



Weekly E-Newsletter
Stay Connected @ BCSS
Friday, September 11, 2015



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome Back!

Week 1 is over and whew – what a week! There were lots of new students registering to attend BCSS. This, to me, proves that BCSS is THE place to be! It’s been a good week and the students, and staff, are settling in to their school routine really well. Our Grade 9’s look to be a really good group and are making an excellent transition to high school. I have included some clubs and teams announcements that you could point out to your teen, if you think they might be interested and may have missed the announcement.

The format of this newsletter is BCSS/SCDSB news/announcements, followed by Sports and Volunteer announcements. Sometimes announcements have an extended date on them, like scholarship news or community events, so I leave them in subsequent newsletters. At the end of each newsletter, I have two articles, Positively Speaking, and Parent’s Corner, that you could read and potentially discuss with your teen. This newsletter is to focus on the great, positive things that happen at Bear Creek, and allows me to brag about this school (which we don’t do enough of).

This is my inaugural edition, at Bear Creek, so please bear with me, in terms of any errors I may make. I hope you enjoy it. I am always open to suggestions and comments, so please contact me at twilkinson@scdsb.on.ca if you have something on your mind.

To the members of Bear Creek’s Jewish Community, I wish you **L’shanah tovah tikatevu** (May you be inscribed for a good year), as you celebrate Rosh Hashanah.

E-newsletters are available on the Bear Creek website: <http://bss.scdsb.on.ca/>

Please follow me on Twitter: @VPWilkinson

If you see a topic you want to learn more about, you go to the item and press the “Ctrl” button while you click your cursor and you will be “magically” transported to the topic you chose. To “magically” transport back to the table of contents, go to the “Back to the Table of Contents” words at the end of each article, and press the “Ctrl” button while you click your cursor and you will be “magically” transported back to the table of contents.

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What's Happening at BCSS?

Since Canada is part of the Commonwealth, I thought it prudent to mention the following:

Queen Elizabeth II Becomes Longest-Reigning UK Monarch

The Queen has thanked well-wishers at home and overseas for their "touching messages of kindness" as she becomes Britain's longest-reigning monarch.

Speaking in the Scottish Borders, the 89-year-old monarch said the title was "not one to which I have ever aspired".

At 17:30 BST (09/09/2015), she had reigned for 23,226 days, 16 hours and approximately 30 minutes - surpassing the reign of her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria.

David Cameron said the service the Queen had given was "truly humbling".

Dressed in turquoise with her trusty black handbag at her side, the Queen spoke briefly to the gathered crowds earlier.

"Inevitably a long life can pass by many milestones - my own is no exception - but I thank you all and the many others at home and overseas for your touching messages of great kindness," she said.

In the day's main events:



☺ The Queen and Prince Philip travelled by steam train from Edinburgh to Tweedbank, where she formally opened the new £294m Scottish Borders Railway.

☺ They were accompanied by Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who praised the Queen's "dedication, wisdom and exemplary sense of public service".

☺ In London, a flotilla of historic vessels, leisure cruisers and passenger boats took part in a procession along the Thames and HMS Belfast sounded a four-gun salute.

The exact moment the Queen became the longest-reigning sovereign is unknown. Her father, George VI, passed away in the early hours of 6 February 1952, but his time of death is not known.

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34177107>, 09/09/2015

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School Photos

Picture Day is Wednesday, September 16th, 2015

All students must get their photo taken even if they are not purchasing a picture package. Students will have one photo taken – this will be for a student i.d. card, a yearbook picture and a picture package, if they choose to purchase one. Information on picture packages will be handed out on Monday of this upcoming week in period 1 classes. The picture flyer and payment must be returned to the photographer on picture day.

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Resource Room Has Moved

The resource room has moved. It is no longer in room 167. It is now in room 129. Student laptops may be picked up in room 129. Come see your resource teachers there as well, or in room 119 off of the form.

