



Trustee Newsletter



Spring 2014

Terry Bell

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

Friends,

I am happy to bring you my spring newsletter. It may have taken a while for spring to arrive, but we will definitely take the more seasonable weather. I guess we can thank our beloved rodent for the delay!

Like many other boards across the province, it has again been a challenging year for Bluewater District School Board. We continue to work to the best of our ability within the funding that is available to us to maximize programming in the best interests of all our students. Our staff has been working hard to explore options to enhance the many programs that you have told us are important, such as those pertaining to special education, French and technology. For example, we have many success stories to share in the area of the skilled trades. There is a tech shop in all of our secondary schools for those students interested in learning more about career options in this thriving field. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for our story on the recent Regional Skills Challenge. There is also exciting progress with our programming for French as a Second Language. The recent Concours French public speaking contest was a great success.

Once again, April was United Way Month at Bluewater as we recognized this critically important organization and its many programs to provide resources to those requiring assistance in our school communities. I should also mention that there is some good news when it comes to our student nutrition programs. Grey Bruce Eat and Learn, which provides programs in all of our schools, will benefit from some expanded provincial funding that was recently announced. Other important issues such as bullying, cyber bullying and student mental health continue to be an area of intense focus at Bluewater, and I know that our schools and administration are proactively raising awareness and developing new strategies in these very sensitive areas.

One thing I know for sure is that our students can compete against students of any other board in any program or activity. I do know that we have great teachers and that our senior administrative team is totally dedicated to providing the best education they can to our students. We have a new director of education. His name is Steve Blake, and my first impression is that he wants to do the right thing for our students. Despite the challenges, we will keep working hard for our students!

Remember, if you have any issues or concerns, you can contact me at the e-mail address below or phone 519-534-2893.

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Preparing Our Students Today for the World of Tomorrow



Education Week: May 5 - 9

Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate student achievement and the commitment of everyone involved in the education of our students. On a daily basis, Bluewater schools are helping students to build the knowledge, skills and capabilities that enable them to become lifelong learners. During Education Week, we look forward to the many specially themed school activities taking place.

Website Improvements

This past January, Bluewater District School Board unveiled a brand new look and feel to its website designed to offer parents/guardians a more user friendly and welcoming online experience. These changes were made possible by Ministry of Education funding received from a Parents Reaching Out Grant, which was applied for by Bluewater's Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). The project also resulted in the development of a new PIC website featuring increased resources for parents and school councils. Board website: www.bwdsb.on.ca; PIC website: <http://pic.bwdsb.on.ca>

Summer School 2014

Registration links for both elementary and secondary students are now live for those interested in enrolling in summer school courses. This year, summer school will run at OSCVI in Owen Sound from July 7 to August 7, 2014. Courses, which are offered through Bluewater's Student Success department, are also open to non-Bluewater students. Click [here](#) for more information or to register.

Regional Skills a Success

The 10th annual Regional Skills Challenge in March was another welcome reminder that the skilled trades are alive and well at Bluewater. Over 100 local technological education students participated in competitions ranging from automotive to hair styling! View the results and photo gallery [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](#).

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