

Principal  
B. Floyd

Vice-Principal  
S. Laybolt

Superintendent  
J. Kavanagh

Trustee  
M. Locke



Phone: (705) 429-2551

## 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

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 2014-15 School Year of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is found in the Agenda (pp. 8-9) for grades 1-6. Grades 7&8 will receive our Code of Conduct separately. Safe Arrival/Student Verification Forms (yearly updating of information) will be sent home shortly.

## 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 Mrs. Thompson, our custodial team for their hard work over the summer months to prepare our school building for another exciting year of learning.

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 new teachers - Ms. Czaikowski, Madame Kabfleisch, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Underhill, and Mrs. Wakelin. A big welcome back after a one year leave to Mr. Besley and Mrs. Wojcik. In our

new Full day Kindergarten program we welcome the following DECEs - Mrs. Eichenberger, Mrs McMann, Mrs. Towns, Mrs. Shea, and Mrs. Ware. The following Educational Assistants are new or have increased their time at Birchview - Mrs. Gagliardi and Mrs. Wickett. The following long-term occasional teachers will be at Birchview this year - Mrs. Cicinski, Ms Lamb, and Mrs. Napasney.

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 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 22nd - if necessary.** If we find out we need to reorganize we will notify the affected children's families.

## Keep Connected with Birchview and the SCDSB

Birchview is NOW on Twitter @BirchviewDunes.

Birchview Website and teacher blogs [www.bir.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.bir.scdsb.on.ca)

*Subscribe by email!*

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- For SCDSB media releases and event information, visit the 'News' section under 'About Us' at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) (you can also subscribe to receive this information at your email address)
- *Sharing Simcoe* blog (<http://sharingsimcoe.com/>) The blog features stories and tips from our own in-house experts, and experts we work with in the community.



# BOOK FAIR

September 24 - 29

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. 24 and Thurs. Sept. 29, 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. 25 during our school’s Welcome Back Night.



DATES	STUDENT HOURS	FAMILY HOURS
Wed. Sept. 24	Nutritional Breaks	3:15 – 4:00pm
Thurs. Sept. 25	Nutritional Breaks	<b>Welcome Back Night</b> 5:00 - 7:00pm
Mon. Sept 29	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 22 at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Nomination forms are available in the office and through our website..

## Upcoming Events

September 8	Milk Program Starts
September 10	Pizza Starts
September 22	School Council 6:30pm
September 23 (rain date 24th)	Terry Fox
September 24 - 29	Book Fair
September 25	Picture Day
September 25	Meet the Birchview Staff 5:00 - 7:00pm
September 26	PA Day
September 29	Immunization for Intermediates

## CANADA'S ANTI-SPAM LEGISLATION

### **ACTION NEEDED: Confirm that you'd like email communication from our school**

Canada's anti-spam legislation (CASL) came into effect on July 1, 2014. Under the legislation, organizations must not send **commercial electronic messages** (CEMs) that encourage recipients to participate in any commercial activity, even if it is not-for-profit, unless they have the recipient's express consent. School boards and schools are covered by the legislation.

Although not all of our email messages contain commercial information, we do at times email families about field trips, lunch days, yearbooks, special events or other items that may have a cost associated with them. We need your permission to continue to send messages through email.

During summer 2014, an email message was sent to all email addresses in the school board database asking recipients to confirm that they would like to continue to receive email communication. If you responded to the email message, your consent has been recorded in our database. This subscribe link in the email is no longer active because the database needed to be updated before the start of the year.

You can provide consent by updating (if necessary), signing and returning the Student Information Verification Form we send home.

### **Unsubscribing**

Under the law, all CEMs must contain an unsubscribe feature so you can unsubscribe at any time. We've made sure to include the unsubscribe option on all outgoing email messages.

### **How to update your contact information**

It's important we have your current contact information on file at the school. If your email address or any other information has changed, you can update it by:

- making changes on the Student Information Verification Form we send home at the start of every school year
- contacting the school office during the year

**STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE 2014 – 2015**

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 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](http://www.insuremykids.com).

The student accident insurance package, along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities, will be sent home.



**Terry Fox  
Sept 23**



**Inspired by  
Terry's courageous  
example  
we will be  
walking around  
the school  
during the last  
block (after 1:35)**

**SECURITY AND SAFETY****Front doors will be locked during school day starting in September**

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place designed to keep our school safe.

Starting on September 2, our front door will be locked during the school day. All other school doors are also locked. To access the building, visitors will need to press the intercom button at the front door.

Staff in the office will let visitors into the school. This will help us ensure that all visitors sign in at the office. Please understand that staff may not be available to answer the door immediately. This same feature is in place at all SCDSB elementary schools. It's important for you to know that we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe. If you have any questions about safety procedures, as always, please contact the office.

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.

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 Back Night  
Thursday,  
September 25  
5:00 – 7:00 pm**



## **Picture Day is Coming!**

**Mark your Calendar for our School Picture Day on **September 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Look out for info flyer – Do not wear green as it's a green screen  
background**

### **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.

### **SCHOOL CASH ONLINE**

#### **Pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with SchoolCash Online**

The SchoolCash Online program is now available at all schools, offering parents the option to pay online for field trips, lunch days and other items. The program is intended to reduce paper, eliminate the need for students to travel with money, and for money to be counted and stored at schools. Payment by credit card has now also been added.

Parents who sign up will receive a notification when a new item becomes available for purchase. Items are personalized to each student. Parents will use a secure online account to process payments, and can either make a one-time payment for each item as it occurs, or load money to carry a balance in the online account to make payments in the future. A letter will be sent home with instructions on how to set up your account.

To create an online account, go to <https://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com>. Please contact the school office with any questions.

### **GIVING BACK TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY - VOLUNTEERS IN OUR SCHOOL**

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our school a great place to learn and grow. We value and appreciate the support of our volunteers. There are many opportunities available, including school council, breakfast clubs, reading help, field trip supervisors, assisting in the classroom or library and much more. Everyone who volunteers in a school must have a criminal record check, which includes a Vulnerable Sector Screening. Please call or visit the school office for more information about opportunities available or if you'd like to volunteer!

*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,
4. Helping
5. Understanding

Why is it important to be caring towards others?

1. To make someone else feel better.
2. Helps us to feel good about ourselves.
3. We learn compassion for other and to look beyond our own needs.
4. May inspire others to be caring too.
5. Makes the world a better place.

**PLEASE DO NOT IDLE IN THE PARKING LOT - WE HAVE A LOT OF KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS PLAYING NEAR THE PARKING LOT**

**TRANSPORTATION**

**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.

**SCHOOL BUS 'BAG TAG' PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS GET TO AND FROM SCHOOL SAFELY**

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) launched the Bus Tag program this September. The Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school-identified students by providing a process to match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and to also identify they must be met by a parent or guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides:

- a colour coded bus tag with the assigned p.m. route number to be attached to the student's backpack
- a colour-coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the Bus Tag is matched to

The SCSTC and Bus Operators have policies and procedures that are used on all school vehicles to ensure students in JK/SK and other school identified students are met at their afternoon bus stop. It's the parent/guardian's responsibility to meet Junior Kindergarten, Senior Kindergarten and other identified students at the bus stop. The Bus Tag program has been established to assist both the schools and school bus drivers to load these students on the correct afternoon bus and identify they are to be met at their bus stop by a parent/guardian. For more information, contact the Transportation Consortium through their website: <http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/> or call them at 705-733

*Remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: <http://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/> for bus delay and cancellation updates on those inclement weather mornings.*

**REGISTRATION FOR RAINBOWS**

*Hospice Georgian Triangle* is now accepting registration for their Rainbows, Spectrum and Prism programs. RAINBOWS is an international not-for-profit organization that offers peer support to assist children, adolescents and adults who are grieving a death, divorce, separation, abandonment, foster care, serious family illness or other painful loss.

3 levels are offered in Collingwood

**Rainbows** - ages 4 to 14

**Spectrum** - grades 9 to 12

**Prism** - parents of youth in the program

The programs run twice each year: Fall (September - December) and Winter/Spring (January - May)

To register for these programs, or for more information, call *Hospice Georgian Triangle* at 705-444-2555.