



Georgian Bay District Secondary School

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APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

What an interesting, entertaining and successful year this has been! With the blending of Penetanguishene Secondary School and Midland Secondary School, a new and vibrant school has emerged: Georgian Bay District Secondary School. Midland's newest Secondary School is making its name known with the BEAR mascot displayed proudly at the front entrance, with the student and staff populations, and with many students in elementary school. To date we have had four athletic teams win the GBSAA championships and three teams, boys curling, Nordic skiing and swimming, send students to the OFSAA championships. With the introduction of Lacrosse as a new team sport and the Cricket Club and Science Club as a new groups, GBDSS is creating its own path within the community. Many of the initiatives, Wellness Ambassadors, the Equity Club, and Student Council, to name a few, have given their voice to the school. In walking the halls one can easily see the student's influence. Our student leaders are working hard to make GBDSS the place to be. The school's Grade 8 night was spectacular and the visits to elementary schools by our staff and students are making wonderful connections with our future BEARS. I welcome anyone who wishes to see what's happening at the school to call or drop by.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

As some of you may have noticed, there was a brief pause in the construction of the new building, however, since the weather has changed for the better, the construction crew has been working diligently to get the project rolling again. In the next few weeks you will be seeing a lot of activity on the new site, with a structure starting to take place. If you have not been into the school to see what the new building will look like, please drop by the office for an introduction.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HOURS

We would like to emphasize the importance of completing **40 hours of Community Involvement** and getting completed community involvement sheets to Guidance as soon as possible so that this important graduation requirement may be recorded in the student's records. 40 hours committed to giving to the community can be easily achieved if started in Grade 9.

Students in **Grade 12** are encouraged to complete their involvement hours ASAP and **hand in the required documentation so that graduation dates are not delayed**

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Are you looking for additional support to increase your achievement? Credit Save Days are scheduled during the semester to provide students who have outstanding assignments the opportunity to complete their work under the supervision of a teacher. Interested students should see Mr. Seca for the next Credit Save date in Room 146.

AFTER SCHOOL MATH/ENGLISH HELP

Grade 9 and 10 students who require extra help in Math and/or English can come to room 130 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 – 5:00 pm for small group/individual help with Math and English teachers.

Upcoming Events

May 3

School Council Meeting
starting at 5:00 pm

May 5

Spring Semi-Formal

May 31

Relay for Life

June 2

Sharing Dance

June 8

Athletic Awards Night

June 9

Prom

June 21

Period D, Grade 12 Course
Final Evaluations
Starting at 12:45 pm

June 22

Period A Final Evaluations
9:00 am start

June 23

Period B Final Evaluations
9:00 am start

June 26

Period C Final Evaluations
9:00 am start

June 27

Period D Final Evaluations
9:00 am start

June 29

Graduation @ 7:00 pm

July 6

Semester Two Report Cards
can be picked up in main office
from 8 am to 3 pm

July 6

Semester Two Report Cards
Mailed Home

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

At this time of the year, there are always lots of questions about assessment and evaluation, especially by students who are not being successful in a course. The main focus of most questions is this, "Can this credit be saved?" In many cases, the answer is yes. Assessment and evaluation practices have changed from the days when teachers simply averaged all of the marks together. Current practices focus on the most consistent and most recent results. Teachers look at the most consistent level of performance the student has demonstrated during the semester. They also give greater emphasis to the most recent level of performance. Thus, if a student improves their work habits in the final term, turns in assignments and demonstrates a solid level of understanding, their chances of success are good, and their early struggles get viewed as learning experiences – not major mistakes. In determining the student's final grade, the teacher will exercise his or her professional judgment, based on the principles of Most Consistent and Most Recent.

One of the most important things that all students can do to improve their chances is to make sure that all work is completed and handed in. A teacher cannot evaluate an assignment that isn't turned in! Assignments that don't receive a mark will only decrease the student's chances of success. Students who have assignments that have not been turned in should speak with their teachers to make arrangements to turn in assignments. Students who miss tests should always make arrangements to write the test as soon as possible after their return. Students who want assistance with making these arrangements with their teacher should see Mr. Seca, Student Success, Room 146, Mrs. Kent, Special Education, Room 145, or Mr. St. Amant, Guidance, Guidance Office.

The other critical thing that almost all teachers comment on is attendance! While we don't give marks out for attendance, students may fail to catch up on the missed work, don't understand the assignments and often don't hand them in if they are not attending regularly. Frequent absences from class are almost always a sign of a credit at risk.

GRADUATION

At a recent assembly, we presented an information package for all graduating students. This information package will also be available on the school website <http://gbd.scdsb.on.ca/>. Our graduation ceremony is on Thursday, June 29th at 7:00 pm. The potential grads were given information on scholarships and awards they can apply for. Many of these awards are based on criteria other than marks. These factors include contribution to the school or the community, community involvement, and so on. All students should review the list and make sure that they apply by the deadline – Friday, May 5th.



The package included a grad gown order form (deadline is Friday May 5th), nomination and voting information for valedictorian, as well as voting information for the program cover. Additional scholarship/award application forms and valedictorian nomination forms are available in the Guidance office. Grad gown order forms are to be handed in at the Guidance office. This year, students will rent their gown and stole which will include a souvenir grad cap and tassel at the cost of \$20.00. Potential graduates can make the \$20.00 payment using the cash online process.

Grad Program cover entries will be posted on the main office window May 8th to 10th. Grads will vote on Tuesday, May 11th for their valedictorian and the program cover. If you have any questions please contact Mr. St. Amant in the Guidance office at 705-526-7817 ext. 41962 or email him at astamant@scdsb.on.ca.

PROM

Pack your passport and get ready to attend this year's GBDSS PROM: A NIGHT AROUND THE WORLD. The event will take place on Fri June 9 at the Quality Inn in Midland. Doors open at 5pm and the dance will finish at 11pm. The evening includes photos, dinner, a slideshow and memories that will last a lifetime. Tickets will be on sale in May. Stay tuned! "Hope to see all of our graduating students there..."the best stories are found between the pages of a passport..."

FROM THE GBDSS LIBRARY

Stop by the GBDSS Library Learning Commons and check out one of our new Spring arrivals in Graphic Novels:

This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki
Through the Woods by Emily Carroll
Ghosts by Raina Telgemeier
Wytches vol. 1 by Snyder, Jock, Hollingsworth and Robins
Paper Girls, vol. 1 and 2 by Brian K. Vaughn
Saga, vols. 1-6 by Brian K. Vaughn



Fiction:

Hole in My Life, by Jack Gantos
The Zombie Survival Guide, by Max Brooks
A Monster Calls, by Patrick Ness
Clockwork Prince, by Cassandra Clare
Clockwork Princess, by Cassandra Clare

Don't forget to use our subscription databases for all of your research needs. Access the ProQuest databases from the GBDSS homepage. Click on the Library Databases tab under the Quick Access menu. Our username is **GBDrocks** and our password is **growl**.

This subscription is paid for by the school for the exclusive use of our students and their families. Please do not share this login information outside of the GBDSS family.

GBDSS TLLP SPHERO CODING CHALLENGE DAY

Mrs. Lancione & Mrs. Bumstead's grade 9 classes (math and science) have spent the past school year using the technology of Sphero SPRK+ robots to explore the art of block coding, and worked cross-panel to build capacity in our feeder schools with students and teachers. In doing so, they have learned to code themselves, exposed secondary students to coding in math and science and introduced elementary students to coding, design thinking and the inquiry cycle, all while developing collaborative planning relationships between the secondary and elementary teachers involved. The project culminated with a "Sphero Coding Challenge Day" on April 20 where the elementary students came to GBDSS for an afternoon of sharing. Students from Bayview Public School, Huron Park Public School, Tay Shores Elementary School, Burkevale Elementary School, James Keating Elementary School, Wyevale Public School and Mundy's Bay Public School were involved. The students created a "challenge" that they coded and then displayed it for all to view (i.e. an obstacle course, a Rube-Goldberg machine, etc). It was a fun day of sharing for all, and great learning was demonstrated by many. Follow @GBDSS_TLLP for photos and videos from the Challenge Day, and the year leading up to April 20th.

INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

"Jambo!" (hello in Swahili). Our ME to WE volunteer service trip to Tanzania went far beyond our expectations! Here are some quotes from our "Bears Who Care" (students) who participated. "It's not that hard to make a change." "Incredible, life-changing experience." "We have changed our worldview and appreciate our privilege now." "I am more grateful now for what I have." "I have never felt so much love from a random stranger." "Everyone should have the opportunity to travel and help others." "They had so little and gave us so much." Here are just a couple of our many highlights: digging the foundation for a new classroom, forming relationships with the children, walking for water and beading with the mamas, learning from our Maasai warrior guides, seeing elephants on our safari and the best part of all...the love! the love! the love!...and the gratitude these beautiful people wished us. We all wish we could go back and do even more for them. We definitely left our mark and a piece of our hearts in Tanzania. Watch for our upcoming We Walk For Water event that is part of the action plan we formed while we were away so that we can continue to make positive change happen.



GBDSS was proud to be able to have 34 students and 5 staff attend the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge. As a group, we were truly honoured to be part of such a historical moment and will forever be thankful to have those memories. Students were immersed in a variety of culture and history as they visited various sites in Amsterdam, the Normandy region, Paris and London.

GBDSS SPORTS AND ATHLETIC AWARDS NIGHT

Please join us to honour the achievements of our Bear student-athletes at our first annual Athletic Awards Night. This evening will feature team introductions, season highlights, special awards and draw prizes. Awards night will be held on **Thursday June 8**, dinner & slide show beginning at 5:00 pm in the cafeteria, followed by awards at approximately 6:00 pm. Students must attain a ticket at the end of May in order to attend the event, listen to announcements for dates that tickets will be handed out. Please see Ms. Carr if parents wish to join. Letter awards and senior athlete presentations will be the exciting finale of the evening.



Spring Sports training has been underway for some time here at GBDSS, with many students-athletes training hard and striving for excellence in preparation for the competitive season.

Up-coming spring sports include:

- Boys Baseball
- Track & Field
- Varsity Girls Soccer
- Girls & Boys Varsity Rugby
- Girls Slo-pitch
- Lacrosse
- Badminton
- *Ultimate Frisbee

Schedules and results for team sports can be found on the SCAA website at

<http://www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/default.asp?u=SCAA&p=scaa&s=org>.

This is a great way to track the progress of your favorite team! Good luck to all spring teams.

FROM THE ARTS DEPARTMENT:

GBDSS's First Musical! We are thrilled to present our first school musical,

The Music Man, during the second week of May.

About the Show

A Broadway classic, it tells the story of travelling "salesman" Harold Hill, who comes to small town, Iowa, in 1912 to try to trick the townsfolk into buying instruments and uniforms for a marching band, and vanish with the money.

Hilarity and romance ensues with Harold Hill meets the local librarian, Marian, who sees through his slick charm and holds Harold's whole future in her hands. The Music Man features memorable songs such as *76 Trombones* and *Till There Was You*.

See the Show

With dozens of students involved in every aspect of the production, you won't want to miss it! Performances are **May 11 and 12 at 6:30pm** and **May 13 at 1pm**. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children in elementary school. (Pre-school aged children are free.)

Dinner Theatre

We are also partnering with the Hospitality program to present the first annual Dinner Theatre! Join us for a wonderful meal, then enjoy the show! **Dinner Theatre is May 12 at 5pm. Tickets are \$20 and include both dinner and the 6:30 performance.** Dinner Theatre tickets MUST be purchased by Friday, May 7.