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Hairstyling, Aesthetics Lab Added At Bear Creek in Barrie

Not all the news out of Simcoe County's two largest school boards is on the labour front.

"We are always optimistic on the first day of a new school year. There is so much to look forward to," said Simcoe County District School Board spokeswoman Melanie Slade Morrison.

"As always, there are many great initiatives under way or coming up this year. One project that we are very proud of is our rooftop solar program," she added.

That program sees the installation of solar panels on the rooftops of 27 schools across the county which will generate a total of 2.5 megawatts of renewable electricity to feed the provincial energy grid. Projects at all the participating schools will be up and running this fall.

Slade Morrison said over the course of the summer there were more than 100 construction projects taking place across the board.

They include the construction or design of three new elementary schools, three new secondary schools and various school additions, upgrades and renovations.

"In 2015-16, we anticipate the opening of the Chris Hadfield Public School in Bradford and the Orillia Secondary School, as well as the completion of Tay Shores Public School in Port McNicoll," she said. "The various projects happening across the county this summer — not including capital projects — totalled close to a \$16-million investment."

Two other major projects — in addition to regular upgrades and maintenance — were a hairstyling and aesthetics lab at **Bear Creek Secondary School** and a library renovation at Nottawasaga and Creemore Public School.



Slade Morrison said full-day kindergarten was fully implemented in 2014-15 and that the French immersion program continues to expand.

"Warnica Public School will become a single-track French school in September 2015 and French immersion will be offered at 12 elementary schools throughout the county this year," she said. "Extended French as a second language is also available to students in the school board."

Source: The Barrie Examiner, Wednesday, September 8, 2015, "Hairstyling, aesthetics lab added at Bear Creek in Barrie", by Ian McInroy, ian.mcinroy@sunmedia.ca

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Pay For Field Trips, Lunch Days, Etc. With SchoolCash Online

The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school, offering parents the option to pay online for lunch days and other items. Parents who sign up will receive a notification when a new item becomes available for purchase. Items are personalized to each student. Parents 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. To create an online account, go to simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com. Please contact the school office with any questions.

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Student Accident Insurance 2015-16

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country 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. It is essential that all students participating in extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage for all instances of injury. The Simcoe County District School Board has selected the "insure my kids" program through Old Republic Canada 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. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com. Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities and out-of-province or out-of-country trips.

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Now Accepting Applications for Loran Scholar Foundation Awards

Online applications are now open for the Loran Awards. Students can find out more about eligibility criteria, the application process and see a sample copy of the application form.

Each high school can sponsor up to **three students** for these scholarships, which are valued at up to \$100,000 each

over four years of university. **October 21** is the deadline for sponsored applications.

If more than three students are interested in applying, some can apply without sponsorship to the direct pool. Direct pool applications are due October 28.

What do we look for in selecting scholars?

Loran Scholars are young people who deeply value integrity and honesty. They are curious by nature, and are interested in a wide range of subjects. Furthermore, they are willing to take meaningful risks and prioritize results over appearances. Each one has shown a sustained commitment to service in the community, has taken the initiative to create positive changes and is interested in working for a better world.

Sponsorship & Reference Guidelines

1. Candidates wishing to be sponsored must select *Sponsored by my school* in the online application, and then enter the name and email address of their school sponsor under School Contact in the Educational Background section.
2. Every candidate must get a letter of reference, whether they end up in either the sponsored or direct pool. The reference does not have to be completed by the school sponsor. Anyone who knows the candidate and their activities well, who is not a family member or a friend, may complete the letter of reference.
3. Once the letter of reference has been submitted, the school contact will receive an email asking whether or not the student is being sponsored by the school. This email will include a copy of the student's application and transcript. The online sponsorship form takes about 2 minutes to complete.
4. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that both the reference writer and the school sponsor have sufficient time to complete their parts before the deadline. We are encouraging all candidates to express interest to their schools as early as possible.
5. If the student is not one of the sponsored candidates, or if their sponsorship is not complete by October 21, they will be automatically entered into the direct pool.

