

Principal
B. Floyd

Vice-Principal
S. Laybolt

Superintendent
J. Kavanagh

Trustee
M. Locke

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Phone: (705) 429-2551

In an effort to save energy/paper and to improve the efficiency of our communication with parents, we can deliver your newsletter right to your e-mail account. All email addresses are kept private, so your personal information will not be shared. Please ensure we have your correct e-mail address. All newsletters will be sent electronically and posted on our school webpage. If you wish a paper copy please call or send a note to Mrs. Loverock in the office.

Principal's Message

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We hope that you had a relaxing summer with family and friends. Welcome back our returning families and staff and a special welcome to our new families and staff.

I would like to thank Mr. Charman, Mrs. Farrugia, and Mr. Salazar, our custodial team for their hard work over the summer months to prepare our school building for another exciting year of learning. The hallway tiles on the second floor have been replaced and they look great.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Manuge and Mrs. Loverock for their efforts over the past week to register new students and help prepare us for the new year. A huge thanks to all the staff that have been busy preparing their learning areas to welcome our students.

We would like to welcome the following long-term occasional teachers - Mrs. Duncan, Mrs. Cicinski, Mrs. Rowe, and

Mrs. Napasney.

While academic achievement is a priority, we will also place an emphasis on character education as we value respect, responsibility and honesty in our daily activities. We look forward to working with all students and families throughout the year ahead!

Please know that the teachers do put a great deal of time and thought into your child's placement for each upcoming year. We look at each child and determine the best placement for them. It is important to remember that classes may not stay as they are now. We will be examining our enrollment this week to determine if a reorganization is required. **At this point, we will not be making class changes until we know our final school organization. All schools in Simcoe County will reorganize on Monday September 23rd - if necessary.** If we find out we need to reorganize we will notify the affected children's families.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 16

September 18 - 23

September 18 KA to Gr. 4

September 19 KB & Gr 5-8

September 19

September 18

September 26 (rain date 27th)

September 30

October 11

October 4

Milk Program Starts

Book Fair

Picture Day

Picture Day

BBQ 5:00 - 7:00pm

Pizza Starts (KB starts Sept 19)

Terry Fox 2pm

School Council 6:30pm

PA Day

Pita Lunch Program Starts



BOOK FAIR

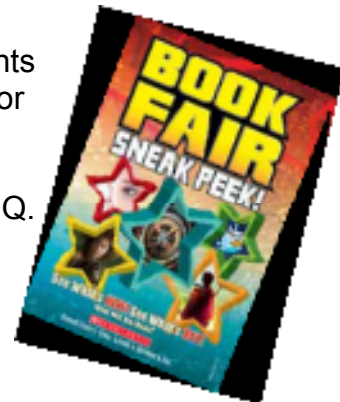
September 18 - 23

Birchview Dunes School will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair once again this year. Everyone is invited to participate. Previous book fairs have proven to be a great fundraising event for our library. Did you know that for every \$10.00 you spend at the Book Fair, up to \$6 goes directly back to our library? Your support of this literary fundraiser is a key to obtaining new books and replacing the well loved but worn out books.

Wed. Sept. 18 and Thurs. Sept. 19, students will be invited to visit the Scholastic Book Fair to view the books. Students are encouraged to record the title and the cost of the books they are interested in. This information is to help you and your child decide what purchases you could make. This also helps encourage your child to purchase a book rather than trinkets, which are considered extra. This is a fundraising event, so you are not obligated to make a purchase. The average cost of a book is between \$9 - \$15.

Watch for a flyer containing a special Family Event Draw ballot that parents can deposit during our Family Event. You could win \$50 in books – \$25 for your family PLUS \$25 for your child’s classroom!

We look forward to seeing you Thursday Sept. 19 during our school’s BBQ.



DATES	STUDENT HOURS	FAMILY HOURS
Wed. Sept. 18	Nutritional Breaks	BBQ Night 5:00 - 7:00pm
Thurs. Sept. 19	Second Nutritional Break	CLOSED
Fri. Sept. 20	Second Nutritional Break	3:15- 4:00pm
Mon. Sept 23	Second Nutritional Break	CLOSED

Payment Methods:

Cash, Cheque (made out to Birchview Dunes Elementary School), Visa, Master Card, American Express and Debt

School Council

I encourage you to consider joining us this year to share your ideas and learn about your child's education.

Our first meeting is Monday, September 30 at 6:30pm.

Everyone is welcome! Nomination forms are available in the office and through our website..

SCHOOL HOURS

8:30	Duty Starts in the field
8:55	School Entry
8:55 - 10:35	Learning Block 1
10:35 - 11:15	Nutrition Break / Recess
11:15 - 12:55	Learning Block 2
12:55 - 1:35	Nutrition Break / Recess
1:35 - 3:15	Learning Block 3
3:15	Dismissal

PERMISSION FORMS TO BE SENT HOME

There are many activities that take place at school each year that require permission from home. Throughout the school year individual trip/activity forms will also be sent home. You will receive a Permission and Acknowledgements for the 2013-14 School Year of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is found in the Agenda (pp. 8-9) for grades 1-6. Grades 7&8 will a

receive our Code of Conduct separately. Safe Arrival/Student Verification Forms (yearly updating of information) will be sent home shortly.

