



Weekly E-Newsletter
Stay Connected @ BCSS
Friday, April 5, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,



I think Spring is actually here. Warmer temperatures and sun are on the way. If you see windmills however, make sure you cover your ears as the sound can be dangerous to your health, according to what I heard this week.

Week 8 of semester two ends on a “Freaky Friday”! Yes, the drama/musical production of “Freaky Friday” started on Thursday, played again on Friday and will play twice of Saturday. Our family of schools elementary schools can to see dress rehearsals of the play and my daughter, who attends one of these elementary schools, said, “The play was great; the singing was great; the actors were great; everything about it was great!” I don’t think you want to miss this.

Tickets are \$12 and can be bought at the door. Evening performances are at 7 p.m. and Saturday has a matinee at 2 p.m.

On Wednesday, we had the grade 9’s involved in Truth or Consequences sessions, where they learned about appropriate and safe life choices. In the afternoon, the grade 10’s and 9’s had an assembly put on by Youthspeak. My son thought it was very informative and very moving.

This upcoming Wednesday is the International Day of Pink, to raise awareness regarding bullying.

If you used the on-line interview sign-up format, would you please take 30 seconds to do the following quick survey: <https://bit.ly/2U5KlmZ> . Thanks very much.

I am always open to suggestions and comments, so please contact me at twilkinson@scdsb.on.ca if you have something on your mind.

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

Please follow me on Twitter: @VPWilkinson

Please follow me on Instagram: spfx8691

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?

Dropping Students Off...

Lately, our Admin has been monitoring the driveway in the mornings because we have received complaints from the school bus and van drivers about cars parked in the handicapped and special needs student drop-offs. The congestion caused by dropping off students in the handicapped and special needs vehicles sections to the immediate right and left of the front doors is very dangerous for drivers, staff, and most importantly, students.

We would ask that you drop off students at the Kiss-n-Ride loop at the East end of the school, OR go to the far side of the student parking lot on the West side of the school (near the portables) and drop off your teen there. It's all about safety for everyone.

I don't know about the rest of the Admin and Staff but from what I have seen, there appears to be less congestion and confusion in the driveway in the morning. Thanks for your efforts and please keep it up!

Thanks very much.

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Simcoe County Regional Science and Technology Fair

On March 29th and 30th, Bear Creek held the Simcoe Regional Science and Technology Fair. Over 350 projects were entered, and Bear Creek students did very well.

In the Plant and Animal Sciences division, **Nikki van Schaik's** and her partner's project was on "Comparing the Effects of Aerobically Decomposed Waste on Plant Development".

They won a Gold medal, the Best of Category, the Barrie Mayor's Award for Community Improvement – a \$100 prize, and a trip to the Canada Wide Science Fair in Fredericton, New Brunswick

In the Earth and Environmental Sciences division, **Sylvie Potje**'s project was on "Improving the Efficiency of Bioplastic".

She won a Silver medal, and an Isowater Chemistry Award, a \$100 prize

In the Physical and Mathematical Sciences division, **Owen Gariepy**'s project was on "The Heat Is On!" He won a Silver medal, and the Lakehead University Physical and Mathematical Sciences Award, a \$100 prize

In the Computer and Engineering Sciences division, **Reagan Van Kolfshoten** and his project "DC Motor Driver" won a Silver medal.

In the Human and Health Sciences division, 4 Bear Creek projects won prizes.

Elissa Bailey and her project "Germs-B-Gone" won a Gold medal.

Jada Marsh and her project "Does Age and Sex Affect Our Ability to Perceive Optical Illusions?" won a Silver medal.

Lily Archambault's and **Brooklyn Prout**'s project "Fingerprints Can Tell Your gender?" won a Bronze medal.

Shannon Miller and her project "Destroying Proteins" won a Bronze medal.

If you know these students, please congratulate them on a job well done. A lot of work and time went into their projects and they are very deserving of the praise and awards.

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Six SCDSB Students Headed to Canada-Wide Science Fair After a Successful Regional Showing

On March 29 and 30, student scientists in Grades 4 to 12 competed in the Simcoe County Regional Science and Technology Fair, held at Bear Creek Secondary School.

