



Trustee Newsletter



Fall 2013

Terry Bell

*Town of South Bruce Peninsula
Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula*

Dear friends,

Here we are at the beginning of another school year! Where did the summer go? The older you get, the faster it seems to go. Not much has changed at the school board. We still face financial challenges when it comes to supporting our students the way we would like to. I still have concerns regarding some of the Ministry of Education's formulas and policies, especially as they apply to rural Ontario.

Enrolment stats are up a bit in some of our schools. Overall, we are blessed with good teachers and solid administrators. Trustees strive to remember to put students first. Sometimes, it is not as easy as it sounds.

Steve Blake is our new Director of Education. Talk about a high pressure job! I wish him all the luck in the world! I think it must be similar to being a ball umpire. You are never going to please everybody.

At the top of my gratitude list are all the people who sat as members of the Amabel-Sauble/Hepworth Accommodation Review Committee. Talk about a group of fearless, dedicated people! A special 'thank-you' to Katherine and Terry Arnold, and Sunny Chun for the donation of countless hours of their family time for the benefit of our children! I also want to thank Council and Councillors Janice Jackson and Karen Klages for their unwavering support of our schools and students.

Our students and teachers continue to do amazing things. The following is just one example. Last June, a senior kindergarten student at PSDS, Maisie McGregor, won a colouring contest sponsored by HOT WHEELS. Guess what? She won \$5,000 to be used to support the kindergarten program! How cool is that!! The money is going to be spent on updating technology equipment at the kindergarten level (iPads). GOOD WORK, MAISIE AND MRS. MADILL!!!!

I want to also thank those parents who donate their valuable time to be members of our School Councils, Parent Involvement and Parent Engagement Committees. You are on the front line for student support in our area. Hopefully, our volunteers are not discouraged by our often detailed but necessary board processes.

In closing, I want to invite you to contact me at any time with any issue or concern you may have. You elected me to listen to you and act on your behalf, and that is what I intend to do!

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Preparing Our Students Today for the World of Tomorrow



Across the Board....

COMING SOON: Follow us on Twitter!



Bluewater District School Board is launching a Twitter page to enhance communications with parents/guardians and stakeholders who utilize social media as a preferred method for receiving information. The page will feature 'good news' items celebrating student success, important advisories, links to board media releases, public meeting and event notifications, and much more.

School and Bus Cancellation Updates

With the onset of winter weather just around the corner, parents/guardians now have another way to receive timely updates on school and bus cancellations. The new [website](#) created by the Student Transportation Service Consortium of Grey-Bruce allows visitors to access updates from across the board or choose to 'follow' specific zones and receive customized messages relevant to their school area. There is also the option of following [@GBSchoolBus](#) on Twitter.

Help Build the Next Phase in Ontario's Education Strategy: "Great to Excellent"

The Ministry of Education is seeking community input to help determine the path forward for the next phase in Ontario's education strategy. A list of seven questions has been developed to solicit public feedback that will assist in guiding the revised vision for the education system in the province. The deadline to submit feedback is *November 30, 2013*. Click [here](#) to participate.

Support for Student Nutrition Programs

Grey Bruce Eat and Learn continues to offer nutrition programs to more than 12,000 local students daily thanks in part to the generous donations of community groups and businesses. The SMILE cookie campaign held at various local Tim Hortons locations raised almost \$18,900. In addition, the motorcycle group ABATE has provided a pair of donations totaling \$3,000. Read more [here](#).

Board Meetings and Webcasts

Members of the public are always welcome to attend monthly Committee-of-the-Whole Board Meetings (first Tuesday) and Regular Meetings of the Board (third Tuesday). Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Bluewater District School Board Education Centre in Chesley. For a complete schedule and agendas, click [here](#).

Regular Meetings of the Board are also webcast live at the following [link](#), or can be viewed after the fact by clicking [here](#).