

# BRECHIN PUBLIC SCHOOL

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Webpage: [www.bre.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.bre.scdsb.on.ca) Twitter: @BrechinBobcats



### DECEMBER CHARACTER TRAITS: INCLUSIVENESS/SHARING/HELPLESSNESS

November flew by! So many exciting things have been happening!

In November we had our first student-led Character Assembly. We were so thrilled to acknowledge several students who received the Kindness, Caring and Empathy Awards. In December, our character traits are inclusiveness, sharing and helpfulness.

We have many students who demonstrate fantastic character traits every day. We are excited about our new Character wall in the hallway outside the office. When students are "caught" demonstrating good character, staff members award them a sticky note to add to the wall. Each day, two or three winners are chosen to choose a prize from the treasure chest in the office. It is wonderful to acknowledge all of the positive things that students do every day.

Speaking of character, our incredible grade 7 and 8 student leaders have been working hard to deliver special character-ed lessons in every class. Every student will get to design a button for a classmate. They will also submit a t-shirt design. Two designs will be chosen as the winners and will appear on the new Brechin Character T-Shirts. Students will be awarded a t-shirt when they stand up for another student or when they are nominated by staff for showing great character. Student leaders have also been teaching about random acts of kindness and how their actions can have a positive impact on others.

We are excited that Errol Lee will be coming on December 7 to lead fun character activities with classes through music and dance. We hope that many families will join Errol Lee in the gym that evening at 6:30!

Students are excited to be performing in our Holiday Concert on December 13 at 2:00. If you are able to join us, please do!

Our amazing School Council has been sorting through donations for our Holiday shopping day. Students are invited to bring in donations to go "shopping" for gifts for their family members on December 18. Council members will be in the gym to help students to shop and wrap gifts.

In addition to all of these awesome things, we are also planning for our Turkey Dinner (at lunch time). Please see more info about that below.

Jennifer Cornick



### HOLIDAY DINNER

What an incredible community we have! Special thanks to many businesses and families who have provided food and a significant amount of funds to allow us to provide a complete turkey and ham lunch for students on December 21! Several volunteers will work at the Legion to prepare the food. It will be transported to the school in the morning and then students and volunteers will eat together in the gym. Huge thanks to:

Tony's One Stop Tire, TrenchTek Septic and Landscaping, Tina Black's Family, Brechin Self Storage and Brechin Property Maintenance & Snow Removal, Amy-Lynn Pattenden, Black's Heating, Lindsay Nessler and Scott Livingstone and Links Heating and Cooling

Thank you also to the Brechin Legion for allowing us to use their kitchen and to the multiple volunteers for cooking, shopping for ingredients and for serving this special meal.



#### Dates to Remember

- Dec. 6—Evans, Sweet and Varey—Wood Projects
- Dec. 7—Errol Lee in-class Character-Ed presentations
- Dec. 7—Errol Lee Evening Concert 6:30pm
- Dec. 12—Holiday Concert Dress Rehearsal
- Dec. 13—Holiday Concert—2:00
- Dec. 14—Snow Date for concert
- Dec. 18—Holiday Shopping Day for students—purchases made by donation
- Dec. 19—December Character Assembly
- Dec. 21—Holiday Dinner
- Dec. 22—last day of school before holidays

#### Stay Up To Date!!!!

Did you know you can subscribe to our website? When we post 'What's New' articles and our monthly newsletters to the website you can choose to receive them by email! Our 'What's New' section is where you'll read about all the exciting things going on in our school. It's also where we will post updates during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website at <http://bre.scdsb.on.ca> and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. When you fill out your email and click Subscribe, an email will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can also follow us on Twitter at @BrechinBobcats.

### Helping our Neighbours

Hey Bobcats! We need your help! The grade 5/6 class is collecting donations of canned/non-perishable foods, toiletries and warm winter essentials like socks, mitts, coats, snow pants, hats and scarfs. Please help us support families in our community this holiday season.



