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Newsletter—Issue 7



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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 2018-19 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 9 at 5:15 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 9:05 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 9:05 a.m. and 9:15 a.m., when supervision is provided on the yard.

Visiting Author and Illustrator coming to Osler

We are pleased to announce that we will have a visit from both the author and illustrator of the book "Olivia's Garden" the afternoon of April 26th. Both the author, Diane Seufert Tait and illustrator, Karen Thompson are pleased to come and share their skills with the primary and junior students. They will share their story and the process involved in making their book. Copies of their book will be available to purchase at the cost of \$15.00 (taxes included).

Book Fair is coming in May

A book fair has been booked for May 2nd to May 7th. It will be open in the evening of May 2nd during our Open House. More details to follow in the April Newsletter.

ARTRAGEOUS night

Mark your calendars with the date of May 2nd to come and experiment with the elements of design. You and your child can try out various art stations and awaken the inner artist in all of us. More details to follow.

Caring Concert in May

Sir William Osler PS is happy to welcome singer/songwriter Errol Lee who will be performing Caring Concerts along with the students the evening of Wednesday May 2. More details to follow.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Playgrounds can be fun learning opportunities for students, so let's all make them safe spaces – we look forward to spring and getting students back on our school playground structures soon!

Child Care Programming Available for March Break

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) supports your child care needs by offering full-day child care programs in select schools across Simcoe County on PA Days and school holidays. Over 30 of our schools offer child care programs for children from Junior Kindergarten to 12 years of age, including care over March Break (March 12 to 16). The daily fee is \$34.20 and a fee subsidy may be available to families who qualify. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to register. More information and contact numbers can be found at www.scdsb.on.ca – click on ‘Schools’ and then ‘Before & After School Care.’

Parents Invited to Information Sessions about Special Education

The SCDSB is hosting a series of information sessions for parents/guardians to learn about special education in the SCDSB, and how to support students with special education needs.

March 19

Accessing Supports in the Community

April 16

Understanding Alternative/Non-Academic IEP Goals

All sessions take place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the SCDSB Education Centre, located at 1170 Highway 26 in Midhurst. No registration required.

New Path offering child and youth mental health walk-in clinics

New Path now offers Child and Youth Mental Health Walk-In Clinics in five office locations throughout Simcoe County: Alliston, Barrie, Bradford, Collingwood and Orillia. The Walk-In Clinic provides a single session to children, youth and families who require support for emotional, relationship or behavioural challenges. The Walk-In Clinic can be accessed by children, youth and families as often as they require support. Children, youth and families can self-refer by attending one of the walk-in clinic locations across the county. Dates and times of the clinics are posted on the New Path website (www.newpath.ca). For more information, contact New Path’s Central Intake Department at 705-725-7656 or from the 905 area code in Simcoe County by calling 1-866-566-7656.

Gilbert Centre programs for LGBTQ2S youth and families

The Gilbert Centre is a community-based, not-for-profit, charitable organization that provides programs and services to serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender individuals and families in Simcoe-Muskoka. Visit the Centre’s website at www.gilbertcentre.ca for more information about these programs:

- **LGBTQ2S Youth Connection drop-in groups** LGBTQ2S Youth Connection is a drop-in and social space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, 2spirit, trans, asexual etc. and questioning youth. Groups are a place for youth to connect with each other and to community. Groups take place in Barrie, Midland and Orillia.

Parenting LGBTQ Youth sessions These free sessions, ‘Parenting LGBTQ Youth,’ are offered in April, May and June in Alliston, Barrie, Collingwood and Orillia. Dinner is provided. To reserve your spot, contact Jake at jakef@gilbertcentre.ca or 705-722-6778 ext. 107.

Stay healthy this school year

Colds and Influenza spread easily from person to person. These germs can spread directly from person to person when someone coughs or sneezes, or indirectly when germs land on hard surfaces like door knobs, desks, keyboards, or wet tissues and then are touched by someone. These germs can then enter the body through the eyes, nose or mouth. The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick and stop the spread of germs to others is wash your hands with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds. If your hands are not visibly dirty, you can use alcohol based hand rub hand sanitizer for 15 seconds. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough into your sleeve or upper arm and stay home if you are sick. Teach your kids to do the same! For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this school year, contact Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit’s website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

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, cooked 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 multigrain wrap/pits/tortilla shells with your child's favourite foods such as hummus and grated carrot or sliced turkey with honey mustard

don't have them drink their fruit...send water instead

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.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Get active and energized this March Break

March Break is the perfect opportunity to get your kids off their screens and moving! Children are spending less time being active and only seven per cent of Canadian kids get enough exercise. Health Canada recommends children and youth get 60 minutes of physical activity every day. Getting our daily dose of exercise not only helps to prevent health risks, it builds strong muscles and bones, develops positive body image and supports mental health. Here are ideas to get you and your kids moving this March Break:

- Get outside and enjoy some fresh air as you explore your local trails, parks and toboggan hills, or build a snowman!
- Make a splash at a local community pool like the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka. Day passes are available for families to take advantage of recreational swimming. For older kids, March Break is the perfect time to enrol in aquatic leadership programs such as Bronze Medallion or National Lifeguard training. Train as a family by signing up for the YMCA's *Move to Give* fundraising event, happening on April 7. Challenge the whole family to start training for a 5K run, indoor cycling or a triathlon and continue training together until the event. It will keep the entire family focused on a goal and it's all for a great cause – supporting your community! For more information, visit www.movetogive.ca. Skating is a great sport for all ages – it's low impact and helps improve coordination and balance. Check your local public arenas for family skate times.

March Break is a great time to create healthy daily habits for your children and the entire family. The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka offers many opportunities to get fit as a family over the March Break. For more information, visit your local YMCA or www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

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.