



# 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

March 2023

Principal: Heidi Cameron Armstrong

Superintendent: Susan Sidlofsky

Trustee: Liz Grummett

### Important March Dates

**Feb. 28 – Boys Basketball Regionals @ East Bayfield Rec. Cen. And Girls Volleyball Regionals @ Monsignor Clair**

- Mar. 2-20 – Baha'i Fast
- Mar. 3 – National Employee Appreciation Day
- Mar. 4 - Sikh New Year
- Mar. 6 – Smudging (class-to-class visits)
- Mar. 6 – Memorial of Shan-tao/Zendo Daishi
- Mar. 6-7 – Purism (Judaism)
- Mar. 7 – Holi (Hinduism)
- Mar. 7 – Mid-Sha'ban (Islam)
- Mar. 8 – International Women's Day
- Mar. 9 – Teams/Clubs Photos
- Mar. 11 – National COVID-19 day of Observance
- Mar.13-17 – March Break**
- Mar. 17 – Irish Heritage Day
- Mar. 20 – Ostara/Mabon/Lady Day/Spring Equinox (Wicca)
- Mar. 21 – World Down Syndrome Day
- Mar. 21 – Naw Ruz (Baha'i)
- Mar. 21 – Eid-e-Navroz (Islam)
- Mar. 21 – Navroze (Zoroastrianism)
- Mar. 21 – Int'l Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- Mar. 22-31 – Chaitra/Chithirai (Hinduism)
- Mar. 22 – YMCA visit Mrs. Knott
- Mar. 22 – Hindu New Year
- Mar. 22 – Vasant Navratri Begins (Hinduism)
- Mar. 23 – YMCA visit Mrs. Bax and Mrs. Centurione
- Mar. 23 – Ramadan (Islam)
- Mar. 23 – Nat'l School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day
- Mar. 24 – Earth Hour in Schools (Official Day Mar.25)
- Mar. 25-27 – Hola Mohalla (Sikhism)
- Mar. 26 - Khordad Sal (Zoroastrianism)
- Mar. 26 – Epilepsy Awareness Day
- Mar. 27 – Gr. 5/6-8 Talent Show & Musical Performance 6:00pm**
- Mar. 30 – Rama Navami (Hinduism)
- Mar. 31 – Integrity Assembly**
- Mar. 31 – Trans Day of Visibility

### Important Upcoming dates:

- Apr. 3 – School Council Meeting**
- Apr. 7 – Good Friday**

**Apr. 10 – Easter Monday**

**Apr. 28 – P.A. Day**

**May 22 – Victoria Day**

**June 2 – P.A. Day**

### Principal's Message

This past month we introduced "Gotcha!" awards for students caught showing character at W.R. Best. These awards, presented weekly, celebrate the many aspects of character our students show daily at our school. If your child brings home a blue "Gotcha", make sure to ask them what they earned it for! Prizes are awarded from the "Gotcha" bin on Fridays.

Every month we send out our school newsletter via email to our families and post it to our school website. The newsletter can be found under the "School News" tab. Did you know that we also have a clickable calendar at the bottom of our website? Clicking on "School Calendar" will take you to the detailed view of the month with all of our planned events. <https://wrb.scdsb.on.ca/>

### W.R. Best "March Music" Grade 5/6-Grade 8

Calling all families of students in Mrs. Dermott, Mrs. Lavender, Mrs. Emerton, Mrs. Flamino and Mr. Swain's classes – we are having a March Music concert & talent March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023! The show begins at 6:00 pm and we ask that parents/guardians have their performing students at the school by 5:45 pm to be grouped with their classmates and get ready for the concert. Students in Grade 5/6 – Grade 8 will also have the opportunity to audition with their talent to present on this musical evening.

Our students are very excited to share their musical pieces with the audience. See you there!

### School Council

School Council meetings are open to all parents and guardians and are held in the school library. You can also join a meeting on Zoom by contacting our School Council Chairperson at [councilchairWRB@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:councilchairWRB@scdsb.on.ca)



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Attending these meetings is a good way to keep up to date with events going on at our school. The next School Council meeting is April 3rd at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

### March Break

Please note that March 13 to 17 is March Break for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information:

[www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/school\\_year\\_calendar](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar)

### Easter Fundraiser with Chelsea Chocolates

Once again, W.R. Best school council will be fundraising with Chelsea Chocolates for all your Easter chocolate needs! Stay tuned for more information!

### Hot Lunches for Students

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

**Mondays: Pasta**

**Tuesdays: Pizza**

**Wednesdays: Subs**

**For the months of March & April (with minimum order requirements):**

**Thursdays: Freshii**

**Fridays: Quesada**

#### 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.

#### 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](mailto:info@lunchboxorders.com)

### 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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### Mabel's Labels Fundraiser



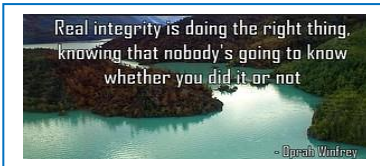
website at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) **Our school is in the Central Zone.** When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted. School staff are expected to plan for such emergencies in order to transition students who are unable to attend due to inclement weather, to their online platforms (Google Classroom and/or SCDSBhub [Brightspace by D2L]) and continue with academic programming. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

The Consortium and bus operators try to make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and make every effort to post announcements before 7 a.m. Inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day.

You can follow the Consortium on Twitter @SCSTC\_SchoolBus for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

### Character Education

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



*We act justly and honourable in all we do.*

### 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten).

### Inclement Weather and Bus Cancellations

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information

### 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 cooperation with this as the end of the day is extremely busy.

### 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:

- Our Kiss N' Ride has a dedicated lane that is separate from our 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





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- 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 yourself as well as the students.

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

supervise sledding and we remind students of safety rules on a regular basis.

We want to inform parents that if students are sledding at school, Ophea recommends that they should wear a properly fitted (as per manufacturer's guidelines) and properly worn CSA-approved hockey helmet or snow sport helmet certified by a recognized safety standards association. If you send a sled and helmet (optional) for use during nutrition break/recess, you are giving permission for your child to take part in this activity.

Please note that we have a class set of crazy carpets that may be used for Daily Physical Activity (DPA) or physical education classes. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

### School Playground Equipment Closed

Every winter, school playground structures are closed. Students are made aware of this during school hours through announcements and staff reminders during breaks. This may not be well known throughout the community, despite



signs indicating that playground structures are a winter hazard and are closed. The Canadian Standards Association regulations make recommendations for the depth of ground cover required to minimize injuries (e.g., sand, pea gravel or wood chips). These surfaces cannot be maintained when the ground freezes. Injuries from falling would be more significant on frozen ground. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen.

### Sledding Safety at School

Student safety is our first priority, and although we do allow 'crazy carpets' and soft sleds at our school, we do not allow hard sleds, two-person sleds or snow racers. We do

### Collection and use of personal student information

As students' progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared which eases each student's transition to secondary school. Sharing this information also improves our ability to program effectively to benefit all students. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes are authorized under the *Education Act*. Please note that all information used for the transition process is limited, secure, and protected at all times. Please contact Susan Sidlofsky, Superintendent of Education, if you would like more information about the transition process at W.R. Best.

### EarlyON Child and Family Centres

Is your child starting JK or SK in September? The Simcoe County EarlyON Child and Family Centres are excited to offer in person and virtual programs that help prepare children and parents/guardians for Kindergarten. Parents/guardians and children will have the opportunity to interact together in a variety of school readiness activities. We will look at and discuss how does learning happen, self-regulation, social skills, and how to get ready to start school.



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If program registration is full, please check back regularly as there may be cancellations. To register for a program in your area visit [www.earlyonsimcoenorth.ca/GRFK](http://www.earlyonsimcoenorth.ca/GRFK).

### 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions).

### Licensed March Break 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 on PA days and holidays including over the March Break (March 13 to 17). 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 [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/childcare\\_before\\_after](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after).

### How is your infant, toddler, or preschool child developing?

Is your child meeting their milestones? Age-appropriate speech and language skills are critical to your child's ability to read, write and be successful in school as well as to their ability to engage with their peers. Free services are available to support you with your child's development. Preschool speech and language programs are located across the County of Simcoe. Call (705) 739-5696 or 1-800-675-1979 to complete a developmental screen. The earlier we work together, the better!

### #ITSTARTS week in the SCDSB

The County of Simcoe has once again proclaimed March as #ITSTARTS month. The Simcoe County District School Board will be championing the #ITSTARTS campaign from March 6 to 10. This campaign promotes inclusion, acceptance, and equity within the vibrant, diverse, and growing communities that make up Simcoe County. For more information, visit: [www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ccs/lip/itstarts](http://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ccs/lip/itstarts).

### Pine River Institute Learning Series

Join us! A learning series for parents/guardians with Pine River Institute 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 are three webinars left in the learning series specifically planned for parents, guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

- March 2, 2023 Emotional Regulation for Kids



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and Adults

- April 27, 2023 The Biology of Stress

provides monthly strategies to support student and family well-being.

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>.

This month's strategy is deep breathing. Parents/guardians should practice deep breathing with their children to help them develop a deeper mind/body connection, self-regulation, awareness of emotions, and build resiliency. To practice deep breathing at home, have your child 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 place their hands flat on their stomach. Ask your child to breathe in deeply through their nose, filling the belly with breath. Point out how hands move out. Encourage them to hold their breath for a few seconds, then slowly breathe out through the mouth to feel the stomach contract and hands move in. Repeat 5-6 times.

Pine River Institute is a live-in treatment centre and outdoor leadership experience for youth aged 13 to 19 struggling with addictive behaviours 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](http://www.pineriverinstitute.com).

Parents/guardians should practice deep belly breathing at home any time their child seems stressed or upset. Watch a deep breathing video here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le2TO\\_MNFxE&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le2TO_MNFxE&t=3s).

### 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.

Follow along the Mental Health and Well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB\_MHWPB) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at <http://thelearningcentres.com/high-school-student/summer-school>.

### SCDSB eBook library - SORA

Did you know that the SCDSB has a digital eBook library available for all students from K-12? Students may access books using either the SORA app on a tablet or visiting <https://soraapp.com/welcome/login/202712> on the desktop version. They simply use their school Google login and password to access the library. Picture books, beginner chapter books, graphic novels, magazines, young adult novels, audio books; there is something for every student. Students may use the search function to select a specific book or browse through one of the many curated collections. Happy reading!

### Just breathe coping strategy

Well-being is a Strategic Priority in the Simcoe County District School Board, and our well-being department





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### 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 path pack of resources to use at home. Participants must pre-register for each of the sessions.

#### Making Math Connections @Home

Wednesday, April 12  
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 25  
7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore how to encourage children to be active thinkers and problem solvers, both in math and 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 11  
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.

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a pack of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on their registration form.

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

### Stay Informed!

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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca).
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB\_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).
- Follow W.R. Best on Twitter (@WRBestPS)