

# FOUNDATIONS FOR LEARNING

## 2009-2010

# Director's Annual Report

### VALUES:

Bluewater District School Board values our public education system that promotes a joy of learning for everyone.

**In our public education system we value:**

Quality

Equity

Partnerships

Accountability

Healthy and Safe Environments

### IMAGE OF THE LEARNER:

The Bluewater District School Board learner demonstrates the knowledge, skills and values necessary for present and future success.

**Each individual:**

Learns for Life

Acts Responsibly

Sets Priorities

Develops Positive Relationships

Works Effectively



# Foundations for Learning

BLUEWATER  
CHARACTER  
DEVELOPMENT

Caring  
Commitment  
Dependability  
Honesty  
Integrity  
Respect  
Responsibility  
Self-Discipline  
Teamwork  
Trust



Character  
for a Lifetime

**Foundations for Learning** has been a powerful force in defining the culture of Bluewater District School Board. It is referenced in every Bluewater policy and is the lens through which system decisions are made. The ten Character Attributes are taken from **Foundations for Learning** and are recognized by students and staff across Bluewater. These attributes describe the behaviours modelled by adults in the system as we support our students in incorporating them into their lives.

The Director's Annual Report showcases the many ways that Bluewater students and staff bring **Foundations for Learning** to life.



(l - r) Marnie Coke – Superintendent of Elementary Education, Brenda Booth – Superintendent of Business, Cynthia Lemon – Administrator of Employee Relations, Mary Anne Alton – Director of Education, Lori Wilder – Superintendent of Student Services, Alana Murray – Superintendent of Secondary Education, Jean Stephenson – Superintendent of Student Success

## System Administrative Team:

Members of the System Administrative Team demonstrate their commitment to the values outlined in Foundations for Learning in their individual and shared work and collectively strive to exemplify Bluewaters' Image of the Learner.



(back l - r) Cindy Aitken, Ross King, John Chapman, Paul Wehrle, Theresa Root  
(front l - r) Jan Johnstone, Marilyn McComb, Jennifer Yenssen, Marg Gaviller

## Trustees:

In March 2009, Bluewater District School Board passed Policy BP1102-D outlining the role of the Board consistent with Foundations for Learning. In December 2009, Bill 177 School Board Governance, was enacted into law. Bluewater District School Board policies and by-laws will be updated to reflect the new requirements for the Board and its members.

## WE VALUE

## Quality

## Bluewater Schools Provincial and National Award Winners

Bluewater students and staff continue to be recognized at the provincial and national levels in the arts, sciences, athletics, language, the environment and skilled trades.

The following examples illustrate a standard of excellence throughout the system:

- Canada Wide Science Fair held in Peterborough: Junior Physical & Mathematical Sciences Division (Silver) - Loral Christie, Arran-Tara E.S.; University of Western Ontario Entrance Scholarship (Silver) - Loral Christie, Arran-Tara E.S.
- Biathlon Ontario: Senior Boys 8km Pursuit Race (Gold) - Isaac Shouldice, Peninsula Shores D.S.; Junior Boys Sprint Race (4th) - David Shouldice, Amabel-Sauble E.S.
- Canadian Wildlife Federation, Wild School and Youth Projects Award: National runner-up for butterfly garden - Tawnya Schlosser, Teacher Grade 2/3, Hillcrest Central
- Ministry of Education, Minister of Education Student Advisory Council Appointed Member: Cam Revington, John Diefenbaker S.S.
- Ministry of Education & Ministry of the Environment - ECO Schools Ontario (Gold) - G.C. Huston P.S.
- MusicFest Canada National Competition in Ottawa: Elementary Concert Band (Bronze) and Concert Band Honour Award - Holland Chatsworth C.S.
- Ontario Curling Association, Gore Mutual Schoolgirl Curling

- Championships (Second) - Chesley District H.S. Curling Team
- Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) Track and Field Championships: High Jump (Gold) - Rita Rudell, Peninsula Shores D.S.; Steeplechase Senior Boys 200m (Gold) - Jordon Collison, Saugeen District S.S.
- OFSAA Alpine Skiing: Tier 2 Giant Slalom (Gold) - Alex Marotta, Grey Highlands S.S.
- OFSAA Gymnastics, Vault (Bronze) - Hannah Russworm, Georgian Bay S.S.
- OFSAA Wrestling, Heavy Weight Class (Silver) - Zack Grandy, Walkerton District S.S.
- Ontario Provincial Schools on the Move, Lighthouse Program - Beavercrest Community School
- Royal Canadian Legion Literary and Poster Contest: Senior Essay (1st place) - Shelby Mielhausen, Bruce Peninsula D.S.
- Skills Canada Provincial Competition: Welding (Silver) - Nathan Tuck, Saugeen District S.S.; Health and Safety (Bronze) - Laura Vlietstra, John Diefenbaker S.S.
- University of Waterloo, Rene Decartes Medal National Math Award: Henry Mengers - teacher, John Diefenbaker S.S.
- Weston Foundation, Monarch Teacher Network Bursary: Anne Grieve - teacher, Kinghurst C.S.



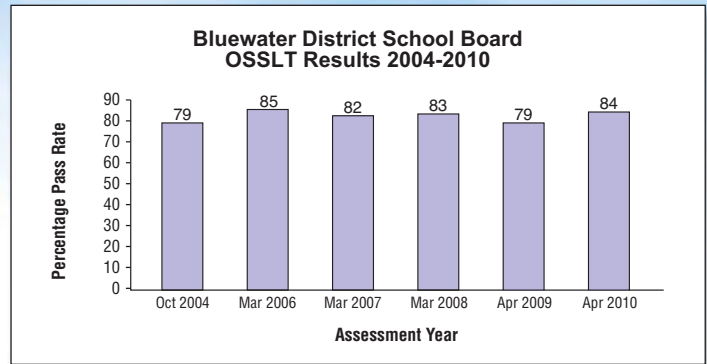
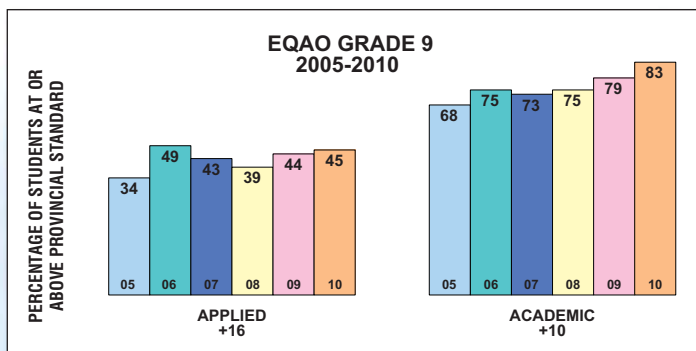
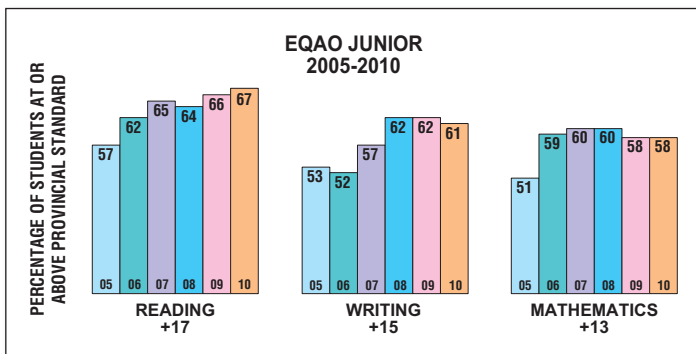
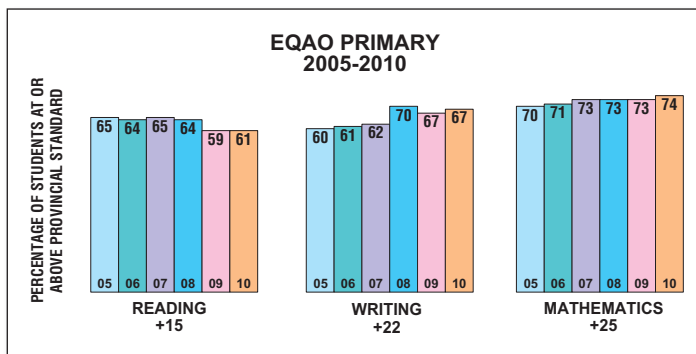
## Introducing Full-Day Kindergarten

In September 2010, Bluewater introduced full-day kindergarten in the following nine elementary schools: Arran-Tara Elementary, Bayview Public, Beavercrest Community, G. C. Huston Public, Hillcrest Elementary, Kincardine Tiverton-Township Public, Lucknow Central, Mildmay-Carrick Public, and Sullivan Community.

Approximately 335 children have opportunities to learn in structured play-based activities and small group instruction under the guidance of a teacher and early childhood educator.

## Bluewater EQAO and OSSLT Test Results

The EQAO Assessments of reading, writing and mathematics provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their achievement as outlined in The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Language (revised 2006), The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Mathematics (revised 2005) and The Ontario Curriculum, Grade 9: Mathematics. Each assessment measures the knowledge and skills that students are expected to have acquired by the end of grade 3, 6 or 9. Additional EQAO data is included in the addendum to this report.



## Bluewater Graduation Rates

Bluewater District School Board's graduation rate for 2009-2010 school year was 76.23%. This represents an overall increase of 4.3% since the province began reporting graduation rates in 2004-2005. The Ministry of Education has set a provincial target of 85% for 2010-2011.

## Bluewater Quick Facts

- Bluewater District School Board serves an area 8,673 square kilometres in size. As of October 31, 2010 the district had 18,498 students in 42 elementary schools and 11 secondary schools
- Bluewater District School Board had 1.1% of the 2009-2010 student enrolment self-identify as First Nation, Métis and Inuit
- 91% of primary classes have 20 or fewer students
- In 2009-2010 70% of students aged 16 had earned 16 or more credits, up from 68.22% in the previous year
- Specific measures have been taken to improve the outcome for students with low levels of achievement and for low-performing schools. In secondary schools, Student Success funding has supported focused math and literacy in the form of district and school based staff development. Student Success teachers provide support at the school level. In elementary schools, a Change Management collaborative strategy has been employed. School Program Plans must be built on SMART goals, which reflect the learning needs of students in the school. The goals target areas for growth in student achievement.
- Based on the trends over the past 5 years, Bluewater is on target to meet the provincial expectation for grade 6 EQAO assessments in 2011.

In Bluewater, many successful programs have been implemented to serve students who are unable to attend regular programs:

- The Section 23 Programs meets the needs of children age 12 to 18, and each is designed to meet the therapeutic and educational needs of individual students. In 2009-10 Bluewater District School Board had eight section 23 classrooms in partnership with community agencies and organizations.
- The WRAPid Response Program is a multi-disciplinary team composed of members from Bluewater District School Board and Keystone Child, Youth and Family Services. The WRAPid Response Team is available to support the student and family for the duration of a long-term suspension (11-20 days) or expulsion, utilizing both academic and counseling components.
- Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP) is an alternative educational program designed to meet the needs of 14 to 17 year olds who are not experiencing success attending a regular school setting. The focus of SALEP is to prepare students for re-entry into the regular day school program or for transition into the world of work.

## Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy

This strategy was introduced in 2009 to “realize the promise of diversity”. On October 15th, 2009 two students and one teacher from each school with grades 7 - 12 attended an event at the Bluewater Education Centre. The focus was on two areas of diversity within Grey Bruce; First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) peoples and those with a minority sexual orientation.



The day included a First Nation presentation by Ray Auger, Bluewater FNMI Advisor, Chief Randall Kahgee from Saugeen First Nation and Edie Duncan, teacher Peninsula Shores District School. Each

school received new books for their diversity boxes. They viewed the video “Confronting Homophobia” produced by a former Bluewater student. A panel of gay/lesbian members of the Bluewater community shared their personal journeys with the group.

One teacher summed the day up by saying the following “I think it was a wonderful idea to include our students. I was struck by their maturity and awareness of the issues that were addressed. The goal was to humanize these issues and put a human face on them. The speakers and the students were so honest, sincere and courageous.”

## Bridges Out Of Poverty

Bluewater District School Board has trained a team of six staff members to be “Bridges out of Poverty” presenters. This team consists of an Administrator, Student Success teachers, an Attendance Counsellor, a SALEP teacher and the Training and Development Supervisor for Educational Assistants (E.A.).

The guiding principle of the training sessions is to positively impact the education and lives of individuals in poverty. The goal is to improve the lives of people living in poverty and, by extension, to help make sustainable communities in which everyone can do well.



“Bridges out of Poverty” is a starting point where participants can develop an accurate understanding of poverty, the middle class, and wealth. It offers a new lens through which participants can view themselves and their community.

This work weaves a number of themes together and focuses on some key points to remember.

### SOME KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. Poverty is relative.
2. Poverty occurs in all races and in all countries.
3. Economic class is a continuous line, not a clear cut distinction.
4. Generational Poverty and Situational poverty are different.
5. An individual brings with him/her the hidden rules of the class in which they were raised.
6. Schools and businesses operate from middle class norms.
7. We must help our students understand the hidden rules to ensure their success.
8. We can neither excuse persons from poverty nor scold them for not knowing the hidden rules. We must teach them.

The training team plan to spread the word. Already they have worked with the Student Success teachers, the SALEP and Section 23

teachers, the E.A. Apprentices, and some Student Services staff. Plans include training all Learning Resource teachers and Administrators on September 16, 2010, and a group of 80 Educational Assistants on November 12, 2010. It is the hope of the training team to provide a professional learning opportunity for all elementary and secondary staff by June 2011.

## Specialized Equipment

Specialized Equipment and Technology allows students with special education needs to access curriculum more fully and improve student learning and achievement. Specialized equipment is funded by the school, Board and Ministry Specialized Equipment Amount funding. In the 2009/2010 school year, Bluewater District School Board provided over 1.28 million dollars of specialized equipment/technology. This was a result of the team of school staff, student services staff, supporting community agencies and parents working together to best meet student's needs for equipment and to provide a positive impact on learning.

Specialized Equipment allows students who have physical or learning needs to participate more fully within programs in school. Physical assists and physiotherapy supported equipment allow students with physical difficulties to participate within class, with their peers and to participate in specialized physio programs. Personal FM systems and sound fields support students with hearing or listening difficulties. The sound field system provides an optimal listening environment for learning for all students. Specialized technology programs are recommended and supported for a variety of student learning needs. Premier Literacy Suite has been implemented with all students in order to support literacy learning. These programs are essential to a few students but are beneficial for all. Other software programs are utilized to support students with specific physical issues such as low vision.

## Ontario First Nations, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework

Bluewater has been continuing to implement the Ontario First Nations, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework.

Through the collaborative effort and membership of representatives from Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Saugeen First

Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario, Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board and Bluewater District School Board the creation of “Guiding the Way: First Nations, Métis and Inuit - A Guide for Staff” has been produced. This guide provides background information on First Nations, Métis and Inuit heritage and traditions, cultural teachings, celebrations, treaties, terminology, best practices and community linkages to First Nation, Métis and Inuit community agencies. This knowledge will create cultural awareness in Bluewater

schools that will assist in delivering quality education, build and support school climate, and meet the specific education needs for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. Funding for this project was provided by the Aboriginal Education Office of the Ontario Ministry of Education. The information presented is based on research, consultation and literature. The guide will nurture relationships between Bluewater District School Board and Bruce-Grey Catholic





District School Boards' staff and First Nations, Métis and Inuit parents, guardians and families.

From October 4th through to October 8th, David Bouchard, Métis author, story-teller

and dynamic public speaker, travelled throughout Bluewater schools and community inspiring students, parents, teachers and community members. Giving twelve different presentations to a variety of ages, David "lit a fire" within the approximately 2,382 students, teachers and administrators plus community members who attended a session. His presentations not only address literacy, they are rich with First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture. He outlined respective roles and responsibilities that will ensure that all children are given the gift of reading. He inspired and left his listeners with a concrete plan and the rejuvenation needed to face literacy issues head on.

## Second Annual Partnership Appreciation Event

In June 2010 the second annual Partnership Appreciation event was held. Over sixty of our valued partners attended this celebration at the Chesley Education Centre.

Student presenters spoke about the impact various community partners have had on their school experience. They spoke about breakfast programs, Specialist High Skills Majors, and the Markdale Arts For Youth program.



Dave Barrett, Program Manager, Saugeen Economic Development and Bev Gateman, Director of Grey Bruce Eat and Learn, shared their perspective as Partners. Their

focus on the youth of Bruce and Grey counties was evident.

Partners in our communities provide time, creativity, patience and financial support which enriches the educational experience for our students and our staff.

## Waves of Opportunity

by Braden Weltz, Student Senator,  
Walkerton District Secondary School

On June 1st 2010, students from secondary schools in Bluewater District School Board and Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board attended a special career day titled "Waves of Opportunity" at Walkerton District Secondary School, which explored careers in every sector of the water industry. Students were able to interact with dozens of industry professionals, learn about many different careers in the industry and potentially map out a new career path. They also had the opportunity to listen to keynote speaker Ryan Hreljac from Ryan's Well Foundation.



This event was hosted, and planned by Ripples of Change, a local water related youth group originally sponsored by the United Nations Association in Canada, and now sponsored through the Grey Bruce Sustainability Network. "Waves of Opportunity" sponsors and supporters included Bluewater District School Board, The Municipality of Brockton, Saugeen Conservation, Veolia Water, Trojan UV, Walkerton Clean Water Centre, Drinking Water Source Protection along with the Ministry of the Environment, Grey Bruce Sustainability Network, Employment Ontario, Four County Labour Market Planning Board, Passport to Prosperity, Concerned Walkerton Citizens, Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario, Georgian College, Fleming College, Canadore College, the Government of Ontario, and others. It was a very successful event, and was a wonderful learning experience for all students involved. It truly included every aspect of the water industry for students to fully understand all future opportunities.

## Students Have Success at FLEX School

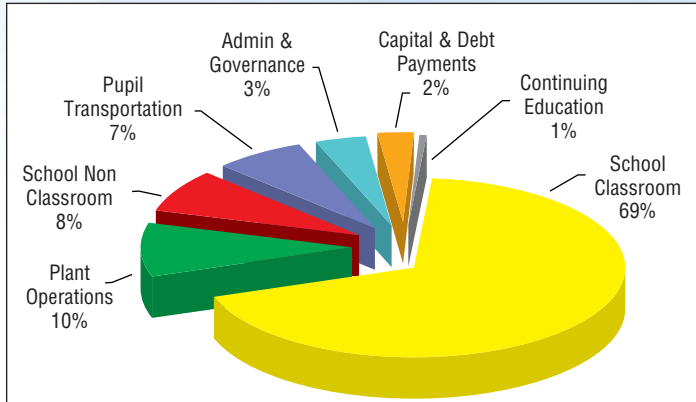


FLEX School, located at Georgian College, is a "secondary school within a college" that provides an alternative for senior college-level students who might not otherwise earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). FLEX school provides students with a flexible timetable that allows them to attend one common course and work on compulsory and elective credits at their own pace. In addition, students have the opportunity to take a Ministry-approved dual credit college course, all while working to increase self confidence and build a great sense of trust and respect for their teachers, classmates, environment and most importantly themselves.

During the 2009-2010 school year, a total of 197.5 credits were earned by all the students in the program. Twenty eight students graduated with their OSSD!

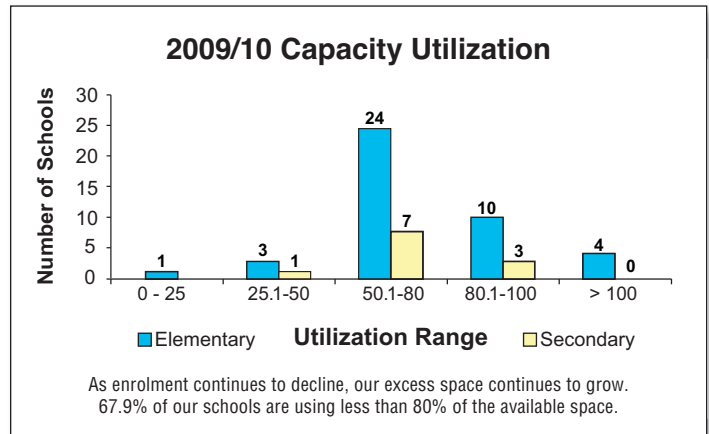
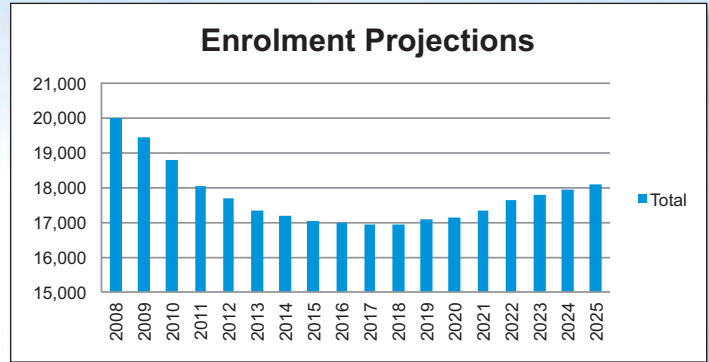
"The flexibility, ongoing support and college setting have allowed me to work part-time and finish my high school career." states one student, "I wouldn't have graduated without this program and now I have even applied to attend college".

## 2009-2010 Budgeted Expenditures



School Classroom	\$125,954,612	69%
Plant Operations	\$18,406,974	10%
School Non Classroom	\$14,970,728	8%
Pupil Transportation	\$13,260,672	7%
Admin & Governance	\$5,550,515	3%
Capital & Debt Payments	\$3,850,076	2%
Continuing Education	\$1,046,500	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$183,040,077</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Enrolment Projections



## DERBY: Fun, Fitness, Friendship

Workplace Wellness fever has infected every member of the Derby team. All 23 staff members have been involved in a walking program, "Fun Fitness Friendship." The idea started after Christmas when New Year's Resolutions were the topic of discussion and has evolved into a program that is getting the staff in shape as well as supporting the local food bank. The friendly competition amongst five teams includes a weekly tally where the four 'losing' teams donate the difference between them and the leader using the simple "can a kilometre" equation.



In the first week of the program, staff had walked 1700 kilometres and donated 200 cans of food.

The staff fitness focus has got students interested too. They are getting their own pedometers as a result of staff acting as models in healthy living.

## Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005

Recognizing the history of discrimination against persons with disabilities in Ontario, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), was passed in 2005.

There are five accessibility standards to be addressed as part of the legislation:

- Customer Service
- Transportation
- Employability
- Information and Communication
- Built Environment

The Customer Service Standard came into force on January 1, 2010.

Over the course of the past year, Bluewater has introduced new policy and procedures to address the Customer Service Standard.



2216 Bluewater staff received Customer Service Standard training. The training addressed:

1. The purposes of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and of the Customer Service Standards;
2. Instructions on how to interact and communicate with persons with various types of disabilities;
3. Instructions on how to interact with persons with disabilities who use an assistive device or require the assistance of a guide dog, other service animal or a support person;
4. Basic information on how to use equipment or devices available on Bluewater's premises that may help with the provision of goods or services to a person with a disability such as elevators, lifts or other equipment and/or technology that is available; and
5. Instructions on what to do if a person with a particular type of disability is having difficulty accessing the provider's goods. This includes asking the person how he or she can be accommodated and what alternative methods of service provision would be more accessible. In addition, the employee should be made aware of policies and procedures about the provision of goods or services to people with disabilities.

## BILL 157 – Safe Schools

Bluewater District School Board employees who work directly with students – administrators, teachers, and educational support staff (including student services staff, office professionals and technicians, custodians and educational assistants) – must respond to any student behaviour that is likely to have a negative impact on the school climate if, in the employee's opinion, it is safe to respond to it, and it is in accordance with subsection 300.4 of Part XIII of the Education Act and Ontario Regulation 472/07. Such behaviour includes all inappropriate and disrespectful behaviour occurring at any time at school and at any school-related event. In addition to employees of the board, school bus drivers are also required to report such incidents in writing to the principal of the school.

### Inappropriate behaviour may involve:

- swearing; homophobic or racial slurs; sexist comments or jokes; graffiti or vandalism; and behaviour identified under sections 306 and 310 of the Education Act (incidents for which suspension or expulsion must be considered).

## EACH INDIVIDUAL

### Learns for Life

## Masters of Education Program Partnership

Bluewater District School Board and Brock University have developed a partnership that has resulted in a graduate level Masters of Education program being offered locally to interested and qualified candidates. The face-to-face component of the program is held at the Bluewater District School Board Education Centre. This partnership provides the opportunity for a cohort of local educators to engage in a program of significant professional learning, that is directly connected and relevant to the work that they do on a daily basis. The structure of the program permits candidates to collaboratively work together to enhance their own knowledge and skills while at the same time benefiting students from across Bruce and Grey Counties.

Wendy Racknor, Bluewater System Lead Teacher and Mark Kolohon, teacher at Peninsula Shores District School have been instrumental in working with Brock University to establish this opportunity for staff in Bluewater District School Board.

### Responding may include the following:

- asking a student to stop the inappropriate behaviour; naming the type of behaviour and explaining why it is inappropriate and/or disrespectful; and asking the student to correct the behaviour (e.g., to apologize for a hurtful comment and/or to rephrase a comment) and to promise not to do it again.

For additional information refer to Board Policy 6820D [http://www.bwdsb.on.ca/director/policies/BP\\_6820-D](http://www.bwdsb.on.ca/director/policies/BP_6820-D)

## Education Centre Officially Opened

The official opening of the Bluewater Education Centre took place on October 14, 2009. About 50 invited guests gathered for the ribbon cutting, which was followed by public tours.



Bluewater District School Board held the official opening of its education centre in Chesley. The ribbon was cut by: (l - r) Joan Fullerton, Ministry of Education; Jim Thorpe, Parent Involvement Committee; Bill Murdoch, MPP; Carol Mitchell MPP; Mary Anne Alton, Director of Education; Jennifer Yenssen, Board Chair; Chad Richards, Student Senator; Kevin Eccles, West Grey Mayor; Ron Oswald, Arran Elderslie Mayor; Bill Goetz, Bruce County Warden; Ben Lobb MP; and Tim Reaburn, Trustee.

Construction on the 43 thousand square foot building began in December of 2007. Staff moved in during the 2009 March break.

Local, provincial and federal representatives brought greetings. MPP Carol Mitchell said "this building to me represents the two former boards coming together with a common goal, and that's to provide an environment for our children that will ensure that they have a bright future." Student representative Chad Richard expressed his appreciation for how this building will support student learning.

There are 142 employees with workspace in the building, which houses the Human Resources, Finance, Education, Student Services, Plant Services and ICT departments.



(Front l - r) Kristen Weber, Becky Madill, Megan Jones, Andrea Tang (Middle l - r) Karen Spragg, Lisa Emke, Tawnya Schlosser, Amanda Brindley, Lauren Lipsett, Wendy Racknor (Back l - r) Ken Jones, Kathy Bauman, Liz Campbell, Sarah Matheson, Cathy Giffin, Shanda Wilson, Mark Kolohon Absent: Jill Nebb, Sheryl Elliot, Shannon Logie, Shannon Harnack

## Puddling Around Bluewater...

In the spring of 2010, an exciting new partnership sprang to life in Bluewater. After a successful pilot with two classes from Amabel-Sauble Community School in 2009 and 2010, a project was launched to bring 13 grade four classes from across Bluewater to



the Institute for Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies (IOEES) at the Isaac Lake wetland complex for a Ducks Unlimited sponsored outing. This program is now accessible to eight classes and

due to popular demand, Ducks Unlimited provided additional funding for five more classes. Moving forward, ECO-Shore students will be involved with the program as well.

In this wetlands program, grade four students will spend the school year learning about the importance of wetlands for the health of humans, local wildlife, and the local environment through paper and on-line resources provided by Ducks Unlimited. The learning will culminate in a sponsored field-trip to Isaac Lake, which is part of the Rankin River watershed, in April or May. The IOEES Outdoor Education Specialists will deliver the program in partnership with the Peninsula Shores District School (PSDS) ECO-Shores class. ECO-Shores is a two-credit inter-disciplinary

course focusing on leadership, the local environment and outdoor skills. ECO-Shores students will prepare lesson plans after being trained by IOEES staff, and then they will deliver the morning portion of the program.

The magic that will happen when grade four students have the opportunity to learn from “the big kids” is very exciting!



The program for the grade four students begins with the delivery of a fictional letter from the local mayor prior to their field-trip to Isaac Lake. The letter will explain that the wetland is slated for development into an amusement park. It will mention that research is needed into the value of the wetland, and that help is required from the class to determine the preferred approach to this development. Once at the wetland, students will work through a series of activities including critter dipping, a hike through the wetland, games, and more so they may learn about the wetland and its inhabitants. Students will then be asked to form opinions on the best use of the wetland, and how the town should proceed with addressing the fictional amusement park development.

The pilot was a great success and it is exciting to have the PSDS students involved in the program delivery this year. We thank Ducks Unlimited for providing this high quality experience for free to Bluewater students. Quack, quack, quack!

## Free the Children

For many years there were pockets of interest in Free the Children in schools across Bluewater. The Kincardine community was the first to embrace the power of this organization to engage students in social justice and humanitarian efforts. When the students from Hillcrest Teeswater convinced the members of the Director’s Council of the importance of providing opportunities for more students to attend We Day, Free the Children became a system wide movement. By any standard, the data showing that Bluewater students raised over \$80,000 for Free the Children during the 2009-10 school year is impressive. More importantly, the evidence of students and staff from over 40 of our schools demonstrating that they have the power to impact their local and global communities in a positive way is the real message that Free the Children is thrilled has become part of the Bluewater culture. Free the Children has provided an authentic opportunity for students and staff to act responsibly.



## Bluewater Youth are the Change

On May 13th and May 14th, 2010 Bluewater District School Board hosted the event “Bluewater Youth ARE the Change” at the Chesley Education Centre. Over the course of the two days, 37 teachers and 207 students had the opportunity to showcase their work and dialogue with one another related to local and global projects from “We Day”, environmental projects connected to BWDSB’s Green at Heart focus, actions taken following the October 15th, 2009 Equity & Inclusive Education event and other social justice projects.

Spencer West, a much acclaimed ‘Me to We’ speaker motivated and inspired participants with his personal story of triumph over the loss of his legs at the age of five and how he never lost the hope or courage he needed to overcome such personal obstacles. Spencer’s trip to Kenya in 2008 where he helped



Spencer West

to build a school put him in touch with young people who had to overcome challenges every day. Bluewater students were inspired by Spencer’s realization of his true calling; to motivate and inspire people around the world. In turn Spencer was inspired by the Bluewater students. An excerpt of his message follows:

*“I want to thank you so much for allowing me to be part of such an incredible conference last week! That truly was the first time I have been able to witness all of the incredible things the ENTIRE district is doing! I was extremely humbled and honoured to help celebrate the amazing accomplishments”*

Warmest Regards, Spencer West

Part of the day provided an opportunity for groups of elementary and secondary students to work with a teacher facilitator to share the successes, road blocks and next steps they envision within their school community related to their work during the school year. The insights they gathered in their multi-school discussion groups were used to inform their end of day school team meeting when they shared their great ideas from the day, their next steps and identified the ongoing supports they need



from BWDSB and Free the Children. Anne Roppel, principal of Elgin Market shared her thoughts as one of the group facilitators

*"... Although our speakers were incredible, my inspiration truly came from the students I had the privilege of working with in the first session as well as the student presentations in the afternoon. My perception of our future world is decidedly brighter having realized that Me to We is not just something extra they do. It is becoming a mindset for their generation.*

In March 2010 a three year agreement with "Free the Children" was signed. This signals a commitment to continue to nurture this partnership which creates the opportunities for Bluewater students and staff to make a difference in their local and global communities and explore social justice issues as part of the interdisciplinary focus that is engaging students in classrooms across Bluewater.

## Huron Heights Helping Hands

Since September 2007, Huron Heights Helping Hands have been involved in lending a supportive hand to many including: food and toy drives and donations, Tsunami relief fund, Halloween for Hunger, spirit days, Remembrance/Peace assemblies, Collins Family Fire Relief Fund, Vow of Silence, Haiti Relief, school and medical supplies for 3rd world volunteer trips. Funds have been raised through birthday money, teacher gifts,



casual Fridays, retired teacher donations from book, freezie, candy cane and cupcake sales, dances, hat and gum days, etc.

The school also supports Yulieth, their foster child in Columbia and they have built a school in Kenya and collected money towards school supplies and medical supplies raising over \$13 000 in total in three years! Unbelievable! Thanks to the Huron Heights community and Free the Children for all their leadership and encouragement!

## Hillcrest Teeswater

On the final day of the year, the Hillcrest Teeswater student body summed up their learning for the year with the song, "Wavin' Flag", by singing together, "When I get older, I will be stronger. They'll call me freedom. Just like a waving flag." The following list of initiatives that make a difference in the world shows how the students of Hillcrest have grown stronger together:

- Rescued tiny butterfly eggs and bringing in milkweed leaves can help preserve a species
- Improved the recycling program at Hillcrest and began the "upcycling" of juice pouches
- Collected 18,236 pennies to help build and supply schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan
- Reduced their ecological footprint by becoming one of the top 10 Ecovoyageurs classes in Canada
- Raised money to build a well in India by selling cookbooks
- Collected food for Halloween for Hunger and toys for the Christmas toy drive
- Supported Juvenile Diabetes walkathon to help a classmate in his fight against the disease
- Held fundraisers for Children's Hospital in London and the local food bank
- Planted trees on the playground to improve the school environment

## BWDSB Common Assessments in Mathematics

### *Building Capacity to Design and Use Rich Assessment Tasks to Inform Instruction*

**M** Teachers and Board staff have been involved in designing, implementing and moderating district-wide common assessments in mathematics at grades two, four and eight for the last four years. All the students in those three grade levels write a mathematics common assessment within a three week window in late May - early June. Teachers from each school in the district are invited annually, in the following fall, to participate in the moderation of the assessments, thus building the in-school capacity of teachers to moderate rich assessment tasks in mathematics. From that group, several teachers volunteer to be the writing team for the current year's assessment. Other teachers volunteer to pilot the assessment once written, and still others volunteer to put together the resource guide for the previous year's assessment. The assessment materials - actual assessments, exemplars of student work and rationales are then collected into a resource document for use by teachers as instructional / assessment materials. This project truly represents a collective effort to improve student achievement in mathematics across the District.

#### **Some KEY LEARNINGS from participating teachers...**

*"Recognize the importance of the Common Math Assessment"*  
*"I have a better understanding of teacher moderation and how I can glean information that will inform my practice."*

## OnSIS/Trillium/IPPS.net

Individual school and board information (data) is submitted to the Ministry of Education in October, March and June each year through the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS). In order to meet the increasing demands and complexity of these submissions, a collaborative team among various departments within the organization was created. The OnSIS team consists of personnel from the Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Human Resources, Payroll and Business & Finance departments who work with school staff to verify student and educator data in the two corporate data bases, Trillium (Student Management System) and IPPS.net (Payroll and Human Resources), in order to successfully complete OnSIS submissions on time.



(Front l - r) Barb Brown, Joy Bowler, Nicole Lewis, (Back l - r) John Woodley, Sandy Reynolds

## Develops Positive Relationships

### Leader to Leader



Premier Dalton McGuinty personally introduced a program called “Leader to Leader” which paired school principals from demographically comparable schools to explore ways to improve student learning through sharing knowledge and expertise about effective instructional strategies. Two Bluewater principals were invited to participate in this exciting opportunity.

Burke Mason, principal of Paisley Central School was first invited to participate in the “Leader to Leader”

program. Paisley was paired with Alexandra School in Lindsay. The opportunity was given for staff to meet and share their expertise in developing good instructional practice. Together the focus was based on the Gradual Release of Responsibility, i.e. having students develop the capacity for independent learning. It was interesting to discover that although the schools were part of different boards, the focus in staff development and instruction was very similar. This reflects the consistency which has developed through provincial expectations and support. Teachers from both schools participated in a conference that focused on how co-operative learning can be used as an effective instructional strategy. Staff members were also able to participate in some of the professional development with Alexandra School staff regarding The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Dr. Stephen Covey. Although the geography of the two schools presented a challenge, the opportunity to meet and share was much appreciated by staff and impacted positively on student learning.

The second principal involved in the program was Kara Bowles, principal of Meaford Community School. The Leader to Leader initiative partnered Meaford Community School with St. Peter’s and St. Paul’s School in Durham. The staff spent several days together working on the delivery of interdisciplinary planning as well as the Teaching Learning Critical Pathway (TLCP) and precision data in literacy. This partnership has benefitted both

schools and continued in the fall of 2010 with follow ups in both buildings. For Kara, a new principal, this opportunity provided a very important learning experience that has provided time for the principal and staff to focus on their professional growth. Meaford Community School felt very lucky to be part of the Leader to Leader program.

