



# The ROAR

September 2017

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Welcome Back!

What's New for the  
2017-2018  
School Year?



I am thrilled to be joining the amazing team at Ardagh Bluffs. I have enjoyed meeting students and some parents this week and look forward to our school year together.

Our office has been very busy the past two weeks with new registrations. Our school population has grown and therefore we may anticipate changes with class placements. Please assist us by helping your child to be resilient to the changes that may occur over the course of the month. Preparing your child for classroom changes will facilitate the ease of these changes.

If you are looking to become involved with our school, please come to our first Parent Council meeting on Monday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the library. Another opportunity for involvement is becoming a volunteer. We will be having a volunteer orientation night on our "Walk through the School" if you would like to learn more about how to volunteer at our school.

As we go through the school year, I look forward to building relationships with students and parents. If I don't get a chance to meet you before our Walk through the School evening, I look forward to meeting you then.

Alexa Barrie  
Principal

## School Council

Next General Ardagh Bluffs School Council Meeting

**September 18th, 2017 at 6:00pm in our library.**

All parents are welcome and encouraged to come to this meeting. Meet the Principal and Vice-Principal, learn all about upcoming Council projects as well as information on upcoming events and activities. Learn more about the various elected positions, what we do and how we support students, teachers, and administration. We will hold our annual elections for this year's School Council on September 18th, 2017 at 6PM. Come on out and be positively involved in the education of our children.



The Ardagh Bluffs community is being called upon to display that generosity that we are known for. We will be collecting non-perishable food items to assist families in our city who are experiencing a difficult time. Please check expiry dates!

September 25th—October 4th



The Terry Fox Run is a non-competitive event where people get together as individuals, families, and groups to raise money for cancer research in Terry's name. It is a day of celebrating Terry's legacy and helping to keep alive his dream of finding a cure for cancer.

Terry Fox Runs take place in over 9,000 communities across Canada every year and are accessible to anyone with no entry fee, no minimum pledge and a non-competitive atmosphere. Participants can run or walk and most of all have fun while raising funds for cancer research.

This year we are proudly supporting The Terry Fox Foundation in its ongoing work to fund innovative and progressive cancer research programs. Ardagh will be joined by over 3 million students across Canada in supporting Terry's Marathon of Hope.

Please support our school by joining us in our run and/or making a donation. Our school run day is

**Thursday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> from 2:15-3:15pm**

Pledge forms will be coming home on Sept. 14th, but you can also fundraise online.

#### **Online Fundraising**

Our school is already set up on our website to receive online donations.

Our school fundraising page: <http://www.terryfox.ca/ArdaghBluffsESBarrieON>

Don't forget to bookmark this page for easy access.

Thanks so much for supporting such a great cause! Your kindness will impact the lives of so many people living with cancer.

## **GIFTED SCREENING PROCESS**

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction and through providing program modifications. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate and challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular class room or in gifted classroom placements. In consultation with parents, school staff determines who these students are through the gifted screening process.

Students may be nominated by either a teacher or parent.

Parents/guardians of a student who is in Grade 3 or higher, who wish to nominate their child for gifted screening are asked to contact Mrs. Hambrook by Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.

If your child is nominated, the Special Education Resource Teacher will contact you regarding the screening process. You will be asked to sign a consent form as your child will be taking a standardized test (the Otis Lennon School Achievement Test or OLSAT). Your child will be given some instruction regarding the test and will have the opportunity to take a practice test prior to the actual test. Once the school receives the results, you will be contacted and these results will be shared with you. The school staff will also explain what any next steps may be.

If you require further information about the gifted screening process, please contact Mrs. Hambrook at [khambrook@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:khambrook@scdsb.on.ca).

## WALK THROUGH OUR SCHOOL

(formerly Meet the Teacher Night)  
Parents come to Ardagh Bluffs!



**Oct 4th, 2017**

**4:30pm - 7pm**

**\*Meet Ardagh teachers    \*Stay tuned for more exciting stuff!!**



### VOLUNTEERING AT ARDAGH BLUFFS

**Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Checks** are required to volunteer at Ardagh Bluffs P. S. A letter from the school office is required to present to the Barrie Police before a CRC can be done and there is often a wait period to receive your check, depending on how busy they are. If you already have an original copy of a Criminal Record Check dated within the last 6 months, you may submit it to the school without going through the above procedure.

School volunteers are also required to attend a mandatory volunteer orientation session. This can be booked at any time throughout the year as long as your CRC has been approved.

Volunteer record checks should be obtained in the fall for the school year and a declaration can then be signed each year by October 31<sup>st</sup> to keep your CRC current. Failure to sign the declaration each year by October 31<sup>st</sup> will result in your CRC becoming invalid and you would then be required to obtain a new one.

