



The Bobcat News!

W.R. Best Memorial Public School * 2221 Old Barrie Road West, RR#2 Shanty Bay, ON L0L 2L0 - Tel: 705.728.9591

Website: <http://wrb.scdsb.on.ca>

Twitter: @WRBestPS

Bus Cancellation Zone: Central

December 2022

Principal: Heidi Cameron Armstrong

Superintendent: Susan Sidlofsky

Trustee: Liz Grummett

Important December Dates

December:

- Dec. 3 – Maun Agiyaras (Jainism)
- Dec. 4 – Chelsea Chocolate Orders Due
- Dec. 5 – School Council Mtg. 6:00 pm
- Dec. 6 – National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women
- Dec. 7 – Gr.8 Transition to Eastview
- Dec. 7 – Sanghamitta Day (Buddhism)
- Dec. 8 – Bodhi Day/Awakening Day (Buddhism)
- Dec. 9 – Kdgn. Holiday Concert (Snow date Dec. 13)
- Dec. 12 – Errol Lee Caring Concerts @ WRB
- Dec. 13 – Birthday of Imam Aga Khan (Islam)
- Dec. 14 – Science Olympics at Eastview
- Dec. 18-26 - Chanukah
- Dec. 21 – Yule/Winter Solstice
- Dec. 24 – Jan.8 – Holiday Break – School Closed
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Day
- Dec. 26 – Boxing Day
- Dec. 26 – Zarathoshy-no-diso (Zoroastrianism)

Important Upcoming dates:

- Jan. 1 – New Year’s Day
- Jan. 9 – Return to school
- Jan. 9 – School Council Mtg. 6:00 pm
- Jan. 27 – PA Day
- Feb. 17 – Report Cards go Home
- Feb. 20 – Family Day Holiday
- Mar. 13-17 – March Break

Principal’s Message

Thank you to our school community for your generosity during our theme basket fundraiser. This was the first year our school council organized a sealed bid auction, and we were overwhelmed by your support. Together, our school raised \$2802 for our General School Needs. This money will support a wide variety of classroom and school initiatives for student learning.

Winter is here, and we are fortunate at W.R. Best to have a large school yard and forest for student play and

learning. Please dress your child appropriately to be outside every day at school. All students are outside for a minimum of 40 minutes daily at recess, and often more with outdoor learning time. Please ensure your child has warm mitts/gloves, a hat, snowpants and boots (even for our older students!). An extra set of mitts and socks in your child’s backpack is also a good idea. Sometimes items go missing – so please label all your child’s belongings with a label or Sharpie marker to prevent items from ending up in our lost and found. If you are missing anything, please come and see our lost and found. We have a wide variety of sweatshirts and other clothing that is looking to be reunited with you!

December is the month we recognize many holiday traditions in our community. Our 2021-2022 SCDSB census results shared with us the rich diversity of traditions our students and staff celebrate including: Birthday of Imam Aga Khan; Bodhi Day/Awakening Day; Chanukah; Christmas; Kwanzaa; Maun Agiyaras; Sanghamitta Day; Winter Solstice; Yule; Zarathosht-no-diso (FC).

We would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

Volunteers Needed



Attention W.R. Best volunteers! We are in need of volunteer readers to help our kindergarten students on a weekly basis to practice their reading skills. If you are an approved SCDSB volunteer, and would like to help out, please contact Mrs. Joslin at kjoslin@scdsb.on.ca

School Council

School Council meetings are open to all parents and guardians each month and are held in the school library. This month’s meeting is Dec. 5th at 6:00 pm.



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Attending these meetings is a good way to keep up to date with events going on at our school. Our next meeting is January 9th, 2023 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

Hot Lunches are Available

Pasta, pizza and subs are available to order for our students via the Lunchbox program through SchoolCashOnline. Lunchbox is a convenient, online ordering platform featuring local vendors. An ordering calendar can be found on your SchoolCashOnline items page. The ordering calendar features the following options:

- Mondays: Pasta**
- Tuesdays: Pizza**
- Wednesdays: Subs**



How to Order:

1. Go to your SchoolCash Online account items page and click "ORDER NOW".
2. Confirm your child's account information including their new teacher and grade for the current school year. **Please ensure the correct teacher and grade are selected to prevent errors on delivery days.
3. Proceed with ordering your child's lunch on the school's ordering calendar by clicking on the blue date for the scheduled vendors.
4. All orders are submitted on the website and payment is processed on-line by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Debit MasterCard or Visa Debit. Visa and MasterCard prepaid cards are also accepted.

Things to Remember:

- Orders may be placed weekly, or in advance, for the full length of the program.
- The ordering deadline is Sunday at 12pm (NOON) for the upcoming delivery period.
- New orders will not be accepted after the Sunday deadline.
- If buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, and if there is a school closure, lunches will be cancelled and a credit will be issued within 3 business days.

Questions? Contact the Lunchbox Orders customer service team at 1-877-426-6860 or by e-mail at info@lunchboxorders.com

Christmas Cheer



It's that most wonderful time of year when Barrie and District Christmas Cheer begins organizing for the upcoming holiday season. W.R. Best will help collect non-perishable food items, diapers, books, mitts/hats/scarves, Canadian Tire money and new unwrapped toys for distribution to families in our

community who are in need. Donations can be placed under the tree in front of the office.

These are the most needed food products. Please check expiry dates:

Canned Foods: Meats, fish, soups, spaghetti/tomato sauce, veggies, beans, corn, fruit, pork and beans, stews, spaghetti or ravioli, puddings, canned dinners.

Packaged Foods: (Please no glass containers!) Boxed cereal, pasta, spaghetti or rice, (boxed not bagged), macaroni & cheese dinners, cake, brownie, cookie or muffin mixes, jello and puddings, dry soups and meals, candy.

Thank you for all of your donations to help families in need this holiday season!





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Chelsea Chocolates Holiday Fundraiser

*Holidays with
Chelsea Chocolates*

W.R. Best public school is fundraising with our local business Chelsea Chocolates. Please support both and order your Holiday Chocolates through us! Orders can be made here: <https://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com> Order Deadline: Sunday December 4th! Items will be available for pick up @ WR Best Dec 19th between 4-5:30pm and Dec 20th between 4-5:30pm or during school hours at the office

"Search. Follow the steps to open an account and you are ready to purchase gift cards!

Thank you for supporting our school fundraiser.

Mabel's Labels Fundraiser

mabel's labels FUNDRAISING

SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER

Get a head start this Holiday Season with Mabel's Labels Holiday collection! Get **10% OFF** until Oct 31!

NEW DESIGNS!

Go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com and choose our organization from the list! Then shop, and your personalized labels will ship directly to you with FREE shipping! Offer ends on Oct 31st, 2022. Sale excludes Holiday ornaments.

FundScrip Gift Card Fundraiser



Plastic/or electronic gift card options available

We would love it if our W.R. Best families would consider supporting our FundScrip Gift Card Program for your holiday shopping this year. By purchasing gift cards for the Christmas season, your everyday expenses and presents for friends and loved ones will benefit our community. Each gift card purchased automatically includes a donation to W.R. Best.

It's easy to use, just head over to [Fundscrip.com](https://fundscrip.com), click on "Support a Group", enter invitation code **9UBE2G** and click

Character Education

We continue to build good character at W.R. Best.

This month the focus is on Empathy.



We strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others.



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The Season of Giving

December marks the season of giving and is a great time to teach your little ones about the benefits of giving back to their community and others. Many people think the only way to help their community or support their favourite charitable cause is with a financial donation – think again! While financial donations are integral to non-profits, there are many other ways that you and your family can give back, make a difference in your community, and have fun – all at the same time!



Here are three ways your family can make a difference this giving season:

- **Volunteer as a family**
Volunteering is a great way to teach kids about empathy and compassion. It shows them that a simple act can make a big difference, and helps them practice valuable life skills. Start small, like spending an hour helping a neighbour, and work your way up to bigger commitments, like going to a shelter or animal rescue once a week. Some families pick a favourite project and make it a yearly tradition, like filling gift baskets for seniors around the holidays. You're never too young to help others!

- **Get crafty for a cause**
A fun way to get the whole family involved is to make arts and crafts to share with others. Many retirement homes and long-term care homes collect handmade cards, drawings, and crafts from the community to share with seniors during the holidays. This is a fun activity that lets kids be creative, and brings great joy to those receiving the handmade items.

