

BRECHIN PUBLIC SCHOOL

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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



NOVEMBER CHARACTER TRAIT: KINDNESS AND RESPECT

October was an awesome month at Brechin PS. Our athletes shone on the field and trails! Thank you to the coaches from the cross country and flag football teams for working with our athletes. Students demonstrated great sportsmanship and teamwork while competing against students from other schools. Our Bobcat Choir continues to get ready to perform at the upcoming Remembrance Day Assembly. The month ended with a Halloween Spirit Day and dance for all students on Halloween. It was great to see all of the costumes and feel the excitement in the air.

November is going to be a busy and exciting month at Brechin P.S.! We look forward to being together as a community for our Remembrance Day Assembly on Friday, November 10th. We will begin calling students down to the gym at 9:45 a.m. Thank you to families who have shared photos and details about family members who they would like to be recognized in the assembly. If you have any further photos, please email them to jcornick@scdsb.on.ca as soon as you can.

In November, the Intermediate Boys' Volleyball team will begin their season. In addition, student leadership is getting up and running! Mrs. Casselman and Mrs. Munro are working with students who applied to be on our leadership team. We will see these students running assemblies and sharing their leadership skills throughout the school. We are excited about Bullying Awareness Week that is coming up near the end of the month. As the month progresses, ask your children what they have been talking about regarding anti-bullying and anti-bias behaviour at school.

Progress reports go home on November 9. This is a good time to review progress so far this year and to set goals for the terms to come. Consider working with your children to set both an academic goal and a goal related to learning skills. Strong learning skills are the best indicator of academic success throughout elementary and secondary school. We look forward to welcoming you back into the school for interviews during the week of November 13. If you have not already booked your parent-teacher interview, please reach out to teachers to make an appointment.

The SCDSB now teaches and celebrates 23 Character Traits (see info [here](#)). In November we will be focusing on Kindness and Respect. You can help us by having conversations about kindness and respect at home as well. At school we will be looking for opportunities to celebrate acts of kindness and respect towards fellow students and staff.

All the best as we travel through the month of November. Feel free to reach out by email or telephone if you have any questions or concerns.

Jennifer Cornick

Principal

Dates to Remember

- Nov 6—School Council Meeting—5:00
- Nov 9—Progress Reports go home
- Nov 10—Remembrance Day Assembly—9:45am
- Nov 13—World Kindness Day
- Nov 14— French Immersion Information Night for SK families at Harriett Todd
- Nov 16— Photo retake day
- Nov 15, 16, 17—Parent-Teacher interviews
- Nov. 17— PA Day
- Nov. 19-25—Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week
- Nov 22—Grade 8 trip to Oshawa



Reminder—Be sure to book your appointment for parent-teacher interviews during the week of November 13!



Our next School Council Meeting will take place on November 6 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.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Bobcat cross country running team had an amazing showing at the area meet where all the runners put in their best effort and persistence to finish a tough course in the pouring rain. Eleven runners moved onto the county meet where we again had some amazing efforts and places!



Congratulations to all the runners on a job well done!

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.

PICTURE RETAKE DAY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

If you wish for your child/ren to have their school picture retaken, please send a note or email to indicate that you would like their pictures retaken.



Recipes In A Jar



Brechin Public School is thrilled to announce a new fundraiser – Recipes In A Jar! This fundraiser will benefit our school with money going towards the grade 7/8 trip and graduation. Also, Recipes in a Jar donates back to our community as one meal will be donated for each jar or pouch purchased! Healthy snacks and meals - soups, cookies, muffins and more! These mason jars and pouches are great for your home and make wonderful holiday gifts. Sell items to friends, family, work colleagues and neighbours. <https://brechin.recipesinajar.ca/>

FLAG FOOTBALL



The flag football team had a great season, persevering through many challenging games to find our rhythm by the end of the season. We grew as a team and learned the importance of a positive attitude and supporting each other on and off the field. The highlight of our season was Thursday Night Lights. The tailgate BBQ put on by our amazing parents and our first big win of the season under the lights at Rotary Place won't soon be forgotten. Madame Eaton and Ms. Varey would like to thank all of the parents who drove our players and cheered on the team at our weekly tournaments. Your continued support is appreciated. Thanks for a fun season, everyone!

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 or listen to your local radio station for event cancellation info.**

November PA Day

Please note that Friday, Nov. 17 is a PA Day for all 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 Nov. 17 PA Day:

Elementary

Length: Full-day parent/guardian-student-teacher conferences

Topic: Communication to parents/guardians about student progress through parent/guardian-student-teacher conferences

Host: - Simcoe County District School Board elementary schools, including Grades 7 and 8 in Grade 7-12 secondary schools

Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): Elementary educators

Elementary educators will meet with students and parents/guardians to discuss student progress thus far this school year, including areas of strengths and next steps for improvement.

Secondary

Length: Full day

Topic: Multilingual learners; assessment, evaluation and reporting; school action and equity planning

Host: Simcoe County District School Board

Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): School board staff, school administrators, and school leads

Educators will learn about using STEP assessment data to plan responsive instruction for their multilingual learners (ML), including the use of tools and resources to support learning. They will participate in collaborative discussions and tasks in small and large groups facilitated by school leaders and ML lead teachers. This learning was collaboratively planned by members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Multilingual Learner team and the school-based ML leads to be responsive to the needs of the MLs in each school (100 minutes).

Educators will collaborate with department colleagues to develop culminating course tasks and consolidation activities which provide students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning. They will be supported with planning resources developed by the Student Achievement 7-12 department (100 minutes).

Educators will work with school and curriculum leaders in their schools to identify evidence-based strategies and actions to support students through the achievement of their school's School Action and Equity Plan goals. These goals connect to safe and inclusive learning spaces, achievement in mathematics, and graduation and transitions (100 minutes).

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.



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.

Grade 1 FI family information nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, FI family information nights will be held in-person throughout the month of November at the respective FI school locations. The designated Grade 1 FI site for our school is ENTER FI SITE. The information night for this school will be November 14 at Harriett Todd PS.

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.

Looking for Employment? Join Our Team!

Curious about what employment opportunities are available at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB)? The SCDSB is hosting several job fairs throughout Simcoe County during the month of November; come by and speak with one of our representatives at any of the following events!



JOIN OUR TEAM

YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka Employment Services (Midland)

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Job Seekers | YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka \(ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca\)](http://ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)

TRACKS Employment & Resource Service (Collingwood)

Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[TRACKS Employment Services - One-stop resource centre for Employment Ontario Services | Located in Collingwood and serving Georgian Triangle communities of Clearview, Wasaga Beach, and Town of the Blue Mountains](#)

FOCUS Employment Services (Alliston)

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023

3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

[Job Seekers - FOCUS Community Development Corporation \(focuscdc.on.ca\)](http://focuscdc.on.ca)

Agilec Employment Services (Orillia)

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023

12 to 5 p.m.

[Employment Services - Agilec](#)

For more information about employment opportunities at the SCDSB, visit: www.scdsb.on.ca/joinourteam.



Knowledgehook math tool

Knowledgehook is a digital math assessment and practice tool that has been purchased for all K-10 SCDSB classrooms. This tool is accessible to students at home so that they can practice math skills, either assigned by their teacher or on their own. Ask your child about how they use Knowledgehook in class and learn more at:

www.knowledgehook.com.

Nov. 28 is Eat Well to Excel Day in Simcoe County

Eat Well to Excel is a Simcoe County non-profit community partnership that supports our school's student nutrition program. The funding provided by Eat Well to Excel allows us to supply students with access to healthy snacks during the school day.



The pandemic and increasing food costs have caused a significant financial strain on many families in our region and new data shows that 1 in 3 kids in Canada are at risk of going to school hungry. Kids that are hungry struggle to retain knowledge and keep focused throughout the day. They are also at an increased risk of experiencing poor mental health and a compromised immune system. With your support we can maintain and hopefully improve our program to provide a consistent supply of healthy food to our students.

You can make a donation by visiting eatwelltoexcel.ca. You can either support the county-wide program or direct your donation to our school. Please include our school name in the comment box to ensure the donation goes directly to our program. A tax receipt will be emailed to you.

For more information about Eat Well to Excel visit eatwelltoexcel.ca.