For further inquiries:

website: www.loranscholar.ca

phone: 416-646-2120

toll-free: 1-866-544-2673

email: info@loranscholar.ca

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Link Crew

Link Crew members are senior level students who are the leaders of the school. Link Crew members are an excitable, enthusiastic bunch who are the guides/mentors/ambassadors to the incoming grade nines. On Thursday, September 3rd, we had the Grade 9's at the school for team building activities, with the Link Crew. Hearty thanks go out to all the staff that came out to introduce themselves to the students, as well as barbecue the lunch, as well as to Ms. Sue Ketcheson and others (I'm sorry – being new to the school, I wasn't entirely sure who was involved), who ran and organized the daylong event. A huge round of applause and thanks go out to our Link Crew members for their efforts.

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Dress Code

With the warm weather still here, we usually have an increase in dress code violations in an effort to stay cool. This week was especially warm, thus, many students were still in beach mode.

One of the things that always happens when a warm Summer continues into the new school year is students keep out their summer clothes. We see a continued use of flip flops, tank tops, shorts and muscle shirts appearing in and around the school. We usually have to remind students that there are appropriate places for some items of clothing that they wearbut it may not be at school!

For example:

✚ Short shorts are not really appropriate at school. How short is short? Well, we don't use a ruler to measure them, but generally speaking if the tips of a student's fingers extend below the hem of the shorts, then the shorts are probably too short. Another guideline I have been using recently is if the material of the front pocket can be seen below the hem of the shorts, the shorts are most likely too short.

✚ Tank Tops and Muscle Shirts: We do allow students to wear these in phys. ed. classes, but they should not be worn outside of the gym. There is a myth out there, called the "three finger rule", that says if the straps of the top are more than three fingers wide the top is OK. **Our students have been told that the expectation is that clothing provides "an uninterrupted line of clothing covering the body from top of the shoulders to mid-thigh"**. Tops should also have appropriate necklines that are not too revealing and there should not be inappropriate graphics (drugs, weapons, alcohol, etc.) or expressions (profanity, etc.) on the top. **Instead of spaghetti straps, think lasagna noodles!**

✚ The choice of footwear is somewhat more flexible, but it must be appropriate (for safety reasons) to the class. While sandals may be appropriate in an English class, they would not be appropriate in a technical class or a science class (spilled chemicals could pose a hazard).

✚ For everyone's benefit, please remember we are a SCENT FREE school. Cologne, body sprays and perfume are NOT to be sprayed anywhere in the building, including at lockers and in change rooms. There are students and staff in our school whose health is affected when scents are sprayed. Your cooperation is not only appreciated, it is required.

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GSA

The Gay-Straight Alliance met during lunch in room 120 on Friday. Bring your lunch, and new members are always welcome.

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College/University Visits

The sign up binder for college and university rep visits is now available in guidance. Sign up today to get a spot reserved!

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University of Toronto Visit

The representative from the University of Toronto will be in the Career Centre on Monday, September 14th during the lunch period. Sign up today in Guidance!

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Me to We Club

Do you want to change the world? The Me to We club will be meeting next Monday, and every Monday, in room 238, at lunch. Come on out and see what it's all about! That's Me to We, Monday at Lunch, room 238.

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New York Trip

The New York Arts trip is 8 weeks away. IF you have put in your deposit, please see your homeroom teacher for an important letter regarding the balance of your payment as well as important details regarding our trip. If you have any questions, please come see Mr. Brawn or Mrs. Dold. Start Spreading the NEWS!!!

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Volunteer Opportunities

**VOLUNTEER!
GET INVOLVED!
BE A PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY!**

Do you want to volunteer or get a summer job? Not sure where to start? Check out Bear Creek's volunteer and student job opportunity board located outside of the Guidance office. It is updated weekly with fantastic opportunities! Still not sure what to do? Make an appointment with your Guidance Counsellor for some further suggestions.

Remember, EVERY student must complete a minimum 40 hours of volunteer work to graduate.

Please submit your "Completion of Community Involvement Activities" sheet (this sheet can be found either on-line or at the Guidance office) to the Guidance office as soon as it is signed by both you and a parent.

Do you need community service hours? Do you enjoy watching sports? Do you want to get involved in the sporting community at Bear Creek? Then the Home Game Crew might be for you! The home game crew is a group of people who help to set up for and score keep all the various sports that happen at Bear Creek. If you are interested, please come to a meeting at the beginning of lunch in room 125 on Wednesday, September 16th or see Mr. Wilkey in Student Success room 110 if you can't attend the meeting. New members welcome!

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Sports News

The scores and schedules across the County are on www.hometeamsonline.com; type "scaa 'your sport'" in for league (i.e. scaa football).

Next week's sporting events look like:

September 14 th	September 15 th	September 16 th	September 17 th	September 18 th
			Jr. Boys' Football @ Mississauga	Jr./Sr. Girls' Basketball @Laurentian
			Jr./Sr. Girls' Flag Football @Banting	

Are you a new student to Bear Creek in grade 10, 11, or 12 and are interested in playing sports? Did you transfer from another high school? Please come to see Mr. Wilkey in Student Success (room 130, I think) to fill out the necessary forms so you can play sports this year.

Boys' Volleyball tryouts start next week. **Senior** boys come prepared for volleyball tryouts on **Monday** at 2:45. **Junior** boys come prepared for tryouts on **Tuesday** at 2:45. If you cannot come to the tryouts, please come see Ms. Macdonald or Mr. Corrigan in the math office.

Any **Senior Boys'** interested in trying out for the **Golf** team need to see Mr. Dolbear as soon as possible in the Phys, Ed. office.

If your female teen plays golf, and is interested in playing on the Bear Creek **Girls' Golf** team this year? You must come down to the Phys. Ed. office to see Mr. Dolbear by the end of the day TODAY to show your interest. If you can't find Mr. Dolbear, see Mr. Wilkey in Student Success.

The **Girls' Basketball** tryouts continued Friday in the gym from 2:30 pm - 4:15 pm. Please see one of the coaches if you cannot attend.

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Important Dates

Sunday, September 13

Starts nightfall of Sunday, September 13 -

Ends nightfall of Tuesday, September 15

Tuesday, September 16

Tuesday, September 23

National Grandparents Day

Rosh Hashanah

School Photos

School Council, 7 pm in Library

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Positively Speaking

I am a huge fan of the Olympics and the Paralympics, preferring the winter to the summer games, as Canada seems more successful in the winter, but I am cheering the Canadians on nonetheless. The Pan Am/Para Pan Am Games were a huge hit, hopefully leading to a Summer Olympic bid for 2024.

I heard this story a while ago and I thought it very inspiring. This individual who was well known and near the top of his sport, suffers a horrific accident that almost kills him. He turns his focus on to another sport and with his positive attitude and work ethic, he becomes the top of that sport, as well. Attitude and hard work DO pay off!

Ex-Formula One Star Alex Zanardi Revels In 'Great Accomplishment,' Wins Paralympic Gold

Former F1 and Cart racing car driver Alessandro Zanardi of Italy shows off his gold medal for the Men's Individual H4 Time Trial during the London 2012 Paralympic Games at Brands Hatch racing circuit near Sevenoaks on Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012.



LONDON — Former Formula One driver Alex Zanardi, who lost his legs after a horrific crash in 2001, enjoyed a golden finale to his "magical adventure" by winning the Paralympic men's individual H4 handcycling time trial on Wednesday.

At the Brands Hatch circuit, former hosts of the British Formula One grand prix, the 45-year-old Italian blitzed to gold over the 16-km course in 24 minutes, 50.22 seconds.

Zanardi finished more than 27 seconds ahead of German Norbert Mosandl, with American Oscar Sanchez taking bronze.

"This is a great accomplishment, one of the greatest of my life," Zanardi said. "I worked very hard to get here. It was great to live such an experience at 45."

Zanardi had both legs amputated above the knee after crashing in the Champ Car series in 2001. The Italian was leading a race at Germany's Lausitz track when he lost control of his red Reynard-Honda in the final laps and Canadian driver Alex Tagliani ran into him at more than 350 kph (220 mph).

Earning praise for his recovery, he returned to racing only a year and a half after the crash and continued in the World Touring Car championships until 2009, by which time he had taken up handcycling.

"Three years ago I stopped motor racing, at age 42," he said.

"It seemed a stupid thing to do to drop everything. It was against all odds. But it's not the first crazy thing I did in life. In the end I was right.

"You should not chase pipedreams, but if you have a horizon to look into, happiness is just around the corner."

Zanardi was a former track record holder at Brands Hatch in the Formula 3000 category but admitted the circuit was hillier than he remembered.

"With an engine pushing me, I didn't realize it was so hilly. It was very hard, but if I had to design a course, this is what I would have done. It is beautiful, hard ... it suits my characteristics of an old man," he said.

"When you are 40, you appreciate what you do every day. I enjoyed every day of training. I've had a magical adventure and this is a fantastic conclusion."

All the Paralympic road cycling events will take place at Brands Hatch, Kent, 20 miles south east of the Olympic Stadium.

It began as a grass track for cycle racing in 1928. It staged the British F1 Grand Prix for the first time in 1976 and the last time in 1986.

Source: "Ex-Formula One star Alex Zanardi revels in 'great accomplishment,' wins Paralympic gold", By Justin Palmer, Reuters, September 5, 2012; <http://www.timescolonist.com/sports/2012-summer-games/Formula+star+Alex+Zanardi+revels+great/7195343/story.html#ixzz25kanFCRL>

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Parent's Corner

Three Ways to Get Your Teen on the Right Track This Year

Henry Ford once said, "Whether you think you can, or whether you think you can't, you're right!" But when it comes to how well students do in school, your expectations also play a big role.

There is now more than a quarter century of research showing that parents' expectations affect their teens' school performance.

Here are three specific things you can do this year:

- 1. Future goals** Talk about what your teen will do after high school. Teens who can create a clear picture of where they're going are more likely to get there. Perhaps your teen wants to play sports when they're in college/university. But if they spend all of their time working on free throws - and none on their studies - they won't qualify anyway.
- 2. Work Ethic/Habits** Focus on your teen's study and work habits, rather than just grades. Your goal should be to talk about the things your teen *can* control. So, whether they spend a hour reviewing for the test is something that is completely their choice.
- 3. Communicate with the school** Stay in touch with the school. Make plans to attend back-to-school night. Introduce yourself to your teen's teachers. Let them know that you welcome information about your teen - good or bad.

Source: S. L. Christenson and C. Peterson, "Review Research: Parenting for School Success", University of Minnesota Extension, www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/familydevelopment/components/00079a.html

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Parent Pointer Calendar for the following week (Sept. 14 – Sept. 18)

Monday 14 th	Tuesday 15 th	Wednesday 16 th	Thursday 17 th	Friday 18 th
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Help your teen make a to-do list. Organization is a stepping stone to their independence.	Emphasize the importance of school attendance. Point out that attendance is also important in the working world.	Set aside time to listen as your teen tells you about each of their teachers and classes.	Be available by phone or in person right after school. It's often when your teen is most ready to talk.	Can your teen study with music? Some can and some can't. Experiment to figure out which way works best.
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Have a great, restful weekend!

Be well!

Terry Wilkinson

Vice-Principal
Bear Creek Secondary School

P.S. (Positive Statement):

“Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good.”

- Minor Myers, Jr.

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P.P.S.: If you like what you have read so far, please tell another parent/guardian, get them to e-mail me, and I'll add them to the e-mail list.