### Union Presidents

Union presidents within Bluewater District School Board (BWDSB) represent teachers, administrators, occasional teachers, educational assistants, early childhood educators, office professionals and technicians, and professional student services personnel and custodians. They sit on Board committees and Councils and provide valued input into the working conditions of their members and learning conditions of our students. The union presidents also work with BWDSB staff to ensure that the Ministry of Education has clear understandings of that which is required to improve student learning.



((back l - r) Paul Hambleton - ABA, Betty-Jo Raddin - OSSTF Secondary Teachers, Kathy McCarrel - ETFO Occasional Teachers, Paula Robinson - OSSTF Educational Assistants, Bob Farrell - OSSTF Occasional Teachers, Scott Stephens - CUPE Custodians/Maintenance  
(front l - r) Nancy Lawler - ETFO Teachers, Linda Law - OSSTF Student Services Personnel, Penny Huettlin - OSSTF Office Professional/Technical

## Works Effectively

### Finding Buried Treasures



The position of library clerk has revitalized the library at Dundalk & Proton Community School. Not only has library clerk, Marny MacLeod, worked hard to maintain the organization of the library she has also put a fresh face on the primary school’s library. Outdated and worn books have been removed from the system. Remaining books have been displayed in bins, allowing students to quickly browse at the covers. Favourites,

such as books by Jan Brett and Eric Carle have been gathered and displayed prominently to allow easy access for students. The library has always contained many literacy treasures but now as a result of the student friendly organization, children are discovering the wealth of literature available to them. Staff have noted a dramatic increase in the variety of books students are signing out.

The organization of existing resources completes the first phase of the revitalization. Mrs. MacLeod has now set her sights on adding new titles to the library which will further entice young readers.

### Holland Chatsworth Central School Grade 8 Band

Holland Chatsworth Central School (HCCS) Grade 8 Band were very proud participants at the national level performances held by MusicFest Canada in Ottawa in May.

MusicFest Canada brings together more than 10,000 young musicians who perform for recognitions as the country’s foremost musical ensembles. HCCS grade 8 Band was 1 of 12 elementary schools in attendance. The grade 8 band earned an invitation from their area festival held earlier in the year in Collingwood.



Holland Chatsworth has been invited and/or participated in the Nationals four times; 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010. HCCS is proud of the amazing student, community, parent, staff and administration support that enables them to fulfill their potential. "The teamwork, dedication and persistence of our children never ceases to amaze me. They learn to support and encourage each other with the knowledge that, in order to perform well we must strengthen our weakest link and soon come to realize that our "weakest link" can be very strong!" says music teacher Gael Mulvaney-Courtois.

It is truly amazing that this small rural school has met National standards with a different group of grade 8 students for so many years! Congratulations!

## Bluewater District School Board - Awards of Excellence

At the May 2010 Board Meeting community members who have made outstanding contributions were recognized through our Awards of Excellence Program.

While it is impossible to honour all of those special people who contribute to the betterment of education in Bluewater District School Board, this program is designed to recognize the extraordinary efforts and contribution of one individual from each family of schools.

The nominations from teachers, administrators, parents, students, support staff and/or community members made particular reference to how the recipients model the 10 Bluewater Character Attributes.



Character Development is a shared responsibility of individuals, schools, homes and communities. Our award recipients take this responsibility to heart!

The winners of the 2010 awards in each of the following Family of Schools:

- Bruce Peninsula District/ Peninsula Shores District Schools..... Sandy Barfoot
- Chesley District High School ..... Grace Bohnert
- Georgian Bay Secondary School ..... Heather Kehoe
- Grey Highlands Secondary School..... Wendy Krebsz
- John Diefenbaker Secondary School ..... Helen Pepler
- Kincardine District Secondary School ..... Laurie Daniel (presented posthumously)
- O.S.C.V.I. .... Mary Sundermeier
- Saugeen District Secondary School ..... Jacquie vonHunnius
- Walkerton District Secondary School..... Chris Cossitt
- West Hill Secondary School ..... Ken Clarke

## PESCS Music Program



For 36 years Port Elgin - Saugeen Central School (PESC) has nurtured and groomed it's grade 6, 7 and 8 students to form some of the best student musical bands in the district.

*"The music program has inspired me to have a new passion for music. Playing the trombone is a great way to let out emotion."*

Kaycee Fischer, grade 6

For 29 of those years, the current teacher Mr. Cameron Porter has been their music teacher. His structured, but gentle guidance in music has allowed many students an opportunity to develop a life long love of music. His talent as a teacher not only encompasses his love for music but has also provided many students with an opportunity to see that with hard work, dedication and consistent effort you can accomplish anything!

*"The instrumental music program has taught me valuable life skills such as dedication, determination and desire."*

Jocelyn Parker, grade 8

This year, the students at PESCS realized the rewards of their efforts, bringing home numerous awards to share with the school community. The grade 6 and grade 7 bands both received a gold standing in the Walkerton Music Festival. The grade 8 student band entered both the Walkerton Music Festival and the Owen Sound Music Festival and proudly won a gold standing at each! In addition to this, they competed in the provincial competition and placed second in all of Ontario, setting the standards high once again!

*"It has definitely influenced me to have a career in music, in the future."*

Callum Larson, grade 7



**Bluewater District School Board**  
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[www.bwdsb.on.ca](http://www.bwdsb.on.ca)