

FOUNDATIONS FOR LEARNING

2008-2009

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 outlines the five key values and five features of our learners in Bluewater. It is the basis of all system decisions in our District.

The ten Character Attributes in Bluewater stem from our **Foundations for Learning** document. This is the third year that every board in the province has had a system focus on Character Development. Research has confirmed that school boards with a strong focus on Character Development support their students in higher academic achievement.

The Director's Annual Report is an opportunity to share examples of Foundations for Learning in action. Students and staff have found a multitude of ways to demonstrate our ten Character Attributes. Limited examples are found in this report and many more can be viewed on our website at www.bwdsb.on.ca.



(l - r) Lori Wilder - Superintendent of Student Services, Brenda Booth - Superintendent of Business and Treasurer, Mary Anne Alton - Director of Education, Jean Stephenson - Superintendent of Student Success, Marnie Coke - Superintendent of Elementary Education, Alana Murray - Superintendent of Secondary Education.
Absent: Richard Gerson - Administrator of Employee Relations

System Administrative Team:

The System Administrative Team is guided in their work by the values and image of the learner in **Foundations for Learning**. While each member of the team has specific responsibilities, their shared knowledge and moral purpose ensures that all decisions are based on supporting student learning.



(back l - r) Paul Wehrle, John Chapman, Ross King, Tim Reaburn
(front l - r) Jan Johnstone (Vice-Chair), Marg Gaviller, Jennifer Yenssen (Chair), Marilyn McComb, Cindy Aitken. Absent: Theresa Root, Gail Nadjiwon

Trustees:

The Trustees of Bluewater District School Board model the importance of positive relationships as they perform their system governance role. The trustees are committed to decisions that support student learning and reflect the values described in **Foundations for Learning**.

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:

- Millennium Scholarship - Jocelyn Boley, O.S.C.V.I.; Darien Lancaster, John Diefenbaker Secondary School; Megan Myles, Bruce Peninsula District School; Kate Sarnovsky, Bruce Peninsula District School
- Cooperators Insurance National Award - West Hill Secondary School OSAID Students
- Dare to Dream Provincial Drama Award - West Hill Secondary School Students
- CPF Concours oratoire (French Public Speaking) Provincial - (2nd place) Matthew Blackshaw, West Hill Secondary School
- National - Extended Core French Category (First Place) - Matthew Blackshaw, West Hill Secondary School
- CPF Mlacak Volunteer Award - Michelle Eccles, Volunteer CPF rep Hanover
- MusicFest Canada Competition - National Senior Concert Band (Gold) - Chesley District High School
- National E-Spirit Youth Business Plan Competition (Gold) - Jody Lee Johnston, Richelle Ritchie, Sammi-Jo Thompson and teacher

Adrian Kahgee, Saugeen District Secondary School

- OFSAA Track and Field - High Jump (Gold) Mat West, Walkerton District Secondary School
- OFSAA Swimming - 100m Individual Medley Sr. Boys (Gold) Steve Young, Kincardine District Secondary School
- OFSAA Cross Country - Midget Girls (Gold) Cheyenne Hunter, Kincardine District Secondary School
- Ontario Music Festival Provincial Taped Competition - Elementary School Concert Band (First) Kincardine Township-Tiverton Public School, Grade 8 Concert Band (Second) Port Elgin Saugeen Central School
- W.R. McGillvary FSL Award - Sue Lawrence, teacher, West Hill Secondary School

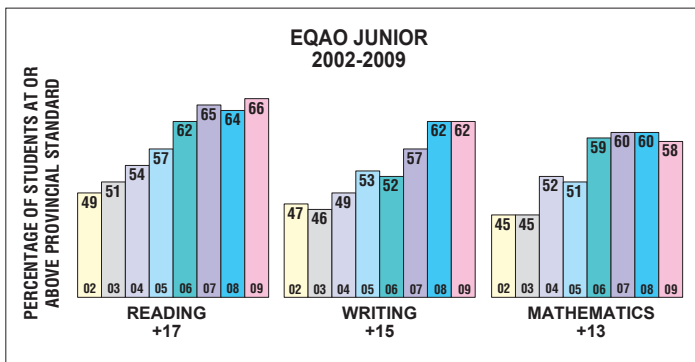
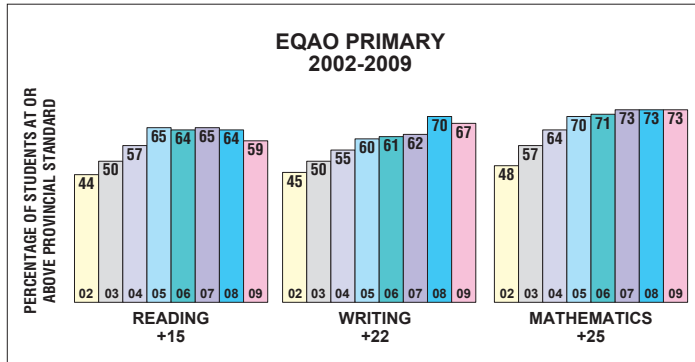


Bluewater Graduation Rates

Bluewater District School Board's graduation rate for the 2008-2009 school year was 76.2%. 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.

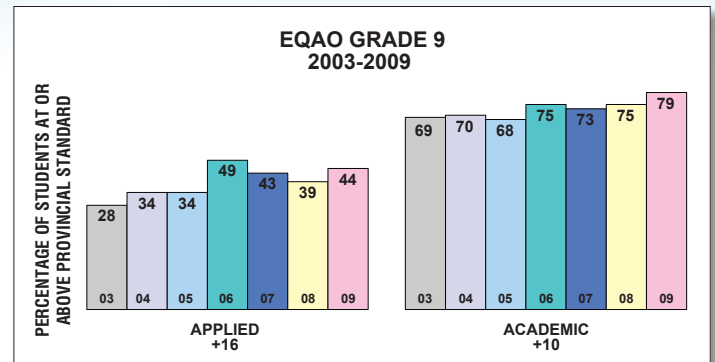
Bluewater EQAO and OSSLT Test Results

The performance of Bluewater District School Board students on provincial assessments continues to confirm the impact of our focus on effective instruction. The grade 3, 6 and 9 students who wrote the tests last school year maintained the improvements of 4 to 25 percentage points made in these core subjects over the last several years.

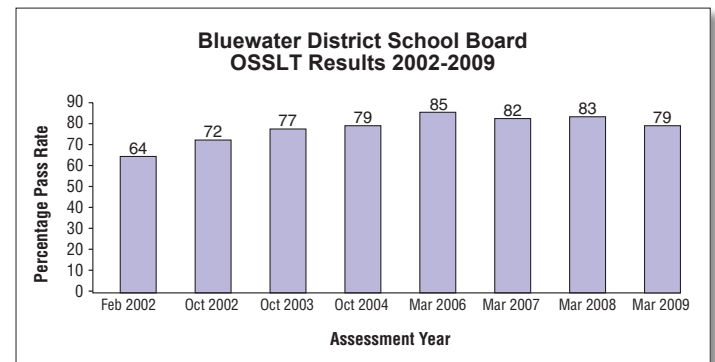


The EQAO Assessments of reading, writing and mathematics provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their achievement as outlined in The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8:

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.



Results from EQAO testing are an important indicator of student learning and measure achievement in relation to a common provincial standard. The information gained through these assessments adds to the current knowledge about how Ontario students are doing and has become an important tool for improvement planning at the student, school, school board and provincial levels.



Bluewater Quick Facts

- Bluewater District School Board serves an area 8,673 square kilometres in size. In 2008 - 2009 the district had 19,454 students in 42 elementary schools and 11 secondary schools
- Bluewater District School Board had .66% of the 2008-2009 student enrolment self-identify as First Nation, Métis and Inuit
- 185 students are taught in a language other than their first
- 90% of primary classes have 20 or fewer students
- In 2008-2009, 68.22% of students aged 16 had earned 16 or more credits, up from 65.45% in the previous year
- In the past year, specific measures have been undertaken 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. The system program team supported 18 schools. There was a variety of

- small group, in- school and central days of coaching support along with additional time provided to each school for professional learning. School Program Plans must be built on Strategic, Measurable, Attainable, Results-based, Time-bound (SMART) goals, which reflect the learning needs of students in the school. The goals target areas for growth in student achievement. The learning gap between male and female students is one example of an area for growth upon which schools have focused.
- Based on the trends over the past five years, Bluewater is on target to meet the provincial expectation (75% of our Grade six students meeting the provincial standard of level three or four) on EQAO assessments in 2011. Each year, Bluewater elementary schools have demonstrated their growth in understanding of data analysis, setting SMART goals and monitoring progress. Professional learning has been embedded into daily practice at all schools and is directly related to School Program Plan goals. It is evident that schools are increasing the opportunities for teachers to collaborate with each other, within the school and with visitations to classrooms throughout the district.

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

- The Section 23 Program meets the needs of children age 12 to 18, and each is designed to meet the therapeutic and educational needs of individual students. In 2008-2009 Bluewater District School Board had eight Section 23 classrooms in partnership with community agencies and organizations. The average enrolment for each class is eight students. Students, parents, teachers and staff have the ability to access a wide variety of supports depending on the child's needs.
- 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. It is the mission of the WRAPid Response Team to work with the student, family and school with the goal of successful transition, re-entry and a fresh start back into school. The WRAPid Response Team supported 43 students and families in the 2008-09 school year.
- Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP) is an alternative educational program designed to meet the needs of 14 through 17 year olds who are not experiencing success attending a regular school setting. Although it is an alternative educational experience, 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. There were 30 students on individual SALEP plans, while 16 students attended the SALEP Centre during the 2008-2009 school year.



“Danny” Schools Project At Sullivan

Sullivan Community School was one of 15 schools selected across Ontario to participate in the “Danny” Schools project, which was coordinated by ETFO and designed to address socio-economic influences on education. The project had a significant positive impact at all grade levels and on the school as a whole.

Some of the funds available through the project were used to purchase listening centres and read aloud books to support literacy programs. As observed by a grade five student, “With more variety of books kids will want to read more and new books allow new learning possibilities.” Additional math manipulatives were also integrated into math instruction. Teachers also had an opportunity to attend workshops and conferences, and visit other classrooms, which provided them with current research and strategies related to literacy and numeracy instruction.



some of its “Danny” project resources to promote physical activity and cooperative play among students. An additional outdoor basketball board and tetherball were added to the playground; as well soccer balls, basketballs, scoop ball sets, hula-hoops, and badminton sets were made accessible for use during nutrition breaks.

A grade six student noted, “With the new equipment kids won’t be bored and getting into trouble. They will be more active because if you are not active you can become overweight.”

The primary students have also enjoyed the new sandbox toys provided for their use. “Sand toys will teach little kids how machines work in the real world,” according to a grade five student.

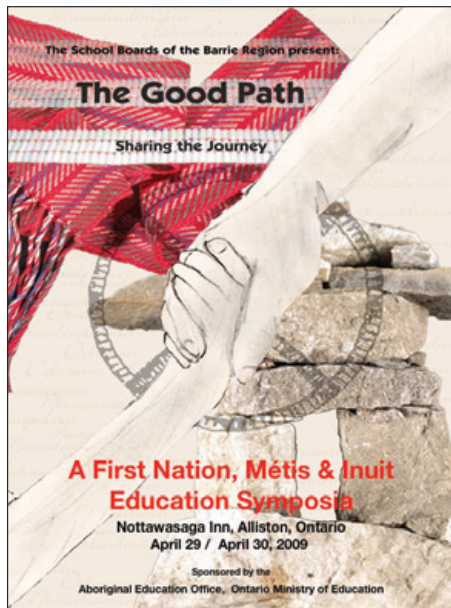
Two special experiences for all of the students have also been made possible. The students participated in workshops with “Mr. Meccano” and with well-known storyteller Bruce Carmody. A Grade three student observed, “When you are with Mr. Meccano you are learning new things about structures and having fun. Also you’re the one who builds the structure. Wow!”

A grade two student reported, “I liked the storyteller because he told stories with lots of expression and details!” Several field trips were also subsidized so that all students could be included.

Participation in the “Danny” Schools project created a feeling of collaboration and excitement in the Sullivan school community. Awareness of the socio-economic challenges faced by some students has been heightened, and they’ve learned that it doesn’t have to be an insurmountable obstacle to improving student achievement and creating a positive learning environment.

The Good Path: Sharing the Journey Symposium

“The Good Path Symposium”, a First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education symposium was held on April 29-30, 2009. The Bluewater delegation was made up of 25 teachers, administrators and community members along with First Nation, Métis and Inuit



Advisory Committee Members and representatives from both Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation. Ray Auger, Bluewater First Nation, Métis and Inuit Advisor, was a key member of the planning committee.

The purpose of the symposium was to deepen strategies and knowledge of board leadership teams within the Barrie region to support the First

Nation, Métis, and Inuit Policy Framework goals.

Specific objectives of this Framework include:

- Increase knowledge of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit cultures in board leadership and administration
- Incorporate meaningful First Nation, Métis, and Inuit cultural perspectives and activities when planning instruction
- Implement best practices relating to First Nation, Métis, and Inuit student success
- Increase connections and communication among boards and also between boards and First Nation, Métis, and Inuit communities
- Build capacity in each participating board that can then be extended to deepen initiatives within each board

Highlights of the symposium included a plenary session on the History of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education; a special performance by recording artist, Tom Jackson (star of *North of 60*); and a keynote presentation by Charles Coffey, Vice-Chair Trillium Board of Directors; Grand Chief John Beaucage, Union of Ontario Indians and sixteen inspiring workshops.

Participants in the symposium were reminded that people forget what you say, they forget what you do, but they never forget how you make them feel. Participants were encouraged to look in the mirror, find their hearts and souls through their eyes and say “I am making a difference for the children.” When the brain, heart and spirit are aligned, the opportunities are unlimited. There is much that can be learned from our First Nation, Métis and Inuit people.

Special recognition for the poster creation is given to G.C. Huston student Ashley McColl-McCue, Adrian Kahgee, teacher at Saugeen District Secondary School, and Ray Auger, Bluewater First Nation, Métis and Inuit Advisor.

An Advantage for Bluewater Students - Articulation Agreement with the University of Guelph

The Specialist High Skills Major Program in Agriculture has been an essential part of the curriculum at Chesley District High School for three years.

Once again, the barn on the school property has become an active learning site.

On Thursday, April 2, 2009 a team of representatives from Bluewater including Dennis Watson and Kate Marshall, key teachers in the program, former principal Joy Johnson, Student Success Superintendent Jean Stephenson and Director of Education Mary Anne Alton were on hand at the University of Guelph to sign an articulation agreement with the University.

As part of the Student Success initiative, Specialist High Skills Majors are intended to focus instruction in key economic sectors. The Chesley District High School team was eager to volunteer to be part of this exciting initiative from the outset.

This articulation agreement had been in the works for three years.

Our students now have an innovative advantage to pursue post secondary agricultural education at the University of Guelph or its regional campuses in Ridgetown, Kemptonville and Alfred. Jean Stephenson says, “this advantage will very likely be a factor in post secondary selection for those students who intend to pursue the college or university pathway.”

Bluewater students who are graduates of the Specialist High Skills Major in Agriculture will be exempt from introductory agricultural courses. In their place, our students may opt to enroll in second

year courses instead.

This is the first articulation agreement of its kind in the province of Ontario.

To join in the celebration were key individuals from the Ministry of Education including former Assistant Deputy Minister George Zegarac, Richard Franz, Director of Strategic Policy Branch of



Student Success and Aldo Cianfrini who is one of the Leads for the Specialist High Skills Major initiative.

Dr. Peter Pauls, the Acting Associate Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) stressed that, “an agricultural degree doesn’t close doors, it opens new doors”.

Partnership Appreciation Event

In Bluewater we have solid, respectful partnerships with many agencies, organizations, businesses, police associations, non-profit groups and government representatives. Our students, teachers and school communities benefit from the expertise, perspective and financial contributions of these varied partners.

In June 2009, we held our first annual Partnership Appreciation Event at the Chesley Education Centre.

A student panel presented to those in attendance. These students represented grades 5 to 12 and were entertaining ambassadors for Bluewater. Their speeches highlighted the student perspective for our partner agencies. It was encouraging for our partners to hear first hand how their involvement impacts directly on the student experience.

Students in attendance were Luke Albert, Aly Dobbin, Chelsey Dykstra, Courtney Hawksworth, Kim Liverance, Kaley Machie,

Emma-Cole McCubbin, Kara Nagle and Stewart Oatway.

Speeches addressed the Environmental Specialist High Skills Major and our outdoor education experience, Supervised Alternative Learning, Mental Health, Healthy Dating, French

Immersion, and the Transportation Specialist High Skills Major.

Two of our dedicated adult volunteers shared their perspectives. Ron DeVisser and Jennifer Sells have devoted countless hours to projects directly connected to students. Ron spoke of the many ways that students experience different kinds of success in schools and the importance of the community support to create varied opportunities. Jennifer highlighted the many exemplary partnerships with Bluewater; e.g. Let's Learn, Keystone, Children's Alliance. She indicated the powerful partnerships with our Board are indicative of how people in Bruce and Grey have learned to work together to maximize our resources and our support of children and their families.

Students prepared the food, served the food, entertained the guests, and spoke eloquently.

In all, nearly 100 community partners were thanked at the first annual Partnership Appreciation Event.



Dual Credit Students at Georgian College Receive Certificates

Dual Credit students at Owen Sound's Georgian College received Certificates of Achievement on June 9, 2009 during an evening Dual Credit Celebration ceremony. Fifty-five secondary school students successfully completed a Dual Credit course at Georgian College during the 2008/2009 school year.

A Dual Credit course counts as a secondary school credit and as a college credit. Dual Credits are a School/College/Work Initiative of the Ministry of Education and CODE (Council of Directors of Education).



Certificates were presented to students by Georgian's Associate Dean, Donna Jansen, course instructor Ben Rabidou, FLEX teacher Stewart Brown and Specialist High Skills Major teacher Steve Newell. The Dual Credit programs at Georgian College are a partnership with the Bluewater District School Board (BWDSB) and the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board (BGCDSB). Bringing greetings from their respective Boards were BGCDSB Superintendent Jerry Casey and BWDSB Superintendents Jean Stephenson and Alana Murray.

A program video by Liz Campbell, SHSM Coordinator, featured student voices. Leah Hall of St. Mary's High School said, "This program has meant a lot to me. I like the flexibility that lets me get credits toward my high school diploma." Robert Kinch of West Hill Secondary School claims that "Taking this course has helped me get a better understanding of what goes on at college and has helped me finish high school at the same time". Justin Skalaa of the Owen Sound Collegiate and Vocational Institute adds, "I have learned how to work more independently. The adaptive technologies in Georgian's Student Services have really helped me."

The Dual Credit programs will continue at Georgian College during both semesters next school year. Incoming FLEX teacher Patti McComb advises interested students and parents to contact the Guidance office in their secondary school for more information.

Public Outreach

Bluewater District School Board embarked on a Public Outreach process in the spring of 2009 with a goal of improving accountability and communication. The four key aspects of the plan are:

- Trustee/Parent/Community Consultation
- Meetings with union and federation leaders
- Public satisfaction survey
- Formal review of complaints process

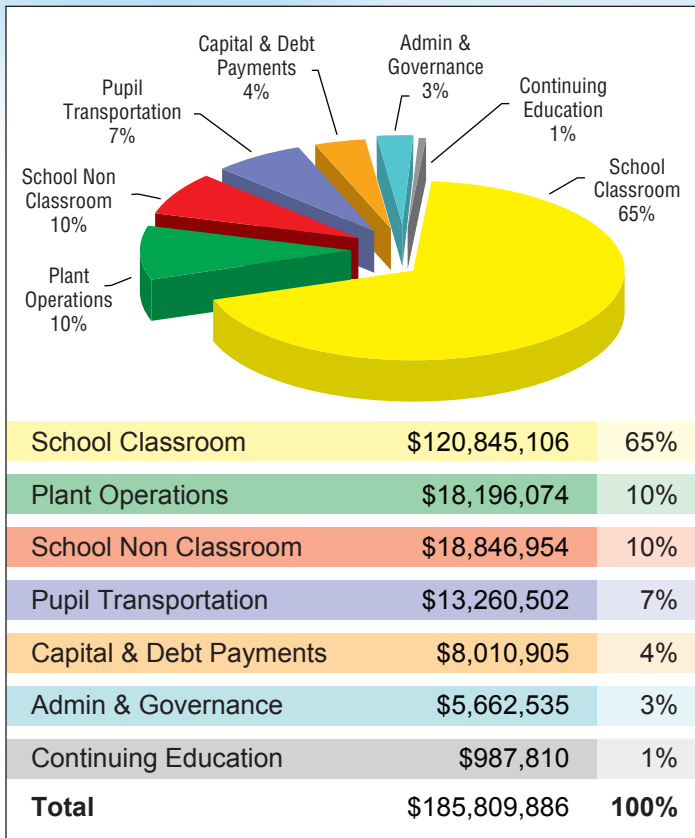
Four community meetings were held; two in Owen Sound and two

in Walkerton. Peggy Sattler of the Academics Group facilitated the meetings and provided a report. A public satisfaction survey through Academics Group was planned to take place in the fall of 2009.

The Minister of Education provided support to Bluewater District School Board by appointing Geoff Williams and Ross Parry to work with the trustees and staff. Reports related to the Public Outreach process are available on the Board website at www.bwdsb.on.ca

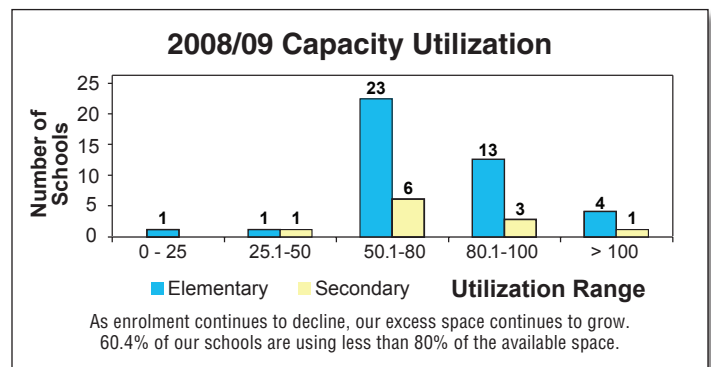
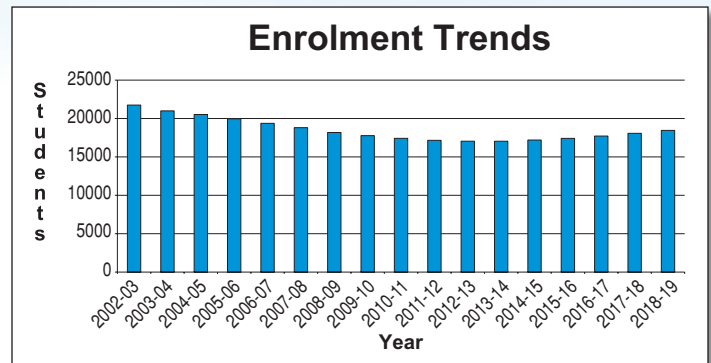


2008/09 Budgeted Expenditures



Enrolment Projections

Enrolment continues to decline in Bluewater District School Board. On average, the 2008-09 enrolment declined by 3.67% in both the elementary schools and secondary schools.



Renewing Lucknow Central Public School

In 2002-2003 the Ministry of Education performed evaluations of all schools in Ontario to determine their facility renewal needs. The Ministry identified high renewal needs at Lucknow and in the summer of 2008 the Plant Services department commenced an aggressive three month renewal program with the support of the school and the community.



The school received a new roof, windows and wall sections. The result has been improved energy efficiency, improved comfort levels and reduced water penetration.

Each classroom was substantially upgraded. Classes now have new heating units that provide full classroom ventilation, air conditioning and electronic temperature control. New handicap-accessible washrooms were constructed, and environmental modifications made to light fixtures and heating systems. Life safety systems, emergency lighting, fire alarm and building communication systems were upgraded and improved.

The Plant Services department worked closely with school staff to ensure added functionality of the space. A new student computer

centre and a teacher work area were added. The entry lobby and front office were upgraded to be more welcoming for staff and visitors to the school.

Hats off to the Plant Services department for working so hard to make sure students and staff had a “new” school to come back to in September 2008.

New Education Centre

Construction on the new Bluewater Education Centre in Chesley began in December 2007. The 43-thousand square foot structure replaced aging administrative offices in Chesley and Markdale and addressed health and safety issues that existed in both buildings. The new education centre is environmentally friendly and features many energy efficiencies and green solutions.

Thanks to the amazing work of everyone involved with the construction of the new building and those involved in organizing the move, staff settled into their new home in March 2009. For the first time in the ten years since amalgamation, all board support staff are working in one location to support education in Bluewater!



Teaching and Learning with Monarch Butterflies

By Audrey Armstrong, Teacher, Peninsula Shores District School

Every fall, Monarch butterflies from Grey Bruce counties begin a four thousand kilometre migration to Mexico, the longest migration of any insect in the world. The following spring, their great-great grandchildren flutter back to our schoolyards and meadows. Every fall, more and more teachers in Bluewater District School Board are bringing Monarchs into their classrooms, developing school gardens, raising awareness of the global community, increasing students' connections with other nations



Photo by Willy Waterton

and modeling how to be responsible stewards of the environment.

This summer, 50 teachers from Ontario gathered at Peninsula Shores District School in Wiarton, on August 4th and 5th for a two-day workshop 'Teaching

and Learning with Monarch Butterflies'. Thirty-five of the 50 participants were from Bluewater and 25 volunteer teachers supported the participants.

The session combined classroom, hands-on and fun field experiences. Participants learned all about the life cycle, ecology and conservation of Monarchs, how to raise and release them and how to tag them for the fall migration through Monarch Watch. They incorporated aspects of the provincial curriculum (math, literacy, social studies, science and the arts) through cross-curricular strategies. These participants joined the growing Monarch Teacher Network, which has a global impact, involving Canada, USA and Mexico.

Monarchs are a species of special concern under the 'Species at Risk' in Canada list because their habitat and main food source, milkweed, are threatened by development. Planting a butterfly garden at home and at school is a positive way children can help the Monarch butterfly. Participating in the fall migration-tagging program through Monarch Watch also provides students with authentic scientific research opportunities.

Monarch Teacher Network-Canada, W. Garfield Weston Foundation and Evergreen sponsored the workshop. Bluewater District School Board, Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario and local businesses and organizations also provided support.

"Allons en France"- French Writing Contest Winner

by Brianna Cavan, Student, West Hill Secondary School

Last winter my French class entered a French writing contest, put on by the French Embassy and Canadian Parents for French. We were given a list of ten words, which we needed to incorporate in a 25-line piece of writing, using the topic of language. Then, a



few months later, the French Embassy called to tell me that I had won a trip to France, along with three other young Canadians.

My trip to France was absolutely amazing. Everything was paid for, from the plane ticket, to the lodgings, to food. The trip was called "Allons en France" and this was the 10th year anniversary. The program started in 1998, the year that France hosted the World Cup for soccer. Each year has a theme, the first year the theme was soccer, and this

summer the theme was the languages of Europe. For ten years now, each summer young people aged 16-25 have been traveling to France for ten days to experience France and meet young people from all over the world.

My ten days in France really made me realize how lucky I am to have another language. There were 200 people from 57 different countries on the trip, and we all had French as a common language. I learned about so many countries, and I learned about them from people my age who actually live there. Now I have friends in countries like Macedonia, Ireland, Belarus, Singapore, Bosnia, Croatia, Israel, and Egypt, just to name a few. One day I had a phone call from my friend Ruth, who lives in Ghana. Another, I received a letter from Belarus. Whenever I communicate with people that I met on the trip we speak in French.

Here in Canada, we think having two languages is great. Most of the people I met through "Allons en France" had at least three, if not four languages. I've been in French Immersion since grade two, and I think it's one of the best decisions my parents ever made for me. Being in French Immersion and having another language opens so many doors, and gives students so many amazing opportunities.

Instructional Leadership at Osprey – A Key to Success

Principals with very different communication, management, and personal styles can all be strong instructional leaders. Possessing the key qualities of resource provider, instructional resource, communicator, and visible presence, strong instructional leaders spend a substantially greater percentage of time on educational program improvement.

[Instructional Leadership: How Principals Make a Difference. Smith, Wilma F.; Andrews, Richard L.]

As we continue to strive to increase student achievement in every school in Bluewater District School Board, we continue to see that Instructional Leadership tends to be one of the key factors. In three short years, one school has travelled on quite a learning journey.

In the fall of 2006, The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat highlighted specific schools in the province to receive targeted support to improve student learning. Osprey Central School was one such school. It was one of 11 schools chosen in our District to receive release time for teacher professional learning teams and the direct support of a System Curriculum Lead Teacher.



The principal and the School Leadership Team, working collaboratively with staff from the Program Team, reviewed an environmental audit report provided to the school to determine the actions required to improve student learning.

First steps included adjusting timetables to promote effective program delivery to students and intentionally planning for effective instruction. Teachers began to work together on a regular basis in divisional professional learning teams to discuss curriculum and how best to design learning opportunities for students. This quickly became the priority focus for all staff and remains the focus today. There is a realization that as educators we need to constantly upgrade both teaching and learning.

The improvement in demonstrated student learning has been sufficient to conclude that the leadership provided to the larger staff by the principal and the School Leadership Team has ultimately improved student learning at Osprey Central School.

I Never Saw Another Butterfly

By Corey Follett

Last year my grade eight class and I travelled into one of humanity's darkest moments: the Holocaust. Our journey began on November 11th with a trip to the Holocaust Centre of Toronto. The 29 students, three parent volunteers and I were deeply moved by the personal narrative of Mr. Alex Eisen. Mr. Eisen is a survivor and he shared with us his loss, his pain, and his hope. It was a truly powerful and transformative moment. I was moved and I knew the students were too. But how could I further extend their understanding of the



Holocaust and its atrocities and teach them that there is good even in the face of evil? Drama: we would perform a play and I knew of just the one.

I had earlier convinced Denise Horvath, my

principal, to let me spend hundreds of dollars on a class set of two texts that I felt were integral to my interdisciplinary unit for term two: Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl and a play called I Never Saw Another Butterfly. Within hours of introducing the texts I had students who wanted to play certain roles in the play and one girl who wanted to organize an event on June 12th for Anne Frank's 80th birthday.

We decided very early on in our rehearsals that the money we raised from the show would go towards a cause. At first we were thinking globally like Free the Children, however, after speaking with the principal at Hillcrest Elementary School we learned of a local boy in need - Ian Hyland. Left paralysed by a skiing accident, Ian needed an expensive wheelchair. We agreed to donate the money raised from the play to do our small part to help Ian find some light in an otherwise dark time in his life.

After months of rehearsals we performed a school matinee dress rehearsal and three evening shows for the public May 13-15. I sat in the audience as these adolescents told the true survival story of Raja Englanderova and the hope she instilled in the children of Terezin. It brought tears to my eyes to witness the maturity, respect, and compassion these students demonstrated while playing their respective roles. I am certain that Raja's actions impacted my students' lives as much as she impacted the lives of thousands of real children in the Terezin Ghetto between 1942-1945. When the curtain came down on the final performance on May 15 we were 30 different people. Through the sadness of Raja's experience we learned to celebrate and appreciate what is good and our own ability to do good.

Maya Angelou articulates best the lesson we all learned from the unit on the Holocaust: "History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be un-lived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again."

Saugeen Students Bring Home Gold

Three students from Saugeen District Secondary School have won the gold medal in the 'Aboriginal Youth Business Plan Competition'.

The Business Development Bank of Canada sponsored this Internet-based national competition with online modules; mentoring and business plan templates for Aboriginal youth in grades 10-12. The 16-week competition also enabled participants to meet and network with other students online and in person.

The event involved 63 teams, 30 schools and 167 Aboriginal students from across Canada. An independent panel of experts

judged group presentations and business displays that included laptop demonstrations, product samples, promotional videos, posters and 3D mock-ups.

The Gold Award was presented to Saugeen District Secondary School in Port Elgin. The students were Sammi-Jo Thompson, Jody Lee Johnston and Richelle Ritchie. Their business project, "Living Earth Community Garden Center" is a community garden in the territory of Saugeen First Nation.

"Living Earth" promotes cultural awareness of plants native to the area and their use by First Nation peoples since time immemorial. As a business that focuses on the natural world and the abundance provided from within, the winning team wants to help people find healthier alternative ways of living on Mother Earth and promote traditional Native ecological knowledge.

E-Spirit is about making a "human capital investment" that will provide the participants with valuable skills needed for today's marketplace. Assisting students while they are still in high school gives them the time and information they require to make informed choices about their education and career path. This program is designed to increase



Aboriginal youth participants' awareness of entrepreneurial/business opportunities, management/business skills, and e-commerce and technological capacities.

Along with the gold award, Saugeen District Secondary School received a cheque for \$2500 from the Business Development Bank.

We are proud of our Saugeen District Secondary School students and sincerely appreciate the support of their wonderful teachers Adrian Kahgee, Phillip Ritchie and community members.

The Global High School Student

by Luke Albert, Walkerton District Secondary School

When we think of high school we usually think of hanging out with friends, field trips to the river and trying to study for that impossible calculus test. What we don't often consider is where the pens we use come from, who built the computers we rely on and how the binders we buy at the dollar store can be so inexpensive. During Global Awareness Week students and teachers had the opportunity to ask and answer these questions and more.

Throughout the week, events were held to highlight problems in developing countries. There was a 'fair' where issues like fair trade, child soldiers, child labour, women's issues, the environment and other topics were displayed and discussed. A 'Global Café' featured documentaries and videos during lunch. We collected garbage produced in the school during the week (over 70 bags!) and displayed it. An assembly featured speakers from 'Me to We/Free the Children'. A smaller workshop was held for Walkerton District Secondary School students who wanted to learn and develop leadership skills and global understandings even further.



Living in Grey Bruce we tend to live in a sort of bubble. It's easy to ignore (or become completely ignorant of) what's going on in the world beyond. We are fortunate to have clean air, ample clean water, room to run/hike/bike/play and a welcoming community. Not everyone in the world has access to these resources.

Educational Assistant Graduation

The celebration for Educational Assistant Apprenticeship graduates took place on May 12th to recognize the successful completion of two years of training for the most recent group of students.

Each year, as we celebrate the success of the individuals in the Educational Assistant program, we also celebrate the successful partnership of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities,



Georgian College and Bluewater District School Board. This partnership began in 2001 as meetings were held to plan

for the first group of Educational Assistant Apprentices who began classes in September of 2002.

Since the inception of the program, for which Bluewater District School Board acts as employer sponsor, there have been 168 graduates. In addition to that number, 23 teaching assistants sponsored by Saugeen First Nations and two teaching assistants sponsored by Cape Croker have graduated.

We appreciate the continued strong partnership between the three partner agencies. It is the ongoing support of all partners that allows us to offer this excellent training opportunity locally. It has been the springboard to employment for many graduates.

Dufferin Elementary: A School on the Move

Dufferin Elementary School in Owen Sound was named a School on the Move through the Lighthouse Project with the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat of the Ministry of Education.

Established in 2004 to help boost student achievement, the goal of the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat is to have 75% of grade six

students reaching the provincial standard in reading, writing and math. Schools on the Move celebrates schools that are making significant and sustained progress in student achievement.

In its report on Dufferin, Schools on the Move says everything the school does is informed by three belief statements:

- All people are teachers and learners
- Every learner can and will succeed when school, home and community work together
- Respect, responsibility and appreciation of difference are essential for a safe learning environment

There have been many initiatives implemented by Dufferin principal Dan Russell and his staff, which lead to greater student success. An anti-bullying committee has created high expectations for behaviour, the result of which

is a safe and orderly learning atmosphere. Student leadership is encouraged through providing opportunities such as crossing guard, computer helper, lunch monitor and kindergarten helper.



Director of Education Mary Anne Alton with Dufferin students.

There's been a significant culture change at the school as well. Staff has worked hard to break down barriers to professional dialogue and conversation.

Grade three scores in reading, writing and math were already above provincial standards in 2004-05, but they've gone up since then. At that time the math score stood at 86 per cent of students meeting the provincial standard. In 2007-2008 that had improved to 100 per cent! Grade six reading jumped from 50 per cent in 2004-05 to an amazing 82 per cent!

Dufferin Elementary School is an excellent example of the great things that can happen when home, school and community work together.

Roots of Empathy at G. C. Huston

"Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based classroom program that has shown dramatic effect in reducing levels of aggression among school children by raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy. The program reaches elementary school children from kindergarten to grade eight.

In Canada, the program is delivered in English and French, and reaches rural, urban, and remote communities including Aboriginal communities. Roots of Empathy is also delivered in New Zealand, the United States and the Isle of Man."

(<http://www.rootsofempathy.org/ProgDesc.html>)

'Roots of Empathy' was piloted in the grade 4/5 class at G. C. Huston in the 2008-2009 school year. Cheree Ursheler, program presenter organized ten sessions including visits to the classroom by a participating mother and her young child. Numerous topics were covered during these classroom visits, including predictions regarding baby behaviour at different ages and stages, diapering, feeding, how to calm a restless baby, and shaken baby syndrome. Students also used their math skills to predict baby mass and height and the differences in these measurements between visits.

The students were able to observe a healthy, loving mother and



Roots of Empathy
Racines de l'empathie

child relationship. They were totally engrossed in watching baby Samantha's face and the changes in her facial expressions as she interacted with her mom and others around her.

The students sang to Samantha frequently during her visits. These songs were recorded and given to Samantha on a CD.

Students were completely engaged in the 'Roots of Empathy' program. They were positive in their evaluations during the wrap-up at the end of the year and were able to share numerous things that they had learned. Foremost in that learning was their understanding of what it takes to support a happy and well-adjusted baby.

