support our efforts!
- *To our Green Team who do an amazing job with our composting & recycling program.
- *To our parent volunteers who work one on one with students to promote academic achievement.
- *To our teachers, DECES, secretary and EA's who work diligently to provide a great learning experience every day.

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

January's Focus: Optimism

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

We maintain a positive attitude and have hope for the future.

We demonstrate optimism by:

- ✓ Deciding to have a good attitude
- ✓ Emphasizing the positive over the negative
- ✓ Approaching each task with enthusiasm
- ✓ Not giving up when things get tough
- ✓ Accepting a change cheerfully
- ✓ Using vocabulary that is complimentary
- ✓ Getting involved in things that will benefit others

UPCOMING DATES:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| January 27, 2017 | PA Day |
| January 31st, 2017 | School Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m. (Library) |
| February 9, 2017 | Colts' Game against Mississauga Steelheads! |
| February 15 -17, 2017 | Camp Kandalore - Gr. 6 trip |
| February 17, 2017 | Report cards go home |
| February 20, 2017 | Family Day, no school |
| February 28, 2017 | Family Fun Math Night at Guthrie P.S. |
| March 13-17, 2017 | March Break |

Barrie Colts Night Out!

W.R. Best families are invited to watch the Barrie Colts hockey game on **Thursday, February 9th**. 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 soon! Stay tuned!



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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	Nutrition 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. 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.
- Outdoor recesses provide students with a necessary change of pace in their day and serve as a refresher so that further efficient learning can take place. Generally, students who are too ill to benefit from recesses are too ill to be in school.

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.

Attendance Matters!

Start the New Year off right. Being present and on-time at school is an important skill to teach your child. Patterns of attendance are established during the early years of schooling and there is a direct relationship between attendance and achievement.

Being late for school also affects student learning. If a child is just 10 minutes late for class every day, they will miss over 30 hours of instruction over the course of the school year.

Poor attendance makes it difficult for students to form positive peer relationships and students that have learning difficulties are put at even greater risk when they miss school frequently.

Here are some tips to help with attendance and punctuality:

- Talk with your child about why it is important to attend school regularly - give specific examples of how education can help them in their life.
- Make sure that your child stays healthy by eating properly, exercising and getting enough sleep.
- Lead by example; if children see their parents missing work frequently, they may expect to be able to do the same thing.

If your child is having a specific issue at school that is causing them to not want to attend, speak to school staff as soon as possible so we can work with you to solve the problem.



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Ontario Eco Schools Up-Date

This year as W.R. Best strives to maintain gold certification with the Ontario Eco Schools program, we look at ways our school can reduce our environmental footprint. There are six areas in the certification process including waste minimization, energy conservation, school ground greening, curriculum connections to the environment, environmental stewardship and teamwork and environmental leadership. Waste minimization is an important factor at school. School lunches are a major source of waste in Ontario – the average student's lunch generates a total of 30 kilograms of waste per school year, or an average of 8,500 kilograms of waste per school per year. With your assistance, we can make great strides to reduce waste, every day. Please try to use reusable lunch containers and recycle waste in the proper bins. By using reusable lunch containers you can:

- Reduce the cost of waste disposal so that education funding can be put to better use.
- Encourage fresh and nutritious lunches (many pre-packaged lunch items contain significant amounts of sodium, sugar, preservatives and fat).
- Help you reduce the cost of lunches: a waste-free lunch can cost as little as \$2.50 per day, whereas a regular lunch containing prepackaged items can cost \$4.50 or more per day.

The W.R. Best Eco Team/Green Team has been busy auditing and sorting recycling and educating classrooms about proper recycling and garbage disposal. They have made great progress. Thank you for doing your part in reducing the lunch time waste and W.R. Best's carbon footprint.

Winter Reminder Lost and Found

We would like to remind parents and students of The importance of bringing labeled hats and mitts & other winter apparel. Lost and found items will be removed from the box at the end of each month. Students and parents are urged to make note of this and check for lost items regularly. Items not collected will be sent to a school in Barrie who can make use of our second hand clothing.

How you can support your child's physical literacy

Physical literacy is the ability to move with competence and confidence in a wide variety of physical activities. Much like learning to read using the ABC's, it's important to start with the basics. The most important step in developing physical literacy is the mastery of fundamental movement skills.

As kids become more confident in their movements, they're able to progress their physical skills faster and more successfully than if they skip over the basics and jump right into recreational athletics. Physical literacy not only supports physical fitness and health, it's proven to support strong social skills, mental health, cognitive skills and educational success.

The best way for parents to support physical literacy is to start young providing safe, play-based activities. As they reach the age of four, be sure to support fundamental movements such as climbing, kicking, catching, throwing, dodging, twisting, skipping, sliding, running and jumping. Help your children master these fundamentals as they age by exposing them to activities such as swimming, gymnastics, running games and athletics. And most importantly, make sure that physical activity is always delivered in a fun, safe and supportive way to develop a positive outlook on active movement.

For more information on physical literacy and how organizations like the YMCA can help support your family's healthy lifestyle, visit your local YMCA Health, Fitness and Aquatics Centre.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka

Our School's Nut Allergy Policy

Your support of this policy has been overwhelming. EVERYONE has been very cooperative and diligent in following the established protocol and we appreciate your concern for the safety of our students. Thank you so much and keep up the good work!



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Technology Update

Thanks to your continued support, we have Smart boards, hovercams & LCD projectors in every teaching space and are working on the acquisition of additional iPads. We have just ordered ten new iPad minis! With your help we continue to raise funds to support this initiative continuing to build this complement. We're getting there!

Students Volunteer

Did you know that our students contribute to their school community by volunteering? All students in grades 5 to 8 inclusive have a responsibility to volunteer their services in some way. We have milk moovers, the Green Team, kindergarten helpers, computer monitors, library helpers and more. We take pride in volunteering and helping others. Go Bobcats!

Kindergarten Registration

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.

Volunteers

We are very fortunate in that we have an army of volunteers, Mums, 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 very much appreciated.

PA Day in January

Please be reminded that Friday, JANUARY 27th, 2017 is a PA Day. The School will not be open as a result. Please be sure to make arrangements for your child's care on this date.

January 2017

1	2 Holiday	3 Holiday	4 Holiday	5 Holiday	6 Holiday	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 JK Registration begins	24	25	26	27 PD Day	28
29	30	31 School Council 7:00				

February 2017

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Barrie Colts Game	10	11
12	13	14	15 Kandalore Gr 6	16 Kandalore Gr6	17 Kandalore Gr 6	18
19	20 Family Day	21	22 Eastview future Grade 9 night	23	24	25
26	27	28				

DECEMBER'S SUCCESS!

Two Christmas Concerts!

- ▶ Thank you for attending our Christmas concerts. Our students were pleased to sing, dance and perform for you. Both shows were supported by a packed house of parents & grandparents!
- ▶ We had 4 successful athletic teams participating in games this month! We had enthusiastic Intermediate Boys' Volleyball, Intermediate Girls Basketball, Junior Boys' Volleyball and Junior Girls Basketball teams. This couldn't be done without the support of parents and staff volunteering their time to coach.



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Apply for French Immersion, find out more at information sessions in January

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) 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 9 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, until 9 p.m. on Wednesday, 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.

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 in January and February! W.R. Best Memorial Public School 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. Eastview Secondary's information night is Wednesday February 22, 2017 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Free International Languages Program starting in January, limited spaces available

Would your child like to learn a new language or maintain their native language? The International Languages program is open to any student in Grades 1 to 8. Classes run Saturday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. There is currently space in the following classes: Spanish in Bradford; Beginner Mandarin, German, Spanish and Greek in Barrie. In-person registration at Barrie and Bradford Learning Centres takes place on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 9 a.m. Registration will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis as there are limited spaces available. For more information, visit www.thelearningcentres.com.

