

BIRCHVIEW DUNES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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

February 2018 Newsletter

February Character Trait: Inclusiveness

"Studies show that trees live longer when they are not cut down!" Can you please help us reduce our paper use and provide your email address, if you have not already done so. This monthly newsletter and other correspondence will come directly to your phone, laptop or home computer! Yes, I would I like to receive electronic school information.

Student Name: _____

My email address is: _____

"PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE"



"DUNES DATES"

Feb. 1 - 23	Cross Country Skiing for Grades 4 - 8
Feb. 5	School Council Meeting 6 pm
Feb. 7	Operations Day
Feb. 9	Dunes Colours/Character Assembly 1:35 pm
Feb. 14	Red, White and Pink Day and Valentines Dance
Feb. 15	Caribou Math Grade 5 - 8
Feb. 16	Report Cards Home
Feb. 16 - 19	Snowman Mania in Wasaga Beach
Feb. 19	Family Day
Feb. 21	Ski Races - Midland
Feb. 21 - 22	Science Fair
Feb. 22	Grade 8 Grad Photos
Feb. 27	Area Int. Boys Basketball at Jean Vanier/Admiral
Feb. 27	Area Int. Girls Volleyball at SCI/Clearview Meadows
Feb. 28	Dunes Colours/Character Assembly 9:15 am

Bus Cancellation Information for Parents

Our school has moved to an automated safe arrival system. The first parent/guardian listed in the student file will receive an automated call on days when buses are cancelled if their child isn't at school. The recording will tell you that you DO NOT need to call the school back if you know your child is safe. You must listen to the complete message and follow the prompts to avoid the system calling you again.

Please note that if your child has attended school they will need to be picked up and signed out at the gym at the end of the day. All information regarding cancelled buses in

Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's bus information website at

www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca.

Our school is in the **WEST** zone. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted.

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> For school event cancellations in case of inclement weather, follow our school's Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/BirchviewDunes> or listen to your local radio station for event cancellation information.

The Principal of the Matter...

Birchview Cares about safety. Safety is our right and our responsibility. Each morning, outdoor supervision is provided from 8:40 until the morning bell rings at 8:55. Students are not expected on the schoolyard before this time. The school parking lot is reserved for staff, volunteers or those attending a scheduled meeting. Our student drop off area is well marked with pylons. Mrs. Mortimer and I are outside to assist. Please drive up to the marked area first before allowing your child(ren) to leave your vehicle instead of walking through the parking lot. Students who ride school vehicles are dismissed each day at 3:10. As soon as school vehicles are ready to leave, they will be given the right of way from the front driveway to keep to schedule. Students who walk home or who are picked up are dismissed at 3:15. Although outdoor supervision is provided from 3:15 to 3:25, all students are expected to leave the school yard in a safe and respectful manner, without delay. Together, we cooperate with and care for each other. Thank you for your ongoing support and assistance with this school responsibility.

Mr. Giffen and Mrs. Mortimer

Around the School

Parking - Please note that the small parking lot at the west side of the school is reserved strictly for the YMCA Childcare. Thank you for your co-operation.

Science Fair - Many junior students have been working hard at creating projects for the Birchview Dunes ES Science Fair. The fair will be held on February 21 and 22 in our school. Good luck to all participants.

High School Transition Meetings - Transition meetings for High School for Students on an IEP will take place at Birchview with CCI on Tues. Feb. 13th. A letter has gone home with the student to ask if the parent can attend. Any questions please call Ms. Winstone (SERT). 705-429-2551

Caribou Math - Next test will be on Thurs. Feb. 15th, Grades 7/8 at 11:15; Grades 5/6 at 1:35.

Popcorn Sales – Every Friday at second break popcorn will be for sale at a \$1.00/bag; flavours are dill pickle, white cheddar and kettle

corn. Proceeds will go towards grade eight graduation.

Transportation - As a school community, we work together to ensure safe and appropriate student behaviour on all school vehicles. At this time, we ask for your assistance and support. Every student is expected to be respectful and responsible while riding school vehicles. We all expect the following behaviour from your child(ren):

-Students remain seated on the school bus.

-Students keep their hands and feet to themselves on the school bus.

-Students use kind and polite language on the school bus.

-Students remain calm, quiet and in control on the school bus.

-Students respect the personal belongings and the property of others.

Should your child(ren) demonstrate unsafe and inappropriate behaviour on the school bus, the school bus driver will issue a "Student Behaviour Report." You will be made aware. Repeated incidents will be subject to a review of strategies, consequences and transportation privileges. Please note that transportation privileges could be suspended for a period of time. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and assistance.

School Council

We give our thanks and gratitude to School Council Co-Chair Victoria DiBiase for her dedication and her commitment to our school community. Victoria has stepped down as a member of our council. In her role last year as Chair, and this year as Co-Chair with Brett Bartle, Victoria was instrumental in working with others to plan, organize and participate in many initiatives that make our school a better place. Thanks to our School Council's effort and enthusiasm, we now have a state of the art video and sound system in our gym, we continue to give back to our community with the 12 Days of Christmas Giving, we celebrate our accomplishments and work together to be a safe, supportive and accepting school. Thank you, Victoria for your role in our success. At our January School Council Meeting, Darlene Schwan was nominated and acclaimed as our next School Council Co-Chair. Together with Brett Bartle, Darlene will continue to lead the way for our accomplished School Council. Welcome, and thank you Darlene.

Breakfast Club

Thanks to all of our Breakfast Club volunteers who spend their morning making healthy

breakfasts for students. If you would like to help out please contact the office.

School's in for the Summer at the 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.learningcentres.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!

Parents Invited to Information Sessions 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.

Feb. 26

Transition Planning Grade 8 to 9

March 19

Accessing Supports in the Community

April 16

Understanding Alternative/Non-Academic IEP Goals

All sessions take place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the SCDSB Education Centre, located at 1170 Highway 26 in Midhurst. No registration required.

Kindergarten Registration

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2014? If so, it's time to register them for Kindergarten! Elementary schools are now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and immunization records. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.

Operations Appreciation Day – a chance to say "Thank you"

Feb. 7 is Operations Appreciation Day in the Simcoe County District School Board. We celebrate and recognize our custodians and operations maintenance employees for the great work they do every day to keep our schools safe and clean. We'd like to say thanks to Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Wedge, Mr. Parish and Mr. Neil.

Walking to School is Great for Students

Walking to school is a great way for your child to get the 60 minutes of daily physical activity that's needed for good mental and physical health. It also builds responsibility and independence, and helps them feel more connected to the community. More walkers means less traffic around our school, which helps keep students safe and improve outdoor air quality. Even one day a week of walking to school can make a big difference! To find out more about how to support active and safe routes to school through School Travel Planning, visit www.saferoutestoschool.ca/school-travel-planning.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Life with kids is messy – and that's OK!

Influenza (the flu) is a serious respiratory illness caused by a virus. Anyone can get influenza but young children, those over 65 and people who are pregnant or who have chronic medical conditions are more vulnerable and at higher risk of complications like pneumonia. By getting your shot you are protecting yourself as well as those around you. Flu shots are available at many pharmacies and from health care providers throughout Simcoe Muskoka. Protect yourself, protect your family – get the flu shot! For more information, contact Health Connection at 1877-721-7520 or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

National Engineering Month Competition takes place March 3, 2018

Students in Grades 5 to 8 are invited to submit a model bridge, catapult or grabber for the National Engineering Month (NEM) event. Models will be tested for design, strength, quality of construction and functionality. Students of any age are invited to attend to check out 3D printers and robots, Raspberry Pi

computer coding demos, crystal radio construction and CNC machine coding. The event takes place on March 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Eastview Secondary School (421 Grove St. E. in Barrie). Lunch will be provided. This event is jointly organized by the Georgian Bay Chapter of OACETT and Simcoe-Muskoka Chapter of PEO, under the banner of NEM Ontario. For more information and to register for this free event, visit <https://nemsimcoe.wixsite.com/nemsimcoe>.

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 or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-7217520.

Update Your Child's Immunization Record

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is required to keep up-to-date immunization records for all students who attend elementary or secondary school in the County of Simcoe and the District of Muskoka. Parents are responsible for reporting immunizations to the health unit each time their child receives a vaccine from their health care provider. The immunizations that the health unit requires records for include: diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal, pertussis and varicella (chickenpox) for those born in 2010 or later.

It's easy to update your child's immunization status. Go to www.smdhu.org/immsonline to update your child's record or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 (toll free).

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

The Benefits of Youth Leadership Development

There are many reasons why developing youth leadership skills at a young age is important – it builds confidence, perseverance, problem-solving and communication skills. While leadership skills can come naturally, children and youth often learn lessons through life experiences that significantly impact them later in life. Here are some ways you can help your child develop leadership skills at a young age:

- encourage outdoor adventures and education
- enrol in camps
- find volunteer and community service opportunities

For more information about the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka Youth Leadership Development Programs and Outdoor Education, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY ♥