



Jane Thomson

Town of South Bruce Peninsula

Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula








School Year Nears its Halfway Point

The first half of 2023-2024 has flown by in Bluewater District School Board. It is hard to believe we are already nearing the middle of the school year! Since September, we have seen an incredible amount of activity in our schools through varied learning initiatives, clubs, school and student councils, athletics, and extra curriculars. Many secondary commencements occurred this fall and some last spring. To all members of the class of 2023, I wish you boundless luck and success as you pursue your dreams and career aspirations in the years ahead.

Your Board of Trustees has been meeting regularly with a firm commitment to upholding the cornerstones of our Multi-Year Strategic Plan. With a growing enrolment of approximately 18,500 students across 42 schools in Bruce and Grey counties, there is plenty of optimism for the future. New replacement schools are in the works in a few communities, and expanded child care facilities in others. I look forward to updating you on these and future projects through these newsletters, and also via our monthly board meetings.

I wish you all the best!

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Contact Me



Please feel free to reach out to me with your questions or concerns by calling 519-793-3788 or emailing jane_thomson@bwdsb.on.ca.

Website: www.bwdsb.on.ca

@BluewaterDSB on social media:



2023-2024 Student Senate

At the September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board, members of this year's [Student Senate](#) were sworn in and introduced. As selected by their peers on the senate, the two designated student trustees then joined trustees at the board table. We appreciate the opportunity to hear from our student trustees and senators at our board and committee of the board meetings during the school year as they join us to share the student voice. Among other priorities, the group has chosen inclusivity as a focus area for the year.



*Left to right:
Student Trustees
Ethan Enns and
Macy Robinson*

Policy Update



At the Regular Meeting of the Board held on October 17, 2023, trustees approved the following policy, as revised for system use, along with some other items:

- BP 5602-D "Field Trips and Excursions" (formerly "Field Trips")

Visit the [Policies and Procedures](#) section of our website for more information.

Status of New Builds

Progress continues on a replacement build of the current [Kincardine District Senior School](#) for Grade 7 to 12 students. The decision on a building design, land appraisal on a potential site, engineering feasibility study, and hiring of a project firm have been completed.

Meanwhile in Markdale, a junior kindergarten to Grade 8 replacement build for [Beavercrest Community School](#) is underway with shovels in the ground following a [sod turning ceremony](#) on July 6, 2023. Municipal site plan approval, the building permit, and the construction tender are in place. Due to growing enrolment, the construction of two additional classrooms (to complement the previously approved build design) is being proposed. Details on an opening date will be shared once confirmed.



*Build site of the new Beavercrest Community School,
which sits next to the current school's location*

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation once again coincided with the tradition of Orange Shirt Day on September 30. Since this year's occasion was on a Saturday, many Bluewater District School Board students and staff wore orange on Friday, September 29 to symbolize their commitment to truth and reconciliation, while honouring the victims, survivors, and impacted families of the residential school system. Several [activities and events](#) took place throughout the system during the week, including Indigenous ceremonies, assemblies, readings, and other learning activities.



Professional Activity Day Communications

The Ministry of Education's *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023* includes an update regarding professional activity (PA) days. This includes the requirement that school boards and schools in Ontario publicly communicate a detailed summary of the learning on PA days. A designated page has been created on the Bluewater District School website to communicate this information with the public. Please visit our [2023-2024 Professional Activity Days](#) web page prior to each PA day (see the list of dates on the right) for an update on the topics to be covered.



PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAYS

2023 - 2024

- Friday, September 22, 2023
- Friday, October 27, 2023
- Friday, November 24, 2023
- Friday, February 2, 2024
- Friday, April 26, 2024
- Friday, June 7, 2024
- Friday, June 28, 2024