Hillcrest Huskies for Hyland

Ian Hyland, a grade 8 student at Hillcrest Elementary School in Owen Sound, was seriously injured in a snowboarding accident in December 2008. As a result he was left paralyzed. Hillcrest

students, staff, parents and the community rallied to do what they could to help Ian and his family. Besides sending get-well messages and a best wishes DVD, the Hillcrest community decided to embark upon an ambitious fund-raising initiative to support the Hyland family.

The goal of Hillcrest



Develops Positive Relationships

Elementary School was to raise \$16,000, the approximate cost of an electronic wheelchair. Their fund raising efforts were kick-started with a "Hats for Hyland" day; the students and staff wore hats and paid a loonie for the privilege. They organized several pizza days, school dances, Spirit Days, a pie raffle (where kids bought tickets for 25 cents for the chance to have their name drawn to pie their favourite staff member in the face), a trivia night, a garage sale, and a carnival complete with dunk tank which included the opportunity to 'dunk' the principal, Mrs. Gallinger along with other staff members.

In addition to advertising on Mix 106, radio personality Bob Wallace came and took a turn at the dunk tank during the Carnival. A very active committee consisting of parents of grade 8 students and Hillcrest staff worked tirelessly organizing these events. In the end, their fund-raising efforts were \$2,000 short. Bob Wallace, Diana Meder and Fred Wallace from Bayshore Broadcasting discussed Hillcrest's initiative on the radio and suggested that people donate to the cause in an effort to raise the additional money to meet their goal. Two days later, Bobby and Steve Gillespie from NO FRILLS in Owen Sound arrived at the school with a cheque for \$2000, which had been raised through a one-day campaign. In addition, Hillcrest also received a number of other donations and they were able to present the family with a cheque totalling \$16,574.42.

Awesome efforts from everyone and unbelievable community support made this a great success!

Hillcrest's motto is "We work best when we work together" and this was certainly evidence that it is true.

Union Presidents

Bluewater union presidents support their members and provide valued leadership within the Board. They serve on many Board committees and Councils.

Union presidents are involved in budget discussions as part of the annual process to strike a balanced budget.

Union leaders and staff work together to provide input to the Ministry of Education to improve working and learning conditions within Bluewater District School Board.



(l-r) Kathy McCarrel - E.T.F.O. Occasional Teachers, Nancy Lawler - E.T.F.O. Bluewater Local, Linda Law - O.S.S.T.F. Student Services Personnel, Penny Huettlin - O.S.S.T.F. Office Professional/Technical, Bob Farrell - O.S.S.T.F. Occasional Teachers, Don McAngus - CUPE Local 1176, Custodians/Maintenance.
Absent: Betty-Jo Raddin - O.S.S.T.F. Secondary Teachers, Paula Robinson - O.S.S.T.F. Educational Assistants

Works Effectively

Bluewater Awards of Excellence

Outstanding contributions made by community members to our education system are 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. These individuals have been nominated by others within the family of schools including teachers, administrators,

parents, guardians, students, support staff and/or community. By virtue of the process there is distinction in merely being nominated for this important award.

The nominations made particular reference to how the recipients model



the ten 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 2009 awards are as follows:

- Bruce Peninsula District School Family/Peninsula Shores District School Family of Schools: Bob Sear
- Chesley District High School Family of Schools: Joy Johnson
- Georgian Bay Secondary School Family of Schools: Brenda Foster
- Grey Highlands Secondary School Family of Schools: Sue MacPherson
- John Diefenbaker Secondary School Family of Schools: Jaime Fleet
- Kincardine District Secondary School Family of Schools: Chandra Tripathi
- O.S.C.V.I. Family of Schools: Richard Thomas
- Saugeen District Secondary School Family of Schools: Maryanne McMillan

- Walkerton District Secondary School Family of Schools: Gail Fullerton
- West Hill Secondary School Family of Schools: Mary Bax

Markdale Arts for Youth

A partnership between Beavercrest Community School and the Markdale Arts for Youth (MAFY) program is an excellent example of a school and community organization coming together for the good of students.



Sun Times Photo by Bill Henry

Established to build connections between students, local musicians, parents and community members through music, MAFY is directly aimed at improving student achievement. Ten local

musicians and 12 local high school musicians were instructors during the first year of MAFY, which had 89 students representing 70% of the students in grades five through eight.

Members of the MAFY committee gathered donations from community members and local businesses, allowing every student to have free instruction and the use of a rental instrument of their choice for the year. In return, the students were required to volunteer one hour in the community or at school for every hour of musical instruction they received.

MAFY enables students to make meaningful connections in their community, while at the same time channeling their creative energy, improving their self-esteem and building a sense of responsibility and commitment to learning. This translates into academic success and the development of character traits and learning skills that will help our students develop into successful life-long learners.



BLUE WATER CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT



Trust / La confiance
Ashpayimouhk / Debwewend



Dependability / La fiabilité
Ashpaymou / Zhiibendaagzid



Honesty / L'honnêteté
Kwayesh Toutem / Gwekwaadziwin



Responsibility / La responsabilité
Pishkayestaen / Penmondawaa



Self-Discipline / L'autodiscipline
Michiminishouhk / Naadmaadziyan



Caring / La compassion
Keniwaymow / Gnawendang



Integrity / L'intégrité
Trostaeb / Debwewin



Teamwork / Le travail d'équipe
Aen Boun Chim / Aasigaabwitaadwin



Respect / Le respect
Rispek / Mnaadendmowin



Commitment / L'engagement
Etahkamikishihk / Wiizhichigeyan

English • French • Michif • Ojibway



Bluewater District School Board
Bruce and Grey Counties, Ontario, Canada
www.bwdsb.on.ca