



Huron Highlights

September 2018

Principal: Dr. A. Carpenter

Vice-Principal: E. Skazin



Website <http://huc.scdsb.on.ca>

HCES Safe Arrival Phone Number ~ 705-322-1101 Press #1



Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 14 Terry Fox Run (2:00 pm - 3:00 pm)
- Sept. 14 Wear gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness day
- Sept. 26 - 28 Book fair
- Sept. 27 Meet The Teacher (5:30 pm - 7:30 pm)
- Sept. 28 Fort Willow - Grade 7 & 8



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back for our 2018-2019 school year!

We hope everyone had a fantastic summer holiday and that you are all ready for new learning opportunities this year.

Welcome to: Mr. D. Johnson (Grade 6/7), Mrs. L. Mildon (Grade 5), Mrs. E. Vandergeest (Kindergarten), Ms. K. Townes (Planning Time), Mrs. R. Pendergast (DECE). Also, we want to welcome back all of our wonderful staff.

Thank you to all the teachers who helped with the organization of classes and schedules this year. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated!! Also, thank you to Meg Fay for helping us prepare for our first day of school.

As with any school year, we wait to hear about potential reorganization of classrooms, based on numbers. We appreciate your flexibility and patience as we move through any re-shuffling that may occur. As you know, we will make any changes to classes with the utmost of respect and care for students.

Thank you!

PARENT VOLUNTEER FOR SUBS

HCES is in need of volunteers to help with the Sub Program. If you are interested or would like more information please call the school.

LUNCH NOTES

As part of our Safe Schools, students in Grades 6, 7, or 8 who plan to leave school property for lunch are required to bring a note signed by parent/guardian.

~ Please indicate date and where the student will be going.

~ This is to take place during the **second break at 1:00 pm only**. Unfortunately we cannot accept requests by phone.

~ These notes **MUST** be signed by the classroom teacher and brought to the office by first recess, to be processed.

SCDSB COMMUNITY APPS PORTAL MAKES VOLUNTEERING EASY

We appreciate the commitment of all who volunteer at our school. This school year, we are implementing a new online Volunteer Portal. SCDSB Community Apps is a new online portal that allows you to begin the process for volunteering at a SCDSB school. The portal eliminates much of the paperwork currently associated with volunteers. Volunteer applications and approvals will occur online. The new mandate for Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) training, for volunteers, is also part of the portal. The Volunteer Portal is available for all new people requesting to volunteer at a school location:

<http://communityapps.scdsb.on.ca>. Only new volunteers or those who require an updated Criminal Background Check Vulnerable Sector Screening (CBC-VSS) are able to register on the portal at this time.

MAKE SURE STUDENT INFO IS ACCUARATE AND UP TO DATE

Every September we send home a Student Information Verification Form that includes the information we have in our database about your child. We use the parent/guardian and emergency contact information from this form for the Safe Arrival Program.

Please make sure that your email is also correct. In an effort to reduce paper and save trees we will be emailing our monthly newsletter. It will also be available on the website <http://huc.scdsb.on.ca>.

It is important that you check this form carefully and mark any changes before signing it and returning it to the school. If you need to change any information, throughout the year, please contact the office.

TERRY FOX RUN



The Terry Fox Run will take place on Friday September 14 during the last block. More information to follow.

Please wear a gold-coloured shirt on Friday, September 14 to help promote Awareness for Childhood Cancer.

FREE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

Simcoe County District School Board is excited to offer three programs for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Children's Friendship Training, Play Ball Kidz Recreation Program and a Music Social Skills Program. Your child will be bringing home information about these programs.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

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 principal or the SCDSB Equity and Inclusive Education Team at 705-728-7570.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

For those parents who are interested in joining our School Council, our first meeting will be held on Monday, October 1st at 6:30pm. We will be holding elections for Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. Candidate nomination forms are available in the main office. Please return these to Ms. Carpenter by September 24th. If you aren't interested in running for a position, we encourage you to join us as a volunteer. We hope to see you at the first meeting.

NEW SCDSB WEBSITE LAUNCHED THIS SUMMER

Visit www.scdsb.on.ca to check out our brand new look! Our new website launched in July, providing users with an accessible experience that is mobile-friendly – it works well whether you're on a desktop computer, mobile phone or tablet. The new website also has improved search functionality and a special *SCDSBshines* section to highlight and celebrate the amazing accomplishments of our staff and students.

KEEP CONNECTED WITH OUR SCHOOL AND SCDSB



It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB):

- Subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at http://***.scdsb.on.ca. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. Provide your email and click Subscribe, a message 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.
- Sign up to receive Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca. The SCDSB Education Centre can be reached at 705-734-6363.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. and remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

PROCEDURES HELP KEEP OUR SCHOOLS 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 exterior 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. Interior 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. 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.

SCHOOL ACCIDENT INSURANCE 2018-2019

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. The SCDSB has selected the Insure my Kids program through Old Republic Canada as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com. Participation in extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs) or out-of-province/out-of-country trips requires the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage. Student accident insurance packages will be sent home with students.

SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees"
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

It's safe, fast and convenient. Contact the office with any questions.

SCHOOL BUS TAG PROGRAM



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.

Visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the 'Safety' tab for more information.

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, Ojibwe, 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.'

PARENT PORTAL GIVES PARENTS REAL-TIME ACCESS TO ATTENDANCE, GRADE INFORMATION

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and grades and includes the option to sign up for email notifications. To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's SCDSB Pupil ID Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID will be provided in a sealed letter this fall with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, you can visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

REGISTER FOR BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL/CHILDCARE AT OUR SCHOOL

Register now for before and after school programs/childcare. The Before and After School Program is for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 who need care before and/or after the regular school day hours. The fees are as follows:

Before and After School fee: \$20.75

Before School only fee: \$10.50

After School only fee: \$15.25

PA day, holiday fee: \$37.75

Please contact Michele Weymark
YMCA @ 705-444-0188) to register your child(ren).



CAREER CENTRE PROVIDES JOB SEARCH HELP

Are you looking for work? Would you like help with your job search at no cost to you? The Career Centre is available to help. Visit www.barriecareercentre.com for more information.

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.eyeseeyelearn.ca.



SIMCOE MUSKOKA DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

Ideas for packing health school lunches....

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

For more information to keep you and your family healthy, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.



Stressful mornings sound familiar? Here's how to get organized and out the door on time:

- Plan ahead: pack lunches and pick out clothes the night before.
- Go to bed at a reasonable hour so you wake up rested and ready for the day.
- Wake up and get yourself ready, before your child.
- Keep the TV and electronics off. These can be disruptive first thing in the morning.
- Give clear instructions and be realistic about what your child can do for themselves. Praise them when they do something well to help them learn new skills.

Finally, remember to have patience. Your child learns from watching you! In time your child will learn to plan ahead, be organized, and develop patience too. For more tips, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or www.triplep-parenting.ca

YMCA OF SIMCOE MUSKOKA

Don't Stress! Back to school mental health tips

It's the start of a new school year and students need to get back into the swing of things! While a new school year can be exciting, it can also cause stress and anxiety. The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) suggests maintaining positive mental health during this seasonal shift with the following strategies:

- Take care of your body – mental and physical health are fundamentally linked. Make sure to get enough sleep, drink water, eat well and exercise.
- Build resiliency – resiliency means coping well with problems, stress, and other difficult situations. Set aside time to think about the resiliency tools available to you and your child, such as structured problem-solving skills or resources that can help out during difficult situations.
- Reach out for support – offering love, acceptance and sense of safety is important but so is providing resources outside of the home to support our youth in times of crisis. Some useful resources include New Path, YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, CMHA, Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions, and the Kids Help Phone.

To learn more about the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka community youth programs and support, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

SIMCOE COMMUNITY SERVICES' GRANDPARENT SYSTEM SUPPORT GROUPS

The Grandparent System Support Program (GSSP) was established in response to the increased needs and unique challenges experienced by grandparents with the sole responsibility of raising their grandchildren. Support Groups are available now in Barrie, Bradford, Orillia and Midland with plans for support groups in local communities across Simcoe County. Support groups provide a safe and confidential environment where grandparents can create relationships with others who understand and have lived experiences in similar situations. Grandparents can build on skills, resource share and network to build a community of support. For more information about the support group, meeting dates/times or if you have questions about the GSSP, contact gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca or 705-726-9082 x2321. Childminding and transportation assistance may be available.