We will be collecting donations from December 1st until December 13th. Please remember donations need to be new/unused and food needs to not be expired, so please check the best before date. Bring your donations to Mrs. Evans' classroom or the display in the front hall. Thank you Bobcats!

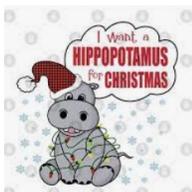
### Thank you to the Brechin Lions Club!



The Brechin Lions Club recently made a donations of \$1210.50! This money will be put towards equipment for primary students to play with. We are so thankful to this wonderful community for all of their support. Our primary students are looking forward to having some special activities and toys to play with at recess!

### BOBCAT CHOIR

The Bobcat Choir is made up of students in grades 2-8 and is a non-auditioned choir that anyone at Brechin Public School is free to join. We meet once a week to rehearse music that we will be performing on special occasions such as Remembrance Day and the Christmas Concert.



### BRECHIN CHAMBER CHOIR:

The Brechin Chamber Choir is an auditioned choir made up of students in grades 4-8 who want to excel in their singing skills and overall musical understanding of singing in a small choir. We rehearse special music that will be performed during school assemblies and events.

### Sports at Brechin

Junior students have really enjoyed the opportunity to play dodgeball during first break! Thank you to Mrs. Casselman for organizing these tournaments, thank you to our student leaders for refereeing the games and thank you to staff volunteers for supervising. The staff are looking forward to the staff-student dodgeball game with the tournament winners!

Thank you to Ms. Varey and Ms. Eaton for their work with grade 6-8 girls on their basketball skills.

Thank you also to Mrs. Stoddart and Mr. P for their work coaching the boys volleyball team. The boys came a long way during this short season! They are already looking forward to next year!

**Our next School Council Meeting will take place on March 4 at 5:00pm.**



### Parents' Guide to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Learn to navigate the world of assessment, evaluation, and reporting with this new guide for parents/guardians. Created to support parents'/guardians' understanding of assessment, this guide was designed to effectively empower you to actively engage in your child's educational journey. The guide has been posted to the Simcoe County District School Board's website and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

### Communication to families regarding inclement weather days

Please note that APM A3020 – Inclement Weather, 3.1.2 states that “parents/guardians are to be reminded, in writing at appropriate times (October and January) each school year, that it is their responsibility to decide whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.”

#### Inclement weather and bus cancellation information reminder



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](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Our school is in the **NORTH 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 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](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>. For school event cancellations in case of inclement weather, follow our school's Twitter account at [@BrechinBobcats](https://twitter.com/BrechBobcats) or listen to your local radio station for event cancellation info.

### **Math @Home parent and caregiver series**

It's back! The SCDSB math team is pleased to offer three virtual sessions for parents and caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support children with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. The first 200 registrants will receive a Math @Home kit of resources to use at home. Participants must pre-register for each of the sessions.

### **Exploring the new SCDSB family math resources**

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, 7 to 8 p.m.

This session is for parents and caregivers. Join members of the SCDSB math team for a guided exploration of the new SCDSB family math resources. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the resources that are available to support their child's math learning at home. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length. During the final 15 minutes, the math team will be available to answer questions about the resources available.

### **Tips for engaging in math conversations with your child @Home**

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024, 7 to 8 p.m.

This session is for parents and caregivers and will explore opportunities to discuss math with their child(ren) at home. Participants will learn about how events such as shopping, preparing food, engaging in a building project, or going for a walk can be used as a starting point for math conversations, and will receive prompts to get the discussion rolling. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length. During the final 15 minutes, the math team will be available to answer questions about the session.

### **Games to support your child's math learning @Home**

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 7 to 8 p.m.

This session is for parents, caregivers, and their children. Playing games at home is a great way to support child(ren)'s math development. In this session, several games will be explored, and participants will have the opportunity to try the games with their children during the session. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length followed by 15 additional minutes for further game play or to ask questions of our math facilitators. Bring your child(ren) and your math kit to this session!

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a kit of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on the registration form. Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/24MathAtHome>.

