

BIRCHVIEW DUNES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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May 2018 Newsletter

May Character Trait: **Respect**

“DUNES DATES”

May 1	Grade 4's travel to Wye Marsh
May 1 (3:30-5:45)	Junior Boys Volleyball Mini Tournament
May 2	Caribou Math Grades 5-8
May 3	Grade 8 CPR training
May 4	May the Fourth Day or House Colours
May 4	Optimism Assembly 1:35pm
May 7	Grade 7 vaccinations
May 7	Music Mania at Worsley
May 7, 14, and 28	Grade 3 Swimming
May 8	Junior Girls Volleyball Tournament at Stayner CI
May 9	Junior Boys Volleyball Tournament at Stayner CI
May 10	Area Rugby for Grade 7's at Klondike Park
May 10	Kindergarten Trip to Wye Marsh – White/Towns, Wonta/Ware, & Tiessinga/McMann
May 11	Clean the Beach - Junior
May 15	Gauss Math Test - Intermediates
May 15	Junior Track and Field Day
May 25	Kindergarten Trip to Wye Marsh – Degagne/Lawson & Butson/Agar
May 16	Intermediate Track and Field Day at Birchview
May 16	Grade 5 trip – RACE Against Drugs at Collingwood Curling Club
May 17	County Rugby – Grade 7's
May 17	Track and Field Rain Date
May 18	PA Day
May 21	Victoria Day
May 22	EQAO Assessment Begins for Grades 3 and 6
May 22	Grade 4 – Wye Marsh visits Birchview
May 22	Grade 7 trip to Ripley's Aquarium (9:00am-5:30pm)
May 23	Welcome to Kindergarten Orientation at Birchview – 4:30pm
May 24	Clean the Beach - Intermediate
May 29	Accessibility Education – Grade 2 in the gym
May 29 - 31	Grade 8 Ottawa Trip
May 31	Tie Dye Day/ Neon Bright Day

The Principal of the Matter

Education Week takes place during the first full week in May. It is an annual event celebrated by the SCDSB and other districts across the province. It is a time for students, staff and families to celebrate excellence in teaching and learning as well as student achievement and success. Achievement extends beyond the week and we recognize our staff, students, families and community partners for making 'The Jungle Book' a success story. We are so very proud of this year's musical production. Also last week, our Grade 7 and 8 staff and students joined Elmvale District High School as well as other elementary schools to

break the Guinness World Record for the largest game of 'knock out' basketball.

Congratulations, this is very exciting! Next week, we also recognize Mental Health Awareness and Well Being. Well-being is a key component to increased student achievement and success. How our students feel about school is very important to us. Our school community is diverse and we work hard to provide a safe, equitable, inclusive and supportive environment at Birchview Dunes.

The EQAO Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics will take place at the end May. This provincial assessment involves students in Grade 3 and 6. Questions and

activities are completed by students and the information gathered is used to assess student achievement and to recommend teaching strategies that can be used to meet student needs. Increased student achievement and success are essential for life-long learning.

Thanks to our School Council and fundraising initiatives, our school mascot will be revealed this week! Watch for our mascot at school activities and special events in the near future!

The weather forecast is favourable and suggests that spring is finally here. We kindly remind students to come prepared for the better weather. Sun protection is recommended as well as keeping hydrated, especially at our upcoming Track and Field meets.

Respectfully,

Mr. Giffen

Around The School

Primary Play - The primary staff would like to thank our Parent Council, volunteers, community partners and all of our parents and families for their support of our Jungle Book production. It was greatly appreciated!

Water Bottles - Birchview water bottles are on sale. These environmentally friendly bottles come with a Birchview Blazers logo sticker and a label for your name. There are two colours to choose from: silver and black at the cost of \$5 each. One bottle per student. So bring in your \$5 and get your Birchview Blazers bottle, and say goodbye to single use drink containers and hello to a healthier environment.

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Kindergarten Orientation is May 23 at 4:30PM to 5:30PM at Birchview Dunes. Please make sure your new student is registered prior to this date.

Register Now for Before and After School Programs for September 2018

Register now for child care at our school next school year. Your child's space in the program for September 2018 will be considered a priority if completed registration forms have been submitted to the child care operator by **June 30, 2018**. Please contact the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka at 705-429-5999 to register your child(ren).

Daycare Arrangements

When arranging daycare, please keep in mind that BOTH the student and the daycare must live within the Birchview Dunes bus zone. If more information is required, please contact the school.

Summer Child Care Options Available

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 old. 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 – click on 'Schools' then 'Before & After School Care.'

Mansfield Trip Update

All grade six students will be going on a three day and two night camping adventure in June to Mansfield Outdoor Centre. Full payment was due at the end of April. Dietary, health, and packing list concerns can be addressed when paper work is sent home in the middle of May. A reminder that cabin selection will take place on Friday, May 25. Students and staff are looking forward to a great camping adventure.

Mr. Osborn, Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Major, and Mrs. Duits

Gifted Screening Process

Some children who display an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential.

In consultation with parents, the school staff determines who these students are through the gifted screening process.

Parents of a student who will be in or above Grade 3 in the September 2018 who wish the school to consider their child for screening are asked to contact Jen Sims before June 8, 2018.

The gifted screening process consists of three components:

1. A Teacher Rating Scale;
2. A Parent Questionnaire;

3. Standardized test results (usually the Otis Lennon School Ability Test)

After signing a permission form, parents/legal guardian will complete the Parent Questionnaire. Information obtained from this questionnaire will help the school gain a better understanding of your child's early development as well as his/her strengths, interests, needs and abilities, which the standardized test may not identify. The teacher will complete a Rating Scale, which examines areas such as learning, motivation, creativity and leadership, which he/she has observed in the classroom. Group testing will be completed and the results will provide a standardized measure of school abilities. The information gathered from all three components will assist the school in programming for your child.

If you require information about the gifted screening process, please contact the school.

Parents Invited to Information Session about Special Education on May 16

The Simcoe County District School Board is hosting a series of information sessions for parents/guardians to learn about special education and how to support students with special education needs. The last session takes place this month:

Date: May 16

Time: 6 to 7 p.m.

Location: SCDSB Education Centre, 1170 Highway 26, Midhurst

Topic: Understanding Alternative/Non-Academic Individual Education Plan (IEP) Goals

No registration is required. You can also join this session from home via Google Meet using this link: meet.google.com/zfg-egau-wgp.

Those joining via Google Meet will need to 'mute' while watching the session to avoid audio feedback. Parents are welcome to type in questions using the chat option in Google Meet during the event.

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. 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/.

School's in for the Summer at SCDSB

Are you and your child planning their courses for next school year? Looking for a way to create flexibility in their timetable and earn a credit? Consider summer school! Each year, the SCDSB offers a variety of summer programs to over 2,000 students. Summer school options include open, college and university level courses from Grades 9 to 12. Courses are offered in-person or online. Interested students can also travel and earn credits with the summer EduTravel program. Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at www.thelearningcentres.com. Current SCDSB students should speak to their guidance counsellor for information and to register. Register now so that your summer school choices align with course selection for next year!

Skilled Trades Expo on May 17

The Simcoe County District School Board's Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and partners are hosting the Simcoe Muskoka Skilled Trades Exposition on May 17. There are two parts to the event – a day session for Grade 8 students only and an evening portion open to the public. From 5 to 7 p.m., the public is welcome to attend to speak to employers and industry experts. The Expo takes place at the Elmvalle Community Arena, located at 14 George St. in Elmvalle. For more information, email edo@simcoe.ca.

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Stay Safe in the Sun

It only takes one bad sunburn in childhood to increase the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. As the weather gets warmer, follow these sun safety tips to keep you and your family safe:

- use a broad spectrum sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher and SPF 15 lip balm
- apply sunscreen 20-30 minutes before going outside (even on cloudy days) and always follow the label instructions
- apply sunscreen to any exposed areas of skin – nose, ears, back of neck, tops of feet, etc.
- reapply sunscreen every 2-3 hours and after sweating or swimming
- wear loose, long sleeved shirts and pants, a large-brimmed hat and sunglasses
- if possible, avoid being in the sun between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- when you're outside, look for shade

For more sun safety tips, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a public health nurse.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Summer Camp can be a life-changing experience

According to a recent study from the University of Waterloo, the positive development that children and youth experience at summer camp results in sustained behavioural changes at home, school and in the community. Friendships blossom, self-confidence emerges and independence grows – helping children and teens build resilience to help them face new challenges throughout their lives. Here are four life skills fostered at summer camp:

- **Increased independence and self-confidence** – Camp is the perfect place for kids to practice making decisions for themselves without parents and teachers guiding their every move.
- **Making new friends and being part of a positive group** – Free from the social expectations pressuring them at school, camp encourages kids to relax and make friends easily.
- **Increased environmental awareness** – When children are connected to their environment, they are healthier and happier. Summer camp provides kids with the opportunity to “unplug” from technology and enrich their perception of the world, while enjoying the great outdoors.
- **Improved attitudes towards physical activity** – Children spend so much time indoors these days and mostly sitting down. A recent Statistics Canada study found that only seven per cent of youth aged six to 19 got the recommended hour a day of exercise they need. Summer camp is a great way for kids to get outside and move.

The benefits of camp are plenty – from life lessons beyond the classroom to appreciating nature and building confidence and leadership skills. Learn more about the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka camps at YMCASummerCamp.Ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka