



BIRCHVIEW DUNES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1315 River Rd W., Wasaga Beach, ON, L9Z 2W6

Office: (705) 429 -2551 | Safe Arrival—Dial 1

Website: <http://bir.scdsb.on.ca> Twitter @BirchviewDunes

Bus Cancellation Zone: West



COURAGE ~ We do the right thing even when it's difficult.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

These are some crazy times we are in right now, some families have lost jobs, others may have higher health risks, some may just be nervous of all these changes. But that doesn't mean we can't get out with our families and enjoy the county we live in! AND fun doesn't always have to break the bank, here are a few ideas for free family adventures around our local area.

As of November 14th, through December 25th, the Village at Blue Mountain will be a-glow with their 1 kilometre winter lights and sounds trail. This is a free installation and if you've never been before, it is magical! Parent tip: with the sun setting earlier, pop over after dinner and check it out on a week night for less crowds! Bundle up, wear your masks and follow the arrows for a free, fun and safe magical family adventure!

We are also lucky enough to be surrounded by a number of provincial parks that offer some great trail systems to take your family on a walk or hike through, enjoy fresh air, exercise and family time. Blueberry Trails, Pretty River Valley, Nottawasaga Lookout, etc. These are non-operating parks, which means no staff or facilities, so visit with a plan on where to "go" when you have to, and take garbage home with you. Stay on marked trails, use-at-your-own risk. Pack water, snacks, wear good shoes and enjoy the nature our area offers!

OR...You could have some fun at home, decorate for the holidays with your kids, bake yummy treats, play some family games and snuggle up for a movie night with popcorn or DIY sundaes! Then take a walk/drive around town later in November to check out all the pretty lights and decked out houses.

Whatever you choose, have some fun, stay safe, healthy and enjoy this time with your kids, making memories they'll remember for years to come!

P.S. Our highly successful 12 Days of Christmas Giving Food Drive is coming back for it's 6th year, and it will mean more than it has in past years with the times we are facing! So keep your eyes on your inbox later in November to find out how we are adapting in order to continue helping those in need this holiday season!

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Principal: Mrs. M. Mortimer

Vice Principal: Mrs. L. Saunders

Office Team: Mrs. G. Maguire-Loverock,

Ms. J. Dallman & Mrs. P. Deschenes

November Days of awareness and recognition

November Financial Literacy Month

November November

Nov. 1-7 Canadian Down Syndrome Week

Nov. 2-6 Treaties Recognition Week

Nov. 11 Remembrance Day

Nov. 13 World Kindness Day

Nov. 15-21 Bullying Awareness Week

Nov. 20 Trans Day of Remembrance
P.A. Day

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
POPPY CAMPAIGN**

The SCDSB has a time-honoured relationship with our local Royal Canadian Legions through the annual poetry and poster competitions and the annual poppy campaign. For the 2020-2021 year, it is our intention to once again support the poppy campaign. Due to the health and safety protocols in place, we will not be collecting cash donations from students. Instead, families interested in making their own donations can do so by visiting the Royal Canadian Legion's poppy campaign at www.legion.ca/remembrance/the-poppy. Donations can also be made through your School Cash Online account.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND BUS CANCELLATION INFORMATION REMINDER

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'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. 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](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

In The Event of Inclement Weather : Listen to local radio stations or subscribe to the **SCTSC app** to find out information on bus cancellations. When buses have been cancelled you will receive a phone message from Safe Arrival. In the message it will say:
"Hello, this is an important Safe Arrival message from Birchview Dunes Elementary School. Please listen to the entire message, then press 1 to acknowledge or press * to repeat. If you do not press 1 to acknowledge, you may receive additional calls. Although the school remains open, school buses have been cancelled due to inclement weather. You are receiving this call because one or more students in this household is absent from Birchview Dunes Elementary School, on <<Absent Date>> **Do not call the school unless you believe your child should be at school.**

To access safe arrival for Birchview Dunes Elementary School, call 705-429-2551. Press Option 1 for the safe arrival line. Press 1 to acknowledge you have received this message. Press * to repeat this message. Thank you."

COVID-19 SELF-ASSESSMENT

All students and staff will be expected to self-screen prior to attending school each day, using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit the [SMDHU website](#)



November 20th is our third annual Eat Well to Excel Day in Simcoe County!

We need your help! COVID-19 has affected how Student Nutrition Programs are being offered in schools throughout Simcoe County. The grab and go requirements to keep the students safe means that it is harder and more expensive to source food items for the programs.

Here's how you can support an Eat Well to Excel program in your area:

DONATE via www.eatwelltoexcel.ca - click on Donate now button (a printable tax receipt will be issued). Include the school's name in the comment box if you want to support a specific school. If no school is identified, the funds will be used to support the purchase of equipment and food for schools with high needs.

JOIN the EWTE partnership committee. We want to hear from you. To find out more, inquire at www.eatwelltoexcel.ca, under Volunteers.

For more information, Contact us at <http://eatwelltoexcel.ca/contact-us/>

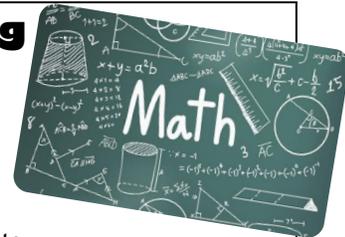
Eat Well to Excel, the Simcoe County Nutrition Program for School-Age Children is a non-profit community partnership that supports volunteer run Student Nutrition Programs in over 185 schools/programs (including elementary and secondary schools, learning centres and alternative programs) in Simcoe County.

Treaties Recognition Week takes place Nov. 2 to 6

Did you know we are ALL treaty people? Treaties Recognition Week was introduced in 2016 to honour the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships. Take some time this week to learn about the treaty in your area. To learn more about the treaties and how we can honour them, visit www.ontario.ca/page/treaties

mPower: supporting your child's math learning

Are you looking for a way to provide extra math practice for your child at home, in a fun and engaging format? [TVO mPower](https://www.tvompower.com) is a free digital tool that includes 65+ online games to support the mastery of tough-to-learn math concepts.



TVO mPower's goals are:

1. To provide Ontario students with opportunities to practice important math skills and to foster positive attitudes towards math by making learning fun and engaging
2. To show students that math is everywhere by connecting math games to the big ideas in science and social studies
3. To support students to develop 21st century global competencies by integrating skills such as metacognition, problem solving, creativity and citizenship

TVO mPower is:

1. Ontario curriculum-based: Aligns with the Ontario mathematics, science and technology and social studies curricula while also supporting the development of global competencies
2. Learner-centred: Tracks student progress and responds to learners' needs
3. Assessment-driven: Includes teacher dashboard and educator resources
4. Tested and trusted: Developed in partnership with Ontario educators and students
5. Free: Always free for Ontario students and educators - and now for Ontario families
6. Safe and advertising-free
7. Available for desktop and laptop computers and iPad tablets

Visit [tvompower.com](https://www.tvompower.com) for more information.



"ALL THE READING
she had done
had given her
A VIEW OF LIFE
they had
never seen."

—Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

Grade 1 French Immersion information

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1.

The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations. Historically, in-person Grade 1 FI Family Information Nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, due to restrictions to large-group public gatherings, in-person Family Information Nights will not be held. In lieu of this, an information page on the board's public website has been created to allow families the ability to access and learn about the program and the application process.

The online Grade 1 FI application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020 until 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020. In Grade 1, enrollment in the FI Program is limited to a maximum of two classes of 20 students per class at each host site for the FI program. The electronic applications will be processed in the order determined by a digitally randomized lottery system.

Please note that the host sites for FI may change during your child's time in the program, and your child may need to move schools. This may also include splitting the program between two different sites.



Keeping kids healthy and active National health guidelines recommend that children and youth (aged 5-17) have high levels of physical activity, low levels of sedentary behavior and sufficient sleep each day for a balanced lifestyle. Here are three easy tips to help your kids stay healthy and active: Get more sleep – Getting the recommended hours of sleep each night can go a long way in ensuring everyone in your family has the proper energy to take on the next day. More sleep means better ability to get moving and think more clearly!

Practice relaxation – Mental health is just as important as physical health. Now more than ever, we are realizing the important connection between the mind and body in our overall wellbeing. Providing yourself and your kids with a small amount of relaxation or 'time out' every day – even just 15 minutes – can improve your health dramatically. Try doing a virtual family yoga class to reduce stress and clear the mind!

Get active together – When you're active with your kids, it sends them an important message about healthy living. Get out for a walk, play outside or do a family workout from the comfort of your home. It's always more fun to exercise with a buddy!

Looking for ways to keep your children active and healthy while in a remote learning environment? YGym offers free virtual physical activities from YMCA certified fitness instructors for children of varying ages and abilities. Visit YMCAHome.ca/YGym for free virtual physical activities for children and youth, anywhere, anytime!

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) Clinical Services changes due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Vision screening: The SMDHU will not be offering the Vision Screening Program for JK/SK for the 2020-2021 school year. Eye exams are free, with an OHIP card, for children 19 years old and under. Visit the College of Optometrists of Ontario to find an optometrist near you.

Oral health: Oral health screening at school will be delayed this year. The SMDHU will be looking for an opportunity to offer this screening later in the year if possible.

Screening and fluoride varnish application continues to be available in our offices by appointment for children 17 years and under.

Immunization: The SMDHU will not be holding immunization clinics at your child's school during the 2020-2021 school year. We are planning to have school-based immunizations offered in the 2021-2022 school year for Grade 7 and 8 students.

For families of current Grade 8 students who have not completed their immunization series of Hepatitis B (HB), Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Menactra due to COVID-19, we are offering immunization clinics at our health unit offices throughout Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka. Immunization clinics start Nov. 2, 2020 and are by appointment only. No walk-ins will be immunized. Please call us at 1-877-721-7520 x8827 to book your child's appointment.

For more information on SMDHU clinical services for children, please contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

FlipGive

School Fundraising Made Easy!



Birchview Dunes Elementary School

**Shop Almost
anywhere &
Give Back to
Our Primary
Classes!**

Did you know that you can save time AND earn cash for the Primary Division on the things you are already buying? FlipGive is a fundraising program that all the Primary classes are using to raise money for school technology. Help us reach our goal by signing up for FlipGive today!

Brands on FlipGive pay Birchview a small commission to the school whenever you shop with them via the app or website. There are hundreds of stores to choose from! Give it a try today!

Join Our Team

Download the Flipgive App or visit www.flipgive.com/join to sign up. You will be asked to enter our unique team code to join our **Blazers group**.

Enter Your Team Code:

DMWFL2