This year, Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students received over 60 medals (eight gold, 13 silver, 18 bronze and 21 honourable mentions). Highlights included:

Best of Fair and Best of Physical and Mathematical Sciences – A Statistical Analysis of the Card Game War, Alex Pavlik, Barrie North CI

Best of Earth and Environmental Sciences - Natural Disaster Proof Buildings, Owen Hammond, Broc Pasma, Admiral Collingwood ES

Best of Plant and Animal Sciences - Comparing the Effects of Aerobically Decomposed Waste on Plant Development, Emily Goodson and **Nikki van Schaik, Bear Creek SS**

Best of Computer and Engineering Sciences - Automating the Detection and Probability of Wildfires – Tapio, Rohan Mehta, Collingwood CI

Additionally, six SCDSB students, from Barrie North CI, Bear Creek SS, Collingwood CI and Mountain View ES, have been chosen to attend the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF), happening May 11 to 17 in Fredericton.

View the full list of the 2019 Simcoe County Regional Science and Technology Fair [results](#). To learn more about the fair, visit <https://simcoesciencefair.ca/>.

{TW – I am very proud of my daughter who received a Silver medal in the Computer and Engineering Sciences Division and a Special Award from Barrie Computing}

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Culture Club

A meeting of the new Culture Club (not the band from the 80's) is meeting on Monday, in room 206. If English is not necessarily your family's first language, you will want to check this out. If English **is** your family's first language, you will want to check this out. Whether you are white or black or some combination in-between, you will want to check this out. EVERYONE is welcome. See Mr. Wilkinson for more details.

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Eastview SS To Offer Workshops To Parents As Part Of Annual Wellness Week

Parents and guardians of teens across Simcoe County are invited to Eastview Secondary School during the school's Wellness Week, April 8 to 12, to participate in free workshops. The workshops have been developed to help parents support their teens. Participants can attend either or both of the sessions.

April 9 – Consent, healthy relationships and sexting

This workshop, presented by the [Child Advocacy Centre Simcoe/Muskoka](#) takes place in the Eastview library at 7 p.m. It will include information on how to help reduce the victimization of children, and help safeguard them through discussing healthy relationships, sexual consent, social media risks and positive decision making online.

April 11 – Preparing parents for their child's post-secondary life

Author, speaker and music maker [Blake Fly](#) provides parents with reassurance and resources before they send their child to campus, combining storytelling and case studies of what life is like for families transitioning out of high school and into university. This session is at 7 p.m. in the Eastview cafetorium.

Eastview Secondary School is located at 421 Grove Street East in Barrie.

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Student Parking

Students are reminded that you are to park your vehicles in the large parking lot to the West of the school. The areas behind the school, and East toward the roundabout are reserved. Thank you for your co-operation.

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Canadian Blood Services Needs Your Help!

During the winter months, hectic schedules and snowy weather often result in a decrease in the number of blood donations. Canadian Blood Services (and all those in need of donations) want to remind you to be part of Canada's lifeline this holiday season and give the gift of life. You can book online at www.blood.ca. Look for a clinic in your area!

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Scholarships

ScholarTree is still committed to helping reduce student debt in Canada by making scholarship more accessible. Most people don't realize how many scholarships are awarded early in the school year. ScholarTree.ca has \$997,500 worth of scholarships that are currently accepting applications. Students can find which scholarships are best fit for them by signing up at ScholarTree.ca.

To help with students prepare and transition to post-secondary life we have launched the [ScholarTree Blog](#). University students write the blog because we want the information to be as relevant to current student life as possible. The main areas of focus for the blog are:

1. Student Life: general advice and hacks
2. Scholarship Tips
3. Entrepreneurial Spotlight: stories about students starting their startup or not for profit
4. How to: tips for applying and getting into prestigious programs

Make sure to subscribe, so you don't miss the weekly updates.

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School's In For Summer At The SCDSB

Are you and your child planning their courses for next school year? Looking for a way to create flexibility in their timetable and earn a credit? Consider summer school!

Each year, the SCDSB offers a variety of summer programs to over 2,000 students. Summer school options include open, college and university level courses from Grades 9 to 12. Courses are offered in-person or online. Interested students can also travel and earn credits with the summer EduTravel program.

