



# The ROAR

April 2017

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Sunday, April 2, 2017 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> annual World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD). Because WAAD officially falls on Sunday this year.

**Ardagh Bluffs will recognize this day on Monday April 3, 2017.**

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) highlights the incredible work that has already been done and still needs to be done to ensure people living with autism are provided with opportunities to lead successful and meaningful lives.

Within the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB), the prevalence rate of those identified with autism is 1/42 males and 1/189 females (approximately 1000 students), a number that has increased by more than 100% in the past 7 years.

The Autism Awareness Ribbon was adopted in 1999 as the universal sign of autism awareness.



The puzzle pattern reflects the complexity of the autism spectrum. The different colors and shapes represent the diversity of the people and families living with the condition. The brightness of the ribbon signals hope — hope that through increased awareness of autism, and through early intervention and access to appropriate services/supports, people with autism will lead full lives able to interact with the world on their own terms.



**Students in Grade 7** have been working on The Learning Partnership's "I Cubed" program (Investigate, Invent, Innovate). The culminating task in this project is the Invention Convention, in which students put their inventions on display! We have everything from multi purpose hair brushes to mug warmers to shower organizers.

**April 11th in the Ardagh Bluffs library**

**9:00 and 10:30am**

The top inventions will then go to the City Convention on April 19th at the Kozlov Mall.



# FROM THE LIBRARY

Our library is one busy place. Numbers explain a lot. Here are some approximate totals and averages ...

September through March 24 = 17,300+ books signed out

Books signed out per week = 670

Books signed out per day = 135

Total books in our library = 14,500



The average Grade 1 student has signed out 40 books, Grade 5 student 25 books., Grade 8 student 10 books. One of the reasons for the drop: the page count increases and the books become deeper and richer and more detailed. Many older students purchase or download Barrie Public Library books that our school doesn't have. Other interests develop as students get older too.

For our Grade 8 students, 6 out of every 10 books signed out is Young Adult. 1 of every 10 books for a

Our Ardagh Families' donations of new and gently used books are welcomed with open arms. These books are added to our library, classroom libraries and given to students who need to own their own books. You have given us thousands of dollars in books -- the value is priceless in the hands and minds of our students.

*thank you!*

## Barrie Public Library

The Barrie Public Library branch on 48 Dean Avenue, (near Big Bay Point Road and Yonge Street) has a great selection of books – their French language selection supports the local French school as well as the Extended and Immersion French language programs with our school board. If this is your home branch, you can request books from the Downtown library. A number of our Ardagh students are using the online audio and ebook selections. All you need is a library card. Link to BPL: [http://www.library.barrie.on.ca/about/hours/hours\\_location.htm](http://www.library.barrie.on.ca/about/hours/hours_location.htm)



Students in Madame Dart Shaw and Mrs. White's class had the opportunity to participate in the upcoming Regional Science Fair at Bear Creek on Friday April 7 and Saturday April 8. This is a first for Ardagh Bluffs students and teachers. We have learned a lot about the scientific process and the critical thinking required. Families and students are welcome to see the various projects and displays on Saturday April 8.

## Heritage Fair

Over 200 projects were completed by Grades 4 - 8 students. Critical thinking has always been a part of our students' work and this year additional focus has been on learning enough about the topic so the student could talk and write about without having to 'change an author's word into their own.' Many of the students presented in descriptive and interesting ways that clearly reflected their learning and thinking; and they didn't have to read their work - they knew it that well. 20 Ardagh students will be representing our school at the Regional Heritage Fair on April 25 and 26. Families, staff and students are welcome to attend the evening event at the Simcoe County Museum on Tuesday April 25, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Free.

**Battle of the Books (BOB)** has many grade 4 – 8 students reading

A LOT to get ready for the Semi-Final Battle of the Books competition coming up soon. It is hosted by the Barrie Public Library for local schools and students.

Students read MANY selected books and then are given clues to determine the book title and its author. Thank you to Mrs. O'Connell for running this program.



**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER**  
@ArdaghBluffsPS

**Commit to Character**  
April – Optimism



**Popcorn**  
On sale Tuesday and Thursday first break  
**\$1.50/bag.**



Lost and Found items will be displayed in the front foyer until Thursday April 13th. Parents are more than welcome to take a look!