SAFE ARRIVAL

Please contact the school anytime your child will be absent. You can leave a voice-mail message 24 hours a day at 705 429-2551 and Press 1

GRADE 7 & 8 IMMUNIZATIONS

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will offer Hepatitis (Hep B) and Meningococcal Conjugate ACWY (Men-C-ACWY) vaccine to all grade 7 students. Both vaccines are publically funded. The Hep B vaccine is a two dose series and the Men-C-ACWY vaccine is one dose. A consent will be sent home and is to be signed by parent and student. **All consent forms must be returned to the school before the clinic regardless of decision for vaccination.** Unless cancelled in writing, this consent is valid until the series is completed.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will offer the HPV vaccination to all grade 8 girls. The HPV vaccine is publicly funded for grade 8 girls and is given in three doses. A consent will be sent home and is to be signed by parent and student. **All consent forms must be returned to the school before the clinic regardless of decision for vaccination.** Unless cancelled in writing, this consent is valid until the series is completed.

For more information visit the Immunization Page of the Health Unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE 2013 – 2014

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country field trips) are not covered by the board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen.

Due to recent injuries in Ontario during school extra-curricular activities and field trips, and the resulting financial cost, a risk exposure to school boards and families has been highlighted. It is essential that all those participating in out of regular school extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage for all instances of injury.

The Simcoe County District School Board has selected Reliable Life Insurance Company as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider with regards to purchasing student accident insurance coverage for the upcoming school year. The coverage is for 24 hours a day. Reliable Life offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com.



**Terry Fox
Sept 26**



**Inspired by
Terry's courageous
example
we will be
walking around the
school
at 2pm**



SECURITY AND SAFETY

It is very important that we always know who is in our school building. For this reason, we ask that all visitors, volunteers and parents sign in at the office. If you have something to give your child or speak to your child about, we will call your child to the office to meet with you. This results in minimal disruption in the classrooms. Parents are asked to check in at the office to sign their child(ren) in or out. Entry to our building for parents and the community will be limited to the

front doors during the day in the interests of security. Please write a note in the student agenda to ensure that your child's teacher is aware if they will be leaving class during the day. If you are collecting your child, we ask that you please check in at the office to sign your child out on each occasion and wait in the front hall for your child to come to the office. Thank you for your help in establishing these routines and ensuring student safety.

**Welcome BBQ Thursday, September 19
5:00 – 7:00 pm**



**Free after-school workshops for
parents of students with ASD**

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION	TIME
Oct. 3, 2013	Option #1 - Level 1: Intro to ASD & ABA Option #2 - Level 2: Digging Deeper into ASD & ABA	Education Centre	4:30-6:30 p.m.
Nov. 7, 2013	Skill Development and Independence	Education Centre	4:30-6:30 p.m.
Dec. 5, 2013	Tools for Self-Regulation	Education Centre	4:30-6:30 p.m.

SCHOOL BUS PASSES

For safety and insurance reasons, the board does NOT permit students to ride buses other than their assigned one except in emergencies. Situations involving sleepovers, music lessons, playing at a friend's house, working on a school project, etc., do not qualify as emergencies. Thank you for your cooperation.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

A completed Request for Administration of Medication by School Personnel form is required each school year or when the need is identified or when a student transfers to another school, to authorize the administration of prescribed medication to students who require it during school hours or when the medication and/or dosage requirements change. Please contact the school if your child requires medication or has severe allergic reaction or other medical life-threatening conditions so that a plan for assistance can be developed.

SABRINA'S LAW

Sabrina's Law is an Act to protect anaphylactic pupils and is currently in effect at all schools in Ontario. As part of Sabrina's Law there is a requirement that every school principal develop an individual plan for each pupil who has an anaphylactic allergy. In order to protect students within our school community to the best of our ability it is critical for parents of children with an anaphylactic allergy to do the following:

- Inform the school principal of your child's allergies
- Work with the school to complete an Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan which has child's photograph, allergy information, contact information and emergency plan.
- Provide a medic alert bracelet for your child to wear at all times.
- Encourage your child to keep an epinephrine auto-injector (Epi-pen) on their person when age appropriate.
- Provide an up-to-date/non-expired epinephrine auto-injector (Epi-pen) that may be kept in the office or in a mutually agreed upon location within the school. Parents should keep a log of expiry dates and replace outdated auto-injectors.

We encourage all those within our school community to become familiar with signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and how to respond or access assistance in the event of an anaphylactic emergency. Together we can help create a safe and supportive learning environment for all our students.

GIFTED SCREENING PROCESS

*September
Character Trait
Is Caring*

*We show kindness
towards each other*

What does it mean to be caring?

- 1. Showing concern for the well being of others.**
- 2. Using your words and actions to help someone.**
- 3. Giving of yourself without expecting anything in return.**

5 words that describe the character trait of caring?

- 1. Kindness
- 2. Thoughtful
- 3. Sharing

1. To make someone else feel

- 4. May inspire others to be caring too.
- 5. Makes the world a better place.

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 are in or above Grade 3, who wish the school to consider their child for screening are asked to contact Jen Sims before September 20, 2013.

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.

Picture Day is Coming!

**Mark your Calendar for our School Picture Day on
September 18th and 19th, 2013**

Picture Day Order forms will be sent home to all students on Monday. Parents can order using the traditional order form **OR they can go to mylifetouch.ca and order using their Portrait ID and Access Code**