English as a Second Language – Register now for winter sessions

Do you or someone you know want to improve your English language skills? The SCDSB Learning Centres can help. English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults are offered at the Barrie and Bradford Learning Centers, and at the Allison Learning Centre (pending enrolment numbers). Please visit www.thelearningcentres.com or call for more information: Barrie 705-725-8360, Bradford: 905-775-4432 or Alliston: 705-435-7778.



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Stay Healthy This School Year

Colds and influenza spread easily from person to person. These germs can spread directly from person to person when someone coughs or sneezes, or indirectly when germs land on hard surfaces like door knobs, desks, keyboards or wet tissues and then are touched by someone. These germs can then enter the body through the eyes, nose or mouth.

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick and stop the spread of germs is wash your hands with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds. If your hands are not visibly dirty you can use alcohol based hand rub hand sanitizer for 15 seconds. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough into your sleeve or upper arm and stay home if you are sick. Teach your kids to do the same!

For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this school year, contact Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit



Life with kids is messy – and that's OK!

Ever feel like some days you have it all together, and some days you don't? Love your kids to bits, but sometimes feel like you're the only parent who has hard days?

Want to connect with other parents who have those kinds of days too? Come join the conversation on Facebook @lifewithkidsismessy.

Laugh about the tough stuff, hear about what works for other families and to share the ways you give your kids your best.

When the messy days pile up, call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Kiss & Ride

Just a reminder to parents to abide by the Kiss & Ride routine if you are picking your child up for emergency transportation. If your child is not ready, please continue to **circle** the driveway until your child is at the Kiss & Ride. This will alleviate a back up of parents behind you, whose children may be waiting at the Kiss & Ride. As soon as the 3:45 pm bell rings, our buses start to pull out of the driveway. We request that you do not pull into the Kiss & Ride area at that time, but rather **wait** for the buses to leave the property. Please do not park on the west side of the parking lot (near the garbage bins) to drop off your children. Thanks for helping to keep everyone safe.





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School Climate Survey

Students and parents invited to complete the school climate survey (elementary schools only) From Jan. 9 to Jan. 27, 2017, all students in grades 4 to 8 will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey at school about how they feel about their school. Your child's teacher will supervise the class during the survey and can answer any questions or concerns your child may have. As well, parents/guardians of students in grades 4 to 8 will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey about how they feel about their child's school.

These surveys provide students and parent/guardians with the opportunity to say what is great about their school, as well as express their concerns. The survey results will provide valuable feedback to staff and will help schools to develop their Safe Schools Plans. Respondents are not asked to provide their names and all responses will be combined to ensure confidentiality.

To complete the parent/guardian survey, visit the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) website at www.scdsb.on.ca and click the link to the parent/guardian School Climate survey. The password for the survey is ElementaryParent2017. If you do not have access to the internet and/or you prefer to complete a paper version of the survey, you can request one at the school office. Questions about the parent/guardian survey can be directed to SCDSB's Research and Evaluation Services team via email at research@scdsb.on.ca. Thank you for your support!

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: What's the deal on sleep?

Getting enough sleep is a big deal for children.

Sleep is important for normal brain development, physical growth and development and emotional control. Children 3 to 12 years of age should get 10 to 12 hours of quality sleep.

A lack of sleep can lead to:

- Behavioural problems, hyperactivity, poor memory and attention*
- Irritability, frustration and even aggression*
- Weight gain due to an increased appetite*

Here are some tips to help develop healthy sleeping Habits:

- Set up a consistent bedtime routine*
- Limit screen time i.e. T.V, laptops, ipod or collect devices before bedtime*
- If you child has difficulties staying asleep, speak with your healthcare provider.*

For more information visit:

<http://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/En/Health/AZ/HealthandWellness/Sleep/Pages/default.aspx>

