

BIRCHVIEW DUNES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Administrative Team: M. Giffen and M. Mortimer
Office Team: M. MacDonald, G. Loverock
Superintendent: J. Kavanagh **Trustee:** R. North

Website: <http://bir.scdsb.on.ca>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BirchviewDunes>

October 2017 Newsletter

October Character Trait: **Co-operation**

Our School Newsletter:

The school newsletter is on the website, but we thought we would try the hard copy for the first couple of months to see if school information reaches more families. The normal distribution of our newsletter is the last Thursday of the month. If you would prefer not to receive this or would like it electronically, see information below.

"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"

| | |
|------------|--|
| October 2 | School Council Meeting 6:00 pm Library |
| October 3 | Character Through Sport Assembly 1:35 |
| October 4 | Grades- 4-8 Cross Country Run Klondike Park |
| October 5 | Photo Day |
| October 6 | Terry Fox Run |
| October 7 | Birchview Terry Fox Fundraiser at Grandma's Beach Treats |
| October 11 | Area Cross Country Meet Blueberry Trails |
| October 12 | Dunes Assembly 1:35 |
| October 16 | Area Flag Football Klondike Park |
| October 17 | County Cross Country Mount St. Louis-Moonstone |
| October 18 | Caribou Math Grade 5-8 |
| October 18 | Bus Driver Appreciation Day |
| October 19 | Spirit Day-Sports Theme |
| October 24 | County Flag Football Midhurst |
| October 24 | Grade 7 Hep B |
| October 31 | Orange, Purple and Black Day |

Around the School

The Principal of the Matter ...

On behalf of Mrs. Melissa Mortimer, our Vice Principal I welcome our staff, students and families back to Birchview Dunes Elementary School for another exciting year. At our school, we believe in a team approach to learning and teaching. We are better together and every student matters. At Birchview Dunes Elementary School, our goal is to provide a safe, supported, inclusive and equitable learning and teaching environment. To help students meet potential and achieve success, we have created 5 important school responsibilities. Together, we come to school on time, prepared and ready to learn. Together, we listen to and learn from each other. Together, we respect ourselves and each other. Together, we

cooperate with and care for each other. Together, trust each other and treat each other in a kind and polite way. Thank you for attending our Community Open House 2017 and our thanks to our School Council for helping make this event, one of many to come this school year, happen. As we prepare to recognize the Thanksgiving Weekend, we give thanks to you, our families, for your support and dedication to our school community.

Respectfully,

Mr. Giffen

Instagram – Please remember to follow us on Instagram to see what's happening around the school! @birchviewdunes

Forms to be returned – Your child's verification form has been sent home. Please ensure you make any corrections/additions or deletions right

on the form and send it back to your child's homeroom teacher along with Permissions and Acknowledgement and Computer Use forms.

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, 2017 who wish the school to consider their child for screening are asked to contact Jen Sims before October 6, 2017.

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.

Want to Volunteer – Current volunteers who do not submit an Annual Offence Declaration for Volunteers on or before December 31, 2017, will be deleted from the database on January 1, 2018, and will have to submit a new Criminal Records Check and Vulnerable Sector Screen. Annual offence declarations are available in the office. Please see the office for more information or if you have questions about volunteering in our school.

Terry Fox Run-Walk - This year's Terry Fox run will take place at Birchview Dunes on Friday October 6th. Our school has been busy collecting donations and selling Terry Fox t-shirts. Our goal this year is to raise \$3500. If our school raises that amount, M. Brooks has kindly agreed to cut his hair and donate it to Angel Hair for Kids. We are well on our way to reaching our goal and have already surpassed our total from last year. You can still have your child drop off donations to their teacher until October 5th, or donate online through the Terry Fox website

www.terryfox.ca/BirchviewDunesESWasagaBeachON, and through our own School Cash Online System. T-shirts can also be purchased through both sites for \$15 for children and \$20 for adults. We will also have a spot to collect donations and t-shirt orders at the Meet the Teacher night. Also, our school will be having a fundraising event at Grandma's Beach Treats on Saturday October 7th with \$1 dollar from every ice cream going towards our Terry Fox Fundraising this year. So please come out and support our school on October 7th Birchview.

Milk Program - Milk- which is your favorite- chocolate or white? Good news, we have both flavours! Coupons are always available in the office or on School Cash. You get 27 coupons for \$20.00, still an unbelievable price for a very healthy choice. Milk will be available for **all grades** during the **second nutrition break only**.

Pizza Program – This year we will be serving Domino's Pizza every Wednesday. Tickets can be purchased in the office or on School Cash. The price remains the same as in previous years, 10 coupons for \$20.00 for either cheese or pepperoni.

Birchview Book Fair – This annual event will be held September 27 through to October 2 and will be available to all parents at the school Open House.

Craft Club - The Grade Three Craft Club is looking for donations of craft materials. We would love any donation of new or gently used items. Yarn, popsicle sticks, pom poms, recycled greeting cards, gift wrap, coloured papers, glue, feathers, stickers, fabric, thread, needles etc, etc, etc. If you think of something that you think might work, please let Mrs. Emond know. Any donations can be dropped off to the office and Mrs. Emond will collect them from there. Happy Crafting and Thanks for your support!

Caribou Math - The first Caribou Math Contest date will be Wed. Oct. 18th. Students in grades 5-8 will be notified by their teacher if they are participating in the 6 contest dates throughout the year. Remember there are practice tests on the website.

School Council

BDES Community Open House September 28th– This is a School Council sponsored event with various community partners/agencies with information displays along with activity stations. Wasaga Youth Grill Tent will be set up and there will be opportunity to meet the teachers and visit the classrooms.

The next School Council Meeting will be on Monday, October 2 in the library, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. For more information please contact the school at 705-429-2551.

Procedures help keep our school safe

The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place

to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations

Parents should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off.
- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites (www.facebook.com/SCDSB and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (www.scdsb.on.ca), through local police and local media.
- All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.
- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** to enter the building. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, please be patient.** All visitors, including school volunteers, are required to **sign in** at the school office and wear **visitor identification**.
- Staff and volunteers must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All Simcoe County District School Board schools

have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

When parents are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Student Dress Code

Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive, and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at www.scdsb.on.ca. If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact the principal or the SCDSB Equity and Inclusive Education Team at 705-728-7570.

School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place Oct. 16 to 20. To support schools in promoting school bus safety to students, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC), in partnership with school bus operators, will offer bus evacuation training to all home-to-school transported students. During this week, school bus drivers will educate students on how to evacuate a school bus safely in an emergency situation.

Wed., Oct. 18 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in the province of Ontario. It's a great opportunity for the school community to thank our bus drivers for all their hard work transporting students to and from school safely. For more information, visit the SCSTC website at main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/.

New Path Offering Child and Youth Mental Health Walk in Clinics

In response to the increasing wait times for child and youth mental health services, and the increased need for such services, New Path has undertaken a service redesign that will provide more timely and responsive services to children, youth and families in Simcoe County. New Path now offers Child and Youth Mental Health Walk-In Clinics in five office locations throughout Simcoe County: Bradford, Alliston, Barrie, Collingwood and Orillia.

Children, youth and families requesting service from New Path no longer need to call and complete an intake; they can simply attend one of the local Walk-In Clinics and will receive a single session intervention that day. Should children or youth require further service, New Path will continue to offer a wide variety of community and school-based services as well as residential service and women's service. For further information, including the clinic locations, days and hours, visit www.newpath.ca or contact New Path's central intake department at 705-725-7656.

If you have not already done so, be sure to sign up for School Cash Online. This is our preferred method of payment for all school fundraising including lunch days and field trips. School Cash Online allows you to pay with your debit or credit card. Follow these steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com or from our school website click on "Pay Fees"
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through echeck or credit card

The School Cash Parent Helpdesk is available 24/7 to help you with registration, password recoveries or any other payment issues. Call the helpdesk at 1-866-961-1803 or email parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com.

Parent Portal Online Tool

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and grades and includes the option to sign up for email notifications. To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's SCDSB Pupil ID Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID will be provided in a sealed letter this fall with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, you can visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

Pay for Field Trips, Pizza or Milk etc with School Cash Online

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees"
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

It's safe, fast and convenient. Contact the office with any questions.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 8-14: Every Second Counts: Plan Two Ways Out

Fire Prevention Week runs from Oct. 8 to 14. This year's theme is "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" Smoke and fire spread fast. There's no time to figure out how to escape AFTER a fire starts. All households should have working smoke alarms and practice a home fire escape plan with everyone in the family BEFORE there's a fire. Find out more at: www.nfpa.org/fpw.

LGBTQI2S

The Gilbert Centre is offering a new drop-in and social program for LGBTQI2S identified youth to connect, explore and learn. Meetings take place on the first and third Friday of every month from 5-7 p.m. at 80 Bradford Street in Barrie. For more information, please call Ve Tao, Youth Support Worker at 705-722-6778 x109, visit lgbtyouth.ca or email vet@gilbertcentre.ca.

Translating Legal Issues for Frontline Workers and Members of the Trans Community

The Gilbert Centre, in partnership with The Community Legal Clinic, The Law Foundation of Ontario, and The Mediation Centre, is offering training on navigating human rights and the law for transgender people in Simcoe County. Topics will include trans inclusivity training, human rights, housing, employment, income support and family law. Register at www.gilbertcentre.ca/translating-legal-issues/. The training is offered in Collingwood Oct. 12 to 13.

Active and Safe Routes to School

Walking or cycling to school is a great way to help your child get the 60 minutes of recommended daily physical activity. It also teaches them to be aware of their own safety, builds responsibility and independence, and helps them to feel more connected to the community. And it's good for their physical and mental health!

More walkers also means less car traffic around our school, which will help keep students safe and improve outdoor air quality too. Committing to even one day a week of walking or cycling to school can make a big difference!

To find out more about the recommendations for physical activity and how to make Active and Safe Routes to School happen in your school community, visit www.saferoutestoschool.ca.

Reminder from the Health Unit: School Grounds are Smoke Free 24/7

Protect yourself and your children from the health hazards of secondhand smoke. Remember, it is against the law to smoke ANYWHERE on school property at ANY TIME. This includes smoking in your vehicle while picking up or dropping off students. It is also against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco in a vehicle carrying anyone under age 16. The fine for ignoring the law is \$250. For more information contact the Simcoe Muskoka District

Health Unit 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Eye See...Eye Learn Program Offers Free Glasses for Junior Kindergarten Students

The *Eye See...Eye Learn* program provides comprehensive eye exams by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten (JK) students. The eye exams are covered under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) when parents show their child's health card. There is no out-of-pocket cost for the eye exam and if the child requires a pair of glasses, they will receive them free of charge courtesy of a participating optometrist. For more information, visit www.Eyeseeyelearn.ca.

Free Dental Care for Children under 18 from Healthy Smiles Ontario

Free dental service is available to your child through Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Healthy Smiles Dental Clinic in Barrie, or on the dental bus that visits many communities across Simcoe Muskoka throughout the year, as long as you qualify for the program. To find out if your child qualifies or to book an appointment, call the health unit (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) oral health team at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, extension 8818. Healthy Smiles Ontario is a government-funded program that provides free dental care for children and youth 17 years old and under from low-income households. This dental program provides free preventative, routine and emergency dental services.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

October is International Walk to School Month

Did you know that October is International Walk to School month? It's a great way for children to get their recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day and also gives parents and staff a chance to be part of a worldwide event that celebrates the many benefits of walking. Here are some ideas:

- Encourage your child to walk or cycle to and from school if you live close by and team up with others to make the trip more fun
- If you usually drive your child to school, try getting them to walk part of the way
- If your child takes the bus, walking to and from the bus stop is a great way to add physical activity minutes into the day

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Healthy Classroom Celebrations

Classroom and school celebrations are great opportunities for children to practice the healthy eating messages they learn in the classroom. Help teach the importance of healthy eating by choosing

healthy foods to send in the next time your child's class is celebrating. Here are some ideas:

- Send a tray of watermelon slices, orange slices, apples or fruit kabobs
- Make homemade mini muffins with whole wheat flour and grated carrots or apple
- Send a tray of whole grain crackers, cubes of lower fat cheese and grapes
- Send a veggie platter - get creative by arranging it in fun shapes
- Prepare chocolate dipped strawberries for a sweet treat

Looking for more information to help keep you and your family healthy? Call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 to speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Tips for a Healthy Halloween

The month of October is upon us and that means Halloween is just around the corner! For many children, this can be an exciting time of year as they get their costumes ready and their buckets out to fill with candy! Halloween can also be a tough time for parents to keep their kids' diets healthy and balanced. Here are some helpful 'tricks' to help you and your family have a healthy Halloween this year!

- Walk door to door when trick or treating. It will burn calories and also tire the kids out – potentially limiting the amount of houses you will hit before the end of the night. Try making a competition out of who can walk the most steps.
- Plan a party. Make the focus of your party fun activities instead of sugary treats. Include Halloween games such as a costume or dance contest, or pumpkin carving.
- Trade the candy collected for non-edible treats like books, small toys or arts and crafts materials. You can also consider offering to buy back some of the candy, providing your kids with some extra spending money as a reward.
- Before your kids venture out in their costumes, make sure they eat a healthy meal.

Visit your local YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka for some fun Halloween activities for the whole family to enjoy!

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka (www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)