- **Give old clothes or toys a second life**
Have your kids outgrown any of the items they used to love? Consider giving gently worn clothing or used toys a second life by donating them to a local nonprofit. Many shelters that support struggling families, refugees, or immigrants rely on clothing and toy donations. Have your family collect any items they want to donate, and explain to your little ones that their once loved items will be going to a new home to bring joy to other children that need it. Basic items that many of us take for granted can make a huge difference in a person's life.

Local charities, like the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, run on the generous support of individuals and families like yours. If you'd like to learn more about the ways you can give back to the YMCA, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca. No matter how you decide to give back to your community, you and your family can feel good knowing you are making a positive difference in the lives of others. Your giving changes lives!

High School Info for Grade 8 Students

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will take place in-person this winter! Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Learn about courses offered, as well as information about teams and clubs. Please visit the [SCDSB website](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) to find details on your high schools' info night, and contact the school directly for more information.

Grade 1 French Immersion Info

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.



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The SCDSB board-wide electronic applications for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will open Thursday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16. Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system.

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/Login.aspx>.

Ontario Ministry of Education Tutoring Services

The Ontario Ministry of Education is supporting tutoring services in schools and in the community until the end of March 2023. Schools offering after school tutoring services will advertise this service directly to parents/guardians. Community tutoring agencies provide free of charge tutoring to Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students after hours in the community and online. Contact information for community tutoring agencies can be found at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring_programs.

Tutoring is available to all SCDSB students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12. The SCDSB is also seeking members of the community to act as tutors in our schools during the school day. All candidates must apply through Apply to Education Posting #3361243. Candidates are required to be interviewed by SCDSB administration, provide professional references and complete a Vulnerable Sector Screen through their local police service. For more information, please email tutoring@scdsb.on.ca

End of Day Routines

Please do not telephone the school with last minute changes to transportation plans at the end of the school day, unless it is an emergency.

Make arrangements ahead of time, be organized, and please be considerate. We need your cooperation with this as the end of the day is extremely busy.

Kiss N' Ride

Our Kiss N' Ride is a busy place! Below is a reminder of our protocols to ensure that our Kiss N' Ride runs smoothly:

- Our Kiss N' Ride has a dedicated lane that is separate from our bus lanes
- When you come into the parking lot you will follow along the driveway to the far side of the building to pick up your child(ren); (please ensure that you are coming in/exiting the correct driveway)
- 9:05 - Kiss N' Ride Drop off may begin; please do not drop your children off before this time as the yard is not supervised prior to this time
- End of Day - when you get to the pick-up location at the end of the day please:
 - *remain in your vehicle unless you need to exit to buckle students in
 - *let the staff member on duty know who you are picking up & they will then be released to you
- Please ensure that when you are entering the parking lot at the end of the day that you are not blocking our buses from coming in or out of the driveways

Inclement Weather and Bus Cancellations



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 Central Zone. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted. School staff are expected to plan for such emergencies in order to transition students who are unable to attend due to inclement weather, to their online platforms (Google Classroom and/or SCDSBhub [Brightspace by D2L]) and continue with academic programming. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.



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- Please do not pick your children up on the road as it poses a safety hazard to yourself as well as the students.

Thanks very much for working together to ensure that everyone is safe when leaving the school at the end of the day!

use during nutrition break/recess, you are giving permission for your child to take part in this activity.

Please note that we have a class set of crazy carpets that may be used for Daily Physical Activity (DPA) or physical education classes. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

School Playground Equipment Closed

Every winter, school playground structures are closed. Students are made aware of this during school hours through announcements and staff reminders during breaks. This may not be well known throughout the community, despite signs indicating that playground structures are a winter hazard and are closed. The Canadian Standards Association regulations make recommendations for the depth of ground cover required to minimize injuries (e.g., sand, pea gravel or wood chips). These surfaces cannot be maintained when the ground freezes. Injuries from falling would be more significant on frozen ground. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen.



New Schools & Construction Projects

The Simcoe County District School Board has a variety of projects on the go, whether it's building new schools, renovating older schools, or completing additions on existing buildings. For more information about how new schools are planned and funded, visit the capital planning page on our website (www.scdsb.on.ca/about/capital_planning). If you are interested in information about recently completed projects, projects under construction and new projects, please visit the new schools page on our website (www.scdsb.on.ca/about/capital_planning/new_schools) or our Capital Priorities Overview (storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bbeca797d75f4aef933c79047ff2a28c).

Digital Ebook Collection

Our digital ebook/audiobook collection contains over 4,000 titles waiting to be checked out by our SCDSB students. Students simply download the app, use their SCDSB login and start reading for free on their phone or tablet. The collection can be accessed at: meet.soraapp.com.

Sledding Safety at School

Student safety is our first priority, and although we do allow 'crazy carpets' and soft sleds at our school, we do not allow hard sleds, two-person sleds or snow racers. We do supervise sledding and we remind students of safety rules on a regular basis.

We want to inform parents that if students are sledding at school, Ophea recommends that they should wear a properly fitted (as per manufacturer's guidelines) and properly worn CSA-approved hockey helmet or snow sport helmet certified by a recognized safety standards association. If you send a sled and helmet (optional) for

Early Learning & Childhood Development



How is your infant, toddler or preschool child developing? Is your child meeting their milestones? Age-appropriate speech and language skills are critical to your child's ability to read, write and be successful in school as well as to their ability to engage with their

peers. Free services are available to support you with your child's development. Preschool speech and language programs are located across the County of Simcoe. Call



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705-739-5696 or 1-800-675-1979 to complete a developmental screen. The earlier we work together, the better!

Pine River Institute Learning Series

Join us! A learning series for parents/guardians with Pine River Institute Mental health and well-being continues to be a key strategic priority within the SCDSB. We are pleased to continue our partnership with the Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) to provide several curated learning sessions focused on student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities.



There are five webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents, guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

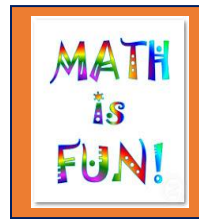
- Dec. 8, 2022 How to Manage Another's Anxiety
- Feb. 9, 2023 Guide to Attuned Limit Setting
- March 2, 2023 Emotional Regulation for Kids and Adults
- April 27, 2023 The Biology of Stress

We hope you save these dates in your calendar and join us for these learning opportunities. For more information and to register, please visit the SCDSB website: <https://bit.ly/3jGaC74>.

Pine River Institute is a live-in treatment centre and outdoor leadership experience for youth aged 13 to 19 struggling with addictive behaviours and often other mental health issues. Combining therapy with a fully-accredited education

program, PRI reinforces the healthy life skills required for a successful future. CFI@PRI extends PRI's knowledge, experience and evidence-informed treatment approach to families and care providers in the community to support youth mental wellness and prevent the need for more intensive interventions. Learn more about PRI by visiting their website at www.pineriverinstitute.com.

Support Your Child's Math Learning



Looking for ways to support your child in their math learning at home? The Ministry of Education has a page with ideas on how to support your child and make math part of your day-to-day routine. There are general routines and grade-level ideas to explore. Learn

more: www.ontario.ca/page/support-your-childs-math-learning.

Right to Read Inquiry Report

Beginning in 2019, the Ontario Human Rights Commission conducted a public inquiry into human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system. The report (www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report), released this past spring, issued 157 recommendations. Among these recommendations is the need for an updated language curriculum that includes explicit, systematic, and direct instruction in foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding, and word reading proficiency. The Simcoe County District School Board is committed to shifting our instructional practices to align with these recommendations.

What does this mean for my child? Primary educators are shifting from using leveled texts as they encourage reliance on guessing strategies to solve unknown words. Instead, educators are beginning to use a scope and sequence to systematically teach phonemic awareness and phonics. Students may apply the phonics skills they have learned by



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reading 'decodable' or 'phonetically controlled' texts. As a result, educators are moving away from using PM Benchmarks and moving towards assessments that measure foundational reading skills. To support your child at home, the following documents provide activities that may help foster these foundational skills:

Phonological awareness activities for families

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrSSU-HhNzjSRv6_CKiJBue32B-n6ggy/view?usp=sharing

Supporting reading development at home

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12jf50KLLzZP9q82HN-w39jrHFgYEIf45/view?usp=sharing>

Stay Informed!

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Here are some ways to do that:

- Subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://wrb.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website and:
- click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. Provide your email and click Subscribe, a message will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.
- Sign up to receive Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca. The SCDSB Education Centre can be reached at 705-734-6363.

- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).
- Follow W.R. Best on Twitter (@WRBestPS)

