

SIR WILLIAM OSLER SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

PRINCIPAL: Mr. A. Shehata

SCHOOL OFFICE 905-775-2922

SAFE ARRIVAL 905-775-2922 -1

FAX 905-775-4782

Daily School Schedule

(Please keep it handy for future reference)

Staff Supervision has been scheduled to supervise students from 9:00 – 9:15 am.

Entry Bell	9:15 am.
Period 1	9:15-10:05 am. (50mins.)
Period 2	10:05-10:55 am.(50mins.)
Nutrition Break	10:55-11:15 am.
Outside Recess	11:15-11:40 am.
Period 3	11:40-12:30pm.(50mins)
Period 4	12:30-1:20pm.(50mins)
Nutrition Break	1:20-1:40 pm.
Outside Recess	1:40-2:05 pm.
Period 5	2:05-2:55 pm. (50mins.)
Period 6	2:55-3:45 pm. (50mins.)
Dismissal Bell	3:45 pm.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

First day of school (Gr. 1 – 8 students and returning SK students)	Tuesday September 6, 2016
First day of school (JK students)	Thursday September 8, 2016
P.A. Days (no school for students)	Friday, October 21, 2016 Friday, November 18, 2016 Friday, January 27, 2017 Friday, March 3, 2017 Friday, June 9, 2017 Friday, June 30, 2017
Thanksgiving Day	Monday October 10, 2016
Christmas Break	Monday December 26, 2016 Friday January 6, 2017
Back to school	Monday January 9, 2017
Family Day	Monday February 20, 2017
School Holiday March Break	Monday, March 13 - Friday, March 17, 2017
Back to school	Monday, March 20, 2017
Good Friday	Friday, April 14, 2017
Easter Monday	Monday, April 17, 2017
Victoria Day	Monday, May 22, 2017
Last day of school for students	Thursday, June 29, 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to the 2016-17 school year! Beginning a new school year is an exciting time for all of us; students, parents/guardians and staff alike. After a summer of relaxation, travel, activity and rest, the time has come for all of us to settle into another year of opportunity and challenge. We trust that you have had an enjoyable summer. We look forward to working with all students and families throughout the year ahead. To our new families, we extend a very warm welcome and are pleased to have the opportunity to get to know you.

Mr. Shehata, our returning Principal, is looking forward to another exciting year at SWOPS. He knows that the hard work and teamwork of students, staff and parents will continue to make Sir William Osler a great school.

Through our newsletters, we will attempt to keep you informed of upcoming events, news at our school, and the outstanding achievements of our students. We will provide you with a newsletter each month. Please check these carefully for notice of upcoming events and school news. The monthly newsletter is sent home with the youngest child in each family.

We look forward to working with you in what promises to be a very exciting year. Mr. Shehata and the SWOPS staff

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Our safe arrival program continues to be operational **for all students**. It is our school policy to contact parents/guardians and, if necessary, emergency contacts of students who are marked absent/late without an explanation. Parents/guardians are requested to communicate the child's name, grade, homeroom teacher, date(s) and reason for absence to us prior to an absence/lateness. Simply call our safe arrival line **(905-775-2922)** at your convenience anytime outside of school hours in order for you to convey this

information to us. Thank you for assisting the safety of our students.

TENTATIVE STUDENT/CLASS PLACEMENTS

Please note that our class placements are tentative and subject to change should our enrolment be significantly different than was projected last spring by the SCDSB. We will notify affected families if changes to our tentative class lists will be necessary. We look forward to your partnership in creating a successful school year.

STUDENT DISMISSAL

In the best interest of student safety, students not participating in school sponsored extra-curricular activities are requested to leave our school grounds promptly once dismissed by our staff at the end of the day and board their designated bus to go directly home or to the designated caregiver.

PARKING LOT UPDATE

Thanks to all our SWOPS families who have previously demonstrated safety, understanding and patience when using our parking lot/driveway to pick up and drop off students. In the interest of the safety of all SWOPS students and staff, please continue to drive slowly and carefully through the designated area. Please park in designated parking areas keeping the bus lane free. We continue to require the daily co-operation of all families in order to maintain a safe parking lot.

STAFF CHANGES

We have a few new staff members at Sir William Osler.

Welcome to Ms. Maynard (JK/SK) and Ms. Blythe (Custodian). Once our complete staff complement is in place we will publish our complete staff list for your reference.

SAFETY REMINDER : OUR SCHOOL DOORS ARE LOCKED DURING THE DAY.

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place designed to keep our school safe. One of the newer initiatives is that our front door is locked during the

school day. All other school doors are also locked. To access the building, visitors will need to press the intercom button at the front door.

Staff in the office will let visitors into the school. This will help us ensure that all visitors sign in at the office. Please understand that staff may not be available to answer the door immediately. If you have any questions about safety procedures, as always, please contact the office.

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

All SWOPS parents/guardians are welcome to attend the School Council meeting to be held on Monday September 19 at 5:00 p.m. in the Library. Please forward agenda items to SWOPS School Council Chair via the school office, by Thursday, September 15.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Each September the annual School Council formation process takes place. Our School Council is made up of the school principal, a teaching representative, and parent/guardian representatives.

The executive will be elected in September. Here's your chance to get involved! If you are interested in being part of this year's Council, please pick up a Nomination form at our school office. If elections are required, they will be held during this meeting.

Please note that any current or previous members of the School Council must re-apply by submitting a parent nomination form for the 2016 – 2017 school year.

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

This is the first notice of our annual "Meet the Teacher Night" which will be held at the school on the evening of Wednesday, September 28, 2016. We look forward to meeting all our SWOPS families. This is also the best opportunity for parents/guardians to sign up for the fall student/parent/teacher conferences. Further details and times will follow.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Sir William Osler will have a **Scholastic Book Fair** beginning **Tuesday November 15th until Friday November 18th**.

Your child will have many opportunities to visit the book fair. Please check out the book fair at our Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences in November. The Scholastic book fairs are a major fundraiser for our library.

WE'RE NOT "NUTS"!

We wish to request that all parents/guardians help staff assist students/staff with potentially life-threatening allergies to nuts by ensuring that all lunch and snack items brought to school are nut-free. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

HELP US KEEP OUR SWOPS ENVIRONMENT CLEAN AND TIDY FOR EVERYONE

Parents/guardians, please take note of the following procedures to assist our school environment.

-Students are asked to change to indoor shoes when they enter the classroom to help keep classroom floors clean.

-We encourage students to bring "garbageless" lunches whenever possible and to recycle at school all possible materials in the proper recycling containers.

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) CHECKS

Parents/guardians should check their children's heads on a weekly basis for head lice. At school we do our best to keep you informed of outbreaks of head lice reported to us by parents. It is the responsibility of each parent/guardian to monitor this situation and inform the school of an outbreak. Such reports will remain confidential but general notification will be sent home to affected classes of students.

SCHOOL AGENDAS FOR STUDENTS

We continue with the use of student agendas this year for students. In addition to the development of organization and time management skills, the agenda serves as a communication tool for students, their parents and the teacher. Its regular use has proven to be a very effective mechanism in a student's

academic achievement and success. The agendas contain important school and school board information. The Simcoe County District School Board has issued a common agenda for all of the schools in Simcoe County which will be purchased from the school's basic budget.

SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTIONS OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION ADMINISTERED AT SCHOOL

Some students experience severe discomfort from stings of insects and/or contact with specific foods. In some cases, the reaction is so severe that an injection is required immediately. If your child is subject to severe allergic reactions or has some other life-threatening condition which requires the immediate administration of medication or medical assistance, please contact the office promptly to discuss the need for an appropriate emergency plan.

Also, parents/guardians of students who have had medication prescribed by a physician to be administered during the school day are asked to contact the school office in order to receive a copy of the required administration of medication form. This form details the specific medication, information regarding schedule of administration of medication to the student and the signature of the prescribing physician. **Please arrange to have your doctor complete the required forms, which are available from the school office, in advance. For student safety, school personnel are not permitted to administer any medication until the required forms are completed in compliance with school board policy.**

For the safety of all students, any medication, whether by prescription or not, **MUST** be stored in the office and dispensed by staff. **Students are not to carry medication with them or have medication stored in the classroom or school bag.**

SIGNING STUDENTS OUT

For safety reasons, no student is allowed to leave school property for any reason unless he/she has been signed out at the school office by his/her parent/guardian and/or a note of permission signed by his/her parent/guardian with a specific date, timeframe, purpose and

destination has been presented to the homeroom teacher, in advance.

PARENT/COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers play a vital role in many aspects of school life at Sir William Osler. Volunteers are most welcome to work in the school on a flexible schedule and with times that suit our volunteers' busy schedules.

As per the previous school year, all potential volunteers who did not volunteer last year at Sir William Osler must submit to the school office a criminal record check with a vulnerable sector screening attachment, produced in the previous six months. These are available from the South Simcoe Police. Returning volunteers who submitted their criminal record check last year must complete a brief Criminal Offence Declaration which is available from the school office before they begin to volunteer for the 2016 – 2017 school year.

Current volunteers who do not submit an Annual Offence Declaration for Volunteers on or before December 31, 2016, will be deleted from the database on January 1, 2017, and will have to submit a new Criminal Records Check and Vulnerable Sector Screen.

Please contact the school office with any questions.

SCHOOL BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

Please ensure that all school resources issued to students are cared for in a responsible manner. With texts and library books often costing \$50.00 per title or more, broken/lost/defaced items contribute to added costs for our school's annual operating budget. We are sure that everyone can appreciate the need for all resources issued to be returned in good form. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. If you have located items over the summer that belong to our school, please return them to us at your earliest convenience. ***Please note: Students are encouraged to wait for direction from their teachers before buying supplies.***

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

ADDITIONAL DATES AND INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW

Sept. 8	JK students begin
Sept. 8-19	School Council Parent Nomination Forms
Mon. Sept. 19	School Council Mtg., 5 p.m., Library
Thurs. Sept. 22	Gr.7 and 8 Hep B/HPV immunizations
Wed. Sept 28	Meet the Teacher
Fri. Sept. 30	Terry Fox Run (details to follow)
Thurs. Oct. 6	Picture Day
Mon. Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 15-18	Scholastic Book Fair
TBD	Volunteer Orientation

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY BREED SUCCESS

To ensure that your child maximizes his/her learning potential, please make his/her punctuality a priority by assisting your child to achieve excellent attendance and punctuality records. It is no surprise that our highest achieving students also have excellent attendance records. When students miss school, gaps in learning may occur since much of what they learn builds on previous experiences. A student with 20 days of absences actually misses one whole month of important learning activities.

VISITORS TO SIR WILLIAM OSLER

For the safety of all of our students we are reminding all parents/guardians that our school policy insists that all visitors (non-students at Sir William Osler) are obliged to sign in at the school office when entering the school for any purpose. We ask that consideration be given to not disrupting students and teachers during their instructional time. All of our teachers would be glad to speak to you over the phone or arrange a personal appointment. Messages for students should be kept to emergencies and left with our school secretary. Similarly, our school telephone lines are not for regular student use, except for emergency situations.

WHAT A SPARKLING SCHOOL!

The months of July and August have been industrious months for our custodial staff. They have had an extremely busy time cleaning and polishing every square centimeter of our school. We extend a great big thank you to our dedicated custodial staff for their ongoing commitment to prepare our school for another school year and for their continued effort in its maintenance throughout the school year. We will all do our best to assist them in keeping our school clean and tidy. Thank you!

To that end we encourage students to use a pair of **indoor shoes** during instructional time. These can be the same ones used for gym classes. Also, students will be provided time **indoors for eating, including snacks/drinks**, during two nutrition breaks each day. No food or drinks are to be consumed outside during recess times in order to reduce garbage outside and reduce the attraction of hazardous insects.

IMMUNIZATION UPDATES

Do you have a record of your child's immunization? As a parent, you need to keep your child's immunizations up to date. You also need to provide a copy of your child's immunization record to the Health Unit when they start school and inform the Health Unit every time your child receives an immunization. It is recommended that you keep a record of your child's immunizations on their yellow Immunization Record. If you do not have an Immunization Record for your child, or you need to update the Health Unit on your child's immunization status, please contact the Health Unit at 1 – 877 – 721 – 7520.

LUNCH AND MILK PROGRAM

Lunch and milk programs for your child(ren), will begin soon. Stay tuned for further information to be sent home in the near future.

CHARACTER EDUCATION CONTINUES TO BE ALIVE AND WELL AT SIR WILLIAM OSLER

Character Education continues to be woven into the instruction all students receive in all subjects. It is not a separate curriculum. Character Education helps to instill in all students the responsibilities and benefits of

being an active member of a caring school community. Character Education will continue to be a focus of the Simcoe County District School Board, and as such, students, staff and parents are encouraged to become partners in this initiative. This initiative has been subdivided into the following positive behaviour traits: Integrity, Responsibility, Co-operation, Caring, Respect, Optimism, Honesty, Empathy, Courage and Inclusiveness. Watch for further information about Character Education. For more information, please visit www.scdsb.on.ca.

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. Those items may include (but are not limited to) cell phones, smartphones, iPods, iPads, computers, personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), MP3 players, tape, video or digital audio recorders, 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 child's homeroom teacher as soon as the student arrives in the morning, preferably by cheque.

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 in or above Grade 3 this school year, who wish the school to consider their child for gifted screening are asked to contact Ms. Hughes, Special Education Resource teacher by September 23, 2016.

Students may be nominated by either a teacher or parent.

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

School bus 'Bus Tag' Program Helps Students Get To And From School Safely

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent or guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour coded Bus Tag with the assigned p.m. route number to be attached to the student's backpack and a colour coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the Bus Tag is matched to. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site daycare to make sure they don't get on a bus in error.

For more information, visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the 'Safety' tab.

Safety Reminder From The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)

A reminder to drivers as children return to school this fall, and school buses are back on the roads:

- Take caution – be extra cautious in the vicinity of school buses and around school bus loading and unloading zones
- Pay attention – Watch for school buses' distinctive chrome yellow colouring, flashing red lights and stoparms.
Drivers travelling in both directions on a road without a median must stop for a stopped school bus that has its upper red lights flashing
- Know the repercussions – Any driver that fails to stop for a school bus with its lights flashing is subject to a fine of

- up to \$2,000 and six demerit points for a first time offence
- Be empowered – Anyone who witnesses a driver failing to stop for a school bus can report the incident to the police

Visit the SCSTC web site at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the 'Home' button then the 'Safety' tab for more details.

September School Bus Safety Tip - School Buses Are Back On The Road

The SCSTC reminds all drivers to be extra cautious in the vicinity of school buses and in school bus loading and un-loading zones. Review school bus safety tips with your child at the beginning of the school year to ensure the school bus ride is safe and enjoyable. School bus safety tips and activities are available at Elmer's Safety Village: elmer.ca/safety-village/school-bus-safety.

Pay For Field Trips, Lunch Days, etc. with SchoolCash Online

The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school. Parents can 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 process 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 simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com. Please contact the school office with any questions.

Student Accident Insurance 2016-17

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country trips) are not covered by the Board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen. It is essential that all students participating in extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage for all instances of injury. The Simcoe County District School Board has selected the “insure my kids” program through Old Republic Canada as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider with regards to purchasing student accident insurance coverage for the upcoming school year. The coverage is for 24 hours a day. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com. Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities and out-of-province or out-of-country trips.

Procedures Help Keep Our School Safe

The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare
- telling them it’s important to follow staff instructions in these situations

Parents should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students

and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off.

- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites (www.facebook.com/SCDSB and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (www.scdsb.on.ca), through local police and local media.
- All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. Each school has an evacuation site. Ours is *Fieldcrest E.S. 100 Professor Day Drive, Bradford, ON*. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.
- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** to enter the building. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, please be patient.** All visitors, including school volunteers,

are required to **sign in** at the school office and wear **visitor identification**.

- Staff and volunteers must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All Simcoe County District School Board schools **have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**.

When parents are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Schools Are Available For Community Use

Through our Community Use of Schools program, almost all of our schools are available outside of school hours for not-for-profit community groups. Our gyms, fields, auditoriums and classrooms are available for your sporting events, concerts, recitals and more.

You can apply online. A Permit Clerk will process the application and advise if the facility is available at the requested time. Once an application is approved, a rental contract will be issued and the applicant will be invoiced.

For more information, visit www.scdsb.on.ca, click on 'Schools' and then 'Community Use of Schools.'

Free International Languages Classes – Registration For Fall Program Available Now

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. 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 Fall 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.

Reminder From 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, left over 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 multi grain wrap/pits/tortilla shells with your child's favourite foods such as hummus and grated carrot or sliced turkey with honey mustard.
- Water is the best option for hydration

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.

Reminder from the Health Unit: School Grounds Are Smoke Free 24/7

Protect yourself and your children from the health hazards of secondhand smoke. Remember, it is against the law to smoke ANYWHERE on school property at ANY TIME. This includes smoking in your vehicle while picking up or dropping off students. It is also against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco in a vehicle carrying anyone under age 16. The fine for ignoring the law is \$250. For more information contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

There Are Lots Of Ways To Dress For School:

Learn About The New Student Dress Code

The SCDSB is introducing a new student dress code this school year. The dress code was developed in consultation with staff and students. Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive, and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing

cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at www.scdsb.on.ca. If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact the SCDSB Equity and Inclusive Education Team at 705-

There are lots of ways to dress for school...



...but there are a few things that aren't okay.



Exposed underwear



Spiked or chained accessories



Offensive or inappropriate content

728-7570.