

# BIRCHVIEW DUNES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**Administrative Team:** M. Giffen & M. Mortimer

**Website:** <http://bir.scdsb.on.ca>

**Office Team:** G. Loverock, H. Winch

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/BirchviewDunes>

**Superintendent:** J. Kavanagh **Trustee:** R. North

## April 2018 Newsletter

April Character Trait: **Optimism**

### "DUNES DATES"

April 2	Easter Monday
April 4	Assembly 9:15am
April 5	Caribou Math Grades 5-8
April 11	Kindergarten Graduation Photos 9am
April 13	Spirit Day – 60's Day
April 13	Intro to Basketball with EDHS
April 18	Grade 4 Wye Marsh visits Birchview
April 20	Earth Day Activities
April 23-26	Grade 8 Tech It Out
April 25	The Jungle Book Performances 11:30am & 6:30pm
April 26	The Jungle Book Performance.6:30pm
April 26	EDHS presents a surprise interactive activity!
April 26	Junior Poetry 8:55am-12:05pm in the library
April 27	PA Day
April 30	Junior Poetry Finalists 10:35am-12:55pm in the gym

### Around the School

#### Principal of the Matter

April is upon us and it is a very active month at our school. The Primary Production 'The Jungle Book' later this month will prove exciting and entertaining. Thank you to our staff, students and volunteers for your dedication and commitment to this special activity. We believe that the Arts (visual art, dramatic art, music) are well represented at our school. There are many creative and talented people at Birchview Dunes. With spring comes much colour and creativity.

Together, we cooperate with and care for each other. This is one of our school responsibilities. We thank our staff, student and family volunteers who, in a kind and caring way, provide breakfast for learning each day. Healthy and active living, and the foods we eat have an impact on our day.

With the arrival of spring and hopefully some nicer weather, we are reminded of the great opportunities for daily physical activity. Each day your child has the opportunity to participate in physical activity right here at school. Through cooperative games and structured activities your child enjoys the benefits of getting outside and getting active each and every day. Through the

success of our school council fundraisers each classroom has received a brand new kit full of equipment to get out and get active. Thanks to our school community, parents and our school council for making this equipment possible.

Safe arrival to and from school is very important to us. Each day between 8:40 and 8:55, Mrs. Mortimer and I welcome students who arrive at our 'Student Drop Zone' in the main drive. By means of clearly marked areas of access, we notice an improvement to the direction and flow of traffic at our school. To ensure that students safely follow the 'walk zone' to the yard, please ensure that your children remain in vehicles until you approach the marked area where Mrs. Mortimer and I supervise. At the end of the school day, our school vehicles will be given the right of way to leave before vehicular traffic in the main drive. Thank you for your care and cooperation.

Respectfully,  
Mr. Giffen,  
Principal

## Student Council

We are so excited to be getting a school mascot, but we need your help. Don't forget to get your Mom's Pantry orders in by April 5th. Keep checking the front foyer as a picture of Blaze has been posted, for every \$400 a new piece of his picture will be revealed.

## School Bus Evacuation Training takes place April 3 to 6

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC), in partnership with school bus operators, is offering school bus evacuation training to all home-to-school transported students the week of April 3 to 6. During this week, school bus drivers will educate students on how to evacuate a school bus safely in an emergency. The SCSTC would like to remind all drivers to be extra cautious near school buses and in school bus loading and unloading zones. For more information or if you have questions, visit [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/)

## Lost and Found

Please take time to look at the lost and found items on display in the lobby. Items will be left on display until the last day of each month. They will then be bagged for donation.

## International Day of Pink

Our school will be hosting several events during the week of April 9 to 13 in honour of the International Day of Pink, which is Wed. April 11. This day celebrates diversity and promotes standing up to bullying. It is a day of action that started in Nova Scotia when two straight high school students saw that a gay student wearing a pink shirt was bullied. The two students intervened, but wanted to do more. They purchased pink shirts and within a few days got everyone at school wearing pink, standing in solidarity for diversity and standing up against discrimination, gender-based bullying and homophobia. Our school will be recognizing the International Day of Pink on Wednesday April 11th.

Think about these students who created hope, inspiration and understanding amidst the darkness of discrimination. We invite everyone to support this initiative and celebrate diversity by wearing a pink shirt in order to bring light to the issues of Bullying and Discrimination. Anyone can bully and anyone can be victimized by bullying but together we can stop it.

## Eco Team News

April is Earth Month at Birchview.

Our school takes pride in caring for the environment. Families are welcome to drop off used markers to add to our school collection as our Eco Team recycles them through Crayola's Colorcycle program.

In April, you are encouraged to send in mobile devices and accessories in our bid to win \$500 through the Recycle My Cell program (visit <http://birecoteam.edublogs.org> for details).

Plastic waste is a major concern in our world and even in our Great Lakes. Consider buying bulk and/or packing lunches/drinks in only reusable containers every day, but especially on Waste Free Wednesdays. Each week, the class with the most Waste Free Lunches wins the Eco Warrior Trophy and a lucky participant wins a prize.

Carry out plastic shopping bags will be collected for recycling during Earth Week (April 16-20 only); just write the number of bags on the outside bag before sending in. If possible, ride or walk to school or use the school bus to avoid excess pollution.

Thank you for your help in reducing, reusing, and recycling for a cleaner, healthier planet.

## Birchview Goes Broadway Presents 'The Jungle Book'

Don't miss out on the opportunity to see our primary students' presentation of The Jungle Book on April 25th and 26th. Information about ticket sales will be sent home this week. The performances sell out quickly, so get your order in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Watch for information about our VIP draw. It will be your chance to win free tickets, priority parking and seating, as well as delicious refreshments! Please note that it is important for all primary students to attend both evening performances in order for our show to be a success. Supervision for students will be provided during both evening performances.

## YMCA-Move to Give Fundraiser

The YMCA is having their annual Move to Give fundraiser on Sat. April 7th. Teams of 10 enter to pull a fire truck 20m in the fastest time. Last year our Birchview Dunes staff won this event and we are putting together a team again this year to defend our title! We need your support to raise \$1000! All donations go to the YMCA towards removing financial barriers so kids, adults, teens and seniors can take part in amazing programs. Donations can be sent into the school by Thurs April 5th. (If your donation is \$20 or more and you would like a tax receipt, please include your name and address with the donation.) Or donate online by going to [movetogive.ca](http://movetogive.ca), then select Make a Donation. Our team name is Birchview Blazers.

Come out and cheer us on! We'd love to see you at 10:00 a.m. on April 7th at the Wasaga Beach YMCA. Come out to cheer on the Birchview Blazers Team and see some of your favorite teachers pull a fire truck for a great cause.

Healthy communities are strong communities!

## Identifying School Sponsored Trips

All field trip information will be sent home on school and/or Simcoe County District School Board letterhead. This is the best way for parents/guardians to identify supervised and approved trips. There may have been times when community or external groups have organized trips that have been mistaken for school-sponsored field trips. Parents would be notified of individual circumstances if the school is aware that an external trip is being planned. When in doubt about any trip ask questions of the organizers, including "Who is sponsoring or in charge of this trip?", "Who will be supervising?" and "What are their qualifications?" You can also contact the school if you have any questions about a trip you see advertised that you think may not be school-sanctioned.

## Applications open for 2018-2019 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants

Parents/guardians play a vital role in public education, and Ontario's Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants are designed to encourage parents'/guardians' involvement in their children's education to support student achievement and well-being. The 2018-19 PRO grant process has been announced and an online application is now available. PRO grants are provided to select applicants who develop projects, events or training in support of parent/guardian engagement. Applications are due by June 5. Find out more: [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/).

## Rainbows Program for Students

Rainbows is a peer support group guided by a trained facilitator to help children who are dealing with loss in their lives due to separation, divorce or death. Students meet in small groups to share an activity and discuss topics in relation to the change in their family unit. The goal of the support group is to assist students in expressing and understanding their feelings, accepting what has happened and experiencing a sense of belonging. There will be a school-based Rainbows session beginning in April and running for 12 weeks. The session will be for students in grades 3-5 who have experienced divorce. Please contact Jen Sims at the school, 705-429-2551, if you would like more information. Space is limited.

## Register now for Summer Child Care

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) supports your child care needs by offering full day child care programs in select schools across Simcoe County. Twenty schools offer child care programs for children from Junior Kindergarten age to 12 years of age. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to

register. More information can be found on our website at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) – click on 'Schools' then 'Before & After School Care'.

## Parents invited to an Information Session about Special Education

The SCDSB is hosting a series of information sessions for parents/guardians to learn about special education in the SCDSB, and how to support students with special education needs. The last session takes place this month:

April 16 Understanding Alternative/Non-Academic IEP Goals The event takes place from 6 to 7 p.m. at

## Stress: Our Kids Get It Too!

the SCDSB Education Centre, located at 1170 Highway 26 in Midhurst. No registration required. Kids have stress, just like us. Stress is a normal part of life, but our bodies are only made to handle it for short amounts of time. Continued stress can cause feelings of pressure, anxiety and tiredness. It can make it hard for kids to focus in school and can cause them to become sick, get lower grades or make unhealthy choices. It's easy to mistake signs of stress for bad behaviour in your child. You can help them learn to manage stress by staying calm, showing love and talking openly about their feelings. Encourage them to try calming activities like deep breathing or doing something active. If the stress continues, be sure talk to your child's family doctor or health care provider. To speak with a public health nurse, contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit website for more information at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

A reminder to please turn your engine off when

## Please turn off your car while you wait!

dropping off or picking up your child from school. Idling cars release exhaust that is harmful to the environment, our health and the health of our students. It's good to get into the habit of turning your car off any time you're stopped and in park for more than 60 seconds. Thank you for doing your part to keep our kids and our environment healthy! For more information to keep you and your family healthy, visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*



**Message from the Health Unit: The facts of lice: How to prevent and treat this nuisance**

Like everywhere else, there are head lice in Simcoe County. Lice are a nuisance, but do not pose a public health hazard as they are not known to transmit any infectious diseases. Anyone can get head lice but kids tend to get them more often because they can have head-to-head contact with other children during school and play. The best way to keep head lice in check is to work together to prevent the spread.

Schools are required to inform parents when a case of head lice is confirmed, to provide parents with timely information to begin their own checks at home. Head lice management and treatment is a responsibility of parents/guardians. Here are some tips to help prevent and treat lice:

- Teach your child not to share personal things like hair brushes, combs and hats
- Set a schedule to check your child's head regularly. Use an area with bright light and look carefully for nits (shells containing eggs) and live lice in the hair, behind the ears and around the neck and hairline. Nits looks like half the size of the head of a pin, shaped like a teardrop and stick to the hair so you can't blow, flick, or easily side them off. Lice are about the size of a sesame seed and are very hard to see because they can crawl and hide but they cannot hop or fly.
- If you find nits or live head lice, you'll need to use a head lice treatment to kill them. Make sure to follow the directions, and then to do a second treatment 7 to 10 days later to help stop the lice from returning. Head lice are not likely to live in clothing, furniture or bed linen but it's a good idea to wash bed linen and hats in hot water and dry them in a hot dryer just in case.

*For more information, visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's website [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-7217520.*

**Trauma & Loss: Creating School Communities of Well-being on April 14 in Barrie**

Parents and/or community members are invited to attend Trauma & Loss: Creating School Communities of Well-being on Sat. April 14 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Bear Creek Secondary School, located at 110 Red Oak Dr. in Barrie. This conference is being funded through a Regional PRO grant from the Ontario Ministry of Education and is being presented by the Adoption Council of Ontario. This event is free to attend and lunch is provided. Limited child care is available for children aged three to 12 years. Register at [www.adoption.on.ca/events](http://www.adoption.on.ca/events). Questions? Contact [pact@adoptontario.ca](mailto:pact@adoptontario.ca)

**YMCA Healthy Kids Day taking place on April 29**

YMCAs across Canada are celebrating Healthy Kids Day on Sun. April 29. It's a national day dedicated to improving the health and well-being of kids. The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka is happy to host this FREE event for everyone in the community, offering fun and healthy activities for the entire family to enjoy. Across Canada, most children do not meet the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Rising rates of obesity and related chronic disease tell us that getting kids active should be a top priority for parents, schools, and all Canadians. With summer just around the corner, here are some practical tips on how to keep your kids active and healthy:

- Rather than heading out on a walk or jog solo, invite your kids to hop on their bicycles, skateboards and scooters and head out with you. You will come back energized and connected knowing that you've set a great example and spent quality time together. Everyone wins!
- Many communities have free or low-cost youth activities or programs at facilities such as pools, playgrounds, parks, sporting fields, community centres and the YMCA! Ask your child's teacher, contact your local municipality, search online or contact your local YMCA for upcoming events.
- Depending on the distance and safety factor, consider letting your children walk to school, the library, their friend's house or any other place you would normally drive them to. Some kids may be inspired by tracking their steps with a pedometer. Pedometers are relatively inexpensive and many libraries have them available on loan!

Join the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka on Healthy Kids Day and learn about healthy habits, connect with other parents and get the whole family active together under one roof. For schedules of activities and more information, please contact the YMCA in your community: [www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca](http://www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca).

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