The **original** copy of your CRC must be handed in to the school office to be forward to the Education Centre for processing before you are added to the approved volunteer list. You are not eligible to volunteer until you have been added to this list by the Superintendent's office (a process which can take up to 2+ weeks following the receipt of your CRC at the school office) and have had your orientation.

Please do not wait until the last minute to obtain a criminal record check so that you may go on a class field trip or you may be disappointed.

We thank all of our volunteers for being available to help out in any and all areas when needed.

### VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION...

All parents interested in volunteering at our school must attend a **Volunteer Orientation**. You must also have a Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Screening completed prior to volunteering in the school. If you are already on our approved list, you must complete an Offence Declaration. All approved volunteers must attend an orientation each year.

Volunteer Orientation sessions will take place Oct. 4th at 5pm and 6pm.

Subscribe to our website!  
<http://www.agh.scdsb.on.ca>

**SUBSCRIBE NOW!**

September— Caring  
 Commit to  
 Character



Please remember that a lot of parents are trying to get through this line in the morning and at the end of the day. If you, or any passengers with you, are getting out of the car to put back packs on children or to walk the child/children to the fence then please park in the parking lot. Even parking at the end of the kiss and ride lane creates confusion for those trying to leave the line. Make sure the students exit on the curb side of the **kiss and ride**. Thank you for your support with this, it makes drop offs and pick-ups for the school so much safer to manage.

### SEEDS Parking Lot

SEEDS Parking Lot... **the back parking lot is for SEEDS staff and daycare drop offs.** Kindergarten parents should not be parking in this lot nor should they be blocking the flow of movement. Also, please monitor the speed at which you are travelling through this area as there have been some close calls. The school parking lot is located on Summerset Drive. Thank you for your co-operation!



### HOT LUNCH PROGRAMS STARTING IN OCTOBER



Orders will be accepted **ONLINE** only so be sure to sign up at [www.schoolcashionline.com](http://www.schoolcashionline.com). Stay tuned for due dates!  
 Just a reminder that unfortunately there will be **no refund, credit or make up for missed hot lunches/milk** due to illness, non attendance or inclement weather as all food is pre-ordered.  
 Parents who wish to pick up their absent students' lunch may do so on that day between 1:20-1:40pm for Grades JK-5 and 1:40-2:00pm for Grades 6-8.



**Popcorn for Sale!!**  
 Coming in October!!

### Picture Day!

**October 12th**  
 (don't wear green)





### **Student dress code**

Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive, and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

### **Parent Portal gives parents real-time access to attendance, grade information**

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and grades and includes the option to sign up for email notifications. To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's SCDSB Pupil ID Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID will be provided in a sealed letter this fall with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, you can visit us in the school office and we'll

### **How exercise can help with homework**

It's the start of a new school year and students need to get back into the swing of things! Many students and parents adopt a similar philosophy for success – clear your schedule, buckle down and focus. Although the intention is great, by focusing solely on the books and neglecting the body, students are not actually reaching their full potential. Here are three reasons why exercise can make students more productive:

- Better sleep – it's a fact that our brains work better with a good night's rest. Getting enough sleep contributes to the brain's capacity to store and retrieve information, complete tasks efficiently, maintain focus and manage stress – all of which will improve student success.
- Stress release – exercise is proven to release endorphins that reduce stress. We all know how hard it can be to focus with an aching back, cramped neck or jittery leg. These physical distractions are often a result of excessive time spent in sedentary activities. A quick body break can relieve tension, stress and excess energy, making it easier to focus on the tasks at hand.

Retain more – blood pumping exercise increases the flow of oxygen to the brain making it more receptive to the flow of new information coming in. Studies prove that students who exercise three times a week or more get higher grades. In addition to exercise, students should ensure they are eating healthy, staying hydrated and getting lots rest and fresh air.

*Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka ([www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca](http://www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca))*

### **Free dental care for children under 18 from Healthy Smiles Ontario**

Free dental service is available to your child through Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Healthy Smiles Dental Clinic in Barrie, or on the dental bus that visits many communities across Simcoe Muskoka throughout the year, as long as you qualify for the program. To find out if your child qualifies or to book an appointment, call the health unit (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) oral health team at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, extension 8818. Healthy Smiles Ontario is a government-funded program that provides free dental care for children and youth 17 years old and under from low-income households. This dental program provides free preventative, routine and emergency dental services.

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*



# September

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3	4	5 Welcome Back!	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 School Council 6pm	19	20	21	22 Orange Shirt Day 	23
24	25	26	27	28 Terry Fox Run! 	29	30
		<b>THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE</b>				