



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

Website: <http://wrb.scdsb.on.ca> Twitter: @WRBestPS

Bus Cancellation Zone: Central

April 2023

Principal: Heidi Cameron Armstrong

Superintendent: Susan Sidlofsky

Trustee: Liz Grummett

Important April Dates

- April is Sikh Heritage Month
- Apr. 2 – World Autism Awareness Day
- Apr. 3 – School Council Meeting 6:00 - 7:30pm
- Apr. 3 – **Chelsea Chocolate Orders – ready for pick up**
- Apr. 5 – Kindergarten Graduation Photos
- Apr. 6-8 – Theravada New Year (Buddhism)
- Apr. 6-13 – Passover (Judaism)
- Apr. 7 – **Good Friday**
- Apr. 9 – Vimmy Ridge Day
- Apr. 10 – **Easter Monday**
- Apr. 11 – Team Theme Day
- Apr. 12 – International Pink Day
- Apr. 14 – Comfy Cozy Clothes Day
- Apr. 14 – Dental Screening for grades JK/SK, 2, 4, 7, 8
- Apr. 14 – Vaisakhi/Baisakhi (Hinduism)
- Apr. 16-22 – National Volunteer Week
- Apr. 17-18 – Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom HaShoah)
- Apr. 20 – Grade 5's @ St. Marie Among the Hurons
- Apr. 22 – **Earth Day**
- Apr. 26 – Administrative Professionals Days
- Apr. 27 – House Colors Day
- Apr. 28 – P.A. Day
- Important Upcoming dates:**
- May 22 – Victoria Day
- June 2 – P.A. Day

Principal's Message

Spring is arriving in Oro-Medonte! The bulbs are poking through the snow at the front of the school, even if a few snowflakes keep coming our way. With the arrival of Spring, we recognize the character trait of Optimism. We teach about our monthly character traits in class, and through our monthly assemblies here at WR Best. These assemblies are always engaging for our students, with opportunities for classrooms to create the assembly, share learning and student talent. We have so much to be proud of here at WR! Coming up in May, we are pleased to have Errol Lee return to our school and continue our collective work on character building. All students will be learning a dance with Errol Lee during the week of May 1st-4th and presenting it to families on May 4th as part of our Parents Reaching Out Grant.

Our new septic system – help us keep it working smoothly! A new septic system was installed this fall at our school. This septic system is only designed for toilet paper. Unfortunately, flushable wipes and feminine hygiene products have been found in the system and caused blockages. Families, please do not send any flushable wipes to school, and remind your student that only toilet paper belongs in the toilet.

Principal- Heidi Cameron Armstrong

Character Education

We continue to build good character at W.R. Best.
This month the focus is on Optimism.



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

Mable's Labels Fundraiser





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Food Bank Donations



Easter is just around the corner and this year we will collect boxes of cereal which will be donated to our local Food Bank. From now until April 6th we will collect cereal boxes and then set them up like dominoes in the hallways

and everyone will watch them topple over. It is a fun way to collect food donations for a worthy cause. Come on Bobcats! Let's see how many boxes we can donate!!!

End of Day Routines

Please do not telephone the school with last-minute changes to transportation plans at the end of the school day unless it is an emergency.

Make arrangements ahead of time, be organized, and please be considerate. We need your co-operation, with this as the end of the day is extremely busy.



Yearbook Advertising Offer

Once again, we will be selling our students a full colour yearbook. Colour advertising space is available for local businesses throughout the yearbook. The cost to advertise is \$30.00 for a business card and \$80.00 for 1/2 page. Your inquiries and advertisements can be emailed to cepatterson@scdsb.on.ca no later than Thursday,

April 27th. Space is limited and we will need to confirm that the business aligns with our school board values. Thank you in advance for your continued support. Yours truly,
Ms. Cameron-Armstrong & The Yearbook Committee

Easter Fundraiser with Chelsea Chocolates



Thank you for your orders. Your Easter treats will be available for pick up Monday April 3rd until 6pm.

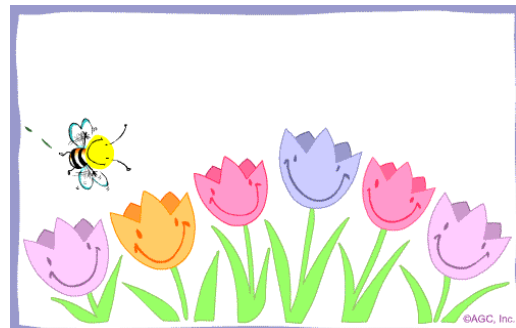
FundScrip Gift Card Fundraiser

Plastic/or electronic gift card options available

By purchasing these gift cards, your everyday expenses will benefit our school. Each gift card purchased automatically includes a donation to W.R. Best.

It's easy to use, just head over to Fundscrip.com, click on "Support a Group", enter invitation code 9U8E2G and click "Search". Follow the steps to open an account and you are ready to purchase gift cards!

Thank you for supporting our school fundraiser.





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Napoli Pizza Fundraiser

TUESDAY'S & WEDNESDAY'S PIZZA NIGHT



EVERY TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT UNTIL THE END OF JUNE ORDER PIZZA FROM NAPOLI AND HAVE IT FOR DELIVERY OR PICKUP. ASK FOR THE WR BEST SPECIALS AND \$5/PER ORDER WILL BE DONATED TO OUR SCHOOL.

CALL NAPOLI PIZZA AND CAFE
705-353-0800

<p>Option A</p> <p>2 Medium Pizzas 3 Toppings each</p> <p>\$35 (tax incl)</p> <p>Pickup or Delivery</p>	<p>Option B</p> <p>2 Large Pizzas 3 Toppings each</p> <p>\$40 (tax incl)</p> <p>Pickup or Delivery</p>
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Delivery is NOT included

Napoli Pizza and Cafe locally family owned
855 Ridge rd W. Oro Sation Just off 5th line

Hot Lunches for Students

Hot lunches are available to order for our students via the Lunchbox program through School Cash Online. Lunchbox is a convenient, online ordering platform featuring local vendors. An ordering calendar can be found on your School Cash Online items page. The ordering calendar features the following options:

- Mondays: Pasta**
- Tuesdays: Pizza**
- Wednesdays: Subs**
- Thursdays: Freshii (min order requirements)**
- Fridays: Quesada (min order requirements)**

How to Order:

1. Go to your SchoolCash Online account items page and click "ORDER NOW".
2. Confirm your child's account information including their new teacher and grade for the current school year. **Please ensure the correct teacher and grade are selected to prevent errors on delivery days.
3. Proceed with ordering your child's lunch on the school's ordering calendar by clicking on the blue date for the scheduled vendors.
4. All orders are submitted on the website and payment is processed on-line by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Debit MasterCard or Visa Debit. Visa and MasterCard prepaid cards are also accepted.

Stay Connected

Keep connected with our school and with the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Here are some ways to do that: Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca.

Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).

Things to Remember:

- Orders may be placed weekly, or in advance, for the full length of the program.
- The ordering deadline is Sunday at 12pm (NOON) for the upcoming delivery period.
- New orders will not be accepted after the Sunday deadline.
- If buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, and if there is a school closure, lunches will be cancelled and a credit will be issued within 3 business days.

Questions? Contact the Lunchbox Orders customer service team at 1-877-426-6860 or by e-mail at

info@lunchboxorders.com



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Register for Kindergarten Now!



Kindergarten is the beginning of a wonderful journey of learning, and we want your child to begin their journey in a SCDSB school! Do you have a child who is turning four in 2023? If so, we invite you to register your child for Kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Registration Now Open for Summer eLearning!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school courses in July 2023 for current high school students or adult learners who are interested in earning a new credit or upgrading a previous mark. Students can advance online learning skills, earn missed credits or fast-track preparation for graduation or post-secondary in just four weeks. eLearning is fully supported by certified teachers who are available electronically daily. Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at <http://thelearningcentres.com/high-school-student/summer-school>.

