



Bear News

Sept 2023

Georgian Bay District Secondary School

Principal: Hailey McLean

Vice Principals: Jane Mitchinson & Michelle Morris

Sept
5

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

Sept
14

JR. BEARS INFO SESSION

Sept
15

HOUSE RALLY

Sept
19

PICTURE DAY

Sept
20

WELCOME BACK BBQ

Sept
21

HOMECOMING DANCE

House Rally

Friday, Sept. 15 Little Lake Park



REMINDER

**Our first
PA Day is
Sept 22nd 2023**

Welcome back Bears!

We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and took the time to enjoy activities that you love. The staff is looking forward to welcoming students back to GBDSS this coming Tuesday to kick off another year of learning, growing and fun! We have already lined up some exciting events for our Bears and have many more in the works. As we embark on the adventure of the upcoming year we would like to remind students that GBDSS is a welcoming and inclusive space. We will be joined by many new students this year as our Bear nation continues to grow. In a world where you can be anything...be kind! Best of luck this year Bears, let's see all the amazing things you can do.

Bear News

July 2023

New absence reporting system at GBDSS

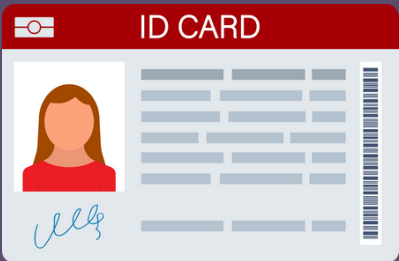
Beginning September 5th, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is implementing a new absence reporting system at secondary schools. This system will support us in continuing to streamline the absence reporting process.

To report a student absence, call 1-888-885-8065. Callers will be prompted to identify the school before leaving a message. Parents should include the student's name, teachers' name, dates and reason for the absence.

If you have questions about the new system, please contact the school office.

GBDSS STUDENT FEE

This year fees are \$25 each, which includes their Photo ID Card. Many establishments provide a discount with a student fee presented. Student ID cards are required to participate in clubs, dances, and other activities outside of the regular school day. Student fees are due by September 30th and are paid via School Cash Online.







WELCOME BACK BARBECUE

Wednesday, September 20 | 5-7 PM

- BBQ (by donation)
- Meet the Teachers
- Tour the School
- School Club and Sports Information
- Parent Council Information
- All Ages Welcome

Explore what Bear Nation has to offer, meet staff and other Bear Nation families!



GBD 101

This year we will be offering a parent info session during the BBQ for any parents interested in learning more about our school or who have questions they would like to ask. Great for those who may have missed this opportunity during grade 9 day!

Welcome
Future
Bears



Jr Bears Leadership Course Dates, 2023 - 2024

Thursdays, 4:30 - 7:30

October	Sat. Oct. 14 & Sat. Oct. 28 (9am - 4:30pm)
November	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
December	7, 14
January	11, 18, 25
February	1, 8, 5, 22, 29
March	7, 21
April	4, 11, 18
May	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
June	6 & Sat. June 8 (9am - 3pm)

Two kickoff Saturdays!

Culminating on June 8th at the
Butter Tart Festival



Bear News

July 2023

Introducing your 2023-2024 Student Council

Karys - President

Jett - Vice President

Ivana - Operations

Beth - Grade 12 rep

Julia - Advertising and communications

True - Social Media

Aubrey - Grade 10 Rep

Join
US!



Welcome back bears! Student council is a student-led committee that organizes school events, spirit days, and rallies. We have lots of fun events planned for the school year and are very excited to welcome the grade nines to GBDSS. We'd like to invite all students to join the student council and help shape our school community. We will be holding weekly meetings during school lunches and encourage everyone interested to join – tune into the morning announcements for more information.

The first event of September will be our house rally on Friday the 15th, where you can show your house pride and participate in fun activities. Later this month, you can find us at our school's Terry Fox Walk and welcome back barbecue. And finally, mark your calendars for September 21st, because GBDSS will be holding its first ever homecoming, a semi-formal event open to all grades!

CHECK OUT OUR TEAMS AND CLUBS!

Sept- Dec

Cross Country Running

Tennis

Boys Volleyball

Girls Basketball

Boys Soccer

Golf

Girls Flag Football

Boys 7s Rugby

Dec- Mar

Girls Volleyball

Boys Basketball

Curling

Badminton

Skiing (Nordic and Alpine)

Wrestling

Boys and Girls Hockey

Mar- June

Boys and Girls Rugby

Track and Field

Girls Soccer

Boys Field Lacrosse

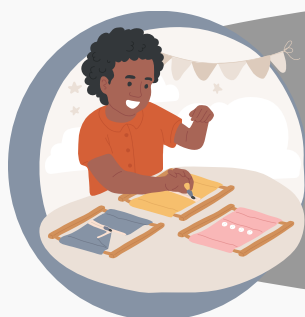
Boys Baseball

Girls Softball

Golf

Ultimate Frisbee

Ball Hockey



* Art Club * Athletic Council * Bears who care * Biz Bunch * Chess Club * Debate Team
* Drama Club * Dungeons and Dragon Club * Eco Team * Equity Club * Go with the Flow
* Jazz Band * Link Crew * Mock Trial * Prom Committee * Science Club * Sewing Club
* Stage Band * Student Council * Student exchange * Yearbook

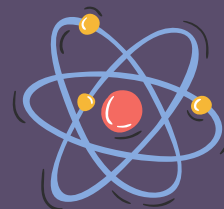
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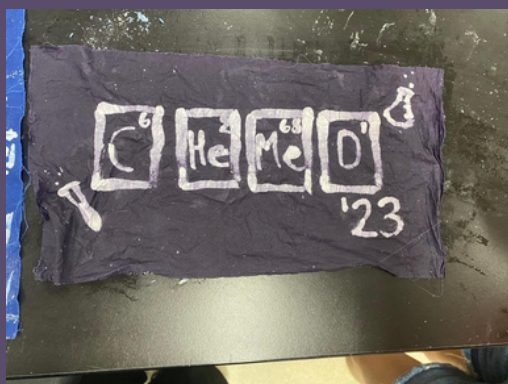


CHEM ED

WITH DR. DENEKA AND MRS. GRAHAM



Dr. Deneka was honoured to be chosen as one of the presenters at the North American chemistry educators' conference, ChemEd 2023. She was fortunate to have the help of her GBDSS colleague, Ms. Graham. They both attended many seminars and workshops that will help further enhance their chemistry programs. Dr. Deneka is excited to bring these ideas and activities home to GBDSS this year!



Student Achievements

Jimmy McLaren



This summer Jimmy participated in the Javelin and Pole Vaulting events at Nationals! These events were held in Sherbrooke Quebec. Jimmy got a bronze medal in Javelin and placed 7th in Pole vault. The top three guys in Jav were all within a meter. Even with a bit of nerves Jimmy did very well and looks forward to competing again in the future. Awesome Job!

Nevaeh Philips

Nevaeh Phillips is a grade 11 student at GBD. They are a talented visual artist and writer, not to mention a positive role model among their peers. Nevaeh's poetry is insightful, honest, and speaks to the human experience. This summer Nevaeh was published in two online magazines, such as, Luna Magazine and Sapphire Selections. Way to go Nevaeh! We are Bear Nation proud!

Workouts

Written by: Nevaeh Phillips

I joke that I'll work out so I can be "better"

You turned looking at me like I was the only thing in the room

Through your thick, sleepy voice you told me that you like the way I am

And you don't want me to look different

You like the golden stripes on my thighs

The scars on my limbs,

The rolls of my stomach,

The faces I make,

My teeth when I smile,

And most of all, you like me.

The Artist

by Nevaeh Phillips

Me. The poet. The artist.

I come to myself and can't write

I have so many things to say yet

nothing is there

I am only an observer, looking out

through my window

I write about everyone else, why

not me?

Do you, the reader, care for me?

I like to think you do.

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July 2023

SCDSB launches updated character education program for 2023-24 school year

This year the SCDSB will begin implementation of the updated character education program. Rather than focus on one attribute each month, the program has been changed to reflect that character is a fluid concept that includes a variety of attributes.

The updated character attributes are:

Bravery	Cooperation	Love	Perseverance
Caring	Inclusiveness	Trustworthiness	Wisdom
Helpfulness	Optimism	Compassion	Empathy
Empathy	Sharing	Humility	Kindness
Honesty	Courage	Loyalty	Respect
Kindness	Integrity	Truth	

For more information on the updated character education program, visit the character education page on the SCDSB website:
www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education.

Student Dress Code

Our board's dress code is one way that we embed the principles set out in the SCDSB and Ministry of Education documents, Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario, and Equity and Inclusive Education to ensure safe, inclusive and equitable learning environments for all of our students. In SCDSB schools, we believe that students should be able to learn in a safe and caring space that is free of bias and discrimination. When making choices about what to wear to school, we respect your individuality. To ensure that our learning environments are safe and respectful spaces, our board has consulted with students and staff to develop a set of shared standards for student dress.

There are lots of ways to dress for school...



... but there are a few things that are not ok



Exposed underwear



Spiked or chained accessories



Offensive or inappropriate content

Student Medical Information

Annual notice to adult students or parent(s)/guardian(s) of students under the age of 16

A completed Student Medical Form (FORM A1420 - 1) is required each school year, or when a medical need is identified, or when the student transfers to another school, in order to authorize medical response plan development and the administration of prescribed medication to students who require it during school hours, or when the medication and/or dosage requirements change. Specific to asthma, every student is now permitted to carry their asthma medication if the student has their parent's/guardian's permission.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are responsible for ensuring that a current, completed Student Medical Form is on file at the school. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are also to complete a Plan of Care for students with prevalent medical conditions such as anaphylaxis, asthma, type 1 diabetes, or epilepsy/seizure disorder.

Some students may experience severe life-threatening allergic reactions to bee, hornet, wasp, or other flying insect stings or to certain foods or food ingredients such as peanuts. The best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure for these students is to respectfully ask parent(s)/guardian(s) to avoid sending peanut butter or products with peanuts and/or tree nuts listed in the ingredients to school. For students with life-threatening allergies, it is recommended that two doses of an epinephrine auto-injector are available on site at school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions you may have.

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July 2023

Standard acknowledgment and permission form/student information computing technology appropriate use agreement 2023-24

This document is a required form for all Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students. The forms have been made available electronically through School Cash Online until Oct. 16. School Cash Online is our preferred method for forms. If you are unable to submit these forms electronically, please contact the office for paper copies.



Student Accident Insurance 2023-24

Student injuries at school during school events, extra-curricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, etc.) and out-of-province/out-of-country trips are not covered by the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen.

A variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices can be found through either:

- StudyInsured at www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com or by calling 1-833-560-0527; or,
- Insure my Kids through at www.insuremykids.com or by calling 1-800-463-5437.

- Participation in extra-curricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, etc.) and/or out-of-province/ out-of-country trips require the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage.



2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Please note: the 2023-24 School Year Calendar is subject to change.

SEPTEMBER 2023	OCTOBER 2023	NOVEMBER 2023	DECEMBER 2023	JANUARY 2024
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
FEBRUARY 2024	MARCH 2024	APRIL 2024	MAY 2024	JUNE 2024
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

● **First Day of School**
Sept. 5, 2023

● **First Day of Semester 2 (Secondary)**
Feb. 5, 2024

○ **PA Days for all students**
2023: Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17
2024: April 26, June 28

● **PA Days - Secondary only**
2024: Feb. 2, June 27

● **PA Days - Elementary only**
2024: Jan. 26, June 7

□ **Elementary Reporting Schedule**
2023: Nov. 9
2024: Feb. 16, June 21

■ **Secondary Reporting Schedule**
2023: Nov. 23 (mid-term)
2024: Feb. 16, May 2 (mid-term), July 5

■ **Holidays**
2023: Sept. 4, Oct. 9, Dec. 25-29
2024: Jan 1-5, Feb. 19, Mar. 11-15, Mar. 29
Apr. 1, May 20

Elementary Turn-Around Day
Sept. 27, 2023

Feedback, Recovery and Improvement Days (Secondary)
Sem. 1: Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2024
Sem. 2: June 24-26, 2024

Secondary Mid-Semester
Sem. 1: Nov. 13, 2023
Sem. 2: Apr. 22, 2024

Secondary Full-Disclosure Days
Nov. 30, 2023, May 9, 2024

Last Day of School
Elementary: June 27, 2024
Secondary: June 26, 2024



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