Daily announcements will be made!



**May 16th**  
Pro Grant Night with Guest Speaker  
**Sara Westbrook**  
**3 Habits of Resilient Families**



**Paws for a Cause/Green Team update!**

We had an overwhelming response to the addition of our worm composters at the school. Thank you for helping us to divert our food waste from the landfill. Through out the week of April 22 (Earth Day) we will be celebrating our planet and focusing on lowering our waste and energy consumption. On April 28th we will be submitting our Eco-Schools application and we hope all of our hard work will lead to a Bronze level certification. Stay tuned....

**Spring into Clean™ on Earth Day**  
**April 21st**

We will work together to clean up our yard and surrounding area of garbage. We are encouraging students to wear green on this day to help raise environmental awareness and social responsibility.



**Spirit Assembly**

April 12th @ 9:30  
Decade Day

(Wear something from the 60s,70s or 80s)

We will be recognizing our Volunteers at this assembly with a Volunteer Social in our library after.



### Parent workshops to help understand Individual Education Plans

The Simcoe County District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee and Special Education Department are offering informational workshops for parents/guardians to enhance collaboration between parents and schools in the development of a student Individual Education Plan (IEP). These workshops are free to attend and open to all interested parents/guardians. Below is the nearest one to our school. Check out the SCDSB website for other workshop dates/places.

April 12: Bear Creek SS - 100 Red Oak Drive, Barrie 6:30PM-8PM



### Starting school in the fall? Kindergarten orientation

This spring, we are hosting an orientation session to welcome new Kindergarten students and their parents to our school. Come experience what life is like in Kindergarten! Explore areas of the program, meet Kindergarten educators and have the chance to ask questions. Our school's session takes place on *June 1st*. We look forward to welcoming you! For more information, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca), click on 'Programs,' 'Kindergarten' and then 'Kindergarten Orientation.'

School start dates for September 2017 are as follows:

- Senior Kindergarten (Year 2) students will begin school on Tues. Sept. 5.
- Junior Kindergarten (Year 1) students will begin school on Thurs. Sept. 7.

### School bus evacuation training takes place April 3

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC), in partnership with school bus operators, is offering school bus evacuation training to all home-to-school transported students at Ardagh Bluffs on April 3. School bus drivers will educate students again on how to evacuate a school bus safely in an emergency situation. For more infor-

### Identifying school-sponsored trips

All field trip information will **ALWAYS** be sent home on school and/or Simcoe County District School Board letterhead. This is the best way for parents/guardians to identify supervised and approved trips. When in doubt about any trip ask questions of the organizers, including "Who is sponsoring or in charge of this trip?", "Who will be supervising?" and "What are their qualifications?" You can also contact the school if you have any questions about a trip you see advertised that you think may not be school-sanctioned.

### ***Moving to Find Balance: Free Parent Forum on April 25 offered by Seasons Centre***

Seasons Centre for Grieving Children is presenting an educational forum for parents called *Moving to Find Balance: Resilient Children and Youth Connecting Physical Activity to Mental Health*. This event, free for all parents, will explore how you can incorporate more activity in your own life, how you can encourage children to get moving and how to access family-friendly local resources that are low or no cost. The event takes place on April 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Liberty North Events Facility (100 Caplan Ave. in Barrie). The evening forum is free to attend, but you must register. For details, visit <http://www.grievingchildren.com/events/signature-events/>.



# April

Sun

Mon





Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|                                      |  |   |                                     |    |  |    |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|----|--|----|
| <p><b>AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH</b></p> |  |   |                                     |    |  |    |
|                                      |  |   |                                     |    |  | 1  |
| 2<br>World Autism Awareness Day      | 3<br>Spring / Sibling Photos<br><br><br>School Council Meeting 6pm | 4   | 5                                   | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9                                    | 10   | 11<br>Invention Convention<br><br> | 12<br>Spirit Assembly<br>Decade Day | 13 | 14<br>Good Friday  | 15 |
| 16                                   | 17<br>Easter Monday<br><br>                                       | 18  | 19                                  | 20 | 21<br>Earth Day  | 22 |
| 23                                   | 24   | 25  | 26                                  | 27 | 28<br><br><br>Happy Earth Day |    |