Kiss N' Ride



Our Kiss N' Ride is a busy place! Below is a reminder of our protocols to ensure that our Kiss N' Ride runs smoothly:

- Kiss N' Ride has a dedicated lane that is separate from the bus lanes
- When you come into the parking lot you will follow along the driveway to the far side of the building to pick up your child(ren); (please ensure that you are coming in/exiting the correct driveway)
- 9:05 - Kiss N' Ride Drop off may begin; please do not drop your children off before this time as the yard is not supervised prior to this time
- End of Day - when you get to the pick-up location at the end of the day, please:
 - *remain in your vehicle unless you need to exit to buckle students in
 - *Let the staff member on duty know who you are picking up & they will then be released to you
- Please ensure that when you are entering the parking lot at the end of the day that you are not blocking our buses from coming in or out of the driveways
- Please do not pick your children up on the road as it poses a safety hazard to you as well as the students.



Thank you very much for working together to ensure that everyone is safe when leaving school at the end of the day!



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Pine River Institute Learning Series



Mental health and well-being continues to be a key strategic priority within the SCDSB. We are pleased to continue our partnership with the Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) to provide several curated learning sessions focused on student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities. There is one webinar left in the learning series specifically planned for parents, guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

- **April 27, 2023 The Biology of Stress**

We hope you save these dates in your calendar and join us for these learning opportunities. For more information and to register, please visit the SCDSB website:

<https://bit.ly/3jGaC74>

Pine River Institute is a live-in treatment center and outdoor leadership experience for youth aged 13 to 19 struggling with addictive behaviors and often other mental health issues. Combining therapy with a fully accredited education program, PRI reinforces the healthy life skills required for a successful future. CFI@PRI extends PRI's knowledge, experience and evidence-informed treatment approach to families and care providers in the community to support, youth mental wellness and prevent the need for more intensive interventions. Learn more about PRI by visiting their website at www.pineriverinstitute.com.

Special Education Outreach Sessions for Families

In 2023, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/caregivers in learning more about programs, supports and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs. The remaining sessions include:

Supporting students as they transition into school, from one school to another, and from school upon graduation April 20 -- 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Working with families to create safe and supportive environments for children who have experienced trauma May 9 -- 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Participants are asked to register in advance. Information to access the sessions will be shared via email with individuals who have pre-registered. Learn more about each session and how to register on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions.

The Science of Reading & Structured Literacy

The science of reading is a body of research that focuses on how students



learn to read, what parts of the brain are utilized when learning to read, and what skills are ultimately required to be successful readers. Structured literacy is how educators take the knowledge gathered through research and apply it. There are five key components that make up an effective literacy program. Students need explicit instruction and repeated opportunities for practice with phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Visit the following link to support your child's reading at home: <https://bit.ly/LiteracyHomeSupport>



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around the house. Participants will learn about how solving problems at home can help their children solve problems in math class.

Having Fun with Math Facts @ Home

Thursday, May 11th 7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore practical, intentional, and fun ways to practice math facts at home. Participants will leave with ideas, games, and activities to support their child with becoming fluent with their math facts.

Math @Home parent series

Fostering a strong school-home partnership is an important part of reinforcing math learning at school and extending the learning beyond the classroom. Families are a child's first educator and help build a strong foundation for future success. The virtual math series outlined below is intended to support a positive attitude towards mathematics, enhance motivation and ultimate success.

The SCDSB math department is pleased to offer three evening virtual sessions for families and caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support students with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. The first 200 registrants will receive a math pack of resources to use at home. Participants must pre-register for each of the sessions.