Buy Tickets/Find Out More

To purchase tickets or for more information, check out our website, www.GBDSSDrama.com



ROTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Justin Kennedy (February), Kristin Burrows (March), and Melanie Marlow (April) who have been recognized for their contributions to our school and community.

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD (RYLA)

Rotarians recognize that today's youth will become tomorrow's leaders. Preparing those future leaders is one goal of our local Rotary. RYLA gives the opportunity for one student from our school to work with other students from across the province to further their leadership skills. Congratulations to Julia Sallows who was chosen to participate in RYLA 2017.

Thank you to all members of the Midland Rotary Club who support this initiative as well as other initiatives our students are involved in.

HORTICULTURE CLUB

Spring is here! We have started some seeds in the greenhouse, and our hopes are to have some pretty flowers and maybe even some veggies to taste before the end of the school year. We will soon start to work on the front entrance planters to get them ready for the warmer weather. We have had a number of student volunteers helping with watering and maintenance of these plants.



Thank you to all the students that helped out in the greenhouse this winter - this is your work we will be showcasing in our gardens for everyone to see! Students are welcome to participate in the club - there's lots to do! Follow us on Twitter @gbdsshc or our website at www.gbdsshorticultureclub.wordpress.com. We always welcome donations of cash, gift cards for garden centres, and various tools to help us in the gardens. Contact

Mr. Beausoleil or Mrs. Bumstead to get involved.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

In celebration of Mental Health Awareness Week (May 1 to 7), the SCDSB invites submissions from students or classes about the importance of well-being. Student work will be incorporated in a gallery of work that will be displayed at the SCDSB Education Centre during Mental Health Awareness Week. Submissions can be in the form of art, music, technology, literature and/or multi-media presentations. Entries must be received before April 14 at bit.ly/SCDSBwellbeing.

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER SCHOOL STARTS APRIL 10

A new selection of summer school credit courses is available this July through in-person classes and eLearning. New this year are full credit grade 9 and 10 courses at Bear Creek Secondary School in Barrie. The in-person courses at Bear Creek will run July 4 to 28 from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Limited school bus transportation is provided from all areas of Simcoe County. Details can be found on The Learning Centres website:

www.thelearningcentres.com. Students can also get information from the school or from

any of SCDSB's Learning Centres. Online registration for current SCDSB students is available online through the student portal. eLearning registration is supported through high school Guidance Offices. Non- SCDSB students can register using the forms on the website. Registration opens April 10.



GBDSS ECOTEAM

Over the course of the school year the GBDSS EcoTeam has started to become a prominent organization at the school. We have been working extremely hard over the past few months to plan for our 'Earth Week' that will feature five different initiatives that will be taken on by the students. Our EcoTeam also has open spots for anyone interested in the environment, and is a great way to earn scholarships or test possible future careers. Not only can your child get involved in the EcoTeam, but so can you! Parents can request information about the EcoTeam or upcoming events, simply e-mail tyle5550@scdsb.on.ca and ask for more information.

USE THE SAFE SCHOOLS TOOL TO REPORT BULLYING, DRUG USE OR VANDALISM

The SCDSB has an online Safe Schools Reporting Tool, which is available on our school website homepage, <http://www.scdsb.on.ca/Programs/Safe-and-Healthy-Schools/Pages/Safe-Schools-Reporting-Tool.aspx>, as a Quick Access button. Students and parents can use this tool to submit a report online if they witness inappropriate behaviour such as bullying, drug use or vandalism. Students are still encouraged to speak to a trusted adult at school or home if they have any concerns. This form isn't a substitute for having a discussion with a teacher or principal. Student safety and well-being are always our top priority. For more information, please contact the school or visit <http://scdsb.on.ca/ReportAnIncident>.



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