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at www.learningcentres.com. Current SCDSB students should speak to their guidance counsellor for information and to register. Registration opens January 14!

I have signed up my children for on-line Summer School courses. They'll do their work from the cottage. My eldest is realizing the benefit of getting courses done in the Summer - it opens up options to courses he wouldn't have had the chance to get because of mandatory courses. And my youngest is getting a head-start.

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Badminton Club

Something new this year is the Badminton Club. It is on Thursday nights from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. Students can come and play for fun or to be competitive. There will be coaching available. Come for fun! Come for training! Come for exercise!

We are opening this opportunity for the family of schools for Bear Creek. Grades 7 and 8 students are welcome to participate as well, from 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

See Mr. Wilkinson for more information.

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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.

1. Do you like sports? Are you in need of community service hours? Do you want to get a jump on community service hours? Well the home game crew might be for you! We are in need of capable and trustworthy students to help with sports scorekeeping for the year. Basketball and volleyball are the main sports in which we require help.
2. Mr. Wilkinson is looking for students to be part of the Grounds Crew. Please see him in his office (upstairs admin tower) on Thursday for more information.
3. Mr. Wilkinson is looking for students to be part of the Breakfast Club. Please see him at the Breakfast Club table any day for more information and to sign up.
4. Are you a grade 12 University bound student currently taking advanced functions? If you are interested in tutoring mathematics to a younger Bear Creek student for either cash or community involvement hours, then come see Mr. Gunson, in Guidance, to learn what's available.
5. **Teen Advisory Board (TAB)**
Build your leadership skills. Join the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) which meets monthly to help plan new programs and services for teens. There will be pizza!
6. **BPL Teen Reviewers**
Practice your writing. Read a book, watch a movie, or play a video game and submit a review to earn two hours of volunteer time.

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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:

Monday 8 th	Tuesday 9 th	Wednesday 10 th	Thursday 11 th	Friday 12 th

If you see “vs.”, that means it is a home game; if you see “@”, that means it is an away game.

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 110, to fill out the necessary forms so you can play sports this year.

Track and Field practices started on Friday, the 22nd after school for any athletes interested. There were practices from 11:00 to 11:30 on Tuesday and Wednesday and practices will continue to be this format until further notice. Please see track board for the sign-up list.

Now, if you don’t want to touch anyone who is hot, sweaty, and gross, (or hugging) like in wrestling, try **Badminton** – Thursday nights, from 8 - 10.

To all girls interested in trying out for the **Girls’ Softball** team, there is a sign-up sheet posted outside the gym. This is just to gauge interest for now, so please spread the word to anyone who might want to try out.

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Important Dates

Monday, April 8 – Friday, April 12
Wednesday, April 10
Friday, April 12
Friday, April 19
Sunday, April 21
Monday, April 22
Friday, April 26
Friday, May 3

Drama Festival
Pink Shirt Day
Mid-Term
Good Friday – no school
Easter
Easter Monday – no school
Mid-Term reports out
P. D. Day

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Positively Speaking

I dislike those who find it necessary to bully others.

I was bullied, and I hated every moment. I tried to ignore, and was doing pretty well at, ignoring the bullies, when they decided to beat the heck out of my bike. I saw them and got the police involved. The bullying pretty much stopped.

The International Day of Pink is an international anti-bullying event held annually during the second week of April. The event started when students David Shepherd and Travis Price saw another student, who was wearing a pink shirt, being bullied in their [Central Kings Rural High School](#) in [Nova Scotia, Canada](#), and deciding to show support for the student by getting everyone at their school to wear pink the following day.

The initiative inspired youth at [Jer's Vision](#) who founded The International Day of Pink, an effort to support their peers internationally with resources and ways to make their schools safer.

The students at Bear Creek held a very successful and peaceful walkout on Thursday for the Premier to see/hear. They were well behaved and respectful. The inspiration they provide is amazing.

The positive, inspirational message the two boys from Nova Scotia made is also very inspirational. If we could just treat each other with respect and stop bullying others and stand up for those with little, or no, voice, the world would be an even better place.

I hope you get something out of this article. I certainly did.

What is the International Day of Pink?

April 10th, 2019 marks the International Day of Pink. It is a day where communities across the country, and across the world, can unite in celebrating diversity and raising awareness to stop homophobia, transphobia, transmisogyny, and all forms of bullying.