Making Math Connections @ Home

Wednesday, April 12th 7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore where we find numbers, patterns, measures, and shapes in our daily lives. Participants will learn about practical ways to help their child notice and wonder about the math in their world.

Problem Solving @ Home

Tuesday, April 25th 7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore how to encourage children to be active thinkers and problem solvers, both in math and

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Participants who register before March 24 will receive their math pack of resources in time for the first session on April 12. Those who register after March 24 will still receive a math pack of resources, but may not receive them in time for the first session.

Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/23MathAtHome>

Licensed Summer School Age Child Care Programs

Child care programs for children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are provided by independent, third-party child care operators in some SCDSB schools. To support your child care needs, some operators offer child care over the summer holidays. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register. More information and contact numbers can be found at

scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after





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Tense and Relax Coping Strategy

Well-being is a Strategic Priority in the Simcoe County District School Board, and our mental health and well-being department provides monthly strategies to support student and family well-being.

This month's strategy is tense and relax.

Parents/guardians can guide their child/youth through a tense and relax muscle relaxation exercise to help them notice whether they feel tense or relaxed in a particular area and understand how their body feels when they are tense and relaxed. This helps children/youth to learn to sooth their body and mind, and assists with regulating emotions during times of stress.

To practice tense and relax at home, have your child/youth get comfortable by either standing or sitting. Encourage them to keep their back straight, and shoulders and head relaxed. If they're comfortable, ask them to close their eyes. Have your child/youth intentionally tense and relax isolated body parts and be aware of how they feel when they tense their muscles and when they relax them. Children can be encouraged to: bring their shoulders up to their ears, hold for a count of 3, and relax; squeeze their hands into fists, hold for a count of 3, and relax; squeeze their stomach in as if fitting between a fence, hold for a count of 3, and relax; and, pushing their feet down to the ground, hold for a count of 3, and relax. Repeat the actions a few times and discuss how these body parts felt before, during, and after the exercise.

Parents/guardians can practice tense and relax at home any time with their child/youth to help them learn how to relieve tensions. Click on the following link to watch a guided video of tense and relax together: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4mQm0hux1Q&t=1s>.

Follow along the SCDSB's mental health and well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB_MHWB) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.



Parent Involvement Committee

'Safe connections: navigating a digital world'

On April 25, the Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is hosting a virtual learning session for parents/guardians. *Safe connections: navigating a digital world* is a virtual event focused on digital mindfulness and well-being, and Internet safety.

This virtual event will run from 6 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. Presenters include:

- Chris Vollum, CMV Social Media
- Sergeant Aaron C. Arnett, Ontario Provincial Police
- Abby Zantingh, Imani's Place

Participants are asked to register in advance: <https://bit.ly/40tEg22>. Information to access the session will be shared via email with individuals who have pre-registered.

The PIC is a county-wide advisory committee made up of parents/guardians and community representatives from across Simcoe County. The committee works with SCDSB staff and trustees to support student success through parent/guardian engagement. Visit scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent/parent_involvement_committee for more information on the PIC.



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Significant Need for Foster Caregivers in Our Community

There is a significant need for foster caregivers in our local community. When a child or youth is brought into temporary foster care and placed outside of their community there is a loss of family, friends, schoolmates, teachers, and everything that is familiar to them. The increase in the number of foster homes across the communities in Simcoe Muskoka allows children and youth to remain connected to what is important to them.

Foster families are regular families wanting to give back to their community. When a family faces hardship and challenges, they need a community to support them and their children. In many situations, foster care can provide vital support that enables parents to address issues that are putting their children's safety and well-being at risk. Keeping children connected to their family, community, and extended supports is crucial. Foster caregivers provide a caring home that encourages a child or youth's growth, development, and well-being. If you're interested in becoming a foster caregiver in our community, please visit the foster recruitment website at www.fosterconnexions.ca to learn more or call the foster recruitment line at 705-734-6777.

