



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

February 2023

Principal: Heidi Cameron Armstrong

Superintendent: Susan Sidlofsky

Trustee: Liz Grummett

Important February Dates

*February is Black History Month

Feb. 1 – School Character Assembly - Honesty 10am

Feb. 1 - Grade 1-5 “Rock the Shadow” Concert 6pm

Feb. 1 – Imbolc (Wicca)

Feb.2 – Groundhog Day

Feb. 5 – Magha (Sangha Day – Buddhism)

Feb. 6-9 Candy Grams for sale \$1

Feb. 6 – School Council Mtg. 6:00pm

Feb. 8 – Gr.8 Graduation Photos

Feb. 14 – Valentine’s Day – Candy Grams delivered

Feb. 14 – Parents’ Night Out – Valentine’s Edition!

Feb. 15 – Nirvana Day (Buddhism & Jainism)

Feb. 15 – National Flag Day of Canada

Feb. 16 – Eastview Open House 6:30-8:00 pm

Feb. 17 – Report Cards go Home

Feb. 17 – National Random Acts of Kindness Day

Feb. 18 – Maha Shivratri (Hinduism)

Feb. 20 – Family Day Holiday

Feb. 21 – Losar (Tibetan New Year – Buddhism)

Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday (Christianity)

Feb. 22 – Pink Shirt Day

Feb. 23 – Isra’a and Mi’raj (Islam)

Feb.26-Mar.1 – Ayyam-i-Ha (Baha’i)

Feb. 27 – Inclusiveness Assembly 10:00am

Feb. 27 – Clean Monday (Christianity)

Important Upcoming dates:

Mar.13-17 – March Break

Mar. 21 – World Down Syndrome Day

Mar. 25 – Earth Hour in Schools

Apr. 7 – Good Friday

Apr. 10 – Easter Monday

Apr. 28 – P.A. Day

May 22 – Victoria Day

Principal’s Message

February 17th all students will be receiving their Term 1 report card. Please take time with your child to review the report card and celebrate your child’s learning. Kindergarten students receive a Communication of Learning report card that comments on your child’s development in the four frames of the Kindergarten

Program. Students in Grade 1-8 will receive a report card with marks and comments in the Learning Skills and subjects of instruction. Students are achieving the provincial expectations in Grade 1-6 if they are achieving a “B” or a in Grade 7/8, 70-79%. Each student has unique strengths. Should you have questions about your child’s report card, or their next steps for learning, please contact your child’s teacher.

Candy grams are coming to W.R. Best! Our Grade 8s have organized a candy gram fundraiser for Valentine’s Day. Candy grams will be on sale February 6-9th at each classroom for \$1. Students may buy a maximum of 2 candy grams. On February 14th, candy grams will be delivered to classrooms. All money raised will support Grade 8 graduation, the Grade 8 trip and student spirit at W.R. Best.



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 February 6th at 6:00 pm. Attending these meetings is a good way to keep up to date with events going on at our school. Our next meeting is April 3rd, 2023 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

W.R. Best “Rock the Shadow” Concert

Calling all families of students in grades 1 to 5, we are having a “Rock the Shadow” Concert on Groundhog Day, February 1st, 2023! The show begins at 6:00 pm and we ask that parents/guardians have their performing students at the school by 5:45 pm to be grouped with their classmates and get ready for the concert.

Our students are very excited to share their musical pieces with the audience. See you there!



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Valentine's Day Gr. 8 Fundraiser

Dreaming of a Valentine's Day dinner without the kids? We are making your dreams come true while you are helping our grade 8 students raise money for their end of year trip and graduation!

On Tuesday, February 14th, 2023 our grade 8 students, along with teacher supervisors, are offering a Valentine's Day Babysitting Night at our school. Students in kindergarten to grade 5 are invited to be dropped off at W.R. Best at 5:00 pm for pizza and a drink, crafts, games and other activities and stay until 7:30 pm! It costs \$20 per student or \$15 per student if more than 2 in a family.

Forms were sent home a couple weeks ago and are due Feb.6th, 2023. We are only taking 100 students so get your form in soon! Thank you for supporting our fundraiser.

Mini-sticks and Equipment on School Buses

For safety, students are required to have any sporting equipment, or carry on (ie. school project), completely inside a bag when travelling on school transportation.

Mini-sticks come in varying lengths. If bringing a mini-stick to school, it must fit inside a backpack/bag.

Grade 8 Graduation Photos



REMINDER TO ALL GRADUATION STUDENTS
GREEN APPLE STUDIO WILL BE TAKING
GRADUATION PHOTOS!

W. R. Best
Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Proper attire is required. Students should wear a white collared shirt or blouse. If they would like to wear a tie, they can.

Proofs will be sent home for package selection.

Bring your own prop! We are inviting you to bring one small prop that represents you for one pose. Some suggestions: flowers, a musical instrument, sport equipment (ie. soccer ball), art supplies.