The International Day of Pink was started in Nova Scotia when 2 straight high school students saw a gay student wearing a pink shirt being bullied. The 2 students intervened, but wanted to do more to prevent homophobic & transphobic bullying. They decided to purchase pink shirts, and a few days later got everyone at school to arrive wearing pink, standing in solidarity. The result was that an entire school took a stand and began working together to prevent homophobic & transphobic bullying.

The message was clear: anyone can bully, any can be victimized by bullying, but together we can stop it.

Each year on the second Wednesday of April, millions of people wear pink and take a stand. The Day of Pink is a symbol, a spark, that empowers and inspires youth across Canada to create amazing social change!

How can I get involved in the International Day of Pink?

Wear pink on April 10, 2019!

Connect with your local politicians about becoming a Day of Pink Ambassador

Who are Day of Pink Ambassadors?

Day of Pink Ambassadors are politicians and community leaders from all over Canada who are willing to stand up and speak out on behalf of the diversity of others. Check out our blog for posts of some of the DayofPink Ambassadors telling us what wearing pink to them means and why it matters to them. If you know a politician, Member of Parliament, Mayor, Town or City Councilor who is interested in becoming a DayofPink Ambassador encourage them to check this website out. Email us at Info@DayofPink.org

Why Should You Participate?

Have you ever seen a friend hurt because of discrimination? Have you been hurt yourself? Discrimination comes in many forms, including the following: racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, ageism, colonialism, and antisemitism. These social diseases create barriers, bullying, harassment, hate and violence. No one should have to experience the negativity created by discrimination. The Day of Pink is more than just a symbol of a shared belief in celebrating diversity – it’s also a commitment to being open minded, accepting differences and learning to respect each other.

Source: “What is the International Day of Pink?”, <https://dayofpink.org/about/>

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Parent’s Corner

When I ask students about their focus, they often respond with “I can multitask very well!”

No – you can’t!

In fact, what is happening is they are doing their work yes but without the focus, they are doing their work at a subpar level. I have an article about it somewhere where it is scientifically proven that people, not just students, can’t multitask effectively, in general!

I am sure that is the reasoning for the upcoming governmental ban on cell phones in the classroom. It will help focus the students.

Anyway, I hope you find this article informative.

Instant Messaging (IM) May Slow Down Your Teen’s Reading

If you’ve been telling your teen you’re concerned about the time they spend send instant messages to their friends while studying, you might now say “ITYS” (I told you so).

New research shows that teens that IM their friends take nearly twice as long to complete a reading passage as those who don’t.

Researchers gave three groups of students a passage to read. One group read it without any interruptions. A second group answered instant messages and then did their reading. The last group answered instant messages while they were reading.

The results? The third group took nearly 15 minutes longer to read the same passage. That was nearly 50 percent longer than the other groups.

Teens who IM may think they’re multitasking, but they’re really just wasting time. “They will actually need more time to achieve the same level of performance on an academic task”, says researcher Laura Bowman.

So make sure your teen puts away their cell phone while they’re reading. They’ll actually have more time to IM friends once they’re homework is finished.

Source: Debra Viadero, “Instant Messaging found to slow Students’ Reading”, Education Week, www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/08/27/01im.h28.html

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Parent Pointer Calendar for the following weeks (April 8 – April 12)

Monday 8 th	Tuesday 9 th	Wednesday 10 th	Thursday 11 th	Friday 12 th
Help your teen make a budget. Be sure to include some money for the unexpected things that always occur.	Teach your teen to be a smart shopper. Help him/her set a budget for a big purchase before starting out.	Talk about the good and the bad aspects of stress. Discuss ways your teen can deal with negative stress.	If your teen is faced with a big decision, talk about it within the context of your faith or family values.	Brainstorm how your family could help beautify your neighbourhood.

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Have a great weekend!

Be well!

Terry Wilkinson

Vice-Principal
Bear Creek Secondary School

P.S. (Positive Statement):

“The best six doctors anywhere, and no one can deny it, are sunshine, water, rest, air, exercise and diet.”

- Wayne Fields

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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.

Good luck to the Toronto teams:

