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**MARCH 2015**

Simcoe County District School Board Character trait of the month.

## **Integrity**

We act justly and honourably in all that we do.

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2012? If so, it's time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Simcoe County's public schools is now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2016-17 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. For more information visit [www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten) or call the school office at 905-775-2922.

### **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](http://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.

### **Reminder: Safe Arrival on Bus Cancellations Days**

With the recent inclement weather days that have taken place over the past few weeks, we wanted to take a moment to remind you of a couple of processes with our Safe Arrival phone system:

- On days when buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, calls are NOT made to families whose children ride school transportation.
- Families of walking students should call the school if their children are not attending on an inclement weather day.

### **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 4 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.**

## **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.

## **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.

## **Free Parenting Programs This Spring**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB)'s Learning Centres offer parenting programs to all parents who currently have a child in school. The spring schedule begins in April. These free 'Parents as Partners' programs help parents develop understanding, knowledge, skills and specific techniques that can be used at home to support and encourage the healthy development of their child. For more information and to register, contact Sue Learmonth at 705-325-9279 x45632.

## **Student Film Festival - Students Invited To Submit Films by April 13**

The SCDSB is holding its first-ever student Film Festival. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 are asked to submit short videos around the theme "What does belonging look like?" by April 13. Visit [www.scdsbfilmfest.blogspot.ca/](http://www.scdsbfilmfest.blogspot.ca/) for more information and to submit your film! Artists and their families will be invited to view the Film Festival submissions on the evening of May 17 at the SCDSB Education Centre.

## **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!

## **Online Incident Reporting Now Available Through SCDSB School Websites**

The Simcoe County District School Board has launched a [Safe Schools Reporting Tool](#) to give students, parents and community members a way to report incidents online. Incidents could include bullying, drug use or vandalism. The tool is available on the homepage of school websites.

"We always encourage students and parents to speak with a trusted, caring adult at school or home about their concerns," says Daryl Halliday, Superintendent of Education. "The online reporting tool provides another option for people."

When an incident is reported, an email will be sent to that school, and school staff will follow up.

Notes Halliday, "All members of our school community have the right to be safe and feel safe in our schools. This is one more tool to help us achieve and enhance a positive school climate."

## **7 Street Proofing Tips to Keep Kids Safe**

With warmer weather on the way and more of our students walking and biking to school soon, we'd like to remind parents to review safety tips with their kids:

- If your child walks to school or to the bus stop, try to arrange a walking buddy or group.
- If your child walks to school, make sure they go along main routes that are well-travelled, rather than taking shortcuts through deserted areas.
- Develop a "what if" game for your child to get them thinking about how they would respond if they felt threatened or afraid.
- Know who your child plays with and where they go. This includes keeping a list of their friend's addresses and phone numbers.
- Do not leave your child in unsupervised locations, such as cars, parks, public washrooms, arenas, malls and plazas, etc.
- Teach your children where and how to get help. Go with them on their regularly travelled routes and identify safe places to go for help.
- Teach your child to talk to you immediately when someone does anything that makes them feel strange or uncomfortable. Listen when your child is trying to tell you about something that bothers them and provide them with support and understanding

## **Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit**

### **Building Resiliency**

Every child needs skills and supportive people in their lives to help them deal with life's challenges. Resilience is the ability to adapt to life's difficulties and be able to move forward with hope and optimism.

Here are some tips on how to raise resilient children:

- Treat them with warmth, care and sensitivity
- Expose them to a wide variety of learning environments
- Talk about how family members feel
- Help them manage difficult emotions
- Let them know they are loved and appreciated
- Teach them to have more positive thoughts about themselves
- Encourage positive peer relationships
- Teach them to be flexible, how to make decisions, solve problems, set appropriate goals and work to attain them

For more information, call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org). For information and tips on parenting, visit [www.tripleontario.ca](http://www.tripleontario.ca).

### **School Lunch Ideas**

Are your children tired of the traditional bread sandwich? Stock up on a variety of whole wheat and multi-grain wraps, pitas or tortilla shells – then let your imagination go! Tasty fillings include:

- Beans, salsa and shredded mozzarella cheese
- Hummus and grated carrot
- Egg salad made with chopped celery and green onion
- Salmon salad topped with shredded lettuce
- Sliced turkey with honey mustard
- Chopped chicken salad made with grated apple

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