Customer Service
(866) 883-9966

www.greenapplestudio.ca
service@greenapplestudio.ca

Hot Lunches for Students

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



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FundScrip Gift Card Fundraiser



Plastic/or electronic gift card options available

By purchasing these gift cards, your everyday expenses will benefit our school. Each gift card purchased automatically includes a donation to W.R. Best.

It's easy to use, just head over to Fundscrip.com, click on "Support a Group", enter invitation code 9U8E2G and click "Search. Follow the steps to open an account and you are ready to purchase gift cards!

Thank you for supporting our school fundraiser.

Character Education

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

This month the focus is on Inclusiveness



We include everyone in what we do and value their unique contributions.

SCDSB Character Education program

Our SCDSB Character Education program was developed over 20 years ago. As a school board, we are moving forward to update the SCDSB Character Education program, along with the attributes. The intended implementation date for our new Character Education program will be September 2023. To make this successful, it is imperative that everyone has an opportunity to have a voice. Currently, we are eliciting student voice from our elementary and secondary students and understanding the important partnership with parents/guardians; we are asking if you could take a moment to fill out the below survey.

The survey opens on Feb. 6 and will remain open until Feb. 10: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M2BF38X>.

Mabel's Labels Fundraiser

We're Fundraising with Mabel's Labels!



mabel's labels FUNDRAISING

Go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com and choose our organization from the list. Then shop and your labels will ship directly to you with FREE shipping!

Head Lice Protocol at School

From time to time, it is not uncommon for a child to acquire head lice. The SCDSB protocol for head lice is as follows: If a parent or guardian knows their child has head lice, they are required to let the school know so that a notice can be sent home in that classroom to inform families that a case of head lice has been detected and they can check their children. The student with head lice must receive a lice removal treatment before returning to school.

If head lice are detected at school, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick-up their child and a Pediculosis



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Information Treatment sheet will be supplied to answer any questions about treating head lice. When the student has been treated they can return to school and the family will be required to fill out a Letter of Notification/Confirmation of Treatment. A student returning to school after treatment will be checked before returning to the classroom.

All efforts are made to minimize stigmatization and social isolation of the student and ensure confidentiality. If you have further questions, don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Register for Kindergarten Now!

Kindergarten is the beginning of a wonderful journey of learning, and we want your child to begin their journey in a SCDSB school! Do you have a child who is turning four in 2023? If so, we invite you to register your child for Kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Early Learning and Child Care

The Simcoe County EarlyON Child and Family Centres are excited to offer programs that help prepare children and parents for Kindergarten. Programming will be offered in the spring of 2023. For more information and to find your local EarlyON provider, visit: <https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>.

Childcare programs available on PA days, holidays and March Break

Child care programs for children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are provided by independent, third-party child care operators in some SCDSB schools. To support your child care needs, some operators offer child care on PA days and holidays, including over the March Break (Mar. 13 to 17). Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register. For more information and contact numbers, please visit: https://scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/hildcare_before_after.

Eastview Open House for Grade 8's

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will take place in-person this winter! Eastview Secondary School is the designated high school for W.R. Best students. **Their Open House for grade 8 students and their families is on Thursday, February 16th from 6:30-8:00 pm.** 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. Families don't need to make an appointment and can drop in anytime during the scheduled Open House.

Notice to students and parents/guardians regarding out-of-area requests

Under Simcoe County District School Board procedures (APM A7000 – School Attendance Areas), it is possible for students to apply for and receive permission to attend an out-of-attendance-area school. Students will be permitted to continue in attendance as long as there are pupil places available. They may be required to return to their home school or transfer to another school when the capacity of the school they are attending has been reached and space is required for students residing within the designated attendance areas. An approval may be revoked at any time by the superintendent of education, after consultation with the receiving school principal, for reasons related to the student's behaviour, attendance, actions or inactions. Transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the out-of-attendance-area student and/or parent/guardian.

Black History Month

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) recognizes and celebrates Black History Month every February. The SCDSB is committed to improving equity of access and opportunity for Black students, staff, and parents/guardians, and to creating a safe and caring learning environment that promotes the human rights of staff, students, and parent/guardians. The initiatives undertaken by the SCDSB have been embedded in teaching and learning at all school levels, and centrally, for Black History Month and throughout the year. Follow the



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SCDSB on social media to see how schools are recognizing Black History Month.

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.

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>

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
- 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!

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





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recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen.

Session and registration information can be found at www.scdsb.on.ca

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 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.

Special Education Outreach Sessions for Families

In 2023, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting 4 virtual special education outreach sessions in the evening to assist families in learning more about programs, supports and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs.

Sessions include:

- Feb 14 – Supporting students with autism spectrum disorder
- April 20 – Supporting students as they transition into school, from one school to another, and from school upon graduation
- May 9 – Working with families to create safe and supportive environments for children who have experienced trauma

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 three webinars left in the learning series specifically planned for parents, guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

- 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



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youth mental wellness and prevent the need for more intensive interventions. Learn more about PRI by visiting their website at www.pineriverinstitute.com.

Registration now open for summer eLearning!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school courses in July 2023 for current high school students or adult learners who are interested in earning a new credit or upgrading a previous mark. Students can advance online learning skills, earn missed credits or fast-track preparation for graduation or post-secondary in just four weeks. eLearning is fully supported by certified teachers who are available electronically daily.

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at <http://thelearningcentres.com/high-school-student/summer-school>.

Interested in learning more about the ways that the SCDSB supports students with special education needs and their families? Join us for a virtual special education outreach series

In 2023, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/caregivers in learning more about programs, supports and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs. The remaining sessions include:

Supporting students with autism spectrum disorder

Feb. 14
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Supporting students as they transition into school, from one school to another, and from school upon graduation

April 20
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Working with families to create safe and supportive environments for children who have experienced trauma

May 9
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Participants are asked to register in advance. Information to access the sessions will be shared via email with individuals who have pre-registered. Learn more about each session and how to register on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions.

SCDSB Anti-sex Trafficking Protocol and resources for parents/guardians

In 2021-22, the Ministry of Education directed Ontario school boards to develop an anti-sex trafficking protocol that was tailored to the needs of their community. The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has developed a protocol and relevant training and resources for staff, students and parents/guardians. The focus of the SCDSB's protocol and resources is to protect students and empower school communities to play a key role in fighting sex trafficking and keeping children and youth safe from sexual exploitation.

More information, including a link to the SCDSB Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol and associated resources, is available on the SCDSB website:

www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools/anti-sex_trafficking_protocol.

Evaluating Early Literacy

The Ministry of Education has directed all Ontario school boards to begin implementing the recommendations outlined in the Right to Read Inquiry. As a result, primary educators are shifting from using leveled texts for reading



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instruction 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 (awareness of the sounds in words) and phonics (understanding of the letters that represent sounds). Students may apply the phonics skills they have learned by 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. For example, in Grade 1, educators will be observing a child's ability to identify the sounds they hear in a word, identify the letter(s) that represent the sound, and their ability to blend the sounds together to decode (read) the word and encode (write) the word. In later primary, educators will be observing a child's understanding of more complex letter/sound relationships such as prefixes and suffixes.

Educators will also consider a child's achievement in reading fluency, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension when assigning a report card grade for reading.

To support your child at home, the following documents provide activities that may help foster these foundational skills:

1. Phonological Awareness Activities for Families <https://bit.ly/3WVsexb>
2. Supporting Reading Development at Home <https://bit.ly/3X3wB9w>

math games that can be played using paper, dice, and/or playing cards.

Check out the channel at:

www.youtube.com/@mmathmaniamathgamesmore3985

or search MMMathMania on YouTube.

Exercising together can make your family stronger and healthier

Families that exercise together get stronger in more ways than one. Getting your daily dose of exercise not only helps to prevent health risks, it builds strong muscles and bones, develops positive body image, supports mental health, and strengthens the family bond. With so many great reasons to get moving, why aren't Canadians doing it more often? One of the most common barriers reported is time. This is also one of the biggest roadblocks to spending quality time together as a family. With Family Day just around the corner, why not plan a weekend of activities that gets the whole family out and moving! Here are some tips to help make family fitness fun for everyone.

Put family first

Make the focus of family fitness about family time. Use this time to connect with one another, share stories, discuss interests, check in on the day, or just make each other laugh. Quality family time is important, no matter your age!

Take classes together

Ask your local health and fitness centre about classes offered to parents and kids, or family-oriented drop in programs. Centres like the YMCA often have open family swim times for family members of all ages to enjoy. If your little one is too young to swim in the pool, look for child-minding or parent and tot programs.

Plan outdoor activities

Set aside one day every weekend to do something active as a family such as sledding, skating, or hiking. Making physical activity part of your routine will set your family up for healthy habits now and in the future. Don't forget to splurge on some healthy snacks after a good workout!

Math Games at Home

Playing math games at home is a great way to reinforce math concepts that students learn at school. The YouTube channel MMMathMania has a large number of videos of



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Surround your family with active people

Healthy habits can be contagious! Surround your family with active people who enjoy healthy lifestyles and you'll be more likely to make those same choices. Group classes or drop-in programs are a great way to meet new people that share your passion for fitness.

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

Spend quality time together this Family Day weekend

The YMCA is a great place to have fun with the whole family while building healthy habits of physical fitness and well-being. With activities like open family gym and open family swim, family members of all ages can be healthy and active together. To find your local YMCA and view Family Day weekend activities, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/schedules.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

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.