### **Subscribe to Kindergarten Connections!**

Will your child be turning four in 2024? If so, the SCDSB invites you to Kindergarten Connections! This is a monthly e-newsletter informing families of everything they need to know about preparing their child for school, as well as registering them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB. To learn more and subscribe, visit the Kindergarten page on the SCDSB website: [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/kindergarten](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten).

### **EarlyON Child and Family Centres**



The foundation for lifelong learning and health is built in the early years. EarlyON Child and Family Centres across Simcoe County offer programs for children prenatal to six years of age and their parents/guardians and caregivers. They offer access to play- and inquiry-based learning supported by *How Does Learning Happen?* Ontario's pedagogy for the early years, information on child development and developmental screening including Early Referral Identification Kits (ERIKs), parent/guardian education, referrals to community resources, nutrition information, and post-natal resources. Check with your local EarlyON provider: <https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>

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



### **High school information events 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 at [www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning\\_for\\_high\\_school](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning_for_high_school) to find details on your high school's info night, and contact the school directly for more information.



### **Grade 1 French Immersion information**

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.

**The SCDSB board-wide electronic applications for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will open Friday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15.** Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system. To learn more, visit the SCDSB website: <https://www.scdsb.on.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=210982&pageId=12587752>.

### Mental health strategy of the month - Emotion Charades

Well-being is a Strategic Priority in the Simcoe County District School Board, and our mental health and well-being department provides monthly strategies to support student and family well-being.

This month's strategy is *Emotion Charades*. This practice helps students practice expressing emotions with their whole body and recognize body language and facial expressions in others. To practice *Emotion Charades* at home, on slips of paper, write or draw different feelings depending on the age of your child. For instance, happy, sad, angry, scared, worried, sleepy, frustrated, etc. Place the papers in a bowl/container.

Then:

- Decide who will go first. Have that person pick a piece of paper from the bowl.
- Have them read the feeling to themselves, or, if needed, help your child read the feeling.
- Now they will act out the feeling without words while the other players try to guess what it is.

Once someone gets the right answer, it's the next person's turn to pick a piece of paper and act out the feeling.

This is a fun activity that everyone in the family can play!

*Emotion Charades* link to School Mental Health Ontario parent sheet: <https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/>

Find more information to support your child's mental health here: <https://smho-smso.ca/parents-and-caregivers/>

Emotion Charades:

Elementary - <https://smho-smso.ca/emhc/identification-and-management-of-emotions/recognizing/emotion-charades/>

Secondary - <https://smho-smso.ca/emhcsecondary/identification-and-management-of-emotions/recognizing/emotional-awareness/>

Follow the Mental Health and Well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB\_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

### Head lice treatment and prevention

Anyone can get head lice. Having head lice does not mean a person is unclean or lives in a dirty home. While they are a nuisance, head lice do not spread disease or cause illness. Head lice spreads easily, especially where people are in close contact and are very common among school-aged children or children in childcare.

Head lice spreads through direct hair-to-hair contact or indirectly by sharing hats, combs, hairbrushes, and headphones. To help prevent the spread of head lice, it's important to educate students about avoiding head-to-head contact and discourage sharing combs, hairbrushes, tuques, hats, or hair accessories.

Parents/guardians, caregivers, and families can visit <https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/PP2B/RaisingChildren/YourGrowingChild/HeadLice> for more information about head lice treatment and prevention. Or call Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 to speak to a public health nurse.

### Is bedtime stressing you out?

Kids need 10-12 hours of sleep every night but sometimes getting them to bed can be challenging. You can help create a regular sleep schedule for your child by setting a clear bedtime and sticking to the same time every night. Start getting ready an hour before bed; turn off the TV, computers, and phones. Spend quality time talking or reading stories to help them unwind. Agree on how many you'll read before you start! Keep their room dark, cool, and quiet - a nightlight is fine. Remember, making sure your child gets enough rest will help improve their mood, behaviour, and ability to learn.

For more bedtime tips, contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a public health nurse. Visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) for more information.

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

### Programs available through the SCDSB's Adult and Continuing Education Learning Centres

The Simcoe County District School Board's Adult and Continuing Education department offers a variety of programming including day school, night school, summer school, correspondence, and co-op. Courses may be online, hybrid, or in-person and are based on sufficient enrollment. For current high school students, we offer travel for credit, summer school, and night school programs. For adults, we offer credit courses towards completion of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) including credits granted for prior learning and experiences (PLAR). In support of many of the adult learners in our communities, we also offer non-credit classes in English as a second language (ESL) and literacy and essential skills (LES) both of which can support learners towards paths of employment, continued education, and citizenship. Please visit us at [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) to learn more.

### School playground structures are closed for the winter

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.

### Did you know it's illegal to vape or smoke *anywhere* on school property, inside the school or outside within 20m of school property, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year?

The law applies to everyone on school property, students, staff, and visitors. It also means it is illegal to vape or smoke on school athletic fields during afterhours activities or vape or smoke in school washrooms. There is a fine of \$305 for vaping or smoking on school property.

*But why do youth vape at school?* Vapes contain nicotine, which is a highly addictive drug. Nicotine addiction is extremely powerful, develops quickly, and youth may not realize they are addicted. Once addicted, they need nicotine regularly or they will experience withdrawal, making it hard to get through the school day. Help them take back control – there are supports to help youth quit! Talk to your child about vaping, they listen more than you think. Learn more at [NotAnExperiment.ca/parents](http://NotAnExperiment.ca/parents).

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

**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.

There are eight webinars specifically planned for parents/guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

- Jan. 11, 2024 Sleep hygiene
- Feb. 8, 2024 Self regulation for kids
- Feb. 22, 2024 Self regulation for teens
- March 28, 2024 Building parents' resiliency
- April 18, 2024 Vaping, weed, and alcohol

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



**Licensed Winter Break school-age child care programs**

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 Winter Break. Registration in advance is required.

Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register. More information and contact numbers can be found by visiting: [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/childcare\\_before\\_after](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after).

**Days of Observance in December**

**December 2023**

Date(s)	Observance
Dec. 1	World AIDS Day
Dec. 2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
Dec. 3	First Day of Advent (Christianity) International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Dec. 6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women Saint Nicholas Day (Christianity)
Dec. 7-15	Chanukah/Hanukkah (Judaism)
Dec. 8	Awakening Day (Buddhism)
Dec. 9	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime
Dec. 10	Human Rights Day
Dec. 13	Birthday of Imam Aga Khan (Islam)
Dec. 21	Yule/Winter Solstice (Wicca)
Dec. 22	Maun Ekadashi (Jainism)
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve (Christianity)
Dec. 25	Christmas (Christianity)
Dec. 26	Boxing Day Sanghamitta Day/Unduvap Poya (Buddhism) Zarathosht-no-diso (Zoroastrianism - Fasli Calendar)
Dec. 26 – Jan. 1	Kwanzaa



**Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions is seeking compassionate and skilled professionals with specialized experience to apply to become foster care providers**

The goal of this program is to meet the needs of youth through a therapeutically supported parenting approach within a structured environment, where they are supported and guided by a multi-disciplinary treatment team. The youth will remain, or become connected to, their family/kin/community whenever possible. Treatment services will be individualized based on the needs of the youth, and the knowledge of those who know the youth best in collaboration with community partners. This will allow youth to reside in a family-based setting and remain in their home community of Simcoe Muskoka, staying connected to important relationships and supports that may already be in place.

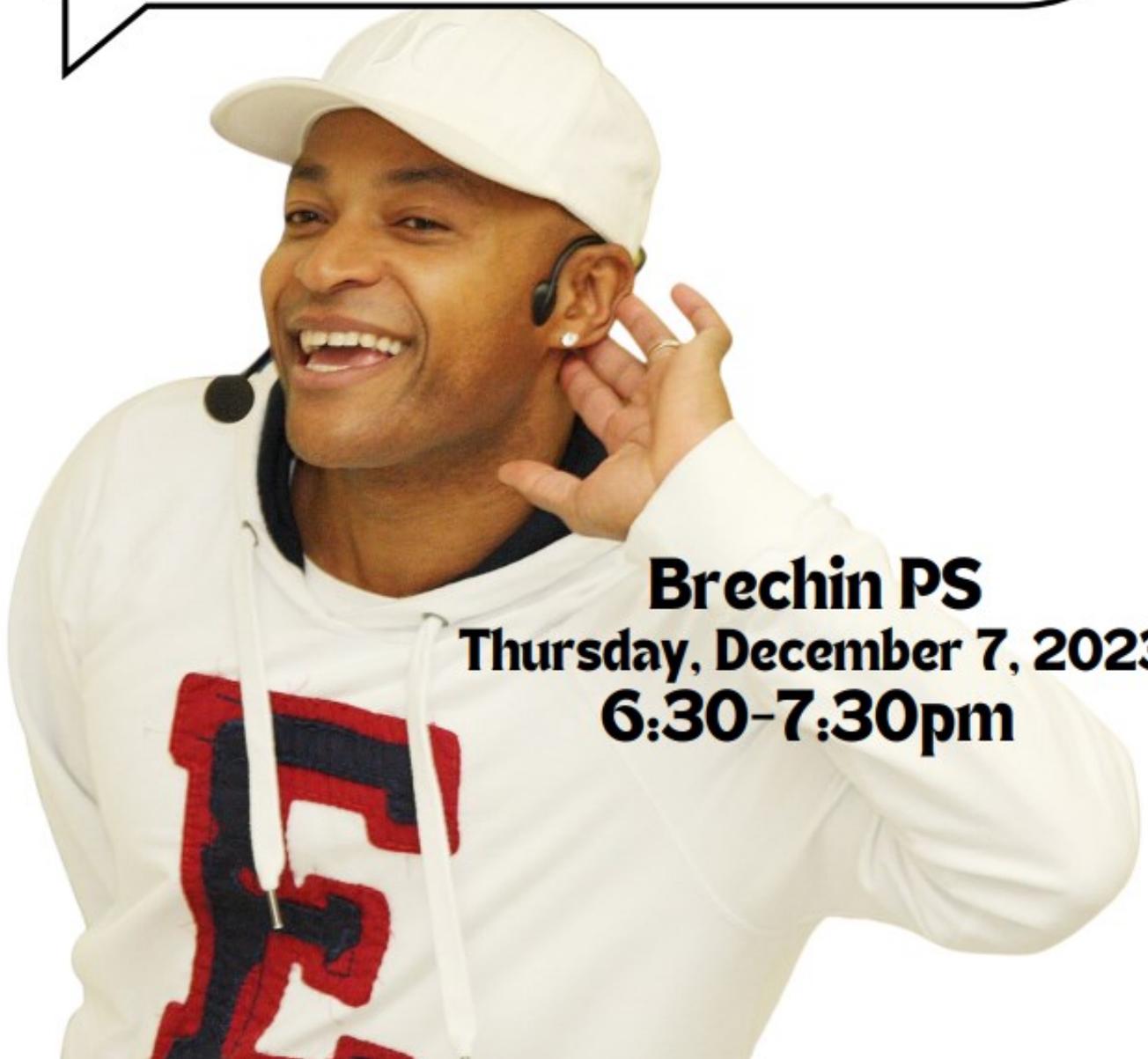
The homes approved under this strategy are designed to create clinically informed care plans that will support the youth directly, in addition to the continued support of their care providers. Youth will be supported by a multi-disciplinary team and will be available to implement and design parenting and support to address the needs of the youth.

Compensation packages will be offered to experienced foster care providers, as well as clinical support to both care providers and youth.

If you or someone you know is looking for more information or would like to apply, contact Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions by email at [bruna.figliuzzi@familyconnexions.ca](mailto:bruna.figliuzzi@familyconnexions.ca) or call 705-716.4664.

Information provided by Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions

**Better Me - Better We  
Better Community  
Concert!**



**Brechin PS**  
**Thursday, December 7, 2023**  
**6:30-7:30pm**