



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. 2 – October 2017 – Visit us on the web @ <http://wrb.scdsb.on.ca>

Follow us on Twitter @WRBestPS

Principal: Mrs. Dianna Wright-Drzazga

Superintendent: Mr. Stuart Finlayson

Trustee: Mr. Peter Beacock – Tel: 705.322.7816

Principal's Notes:

The first month has flown by and we are settling into a good routine. Thank you for helping to make the transition from summer holidays to full time school as smooth as possible! I have enjoyed my first month at WR Best and it has been great to get to know students and families through some of our events including our Open House, Oro Fair, and School Council.

Welcome to the new families in our school community and we hope that your children are starting to feel at home as well!

Once again, this year we are asking for your assistance in helping to instill the following values: research shows that consistent attendance at school is very important and that it has a positive impact on academic achievement. It is expected that children come to school and be on time every day!

This is very important and your child benefits from this practice. Punctuality and consistent attendance is a life skill. Help us teach it!

Please try to keep appointments during the hours after school and on PA days. **For those appointments that are unavoidable during the day please inform your child's teacher of the change in schedule through the agenda. We are working very hard to minimize disruptions to classrooms during the day as it interrupts your child's learning as well as that of their classmates.**

Yours truly,

Mrs. Wright-Drzazga

We're Building Character at W.R. Best!

Our goals are:

- To promote the virtues of a free and democratic society
- To guide students in their journeys toward becoming people of good character

Each month we are highlighting an attribute we would all like to further develop.

Focus for October: Cooperation

We work together towards shared goals and purposes.

We demonstrate cooperation by:

- ✓ Doing what we can to help others
- ✓ Practicing good listening skills
- ✓ Contributing to the activity or job
- ✓ Avoiding complaining about chores
- ✓ Being positive
- ✓ Looking for something good about every situation
- ✓ Understanding that life is not always fair

"Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds." Alexander Graham Bell

The Best Bazaar at W.R.

Mark your calendar...Saturday, November 4th. This is a school event that is dedicated to raising funds for the school and will purchase a event tent as well as literacy materials. Silent Auction items needed! Please contact Michelle Walbank at 705-229-9696 or e-mail at watsonml@hotmail.com for donations to the Silent Auction. Please contact wrbestbazaar@gmail.com if you are able to volunteer and for general information.

Waste Reduction Week takes place Oct. 16 to 22

Waste Reduction Week aims to inform and engage Canadians about the environmental and social ramifications of wasteful practices. It strives to educate, engage and empower Canadians to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. Waste Reduction Week in Canada further provides information and ideas to reduce waste in all facets of daily living, creating the solutions to the many environmental challenges we face including climate change, water pollution and preservation of natural resources. For more information about Waste Reduction Week, visit: www.rco.on.ca/wrw_ontario



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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

New Path offering child and youth mental health walk-in clinics

In response to the increasing wait times for child and youth mental health services, and the increased need for such services, New Path has undertaken a service redesign that will provide more timely and responsive services to children, youth and families in Simcoe County. New Path now offers Child and Youth Mental Health Walk-In Clinics in five office locations throughout Simcoe County: Bradford, Alliston, Barrie, Collingwood and Orillia.

Children, youth and families requesting service from New Path no longer need to call and complete an intake; they can simply attend one of the local Walk-In Clinics and will receive a single session intervention that day. Should children or youth require further service, New Path will continue to offer a wide variety of community and school-based services as well as residential service and women’s service. For further information, including the clinic locations, days and hours, visit www.newpath.ca or contact New Path’s central intake department at 705-725-7656.

Pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with School Cash Online

If you have not already done so, be sure to sign up for School Cash Online. This is our preferred method of payment for all school fundraising including lunch days and field trips. School Cash Online allows you to pay with your debit or credit card. Follow these steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com or from our school website click on “Pay Fees”
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through echeck or credit card

Parent Portal gives parents real-time access to attendance, grade information

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children’s attendance and grades and includes the option to sign up for email notifications. To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child’s SCDSB Pupil ID Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID was provided in a sealed letter last spring with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, visit us in the school office and we’ll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

Staff for the 2017-2018 School Year

- Mrs. Bax – Kindergarten
- Mrs. Northcott - DECE
- Mrs. Schell– Kindergarten
- Mrs. Matthews - DECE
- Mrs. Desormeaux – Kindergarten
- Ms. Davis-Ellis - DECE
- Mr. Stein– Grade 1
- Mrs. Rowland – Grade 1/2
- Mrs. Houghton/Mrs. Delacretaz Grade 2
- Mrs. Howell—Grade 3
- Mrs. McRob – Grade 3
- Mrs. Knott – Grade 3/4
- Mrs. Centurione - Grade 4
- Mrs. MacDonald – Grade 4/5
- Mrs. Emerton – Grade 5
- Mrs. Joslin – Grade 6
- Mr. Roos – Grade 6/7
- Mr. Swain – Grade 7
- Mrs. Flamino - Grade 8
- Mr. Juffermans – Teacher-Librarian
- Madame Mullin – French
- Madame Belanger - French
- Mrs. Burrows – SERT
- Mrs. Evans –SERT & Planning Time
- Mrs. Stevens – Planning Time
- Mrs. Mophet – E.A.
- Mrs. Djukic – E.A.
- Mrs. Laughlin – E.A
- Mrs. Scarlett – Custodial
- Mrs. Evans – Custodial
- Mrs. Loughed - Secretary
- Mrs. Wright-Drzazga – Principal

The Oro School Fair

What a great time we had at the Oro World’s Fair! Did you see the many student exhibits as well as the bale decorating contest? W.R. Best won the bale competition for an eighth year in a row!

How about the animal exhibits and our marching in the parade? Many of our student brought home ribbons and all of our students did a great job with their entries. Congratulations Bobcats!!!



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Bus Cancellation Information In Case of Inclement Weather

Although fall has just arrived, winter is just around the corner in Simcoe County. With it comes the possibility of severe inclement weather conditions, challenging winter driving conditions and, as a result, possible bus and school event cancellations.

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on all Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the Central zone. When buses are cancelled, please remember that schools are still open (unless otherwise noted) for student learning. The Consortium, in conjunction with bus operators, will make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and as such, will make every effort to post announcements between 6 and 7 a.m. Parents should also note that inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day.

W.R. Best Garden Club

The W.R. Best Garden Club will once again be running this year thanks to the efforts of Gloria Greaves, Mrs. Michelle Walbank, and many volunteers from the school community and the Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society. This is offered to students from Gr. 3 – 5, and members will meet the 1st Wednesday and Thursday of every month during the first or second nutrition break. If you are interested in volunteering for this club, please contact the school.

Bus Driver Appreciation



School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place Oct. 16 to 20. To support schools in promoting school bus safety to students, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC), in partnership with school bus operators, will offer bus evacuation training to all home-to-school transported students. During this week, school bus drivers will educate students on how to evacuate a school bus safely in an emergency situation.

Wed., Oct. 18 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in the province of Ontario. It's a great opportunity for the school community to thank our bus drivers for all their hard work transporting students to and from school safely. Take a moment to thank your bus driver!

It matters!.....

- that students respect and abide by the driver's instructions.
- that students are at the bus stop 5 MINUTES prior to pick-up time.
- that students remain seated in his/her assigned seat and always when the bus is moving.
- that students refrain from eating or drinking on the bus.

Upcoming Dates:

Oct. 16-19	Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct. 16-22	Waste Reduction Week
Oct. 19	Picture Day
Oct. 20	PA Day
Oct. 30	Immunizations – Gr. 7 – Hep B#1/Meningitis
Oct. 31	Halloween
Nov. 4	Best Bazaar at WR. 7 th annual
Nov. 8	Picture Retake Day
Nov. 10	Remembrance Day Service – 10:00
Nov. 17	Elementary PA Day
Dec. 22	Last day before Christmas Holidays

VOLUNTEER SCREENING

All new volunteers will be required to complete school paperwork to obtain an original copy of a Criminal Records Check which includes a Vulnerable Sector Screening executed within the last six months, prior to beginning to volunteer.

Current volunteers must complete an Offence Declaration annually. This must be completed by October 31st.

Current volunteers who do not submit an Annual Offence Declaration for Volunteers on or before December 31, 2016, will be deleted from the database on January 1, 2017, and will have to submit a new Criminal Records Check and Vulnerable Sector Screen.



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Community Event Information & Calendars

Healthy classroom celebrations

Classroom and school celebrations are great opportunities for children to practice the healthy eating messages they learn in the classroom. Help teach the importance of healthy eating by choosing healthy foods to send in the next time your child's class is celebrating. Here are some ideas:

- ✓ Send a tray of watermelon slices, orange slices, apples or fruit kabobs
- ✓ Make homemade mini muffins with whole wheat flour and grated carrots or apple
- ✓ Send a tray of whole grain crackers, cubes of lower fat cheese and grapes
- ✓ Send a veggie platter - get creative by arranging it in fun shapes
- ✓ Prepare chocolate dipped strawberries for a sweet treat

Looking for more information to help keep you and your family healthy? Call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 to speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Tips for a healthy Halloween

The month of October is upon us and that means Halloween is just around the corner! For many children, this can be an exciting time of year as they get their costumes ready and their buckets out to fill with candy! Halloween can also be a tough time for parents to keep their kids' diets healthy and balanced. Here are some helpful 'tricks' to help you and your family have a healthy Halloween this year!

- Walk door to door when trick or treating. It will burn calories and also tire the kids out – potentially limiting the amount of houses you will hit before the end of the night. Try making a competition out of who can walk the most steps.
- Plan a party. Make the focus of your party fun activities instead of sugary treats. Include Halloween games such as a costume or dance contest, or pumpkin carving.
- Trade the candy collected for non-edible treats like books, small toys or arts and crafts materials. You can also consider offering to buy back some of the candy, providing your kids with some extra spending money as a reward.

Visit your local YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka for some fun Halloween activities for the whole family to enjoy!

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

October						
1	2	3 School Council	4	5	6	7
8	9 Thanksgiving	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Parent Teacher Conferences 16-19 Waste Reduction Week 16-22	17 Parent Teacher Conferences Bazaar Planning Mtg. 7:00	18 Parent Teacher Conferences	19 Parent Teacher Conferences Picture Day	20 PA Day	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Gr. 7 Immunizations Hep B#1/Men.	31 Halloween				
November						
			1	2	3	4 Best Bazaar at W.R.- 8 th Annual!
5	6	7	8 Picture Re-take day	9	10 Remembrance Day Service	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 PA Day	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Fire Prevention Week is October 8 to 14: Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!

Fire Prevention Week runs from Oct. 8 to 14. This year's theme is "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" Smoke and fire spread fast. There's no time to figure out how to escape AFTER a fire starts. All households should have working smoke alarms and practice a home fire escape plan with everyone in the family BEFORE there's a fire. Find out more at: www.nfpa.org/fpw.

Green Team

Our recycling program continues in full operation. Led by Miss Davis Ellis, Mrs. Howell, and Mrs. Matthews, our monitors faithfully separate paper, containers and organic waste. We would like to thank them all. **We encourage our families to send garbageless lunches by putting food items in reusable containers.** Every little bit counts!