Supporting oral language development at home

Within the revised language curriculum, there is a focus on supporting students to acquire the knowledge and skills relating to the foundations of language. Oral and non-verbal communication are foundational components of language skills. Over the years, students develop their listening and speaking abilities using a variety of strategies and skills, including word choice and syntax, to become effective communicators.

Here are some ways you can support oral language development at home:

- Engage your child in conversations about things that interest them
- Talk to your child and listen responsively
- Ask and answer questions
- Share oral stories
- Read aloud to your child
- Talk about the books you read together
- Singing and playing together



Dental screening and services for kids ages 0-17

Good dental health is an important part of your child's general health. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Oral Health Community Program offers free dental screenings in daycares, schools, and health unit offices for children and youth aged 0 - 17 years. Dental screening can identify and inform families that their child has a dental concern.



Health unit staff can also help children/youth and their families access free preventive services and treatment through the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) Program. For more information regarding these services visit: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Dental.

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.

Nov. 9, 2023	Understanding and managing screen time, part two - social media edition
Nov. 30, 2023	Helping parents align
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.



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.

Days of Observance in November



November 2023

Date(s)	Observance
Nov. 1-30	Albanian Heritage Month Hindu Heritage Month Financial Literacy Month November
Nov. 1	All Saints Day (Christianity)
Nov. 2	1 Read Canadian Day
Nov. 5	World Tsunami Awareness Day
Nov. 5-11	Treaties Recognition Week Veteran's Week
Nov. 7	Inuit Day (Indigenous World View)
Nov. 8	Indigenous Veterans Day (Indigenous World View)
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day
Nov. 12	Bandi Chhor Divas (Sikhism) Dhawal/Deepavali – five-day festival (Hinduism)
Nov. 12-18	Transgender Awareness Week
Nov. 13	Dhawal/Lord Mahavir Nirvana (Jainism) New Year/Enlightenment Day of Gaudamswami (Jainism) Vikram Samvat New Year (Hinduism) World Kindness Day
Nov. 14	World Diabetes Day
Nov. 16	International Day for Tolerance Louis Riel Day (Indigenous World View)
Nov. 18	Koyan Pancham (Jainism)
Nov. 19-25	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
Nov. 20	National Child Day/World Children's Day Transgender Day of Remembrance
Nov. 20-26	Canada History Week
Nov. 24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikhism)
Nov. 25	Holodomor Memorial Day International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

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Nov. 25-26	Day of the Covenant (Baha'i)
Nov. 25 – Dec. 10	The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
Nov. 26	Dev Dhavali (Jainism)
Nov. 27	Birth of Guru Nanak, Jayanti (Sikhism)
Nov. 27-28	Ascension of Abdul-Baha (Baha'i)

Online learning graduation requirement and opt out options

Students are required to earn two online learning credits to graduate from secondary school, beginning with every student who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year. The online learning graduation requirement also applies to adult learners that will be entering the Ontario secondary school system starting in the 2023-24 school year. The graduation requirement is intended to support students in developing familiarity and comfort with learning and working in a fully online environment, as well as developing digital literacy and other important transferable skills that they will need for success after secondary school, including in post-secondary education and the workplace.

Opting out

Parents/guardians may choose to opt their children out of the mandatory online learning credits required for graduation. To opt out, a parent/guardian must submit the [Secondary Online Learning Graduation Requirement Opt-out Form](#). Exemption from the online learning graduation requirements may be requested by:

- the parent/guardian of the secondary student
- students who are 18 years of age or older
- students who are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control



Check with your local school if you have questions regarding the registration or opt-out process.

Create Your Own Wood Sign Workshop

Wednesday, November 29th, 2023

Fundraiser for Brechin Public School at the Brechin Legion

Sign Types and Sizes - **ALL CREATE YOUR OWN SIGNS ARE \$30 EACH or READY MADE \$40**



- Design 1 - Let it Snow

- Design 2 - Hello Winter

- Design 3 - Welcome

- Design 4 - Merry Grinchmas

- Design 5 - Merry & Bright

***The background of each sign can be painted in stained wood, white, blue or red**

If you are unable to attend, signs can be premade and picked up at the school after the event!

Sign up forms and payment of \$30 for creating your own OR \$40 for ready made, per sign, using School Cash Online. Forms must be returned to the school by:

Wednesday, November 22nd.

Please contact the school at 705-484-5711 with any questions.