



W.C. LITTLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FEEL THE PRIDE

NEWSLETTER # 2

October 12, 2018

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<http://wcl.scdsb.on.ca>

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Principal's Message:

It is my hope that students and families enjoyed being thankful together over the long weekend and are feeling a little more rested as we keep moving into the busy fall term! Recently, students who completed their grade three and grade six years in 2017-18 received their individual results from the provincial testing last spring. While sharing school-wide results at our School Council Meeting last week, we had some excellent discussion about the learning strengths that our students are demonstrating, in addition to the goals that we will be setting based on the areas of need shown. With that in mind, I am very pleased at this time to share our EQAO results with the entire school community. Please see below, the percentage of all students who achieved at or above the provincial standard (levels 3 and 4) on these spring assessments:

Grade 3:	Reading	Writing	Math
School	75%	78%	75%
Board	72%	68%	61%
Province	75%	72%	61%

Grade 6:	Reading	Writing	Math
School	81%	82%	61%
Board	79%	73%	44%
Province	82%	80%	49%

One of the most encouraging growth areas to note for W.C. Little is our improved math achievement in both grades 3 and 6 between the results in 2016-17 and the results in 2017-18. In grade 3, the percentage of students achieving provincial standard in mathematics rose from 51% to 75% between assessments in two consecutive years. In grade 6 the math growth rose in that same time frame from 38% to 61% of students achieving provincial standard. Last year, *School Action Planning* enabled a huge effort on the part of W.C. Little educators to use targeted instructional strategies and careful monitoring of students' thinking and communication in mathematics. A "spiraled" approach to a new provincial/board course of study in mathematics meant that numeracy concepts were revisited several times across several different learning units in order to reinforce deeper understanding of those concepts. *School Action Planning* is well underway for the 2018-19 school year, starting with "The First 20 Days of Math" as a consistent program in many classrooms. Continued development of teaching and learning within the new course of study will be achieved by continuing to offer students opportunities to become more independent and capable at solving math challenges. Of course, a continued focus on literacy will support consistently capable achievement in literacy learning. Any further questions can be directed to your child's teacher, or the school admin team.

I thoroughly enjoyed seeing you at our Meet the Teacher night last week and look very forward to welcoming you at our upcoming parent-teacher conferences during the week

of November 19-23. These discussions will follow the arrival home of the **Progress Reports** on November 16th. If you missed an opportunity to sign up for a conference, please contact the classroom teacher.

Sincerely,

Scott Young
Principal

COMING SOON!

New this year! On parent/teacher/student conference days in November we will be having Snow Valley coupon books for sale! Watch for more information coming home soon!

Hallowe'en!

With Hallowe'en fast approaching we remind students not to be bringing sugar snacks to school containing nuts. Your do-operation in this serious matter is greatly appreciated.



What's Happening at W.C. Little?

Oct. 15 - Groove Dance begins Gr. 1-8
Oct. 17 - QSP orders due in
Oct. 22 - P.A. Day
Nov. 1 - Photo Re-Take Day
Nov. 5 - School Council Meeting 6:30
Everyone Welcome!



School Council Corner
FOLLOW W.C. Little
Elementary Parent Council on
Facebook or WCL Parent
Council on Twitter for updates,
news and important reminders!

There are lots of exciting ways that your School Council is supporting the students of WC Little this year. However, **WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS!** We need volunteers

for help in a variety of roles, especially in assisting with our food programs, which are a significant part of our fundraising plan. Volunteer forms went home recently. You can express your interest in volunteering by returning the form to the school office, or by emailing our Council team directly at wclparentcouncil@gmail.com.

Our annual **QSP FUNDRAISER** has launched, offering magazine subscriptions, frozen cookie batter, and community savings passes! There are even more options available online at QSP.CA! Did you know that orders can be placed from anywhere in Canada at QSP.CA and shipped anywhere in Canada?!?! This is a great way to send gifts to friends and family who live in other areas. Please share your flyers with family, friends, and coworkers. **Our campaign ends on Wednesday, October 17th**, so please submit your orders as soon as possible. We earn 30 to 40% on sales - **SO EVERY ORDER COUNTS**. All cookie dough will arrive frozen on November 22nd, and will need to be picked up between the hours of 2:50 and 6:00pm. Our gift items and end of campaign prizes will be available for pick up at the same time.

Our food program will be starting soon. Are you signed up for **School Cash Online**? All your food orders can be made using credit card or authorized withdrawals from your bank account. It is easy and convenient - so you won't need to send cash or order forms to School with your children. If you are not using School Cash Online, **PLEASE SEND EXACT CHANGE**, as we cannot provide change.

Thank you to everyone who attended our first meetings this year in September and October. Our new Council Executive has been elected. Congratulations to our new team! Laura Starret will continue as Council Chair, Andrew Barnett is our new Treasurer, and Emily Sararas continues as Secretary.

Would you like to learn more about what School Council does? Our **NEXT MEETING** will be held on Monday, November 5th at 6:30pm in the school library. Please feel welcome to join us.

School Council Members Invited to Connections Event on Oct. 23

School Council members are invited to join us at Connections, the Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) school council development and networking event.

When: Tues. Oct. 23, 4 to 7 p.m.

Where: SCDSB Education Centre, 1170 Hwy. 26, Midhurst

Participants can gather tips and important information to help you in your role on school council, contribute to group discussions, browse booths and enjoy snacks from our approved vendors, and network with fellow school council and Parent Involvement Committee members. This year, we welcome Jacqui Strachan, Communications Director, People for Education, who will discuss fundraising and equity within a school council. Register at www.scdsb.on.ca/connections. Register by Oct. 16 for your chance to win a \$500 parent engagement grant for your school. The winner(s) will be drawn at the event. You must be in attendance to win the prize.

School Bus Transportation Information Available from the SCSTC

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca



for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place October 22 to 26, 2018. To support schools in promoting school bus safety to students, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC), in partnership with school bus operators, will offer bus evacuation training to all home-to-school transported students. During this week, school bus drivers will educate students on how to evacuate a school bus safely in an emergency situation. Wed., Oct. 24 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in the province of Ontario. It's a great opportunity for the school community to thank our bus drivers for all their hard work transporting students to and from school safely. For more information, visit the SCSTC website at main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/.

Want to be a Volunteer at our School? Here's What You Need to Know!

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 (<http://communityapps.scdsb.on.ca>) is a new online portal that allows you to begin the process for volunteering at our school. Here is some information to share as we've been receiving some questions:

- Only NEW volunteers or those who received a letter in June indicating you require an updated Criminal Background Check Vulnerable Sector Screening (5-year renewal) are able to register as a volunteer on the Community Apps website at this time.
- If you're a current, approved school volunteer, you can still volunteer at our school for the time being. You should have recently received a letter with your access code. This code will allow you to register as a volunteer on the Volunteer Portal through the Community Apps website.

Reorganization Balances Class Sizes to Support your Child's Success

Each September, our school starts off with a certain number of classes and teachers - these numbers are based on estimates made the previous spring about how many students will be enrolled during the next school year. As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education has class size goals that all school boards are required to meet. When the Simcoe County District School Board organized its schools in the spring, they adhered to this expectation. Each September, the board compares actual enrolment numbers to the numbers projected by the board in the spring. At times it is necessary to reorganize classes. After reorganization, some students may move to another class in order to balance class sizes. In some cases, it may be necessary to move teachers to a new school. If your child was affected by a change, you should have received a letter with details following reorganization. Please be assured that these changes will not affect the quality of education your child will receive at W.C. Little. Our staff have the skills, training and resources to work effectively with students in a variety of settings.

Pay for Field Trips, Lunch Days, etc. with 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.

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.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 7 to 13

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme focuses on three fundamental actions people can take to be fire-safe:

- LOOK for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.
- LISTEN for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.
- LEARN two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

It's Time to Update Your Child's Immunization Record

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is required to keep up to date immunization records for all

students who attend elementary or secondary school in the County of Simcoe and the District of Muskoka. Parents are responsible for reporting immunizations to the health unit each time their child receives a vaccine from their health care provider. It's easy to update your child's immunization status. Go to www.smdhu.org/immsonline to update your child's record, or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 (toll free).
Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit



October is
International Walk to
School Month

Get in on the fun and be part of this worldwide event! Encourage your child or teen to walk or cycle to and from school if you live close by and

team up with others to make the trip more fun. If you usually drive your child to school, try getting them to walk part of the way. If your child takes the bus, walking to and from the bus stop is a great way to add physical activity minutes into the day. Walking or cycling allows kids to enjoy the outdoors and get their recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day. Learn more:

<http://ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/international-walk-to-school-month/>.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit