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May 2016

Simcoe County District School Board Character trait of the month.

Respect

“We treat ourselves, others and the environment with consideration and dignity”

EQAO

The weeks of May 25th to June 8th are EQAO assessment times at Sir William Osler PS. Students in Grades 3 and 6 will be participating in the Education Quality Accountability Office assessment. We ask parents of those students to avoid medical, dental and other appointments during those dates.

Track and Field

On May 18th, we will be holding our Track and Field day for grade 4-8 students. Students will have the opportunity to participate in several events for both track and field on this day.

Students are reminded to dress appropriately for the weather and the events they will be participating in. A hat, sunscreen and water are also advisable. We are looking forward to a fun-filled day!

Junior and Senior Kindergarten Registration for the 2016-2017

Sir William Osler is now conducting Junior and new Senior Full-Day Kindergarten registration for 2016 - 2017. Appointments are not necessary. To be eligible for attendance this September, a pupil must be 4 years of age by December 31, 2016. Proof of birthdate (original Canadian birth certificate, Certificate of Canadian Citizenship, Canadian Passport, Permanent Resident Card/Record of Landing, or Statement of Live Birth (long version) MUST be submitted to the school before your child can be admitted to class in September. Additional valid documentation is required to register visa/foreign students. Families of kindergarten students new to Canada or Ontario are invited to contact the “Newcomer Welcome Centre” at (705) – 725 – 8360, ext. 310. Proof of address, in the form of a residential tax bill or, for those families who are renting accommodation within the school boundaries, a notarized Valid Rental Agreement and lease on lawyer’s letterhead, a utility bill or a valid Ontario driver’s license will also be required at the time of registration. A record of immunization is also requested to assist the District Health Unit in meeting their requirements under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) to collect and maintain immunization records for every child registered in school. For further immunization details, contact the District Health Unit at 1 – 877 – 721 – 7520. Please contact the school office with any questions. We would appreciate your assistance in passing along this information to neighbours, within our school boundary, whose children may not presently attend Sir William Osler.

Students presently attending Sir William Osler in Junior Kindergarten do not have to register again for Senior Kindergarten.

Are You Moving?

If you know that your child(ren) will not be returning to Sir William Osler next fall, kindly call or send a note to the office to inform us. This information becomes very useful once we begin the early stages of

Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony

This is a reminder that the Grade 8 graduation ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 28, from 7 to 8:30 in the gym. Graduating students will be given additional information about graduation.

School Yard Clean up

The students and staff at Sir William Osler will be participating in a spring clean-up of our school yard.

Thanks to everyone for doing their part in helping to keep Sir William Osler environmentally friendly.

Sun Safety

Soon the warmer spring weather will be here, and we will all enjoy spending more time outdoors. A sun hat, appropriate protective clothing and sunscreen are all advisable to protect skin from the sun's harmful rays. We encourage students to use all of these safety tips on a daily basis at school.

Dress Code

As the warmer weather begins to show itself, it is time to remind students and parents that the dress code requires that student dress in a way that is respectful of the learning environment. As your child leaves the house in the morning, we ask you to ensure that their attire is aligned with the dress code.

Avoid student clothing that bears content (either image or text) that:

- is discriminatory toward an individual or group based on ancestry, culture, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, physical and intellectual ability, race, religion, orientation, or socioeconomic status;
- promotes alcohol and/or substance use/abuse;
- is violent, profane or suggestive; or that
- negatively affects the school's learning and teaching environment, is not appropriate.

Thanks To Eat Well To Excel and School Council

The students and staff of Sir William Osler would like to thank the Eat well to Excel program. This service club provides nutritious snacks for students who may need it. We appreciate their kind support of our students.

We would also like to wish a great big thank you to eat well to excel and the school council for the monthly fresh fruit trays provided to each classroom. Thank you to the parent volunteers for cutting up the fruit, arranging it and delivering it to each classroom.

School Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Sir William Osler School Council will be held on Monday, May 9, at 5:15 p.m. in the Library. Please forward agenda items to Chairperson, Carla Williams. All parents are welcome to attend.

Final Term Report Card

Students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade Eight will receive their report cards on Tuesday, June 28. All report cards will contain a Parent/Student Response form. Please complete it and return it to your child's teacher by Wednesday, June 29.

Dates to Remember

The final school day for students will be Thursday, June 29.

Fire Safety at Sir William Osler PS

For everyone's safety, students are not permitted to have in their possession or to use at school or on school property any of the following items: caps, firecrackers, lighters, matches, cigarettes or any other objects that could create flame or sparks. Should students find any of these unsafe items on the way to school or in the school yard, they are reminded not to touch them and to report these dangerous object(s) to the nearest staff member immediately.

Parking Lot Update

Drivers using the parking lot are reminded to drive slowly and carefully, watch for students and adults moving between vehicles and respect the support provided from adult supervisors in the parking lot area. When waiting in the parking lot area, please continue to watch for our school buses and be prepared to let them into the parking lot promptly for pick up and drop off of our students. We continue to require your partnership in the parking lot to maintain the safety of our students.

Head Lice Screening

Parents/guardians are reminded to continue to check their child(ren) regularly for the presence of lice or eggs. Should any be found, we would appreciate being notified at the school. We will keep such information confidential but we will then send a general notice home with affected classes of students as a reminder for parents to be even more diligent when checking their child(ren).

We Continue to Try To Be a Nut-Free School

In a sincere attempt to maintain the learning environment as a safe one for students and staff who suffer from allergies, which have the potential to be life-threatening, we are reminding all families that food items containing nuts or traces of nuts should not be packed as part of anyone's lunch/snack. Thank you for your co-operation.

Safety and Security at School

We wish to remind all students and parents that all valuable and/or treasured items should be left at home for safe keeping. These items may include (but are not limited to) CD players, CD's, iPods, cameras, handheld electronic games, cell phones, 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 child's teacher as soon as the student arrives in the morning, preferably by cheque.

Education Week – Celebrating Public Education

Education Week, May 2 to 6, is a province-wide celebration of student achievement and excellence in education. It is an opportunity to recognize the work and accomplishments of Ontario's publicly-funded schools. On May 4, 2016, Sir William Osler Public School will be hosting a Celebration of Learning evening to showcase the Learning and Talents of the students. The evening is titled "Full STEAM ahead" incorporating **S**cience **T**echnology **E**ngineering **A**rts and **M**ath. Parents and Guardians are encouraged to join us at the school from 6-8PM for a hands-on fun filled evening to celebrate our learning together!

Ensure Your Child's Immunization Record Is Up To Date

All families are required to provide the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) with a record of their child's immunization information. This is required by law under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA). **The SMDHU can suspend students whose immunization records are not up to date.**

You can update your child's immunization record in one of the following ways:

Online at: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/immsonline

- Fax: 705-726-3962
- Call: 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8807

The health unit hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

2016-2017 School Year Calendar Is Now Available

The calendar for next school year has been approved and can be found on the Simcoe County District School Board's website at www.scdsb.on.ca under 'Schools' – 'School Year Calendars.' Key dates include:

- Students start school on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. All Junior Kindergarten students will begin school on Thursday, September 8 and will attend continuously from this time.
- The holiday break is December 26 to January 6.

March Break is March 13 to 17.

Summer Childcare Available At Select SCDSB Schools

In partnership with community child care operators, we are pleased to support your child care needs, offering full-day child care programs for children (JK to 12 years) in select schools across Simcoe County this summer. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to register. A fee subsidy may be available to families who qualify.

For more information, please contact *W.H. Day Elementary School, YMCA* at 905-778-2905

Summer School Registration Now Available, Including Free Math Prep Program For Gr. 7, 8, 9 Students

Summer school options include a Grade 7, 8 and 9 math preparation program and math, science and English credit recovery courses for students in Grade 9 and 10. Grade 10 to 12 full credit courses are offered in a traditional classroom or online. The courses are available at locations throughout Simcoe County. Students can also travel and earn credits with the summer EduTravel program or experience camp at the YMCA's Geneva Park location while earning leadership credits.

Summer school program details and locations can be found on The Learning Centres website: www.thelearningcentres.com. Students can also get information from the school or from any of the SCDSB's Learning Centres. Online registration for current SCDSB students is available.

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Emergency Preparedness Week: May 1 - 7

Talking to your child about emergencies before they happen can help take some fear away and help them to be prepared. Here are some ideas to get you started at home:

- Teach your child about natural hazards like tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, ice storms and blizzards – and what to do when they happen.
- Teach them what to do in case of a fire; plan emergency exits and a safe meeting spot.
- Make sure your child knows how to use 9-1-1 and when to call.

Create a family emergency plan and prepare a home emergency kit together.

For more tips visit www.getprepared.ca or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Safe Kids Week is May 30 to June 5

We all have a role to play in teaching our children to be safe as they explore, discover and creatively problem solve at home and in the great outdoors!

Set age appropriate guidelines and talk to your child about how to play with safety in mind, then let them get adventurous. Climbing over rocks, running up hills or watching the clouds can all be fun activities.

It is never too early to start talking to kids about pedestrian and bicycle safety. Kids under age of 10 do not have good depth perception or the ability to judge oncoming traffic speed. Teach your child how to safely cross roads and at traffic lights, watch for cars and the dangers of texting while walking. When biking, ride with your child to help them learn to navigate safely around traffic, and make sure everyone wears a good fitting helmet.

2016 marks the 20th anniversary of Parachute Safe Kids Week. Learn more about how you can keep kids safe by visiting: <http://www.parachutecanada.org/>.

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week is May 3 to 9. One in five Ontario children and youth struggle with mental health concerns - that's about 500,000 kids. Children's Mental Health Week is about promoting positive mental health, increasing the awareness of signs related to children and youth struggling with mental health problems, decreasing stigma and understanding how to access community supports that are available to improve well-being. For more information, visit www.kidsmentalhealth.ca.

Circle of Learning Parent Academy - Free workshop May 13 on Resilience

As a parent/guardian, you were your child's first teacher and you are still his or her most important teacher. Your involvement in your child's education has an impact on success. The final Circle of Learning Parent Academy event for this school year, *Resilience: Nine things kids need from their families, schools, and communities*, takes place on May 13.

Find the workshop locations, times and descriptions on the SCDSB website: www.scdsb.on.ca/circleoflearning. You can also register at this link. The Circle of Learning Parent Academy is hosted by the Simcoe County District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee and made possible with the support of the Ministry of Education through a Parents Reaching Out Grant.

Message From Your Local Health Unit: Prevent The Bite From Mosquitoes And Ticks

West Nile virus is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. Lyme disease is an infection caused by a bacteria spread by the bite of an infected blacklegged tick. It's important you and your family take precautions to reduce the chances of being bitten by a mosquito or a tick. Steps to protect yourself include:

- Wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt.
- Wear closed footwear and socks. Tuck your pants into your socks.
- If hiking or spending time outdoors, check for ticks on exposed areas of your skin or clothing.
- Use a personal insect repellent that has deet (following the manufacturer's directions for use). Apply it to your skin and outer clothing. Avoid your eyes and mouth, as well as cuts and scrapes.

Put a tick and flea collar on your pet and check them for ticks periodically.

When choosing a repellent, consider a product that meets your needs, and only use personal repellents that are registered in Canada. Never use a product labeled as an insecticide on your body. For more information about West Nile virus or Lyme disease, visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Parents: Boost Your Understanding of High School

Starting high school is a big deal for students, and for parents. Parent involvement is still important at high school. Students need their parents to transition to a mentorship role. Simcoe County District School Board high schools are full of caring adults who, like you, want the best for your child. We want to partner with you to help your child find their pathway to happiness and success. Find out more about high school at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool. There you'll find a copy of *A Parent's Guide to High School*. You'll also find links to information about the various programs and courses students have access to at SCDSB high schools.

Families Invited to Imagine, Create, Play at SCDSB Maker Faire on May 12

Students, teachers and families can create and play at the 2016 SCDSB Maker Faire, taking place on May 12 at Nottawasaga Pines Secondary School. This free event is in partnership with the Essa Public Library and will feature:

- makerspaces with various materials and technology, including robotics, coding, sewing and silk screening
- vendor booths
- Student Invention Convention with displays of student work
- educator workshops

The Maker Faire runs from 6 to 9 p.m. Nottawasaga Pines is located at 8505 County Road 10 in Angus. For more information, visit www.scdsbmakerfaire2016.blogspot.ca.

Help Prepare Your Child To Write The EQAO Tests

Students in elementary and secondary schools across Ontario write provincial assessments in reading, writing and mathematics each year. The assessments are developed and scored by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). Each student that completes a provincial assessment receives an Individual Student Report (ISR) which describes the student's achievement. School and board achievement data is used to improve teaching practices and to support student learning.

This year's EQAO testing for Grade 3 and 6 students takes place from May 25 to June 8. Further information about the provincial assessments, including resources to help prepare your child for the test, can be found at www.eqao.com.

Eye See...Eye Learn Offers Eye Exams And Free Glasses To JK Students

The Eye See...Eye Learn program provides comprehensive eye exams by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten (JK) students. The eye exams are covered under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) when parents show their child's health card. There is no out-of-pocket cost for the eye exam and if the child requires a pair of glasses, they will receive them free of charge. The Eye See...Eye Learn program was developed to raise awareness among parents about the importance of having their children's eyes checked upon starting school. The Ontario Association of Optometrists recognizes the important link between eye health and learning, and recommends comprehensive eye examinations for all children entering kindergarten. All children can receive an annual comprehensive eye exam covered by OHIP until their twentieth birthday. The new program for children born in 2011 will begin on July 1, 2015. For further information and a list of participating optometrists in your area, visit: www.eyeseeeyelearn.ca.

Working Together To Make Our Kids Successful Presentation on May 7

Dr. Bruce Ferguson will focus on how the community, school and family can work together to support children as they develop and grow into healthy citizens at this free event for all parents on May 7. Dr. Ferguson is a Senior Consultant and the founding Director of the Community Health Systems Resource Group at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids).

This event is free to all parents in Simcoe County. It takes place May 7 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Liberty North in Barrie (100 Caplan Ave.). Simultaneous language interpretation services will be available for those who request it. Registration is available at: www.smcdsb.on.ca/families/parent_workshop.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TRACK & FIELD DAY

We need volunteers to help on Track and Field Day on Wednesday May 18 (rain date: May 19). If you have a criminal record check on file with the SCDSB and are able to help, please complete this slip and return it to your child's classroom teacher.

Name

Phone #

Hours available:

