

BRECHIN PUBLIC SCHOOL

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Webpage: www.bre.scdsb.on.ca Twitter: @BrechinBobcats



JANUARY CHARACTER TRAITS: LISTENING, LOYALTY AND HUMILITY

Happy New Year!

In true December fashion, December was packed full of events! Many of these events would not have been able to take place without the incredible donation of time and resources from the Brechin community! Thank you to the many volunteers who made Holiday Shopping Day a reality. Students were so excited to shop for their family members! I am sure that you were equally as excited to open the treasures that they picked out for you! Volunteers made that event a true success. From gathering and sorting donations, to organizing, helping students shop, wrapping and tidying up—school council took care of it all! In an incredible encore performance, many of these same volunteers (and more) worked to prepare an AMAZING holiday meal for the entire school! Thanks to the very generous donations from many local businesses and families, we were able to provide everything for the meal. What an incredible feast it was!

Of course, at the end of the month we also had our character assembly and term assembly. At these events, we celebrated student achievement. Several students were recognized for consistently showing excellent character traits. As well, the Most Improved Student Award, Grit Award and Academic Achievement Awards were given out. We are so proud of the recipients! Students who participated in clubs or teams during the term came up on stage to be recognized and got a sticker to put on their 2023-2024 School Involvement Certificates. Those certificates are sure to fill up as the year progresses and will be sent home at the end of the year. There are so many opportunities for students to get involved at BPS!

We are excited to see what 2024 will bring. Report cards will be written this month and distributed in February. Students should continue to put forth their best effort in both the area of learning skills and academic achievement. With your child, reflect on those goals that they set back in the fall after progress reports. Help them to stay focused on the importance of taking school seriously. The sky is the limit!

January will see the printing of the NEW BPS Character T Shirts! Congratulations to Logan and Sitara on their winning designs! Staff members are looking forward to awarding these new shirts to students who have shown exceptional character by advocating for others in need and consistently demonstrating exceptional character.

As the cold weather will inevitably come, please help your children to remember to dress appropriately for the weather. They are outside for recess, outdoor learning and daily physical activity throughout the day. All that warm gear will really help to keep them warm and dry on the cold, damp days.

The staff at BPS are excited to help students achieve their goals in 2024! Let's get started.

Jennifer Cornick
Principal

Dates to Remember

January 23—Grade 4 Outdoor Learning
January 24—Character Assembly
January 24—Comfy Clothes Spirit Day
January 25—Bell Let's Talk Day
January 26—PA Day
February is Black History Month
February 16—Report Cards go home
February 19—Family Day
February 28—Character Assembly
February 28—Anything But a Backpack—Spirit Day
March 11-15—March Break



***Our next School Council Meeting
will take place on March 4 at
5:00pm.
We hope to see you there!***

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.

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.

Congratulations to Term 1 Award Winners!



MOST IMPROVED AWARD

Waylon F, Emma V, Trinity W

ACADEMIC AWARD

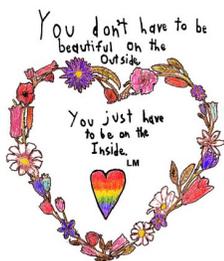
Addison S. Beau C, Aye Lah B-L

GRIT AWARD

Parker P, Jordan B, Ava S

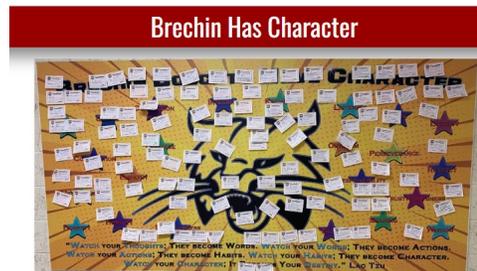
Winning T-Shirt Designs

Congratulations to Logan and Sitara whose t-shirt designs were selected for our BPS Character T-Shirts!



Congratulations to the MANY students who were “caught” showing good character! *

Ask your child if they have received a character sticky note yet.



Kindergarten registration for September 2024 is open!

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 2024? If so, we invite you to register your child for Kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.



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. 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/BrechinBobcats) or listen to your local radio station for event cancellation info.

January PA Day

Please note that Friday, Jan. 26 is a PA Day for elementary SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2023-24 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar.

Below is a summary of the activities planned for the Jan. 26 PA Day:

Length: Full day

Topic: Evaluation and reporting

Host: Simcoe County District School Board

Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): Not applicable

Educators will be working to complete the first provincial report card which will reflect students' achievement of curriculum expectations introduced and developed from September to January/February of the school year, as well as students' development of the learning skills and work habits during that period. This process includes both evaluation and reporting.

Elementary report cards will go home to parents/guardians on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024.



Subscribe to Community Connects!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is excited to launch Community Connects, a new bimonthly newsletter for the SCDSB community. Our shared goal with this new tool is to keep our community partners and stakeholders informed while nurturing relationships that are built on accountability, trust, and transparency.

To learn more and subscribe, visit the Community Connects page on the SCDSB website: www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community_connects.

Reporting achievement in language

Student achievement in language will be reported as one overall grade or mark on the term one report card. The mark will reflect a student's integrated learning across the four strands:

- Strand A - Literacy Connections and Applications
- Strand B - Foundations of Language
- Strand C - Comprehension; Understanding and Responding to Texts
- Strand D - Composition; Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

The grade will be accompanied by supporting comments that will indicate the student's strengths, describe growth in learning, and identify next steps for improvement.

For more information regarding the revised Language curriculum, visit www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/key-changes-language to view a guide for parents/guardians on the Ministry of Education website.

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.

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 to find details on your high school's info night, and contact the school directly for more information.



Standards of Behaviour and Consequences for Student Action Related to Racism, Bias or Hate

At the SCDSB, we are committed to maintaining safe, inviting, and supportive school environments, and recognize that all students have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in our schools. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate.



We want you to know that any incident of racism, bias, or hate will not be tolerated. Any such incident is treated very seriously with immediate action and consequences in accordance with the requirements of the *Education Act*, and consistent with our values and obligations under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

Students who engage in acts of racism, bias, or hate will face severe consequences as a result of their actions. Please take a moment to review the SCDSB Code of Conduct with your child (ren). The Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour and specifies consequences for student actions that do not comply with these standards. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools to learn more.

The SCDSB's Human Rights and Equity Office (HREO) has an advisory titled *Prohibiting the Use of the N-word*. Please take a moment to review this advisory with your child(ren) by visiting the HREO page on the SCDSB website <https://tinyurl.com/3jsvhan6>.

We are dedicated to educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism. We continue to work with students, staff, parents/guardians and community partners to ensure that our schools are the safe places they are intended to be for all students.

What an AMAZING HOLIDAY LUNCH!

It was so nice to gather together as a school community to enjoy this special meal which was prepared through the kindness of MANY!



Stay healthy this school year

COVID and other respiratory infections can spread easily from person to person. These germs can spread quickly when someone coughs or sneezes directly on another person, or when germs land on hard surfaces like door-knobs, desks, and keyboards and then are touched by someone else. These germs can then enter the body through the eyes, nose, or mouth.



The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick and stop the spread of germs is wash your hands. Wash with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds (or try singing Happy Birthday twice). If your hands are not visibly dirty you can use alcohol-based hand sanitizer for 15 seconds. Also, make sure you are up to date with your immunizations, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home if you are sick. Teach your kids to do the same!

For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this school year, contact *Health Connection* at 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

Keeping your information private

As parents/guardians, we work to support our children's well-being and to protect them from harm. At a time when internet use can pose risk to our children, how can we support them in keeping their information private and secure when using social media, games, and/or other digital apps? Each month we will highlight one cyber awareness topic to support parents/guardians with the information and tools they need to navigate these topics with their children.



January's theme is *Keeping your information private*. For helpful tips related to managing your child's privacy and security settings on mobile devices, read through the info sheet from the Educational Collaborative Network of Ontario (ECNO) by visiting https://ecno.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/ECNO-CAM-Calendar-23-Aug3023_KeepInformationPrivate.pdf. For additional activities and information, please refer to the Digital Citizenship resources for parents/guardians that are available on the SCDSB website https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools (see button for Mental Health & Well-being in Online Environments).

.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. The remaining webinars are:

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.

Mental health promotion strategy of the month - 2 x 10 Connecting

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 *2 x 10 Connecting*. This practice helps to build rapport and the relationship between a caring adult and student, and to let the student see they are genuinely cared about as a person.

To practice *2x10 Connecting* at home, find a consistent time each day to spend two minutes talking to your child about anything they would like to talk about for a period of 10 days. If you have more than one child, switch who spends that time talking with you every 10 days or find different times in the day to spend 2 minutes with each child.

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

2x10 Connecting resources:

<https://smho-smsc.ca/emhc/self-awareness-and-sense-of-identity/mattering/2-x-10/>

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>.

Parent/guardian self-care

As parents and caregivers, it is important that we take time to check in with ourselves. When you are feeling stressed or overwhelmed, take time for yourself, even if it is just a few minutes. Working through your own feelings will make it easier for you to support and reassure your child.

Self-care does not need to be complicated. Take a few minutes to do something you enjoy, connect with a friend, or move your body. It is not selfish, it is self-preservation.

For more information, call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskohealth.org

SCDSB Days of Awareness in January

January 2024

Date(s)	Observance
Jan. 1-31	Tamil Heritage Month
Jan. 1	New Year's Day
	Temple Day/Solar New Year (Buddhism)
Jan. 4	World Braille Day
Jan. 6	Epiphany (Christianity)
Jan. 7	Christmas (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
Jan. 10	Linji Memorial (Buddhism)
Jan. 11	Sir John A. Macdonald Day
Jan. 13	Lohri (Hinduism)
	Maghi (Sikhism)
Jan. 14	New Year's Day (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
Jan. 15	Makar Sankranti (Hinduism)
	Thai Pongal (Hinduism – Tamil)
Jan. 19	Epiphany (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
Jan. 20	Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikhism)
Jan. 21	Lincoln Alexander Day
Jan. 24	International Day of Education
	World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture
Jan. 25	Bell Let's Talk
	Honen Shonin Memorial (Buddhism)
	Mahayana New Year (Buddhism)
Jan. 27	Family Literacy Day
	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
Jan. 29	National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia