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Newsletter—Issue 10



June 2018

Happy Holidays Everyone!

A very busy and successful 2017 – 2018 school year is quickly drawing to a close. Congratulations to all students on their achievements at SWOPS this year. Best wishes are extended to all students and staff for a safe and happy summer. To our Grade 8 graduates and any other students/families/staff who are leaving the school, we hope you will remember Sir William Osler PS fondly and continue to strive for future success.

We look forward to seeing all returning students/families/staff in the fall! Best wishes to all for a wonderful summer holiday!

Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony

This is a reminder that the Grade 8 graduation ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 26, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Graduating students will be given additional information about graduation.

Summer clean-up? – Please Return SWOPS Materials

We ask that all families check closets, under beds and in dark corners for school textbooks, team shirts or other articles from the school. We will be grateful for their safe return by Thursday, June 28. Thank you!

Library News

Please return all Library books by June 15.

Thanks To All Our SWOPS Adult Volunteers

At the end of the school year, we want to say thank you to all our SWOPS adult volunteers who give so much to our students and staff in such a variety of important ways. We appreciate all your hard work. Sir William Osler PS benefits greatly from all you do!

Return to School Next September

Our school office will re-open for the fall term on Monday, August 27. Students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade Eight will return to school on Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

All new Junior Kindergarten students to Sir William Osler PS will be in attendance full day every day beginning Thursday September 6, 2018. Students/parents will be contacted by our JK/SK teachers at the end of summer to arrange for a welcome conference. The specific start date and schedule for your children will be confirmed at the conference.

Track and Field

On June 7 (raindate June 8) our grade four to eight students will be participating in our school's Track and Field competition. Students are reminded to wear sunscreen and a hat and bring a water bottle to enjoy a fun-filled day of physical activity. Thank you to the staff and volunteers for their leadership efforts with this event.



Subscribe To Our School Website To Stay Up-to-Date

Did you know you can subscribe to our website? When we post 'What's New' articles and our monthly newsletters to the website you can choose to receive them by email! Our 'What's New' section is where you'll read about all the exciting things going on in our school. It's also where we will post updates during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website at <http://swo.scdsb.on.ca> and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. When you fill out your email and click Subscribe, an email will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.

Final Term Report Cards

Students from JK/SK to Grade Eight will receive their report cards on Wednesday, June 27.

Gifted Screening Process

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction and through providing program modifications. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate and challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular classroom or in gifted classroom placements.

Parents/guardians of a student who will be in or above Grade 3 in the next school year, who wish the school to consider their child for gifted screening are asked to contact Mrs. Kemp, Special Education Resource teacher by June 15, 2018.

Students may be nominated by either a teacher or parent.

A letter examining the gifted screening process in greater detail will be sent to parents of students in Grade 3 in September. Parents will still have the opportunity for nominating their child in September and October.

If you require further information about the gifted screening process, please contact the school.

Are You Moving?

If you are planning to move before the beginning of next school year, we are asking you to please inform the office of this as soon as possible. This information will be very valuable in enabling us to plan for next year. Your co-operation with this request will be greatly appreciated.

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.

Medication at School

As the school year draws to a close, we wish to remind parents/guardians of students who receive medication at school (including asthma inhalers, epipens, any pills or liquids) that the final school day for students will be Thursday, June 28. Please arrange to pick up any empty containers or remaining medication from the office at the end of the day on June 28 or on the following day, Friday, June 29, which is a Professional Activity Day. For the safety of all students, we are able to release these items only to an adult. If your child will need to receive medication from the school office again next fall, please remember to pick up the annual permission form which you and your doctor will need to have completed over the summer to start the new school year next fall.

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/vans 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.

Sun Safety

Now that the warm weather is here, we 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 students 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.

Dates to Remember

The final school day for students will be Thursday, June 28. Friday, June 29 is a Professional Activity Day. There will be no school for students on that day.

Safe Kids Week is June 4 to 8

This year's theme focuses on concussions at home, at play and on the road:

- Help reduce the likelihood of head injury, like concussions, during sports, recreation and unstructured play by encouraging your child to use correctly fitting protective equipment and to follow safety rules.
- Teach children about wearing the right helmet for the activity. For example: bike helmets can be used for cycling, in-line skating and scootering, but skateboarding helmets should be used for skateboarding as they cover the back of the head better.
- Recognize the signs and symptoms of a concussion, which can happen even without a direct hit to the head and without losing consciousness. If your child does have signs of concussion, remove them from the activity and seek medical care.

Be sure to inform your school if your child sustains a concussion, either on or off school property.

Learn more at www.parachutecanada.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

2018-19 School Year Calendars Now Approved

The Ministry of Education has approved the elementary and secondary school year calendars for the Simcoe County District School Board's 2018-19 school year.

2018-19 Highlights:

- First day of school: Tuesday, September 4, 2018
- First day of school for Junior Kindergarten students: Thursday, September 6, 2018
- Winter Break: December 24, 2018 to January 4, 2019
- March Break: March 11 to 15, 2019
- Last day for elementary students: Thursday, June 27, 2019
- Last day for secondary students: Wednesday, June 26, 2019

You can view the 2018-19 calendars on the SCDSB website (www.scdsb.on.ca) by clicking on 'Schools' and then 'School Year Calendars.'

Updated Criminal Record Checks Required For Volunteers

We appreciate the commitment of all who volunteer at our school. In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, and in accordance with the Education Act, the SCDSB requires a complete and up-to-date Criminal Record Check Vulnerable Sector Screening (CRC-VSS) for all volunteers across the system. If you are a current, approved volunteer and your CRC-VSS is more than five years old, you will be receiving a notification this month indicating that you are required to submit a new CRC-VSS. If you wish to continue as a SCDSB volunteer, please complete the following steps:

1. Contact the school to obtain a CRC-VSS request letter.
2. Bring your CRC-VSS request letter to your local police detachment.

Submit your original and complete CRC-VSS to the school office for review by Oct. 31, 2018.

If you are a current SCDSB employee volunteering in the system, you are required to submit an updated CRC-VSS to the school where you will be volunteering. If you have completed a CRC-VSS within the past six months of the start of the school year for another organization, you may submit that original CRC-VSS for review. If you have questions, please contact the school.

Register Now For Fall International Language Programs

The SCDSB offers children in Grades 1 to 8 an opportunity to learn and/or maintain a language other than French or English. Whether you enrol your children in this program to learn a new language, understand a new culture or to extend their knowledge of their first or second language, every student can benefit from this program. The Barrie Learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) offers Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian and Urdu. The Bradford Learning Centre (157 Holland St. E, Suite 200) offers Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, Ukrainian, Urdu and Vietnamese. The classes take place Saturday mornings, 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 15 (classes are dependent on student enrollment). There is no charge for this program. Most classes fill quickly on a first come, first served basis. Register your child by visiting www.thelearningcentres.com and clicking on 'Elementary Student.'

Community Involvement Hours – Opportunity For High School Students Who Speak An International Language

Do you speak Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, Ukrainian, Urdu or Vietnamese? The SCDSB is currently looking for high school student volunteers to help support the Saturday morning international language classes for students in Grades 1 - 8. The classes run from 9 to 11:30 a.m., starting Sept. 15, at the Barrie Learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) and the Bradford Learning Centre (157 Holland St. E., Suite 200). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the program coordinator, Amanda Hickling, at ahickling@scdsb.on.ca

Eye See...Eye Learn Program Offers Free Glasses for Junior Kindergarten 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 courtesy of a participating optometrist. For more information, visit www.Eyeseeeylearn.ca. The program is available for current JK students until June 30, 2018.

Canada Education Savings Programs Are Available To Help Fund Your Child's Education

The Government of Canada encourages Canadians to use Registered Education Savings Plans (RESP) to save for a child's post-secondary education, which includes full- or part-time studies at a trade school, CE-GEP, college, or university or in an apprenticeship program. Employment and Social Development Canada administers two education savings incentives linked to RESPs:

- **Canada Education Savings Grant** - a basic grant of 20% on the first \$2,500 in annual personal contributions to a RESP (this grant is available to all eligible Canadians regardless of their family income), as well as the additional amount of Canada Education Savings Grant.

Canada Learning Bond - available for eligible Canadian children from low-income families born in 2004 or later and provides an initial payment of \$500 plus \$100 for each year of eligibility, up to age 15, for a maximum of \$2,000. Personal contributions are not required.

For more information, visit: www.canada.ca/education-savings.

Register Now for Before & After School Programs for September 2018

Register now for child care at our school next school year. Your child's space in the program for September 2018 will be considered a priority if completed registration forms have been submitted to the child care operator by **June 30, 2018**. Please contact YMCA 289-338-9452 to register your child(ren).

Summer Child Care Options Available

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. Twenty schools offer child care programs for children from Junior Kindergarten age to 12 years old. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to register. More information can be found on our website at www.scdsb.on.ca – click on 'Schools' then 'Before & After School Care.'

School's In for Summer At SCDSB

Are you and your child planning their courses for next school year? Looking for a way to create flexibility in their timetable and earn a credit? Consider summer school! Each year, the SCDSB offers a variety of summer programs to over 2,000 students. Summer school options include open, college and university level courses from Grades 9 to 12. Courses are offered in-person or online. Interested students can also travel and earn credits with the summer EduTravel program. Summer school program details are on the Learning Centres website at www.thelearningcentres.com. Current SCDSB students should speak to their guidance counsellor for information and to register. Register now so that your summer school choices align with course selection for next year!

Keep Your Kids Healthy, Active And Engaged This Summer

Summer is the time for kids to get outside and grow. But for some kids, exposure to activities that stimulate the body and mind ends with the school year. Studies show 90 per cent of children ages five to 11 years old in Canada do not meet their minimal physical activity requirements. We know that having an active lifestyle in the early years is essential to healthy child development and has a positive impact on mental health. Here are a few tips on how to keep your child's mind and body active this summer:

- Learn a new skill! Over the summer months, there is a wide variety of programs to keep children and youth active. Whether outdoors or in a facility like the YMCA, swimming is a summer time favourite. Consider signing your child up for swimming lessons, giving them the confidence they need to be safe in and around the water.
- Unplug and enjoy the outdoors! Did you know that the average Canadian child spends almost eight hours a day in front of a screen? Research tells us that when children are connected to their environment, they are healthier and happier. Look for opportunities for your child to get connected with nature.

With some creativity and advanced planning, parents can keep their children's minds and bodies active this summer! To learn more about the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka