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June 2016

Simcoe County District School Board Character trait of the month.

Responsibility

“We are accountable for our actions and we follow through on our commitments.”

Happy Holidays Everyone!

A very busy and successful 2015 – 2016 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.

Good-bye to Staff

Unfortunately, some staff members will be leaving us at the end of June. We thank them for all they have done for our students and we wish them well.

Thank you Mrs. Perry, Ms. Richards and Ms. Saunders all the best!

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!

Summer Clean-up? – Please Return SWOPS Materials

We ask that all families check closets, under beds and in dark corners for school textbooks, library books, team shirts or other articles from the school. We will be grateful for their safe return by Wednesday, June 29. Thank you!

Return to School Next September

Our school office will re-open for the fall term on Monday, August 29. Students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade Eight will return to school on Tuesday, September 6, 2016.

All new Junior Kindergarten students to Sir William Osler PS will be in attendance full day every day beginning Thursday September 8, 2016. 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 child(ren) will be confirmed at the conference.

Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony

This is a reminder that the Grade 8 graduation ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 28, starting at 7 p.m. in the gym. Graduating students will be given additional information about graduation.

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.

First Rider Program Prepares First Time JK/SK/Primary Bus Riders

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) offers a free *First Rider Program* for first-time school bus riders, which includes a ride on a real school bus. This safety program is provided by the SCSTC, in partnership with our school bus operators, to educate students and their families of the rules and responsibilities on and around the school bus. Sessions take place in August across Simcoe County. Parents/guardians and their children attending any school in Simcoe County may attend any of the sessions. For more information and *First Rider* session dates, see the SCSTC website at: <http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/safety>.

Summer School Filling Fast – Register Today!

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.

Free International Languages classes – Registration for 2016-17 Program

Would your child like to learn a new language or maintain their first language? These courses are FREE and open to any student in Grades 1 to 8. Register now for the 2016-2017 program. Classes run Saturday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 17, 2016. Registration forms can be found at www.thelearningcentres.com or call 705-725-8360 x45151 or 45160 if you have any questions.

Register Now for ESL Summer Classes

Do you or someone you know want to improve English language skills? The SCDSB Learning Centres can help. English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults are offered at the Alliston, Barrie and Bradford Learning Centres. Visit www.thelearningcentres.com or call for more information: Alliston: 705-435-7778; Barrie 705-725-8360; Bradford: 905-775-4432.

Summer Childcare Available at Select SCDSB Schools

The SCDSB is partnering with childcare operators to offer daycare 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 a full list of summer childcare program locations, visit www.scdsb.on.ca, click on 'Schools' and 'Before & After School Care.'

Track and Field

On May 18th our grade four to eight students participated in our school's Track and Field competition. Students had a fun-filled day of physical activity. Thank you to the staff for their leadership efforts with this event.

Gifted Sceneing 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 Ms. Hughes, Special Education Resource teacher by June 13, 2016.

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.

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 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.

Dates to Remember

The final school day for students will be Wednesday, June 29. Thursday, June 30 is a Professional Activity Day. There will be no school for students on that day.

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 Wednesday, June 29. Please arrange to pick up any empty containers or remaining medication from the office at the end of the day on June 29 or on the following day, Thursday, June 30, 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.

Criminal Records Checks Required for Volunteers

The Simcoe County District School Board values and encourages the participation of volunteers in schools. Volunteering supports school programs and initiatives for students. The Board has a responsibility to provide safe and secure working and learning environments for all students, staff and volunteers. Currently, all SCDSB employees are required to submit a Criminal Records Check. This requirement is also extended to all SCDSB volunteers.

-All new volunteers are required to provide an original copy of a Criminal Records Check which includes a Vulnerable Sector Screening executed within the last six months, prior to beginning to volunteer.

-Current volunteers will be required to provide an original copy of a Criminal Records Check which includes a Vulnerable Sector Screening executed within the last six months, by December 31, 2016.

-The cost of the Criminal Records Check is the responsibility of the volunteer.

-Volunteers must complete an Offence Declaration annually after providing the original Criminal Records Check.

The work of school volunteers is a key component of school success. The Simcoe County District School Board sincerely thanks all parents, guardians and community members who generously donate their time in the service of public education.

Lost and Found

Our lost and found is filling up with many items, such as clothing and footwear. All parents and students are encouraged to check for missing items. All remaining items that have not been claimed will be donated to charity on Thursday June 30, 2016.

Plan ahead: Approved 2016-2017 School Year Calendar is now available

The school year calendar for next 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.
- The holiday break is December 26, 2016 to January 6, 2017.
- March Break is March 13 to 17, 2017

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 & 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.

Parking Lot Up-date

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.



Dear Parents/Guardians of students entering Junior Kindergarten in September 2016:

Your child is eligible to participate in the Eye See Eye Learn program – an initiative new to the Simcoe County District School Board. This program provides comprehensive **free eye exams** by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten 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 your child requires a pair of glasses, he or she will receive them free of charge** courtesy of the participating Eye See Eye Learn sponsors.

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.

Students entering Junior Kindergarten in the 2016-2017 school year are eligible to participate between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

For more information about this initiative, please visit www.eyeseeeyearn.com

National Access Awareness Week

This year, we are recognizing National Access Awareness Week during the week of **May 29, 2016 to June 4, 2016**. At our school, we will be helping to raise awareness while sharing our belief in the importance of inclusiveness by reflecting on the ways our school community can improve opportunities for people with disabilities and assist with the identification, removal and prevention of barriers.

Thank you for supporting the school in these efforts by taking the time at home to discuss changing physical and attitudinal barriers for those with special needs. In so doing, we are developing the attributes of respect, caring and empathy and creating a society of inclusiveness of people with physical disabilities.

For additional reading please review the following websites:

<http://www.aoda.ca/>

<http://www.marchofdimes.ca>

<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/mcass/english>

<http://abilities.ca/>

<http://www.scionario.org/>

Safe Cycling Tips From Parachute Canada

Get ready for biking season and be a role model for cycling safety by following these important yet simple tips:

- Protect your head - wear a helmet: A properly fitted and correctly worn bike helmet can reduce the risk of serious head injury by up to 80%.
- Check your ride: Make sure bikes are adjusted to the right height for the rider, inflate tires and check that brakes are working properly.
- Be prepared: Get trained in bicycle safety and rules of the road. Use hand signals and respect traffic signals, stopping at all stop signs and stoplights.
- Pick family friendly routes: Protect young riders by riding on quiet roads, trails and designated cycling routes.
- For more tips and resources, visit Parachute Canada's website: www.parachutecanada.org/safekidsweek.

Reminder from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Protect Yourself During Extreme Heat

During extremely warm outdoor temperatures, the body's control system can become overwhelmed. Sweating helps to cool the body, however, when the humidity is high, sweat will not evaporate as quickly, preventing the body from releasing heat quickly. Children have a high metabolic rate and therefore produce more heat. Their capacity to sweat is not as great compared to adults; so it's more difficult for them to release heat from their bodies and the effects of dehydration are greater.

To protect your child's health when temperatures and humidity are high, keep them cool by:

- Giving them plenty of non-caffeinated fluids – even more than their thirst indicates
- Dressing them in light weight, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing
- Staying cool indoors
- Keeping outdoor physical activity to an absolute minimum – especially when temperatures are at their peak (between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.)

For more information about extreme heat and how to stay cool, visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Attention Grade 1 to 3 Parents: It's Time to Update Your Child's Immunization Record

You must update the local health unit any time your child receives a new immunization - like their 4 to 6 year booster. If your child is not immunized, you will need to provide the health unit with a current medical exemption or affidavit to keep on file. **The health unit can suspend students whose immunization records are not up to date and who do not have an affidavit or medical exemption on file.** Before the summer holidays, take a few moments to make sure your child's record is updated. Here's how:

1. *Check:* Your child's yellow immunization card.
2. *Contact:* Your child's family physician or healthcare provider to obtain records or to get missing vaccinations.

Share: Visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org (click on 'Topics' – 'Immunization') to enter the complete record, or fax a completed record to 705-726-3962.

Every student must have an up-to-date immunization record on file at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit – it's the law. For more information, or to speak with a nurse on the health unit's immunization team, call 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.