



*Katie Lutz
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A Note of Thanks

With the end of 2020 almost in sight, I hope that despite the challenges and changes this fall, the 2020-21 school year has so far been a good experience for our students and staff. 2020 has been a year where it has seemed challenging to focus on the positives, but I am grateful for the many incredible things happening in our school system every day. Everyday families and students are self-screening, logging in, masking up, and making sure everyone is ready to learn in a healthy and safe way. Staff across the board are continuing to go above and beyond to provide a safe and engaging experience for our students. We are lucky here to have fantastic public health officials who are working hard with the school board to keep our schools safe, and even as we face the second wave, we are still seeing the safety in our schools. It is remarkable to consider how well our schools and communities continue to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Let us all keep up the good work and individually continue to do our part to follow the recommended health and safety guidelines. THANK YOU again for your efforts, patience, and understanding!

As I look towards 2021, I am looking towards it with hope. I see the incredible things our students are doing (one perk of social media since we are currently unable to visit schools), and I see how much they are all growing and learning from the unique experience of living through a pandemic. The news seems to be focusing on what students have lost during this strange year, but I for one am focusing on what they have gained. I see their increased resilience, adaptability, ingenuity, and independence, and I look forward to seeing how these add to their educational endeavors.

Contact Me

As always, please feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns:

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Building New Schools

It was announced on October 29, 2020 that the Ministry of Education has approved funding of over **\$26.4 million** through the Capital Priorities Program to replace **Kincardine District Senior School**. The new Grades 7 to 12 facility will accommodate 881 student spaces.



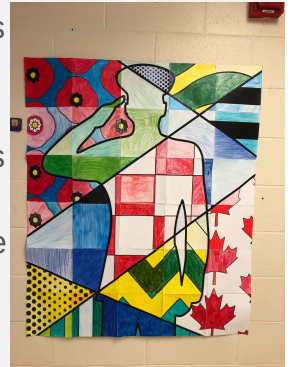
Construction continues in a timely manner for the replacement build of **Georgian Bay Community School** in Meaford despite some delays this past spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further details on a completion date are still to come.



Staff continue to work through the planning phase of the **Beavercrest Community School** replacement build project in Markdale. Ministry of Education approval for the purchase of additional land adjacent to the current school property has been provided. The ministry-funded \$6.4 million new school will accommodate 236 student spaces with an additional \$2.1 million used to create two childcare rooms and two EarlyON rooms. More information on the progress of the build is coming soon.

We Remember

Despite COVID-19 restrictions around gatherings, our students and staff found many unique and innovative ways to honour Remembrance Day on November 11, 2020. From the creation of poppy artwork, hallway displays of art and historical items, and outdoor wreath dedications, to virtual commemorations, educational videos, and theatrical productions, it was amazing to witness all the touching tributes to the brave Canadians whose sacrifices have enabled the freedoms we are privileged to enjoy today.



Honouring Ontario's Treaties

National Indigenous Veterans Day on November 8, 2020 honoured the contributions of our Indigenous citizens and communities to Canada's military service. This was preceded by Treaties Recognition Week from November 2 - 6, 2020, which provided students and staff with an opportunity to learn more about the importance of treaties, treaty rights, and treaty relationships in Ontario. This turtle artwork was created by Saugeen District Senior School students and a local artist to represent Turtle Island (North America) and the land we currently



live on, including the Bruce Peninsula (middle section).

Important Links and Resources

Several resources are available on our board website to assist parents/guardians as we continue to work through these unprecedented times together. We encourage you to visit and bookmark the following pages (click on the underlined text). While you are there, we hope you notice and like the changes that have been made to modernize our website, which is now more accessible, as well as user and mobile friendly.

[Return to School](#) - daily COVID-19 screening links for students/staff/essential visitors, attestation for returning to school following illness, regularly updated two-part Q and A for 'School Operations' and 'Program and Instruction', video resources, and other health and safety information

[Remote Learning](#) - vLE online learning portal, Brightspace self help videos, link to new 'BWDSB Remote School' Facebook page, remote learning (including Special Education) resources for families, Ministry of Education's Learn at Home portal

[COVID-19 Updates](#) - parent/guardian letters, Grey Bruce Public Health daily situation reports, advisories regarding positive cases in Bluewater District School Board schools/worksites



As we prepare for winter in Bruce and Grey counties, parents/guardians are encouraged to

subscribe to receive timely email or text updates on school and bus cancellations/delays from the Student Transportation Service Consortium of Grey-Bruce. Be sure to visit mybrucegreyschoolbus.ca and click on the Parent Portal icon on the righthand side to log in or create an account.



Parents/guardians can receive broadcasts from their child(ren)'s school(s) by phone, email, and text through SchoolMessenger Communicate. It is essential that the school has your most up-to-date contact information (i.e., email, phone, and mobile) in order to be able to receive these messages. For full instructions, [click here](#) and scroll down to the SchoolMessenger section.

Standing up to Bullying



Bluewater District School Board students and staff continue to pledge their support in standing up to bullying in all its forms, by working together to cultivate safe, accepting, equitable, and inclusive environments in our schools and worksites. Several resources have been made available for parents/guardians, classrooms, and students as part of [Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week](#), November 15-21, 2020.

Congratulating our Graduates



While in-person events were unable to occur in their usual format, many of our schools were able to find creative ways to recognize and provide memorable experiences for our 2020 secondary and Grade 8 graduates. Beautifully produced virtual ceremonies and interactive drive-by events were held across the district. The recent [Adult Education drive-by](#) graduation in the parking lot of the Bluewater District School Board Education Centre is just one of many fine examples. Congratulations and best wishes to all of this year's graduates!

Visit our website: www.bwdsb.on.ca

Find Bluewater District School Board on social media:



Download our free mobile app:



New Appointments

We are pleased to welcome three new additions to Bluewater District School Board's senior leadership team. Congratulations to Sheryl Elliott, Andrea Tang, and Keith Lefebvre, each of whom are assuming the position of Superintendent of Education. These appointments are part of our succession planning with the retirements of Superintendents of Education Cynthia Lemon, Wendy Kolohon, and Paul Hambleton. As we make this transition, we thank Cynthia, Wendy, and Paul for their many years of service to our students, staff, and families, and wish them the very best in their retirements!

