



## **BIRCHVIEW DUNES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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The 2013-14 school year has come to an end – how time flies when you are having so much fun! The students and staff together have accomplished so much this year and must be congratulated on all their achievements. The Birchview staff would like to wish all the graduating grade 8 students all the best at your secondary schools. In September we will welcome a new group of junior kindergarten students to the Birchview family.

We would like to thank the following staff members who will be leaving Birchview. The following staff members have completed long term occasional teaching roles this year at Birchview and we will miss them greatly – Mr. Bristow, Ms. McNamara, Ms. VanAlstine. We also will greatly miss the following long term occasional Educational Assistants – Ms. Brophy, Mrs. Dilts, and Mrs. Sage. We wish Mrs. Hutchesson all the best on her retirement.

The following teaching staff will not be here at Birchview next year as they were successful applicants to Board leadership positions for the next two years – Mr. Croteau, Mrs. Monahan and Mrs. Shackell. We also would like to wish Mrs. Hackett all the best as she has accepted a teaching position at Wyevale. We will miss Mrs. Hackett's leadership at Birchview.

We would like to welcome the following new staff members Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Marley and Mr. Underhill. Mrs. Napasney who was a long term occasional teacher this year in grade 8 will be returning next year at Birchview.

Next year is exciting as we go to Full Day Kindergarten. We would like to welcome the following DECEs to our Birchview team – Terri Eichenberger, Laura McMann, Yolanda Shea-Slater, Karen Towns, and Teresa Ware.

### *Angus Tornado Fund*

*The Birchview Community raised just over \$750 in just a few days to help out families in need.*  
**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Birchview Dunes will be offering parents and guardians the convenience of paying for school items online. Please visit

[www.schoolcashionline.com](http://www.schoolcashionline.com) and simply sign up to take advantage of this fast, safe, and secure payment option. Once you're registered, you will receive email notifications as events and items are posted involving your child.

*For safety and efficiency reasons, Simcoe County District School Board would like to reduce the amount of Cash & Cheques coming into our school. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions, so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child(ren).*

**NOTE:** If you require assistance, select the *GET HELP* option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

## PARENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO GRADES, ATTENDANCE INFO

### WHEN PARENT PORTAL LAUNCHES THIS FALL

Starting next school year, parents/guardians will be invited to create a Parent Portal account, which will give them access to their child's attendance and, in secondary school, grade information. Elementary school grades will be added to the tool in the near future.

In high school, parents will be able to see attendance information for each period, as long as it has been submitted through PowerSchool (our student database). Parents can also see their child's grades in each course. Parents can sign up for email alerts from the Parent Portal – for example, a high school parent might want a daily email with their child's attendance.

In the fall, schools will provide parents with their login information to create an account. Parents need their child's Student Number, as well as an Access ID. The Student Number is on the Student Information Verification Form, and the Access ID will be provided to families in a letter. If a student is 18, their parents will not be automatically invited to create an account. The Parent Portal login page is at <http://ps.scdsb.on.ca>.

## SAFE WELCOME PROGRAM

The Safe Welcome Program will start in September 2014. The school doors will be locked during class time only. To access the building during this time, you will need to ring the buzzer. Our doors will be unlocked at the start and end of the day—when students and staff are arriving or leaving, when the after school programs are operating or when the community is accessing the building for permits.

Staff in the office will be responsible for checking the monitor and buzzing visitors in. It's one more way we can monitor who is visiting our school. It will help us ensure all visitors sign in at the office.

## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR UNIQUE SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS, EDUCATORS

*Parents and educators are invited to attend Parent 2.0: How social media can help your child thrive with George Couros, Division Principal of Innovative Teaching and Learning with Parkland School Division in Alberta.*

**Location:** Bear Creek Secondary School (100 Red Oak Dr., Barrie)

**Date:** Wednesday, August 27

**Time:** Doors open at 7 p.m., presentation at 7:30 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE!

Register online at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under 'Parents' and 'Workshops'. Space is limited so register early to reserve your spot. George Couros speaks on innovation and technology in the classroom to parents and educators across North America. Find out more about him at <http://georgecouros.ca>.

## NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES REGARDING OUT-OF-ATTENDANCE AREA REQUESTS

Under the Simcoe County District School Board procedures (APM A7000), students can 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 pupil places are required for students residing within the attendance areas.

An approval may also be revoked by the Superintendent of Education after consultation with the receiving school principal for reasons related to the student's behaviour, attendance, actions or inactions at a future date. Even with this permission, however, transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the out-of-attendance-area student and/or parent/guardian.

## BECOME A *ROOTS OF EMPATHY* INSTRUCTOR FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

Are you looking for ways to contribute to the growth and well-being of students and communities in Simcoe County? The SCDSB is looking for volunteers to undertake an exciting and rewarding opportunity as a *Roots of Empathy* (ROE) Instructor. At the heart of the award-winning program are a neighbourhood infant and parent who visit the classroom several times over the school year. A trained ROE Instructor coaches students to observe the baby's development and to label the baby's feelings. Instructors deliver all aspects of the *Roots of Empathy* curriculum in the classroom and build respectful relationships with the participating family, classroom teacher and students.

*Roots of Empathy* Instructors come from diverse professional backgrounds. Many have backgrounds in education, health, social work, counselling, speech therapy and recreation. ROE also has retired principals, school board superintendents, and police officers delivering the program. Classroom experience and knowledge of infant development are major assets. Volunteers must be willing to make a two-year commitment to *Roots of Empathy* to deliver the program on a weekly basis throughout September to June. For more information, or to apply to become a volunteer Instructor, please contact [roots@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:roots@scdsb.on.ca).

## PLAN AHEAD WITH THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

You will find the 2014-2015 School Year Calendars under 'Schools' – 'School Year Calendars' on the Simcoe County District School Board's website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)). Some of the key dates include:

- Students start school on Tuesday, September 2, 2014. The last day for elementary students will be Thursday, June 25, 2015 and for secondary students it will be Wednesday, June 24, 2015.
- The holiday break is December 22, 2014 to January 2, 2015. Students return to school on Monday, January 5, 2015.
- March Break is March 16 to 20, 2015.

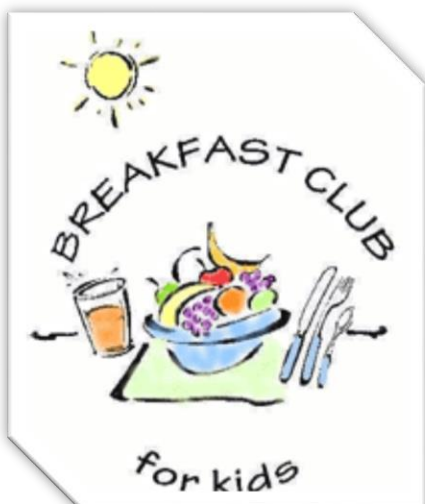
## IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – UPDATES FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

All children attending school between ages 4 to 17 need to be immunized according to Ontario's Immunization Schedule. Starting in the 2014/15 school year, children need to have proof of immunization against meningococcal disease, whooping cough and chickenpox to attend school. This is in addition to existing requirements for proof of immunization against many other diseases. The number of shots (doses) required for tetanus, diphtheria, polio and mumps has also been updated.

Check with your health care provider or local public health unit to make sure your child has all the vaccines needed to attend school. If your child has followed the immunization schedule, no further vaccines will be needed.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is required under the ISPA to collect and maintain up-to-date records of all the above immunizations for every child registered in school within Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka. Parents are required to contact the health unit to update immunization records for their children or provide a valid affidavit. Visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website for further information:

<http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/> (click on 'Topics,' then 'Immunization').



*We would like to thank our Educational Assistants and parent and teacher volunteers for setting up and running the breakfast program.*

*We look forward to continuing this worthwhile program next year.*