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Newsletter—Issue 7



MARCH 2017

Simcoe County District School Board Character trait of the month.

Integrity

We act justly and honourably in all that we do.

OUR SWOPS DANCE-A-THON WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Thanks to our staff, parents and volunteers for a very successful dance-a-thon for all our students on February 14. Thanks also to everyone who sent in donations.

Is Your Child Turning Four This Year? It's time to register for Kindergarten

Our school is now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.

School Council

Many thanks to all parents and staff representatives that came out to our informative School Council Meetings. Several issues are discussed at the meetings including among others, our Special Events, use of resources and technology, and Fundraising. Thank you for the positive contributions and exchange of ideas that occur at the meetings. Please come out and offer your input and support at our next meeting on Monday, April 3 at 5:00 PM. Please send agenda items to Carla Williams, School Council chairperson, via the school office.

Morning Arrival of Students

Our morning supervision of students in the schoolyard commences at 9:00 a.m. until student entry at 9:15 a.m. daily. To ensure the safety of all students, parents are asked to ensure that students arrive between 9:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m., when supervision is provided on the yard.

Inclement Weather –Cancellation of Buses

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. **Our school is in the South zone.** When buses are cancelled, please remember that schools are still open (unless otherwise noted) for student learning. The Consortium, in conjunction with bus operators, will make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and as such, will make every effort to post announcements between 6:00 and 7:00 am. Parents should also note that inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day, buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day. Announcements about cancelled or late buses can also be heard on local radio stations.

Inclement Weather Days Safe Arrival Calls

On inclement weather days when buses are cancelled, our automated system will call the home and cell number of the first parent on file for all students who are not at school. On these days, the message will ask you to call us back **only if your child should** be at school. If we don't hear from you, we will assume you are aware your child is absent.

Safe Arrival Program Reminder

Our Safe Arrival Program is vital to the safety of all of our students. Please remember to call the Safe Arrival Line if your child will be late or absent from school. To report an absence or late arrival, call the school 905-775-2922 and press 1 to leave a message. Include the student's name, teacher, reason for absence and expected date of return in your message. This service is available 24 hours a day for your convenience. If your child is absent and no message has been left with Safe Arrival, parents, guardians and emergency contacts will be called until we reach someone who can verify your child's absence. The first call will now be made by an automated phone service. Automated calls will be sent to the home phone number and cell number (if available) for the first parent/guardian listed in your child's file.

The automated call will ask you to call our safe arrival line back.

If we don't hear from you in 15 minutes, we will start to call other contacts, starting with other parents/guardians on file followed by the emergency contacts.

Student Information Notice for Parents of Grade 8 students

As students progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared which eases each student's transition. Sharing this information also improves our ability to program effectively to benefit all students. Select student information will be shared at different times as appropriate. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes is authorized under sections 170, 171, 190 Part X and Part XIII of the Education Act. All information used for the transition process is limited, secure and protected at all times. Please contact Daryl Halliday, Superintendent of Education for this area, if you would like more information about the transition process at Bradford District High School.

Working Towards a Scent-Reduced Environment

In order to protect those individuals with fragrance sensitivities and those who have respiratory issues, the Board is asking for voluntary cooperation towards a scent-reduced environment. Staff, students and all other persons who are invited to or who work on Board property are strongly encouraged to avoid or reduce the use of fragranced products, and to replace them with unscented alternatives. This is a request to voluntarily reduce the use of chemical-based scented products. Thank you for your consideration.

SCDSB Media Fest: What Does Being a Great Canadian Look Like?

Students are invited to submit an entry for the 2017 SCDSB Media Fest. This media festival is open to all Simcoe County District School Board students and can include images, audio and video. For more information, visit www.scdsbmediafest.com. The submission deadline is April 3.

Snow Safety at School

For as long as the snow remains with us, we remind all students and families that, for the safety of all students and staff, the snow must stay on the ground. Throwing snow or snowballs is not permitted. Students are also reminded, for safety, not to slide on any ice. The outdoor playground equipment remains closed and will re-open when the ground thaws.

Pay for Field Trips, Lunch Days, etc. with SchoolCash Online

The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school. Parents have the option to pay online for lunch days and other items. Parents who sign up will receive a notification when a new item becomes available for purchase. Items are personalized to each student. Parents use a secure online account to make payments, and can either make a one-time payment for each item as it occurs, or load money to carry a balance in the online account to make payments in the future. To create an online account, go to <https://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com/>. Please contact the school office with any questions.

Pediculosis (LICE) Checks

Parents are reminded to keep checking your child(ren) regularly for lice. If any are found, please inform the school. While this information will be kept confidential, we will send home a notice to affected classes that an incidence has been reported in that class.

Communicable Diseases

A reminder to parents to please report any occurrences of a communicable disease that your child has been diagnosed with to the school as soon as you are aware of it. We must report all occurrences to the Health Department in order to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and visitors to our school. The Health Department then lets us know if we are required to inform the School community of such an occurrence.

All SCDSB School Volunteers Need a Valid Criminal Record Check

All SCDSB school volunteers are required to submit a **valid criminal record check, with a vulnerable sector screening, completed within the previous six months**, to the school office before they begin or continue to volunteer. Thank you to the many Sir William Osler volunteers who have already completed this requirement. If you wish to volunteer at the school and you have not yet submitted a valid criminal record check, please do so before commencing or continuing any volunteer activities. Please submit all criminal record checks (original copies) in a sealed envelope indicating that a criminal record check is enclosed. If you wish to volunteer at more than one SCDSB school, list the schools on the front of the envelope. Criminal record checks are available from the Police Services. Please contact the school office with any questions.

Nut-Free Reminder

Thanks to everyone for remembering that Sir William Osler is working hard to be a nut-free school. Please remember to send snacks and lunch items which contain no tree nuts of any kind. Thank you for your assistance.

Safety and Security of Items at School

All students and parents are reminded that all valuable and/or treasured items should be left at home for safe keeping. Those items may include (but are not limited to) CD players, CD's, iPods, MP3 players, cameras, handheld electronic games, toys, expensive watches and jewellery. The school cannot be responsible for any such items. Students should avoid bringing large sums of money to school. Payment for lunch orders, field trips, or any other school related purpose should be made to the homeroom teacher as soon as the student arrives, preferably by cheque or on-line.

Get Outside to Play on March Break

Active play does more than help kids to achieve the 60 minutes of physical activity they need every day, it supports their development in many ways – especially when the play is outdoors, self-directed and fun. This allows kids to test boundaries and problem-solve, develop social skills and resolve conflict, and learn to control their emotions and behaviour. Active play outdoors in the fresh air and nature also helps to improve mood and lower stress. Support your child to play outside with friends in the neighbourhood and at your local park as much as possible.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Reminder: School Playground Safety In The Spring

The sun is warming things up, days are getting longer and many students are itching to get back on the school playground equipment. While it's hard to say 'no' to those eager faces, it's important to make sure the equipment is safe and ready to be played on.

Over the winter, school play structures have to be closed. The closure is for many reasons. The main reason is that snow and ice change the surface of the ground surrounding the play structure, packing the sand/gravel/mulch into a hard, packed surface, which can be a significant fall hazard. Inspections are done on equipment daily during the school year starting on April 1 and ending on October 31. These inspections are to ensure that there are no obvious hazards, broken equipment, vandalism, graffiti, litter, dangerous items or play items left behind. There is also an annual inspection by a professional company employing Canadian Certified Playground Inspectors (CCPI).

Each spring, a designated contractor travels to all schools with playground equipment to till the surface to ensure that the sand is no longer compacted before opening the equipment for student use. In some cases, the wear and tear, rain or winter may have washed some sand away and it will need to be replaced.

March is Nutrition Month – Tips for packing a healthy school lunch

A school lunch should give children the energy and nutrients they need to be ready to learn, be more alert and perform better at school. When planning lunches keep these tips in mind:

- include one serving from at least three of the four food groups from Canada's Food Guide.
- rather than buying pre-made lunch kits, make your own healthy “lunch kit” with divided containers and small 'bite-sized cheese cubes, left over chicken chunks, veggie sticks or fruit slices.
- get your kids to eat more veggies! Send cucumber coins, zucchini sticks and pepper strips with dip.
- fill whole wheat or multi grain wrap/pitas/tortilla shells with your child's favourite foods such as hummus and grated carrot or sliced turkey with mustard.
- water is the healthiest choice to quench thirst.

Looking for more information to help keep you and your family healthy? Call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 to speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.