



W.C. LITTLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FEEL THE PRIDE

NEWSLETTER # 1

September 5, 2017

Principal: Mr. Scott Young
Telephone: 705-725-7970

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

Vice Principal
Mrs. L. Aldersey
Safe Arrival: 705-725-7970 ext. 1

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to welcome all new families and returning families to the W.C. Little School community.

A huge thank you to the W.C. Little School Council for their hard work and dedication to the students of W.C. Little. Over the summer there were some dramatic yard improvements and our hope is that our students and families will enjoy them for years to come.

I am excited to be back at W.C. Little for the 2017/2018 school year. I hope that you all made some wonderful memories with the people you care about this summer.

Sincerely,

S. Young
Principal

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 W.C. Little are nut free! Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

No Pets Allowed!

An important reminder that pets are NOT permitted on Simcoe County District School Board property. This is for the safety and well-being of our students AND our school grounds. Thank you!



Student Accident Insurance 2017-2018

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 Simcoe County District School Board has selected the "insure my kids" program through Old Republic Canada as an option for student/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. 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.



Welcome!

Daily School Schedule

<u>WCL Periods</u>	
<u>Period 1</u>	<u>08:30 - 9:20</u>
<u>Period 2</u>	<u>09:20 - 10:10</u>
<u>Nutrition Break</u>	<u>10:10 - 10:30</u>
<u>Outdoor Play</u>	<u>10:30 - 10:50</u>
<u>Period 3</u>	<u>10:50 - 11:40</u>
<u>Period 4</u>	<u>11:40 - 12:30</u>
<u>Nutrition Break</u>	<u>12:30 - 12:50</u>
<u>Outdoor Play</u>	<u>12:50 - 1:10</u>
<u>Period 5</u>	<u>01:10 - 2:00</u>
<u>Period 6</u>	<u>02:00 - 2:50</u>

We Share The Air - Be Scentsitive to Others!

Please help us to achieve a scent-reduced environment by avoiding the use of scented products. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Keep Connected With Our School and With the SCDSB

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

- you can subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://wcl.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. 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.
- for Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases and event information, visit the 'News'

section under 'About Us' on the SCDSB's website: 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).
- through SCDSB's Sharing Simcoe blog (www.sharingsimcoe.com), we share stories of our amazing staff, students and school communities.

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at: www.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 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. 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.

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.

QSP Magazine and Cookie Dough Fundraiser will be Starting Soon!

Our official fundraising will begin on September 27th with the launch of our Magazine and Cookie Dough fundraiser. If you are eager to order before our official campaign begins, you can support our students any time by shopping online. Just go to www.qsp.ca! All early orders will count toward the student awards too. Plus you'll see hundreds of gift items available online. Every purchase benefits our campaign. Consider ordering a magazine subscription for your child. Kids love receiving mail and it's proven that reading print benefits children far greater than reading material online. Magazines also make great gifts - delivery anywhere in Canada.

Thank you in advance for your support. We count on your participation! Customer service is always available by calling QSP directly at 1-800-667-2536.



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 childcare centre to make sure they don't get on a bus in error.

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

Your Child Can Learn a New Language for Free This Fall in Barrie and Bradford

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 enroll your children in this program to learn a new language, understand a new culture or to extend their knowledge of their first language, every student can benefit from this program. The Barrie Learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) is offering Arabic, Russian, Mandarin, Korean, German, Spanish and Ukrainian. The Bradford Learning Centre (157 Holland St. E, Suite 200) is offering Arabic, Tamil, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. The course takes place Saturday mornings, 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 16. 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.'

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 its lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to www.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 and 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 Now 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: \$18.90

Before School only fee: \$9.45

After School only fee: \$13.80

PA day, holiday fee: \$34.20

Please contact S.E.E.D.S. at 705-726-3770 to register your child(ren).

Want to Volunteer At Our School?

Current volunteers who do not submit an Annual Offence Declaration for Volunteers on or before December 31, 2017, will be deleted from the database on January 1, 2018, and will have to submit a new Criminal Records Check and Vulnerable Sector Screen. Please see the office for more information or if you have questions about volunteering in our school.

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 stop arms. **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 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.

Ideas for Packing Healthy 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

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.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District 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.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Free Dental Care for Children under 18 from Healthy Smiles Ontario

Free dental service is available to your child through Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Healthy Smiles Dental Clinic in Barrie, or on the dental bus that visits many communities across Simcoe Muskoka throughout the year, as long as you qualify for the program. To find out if your child qualifies or to book an appointment, call the Health Unit (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) oral healthy team at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, extension 1818. Healthy Smiles Ontario is a government-funded program that provides free dental care for children and youth 17 years old and under from low-income households. This dental program provides free preventative, routine and emergency dental services.

How Exercise Can Help with Homework

It's the start of a new school year and students need to get back into the swing of things! Many students and parents adopt a similar philosophy for success - clear your schedule, buckle down and focus. Although the intention is great, by focusing solely on the books and neglecting the body, students are not actually reaching their full potential. Here are three reasons why exercise can make students more productive:



- Better sleep - it's a fact that our brains work better with a good night's rest. Getting enough sleep contributes to the brain's capacity to store and retrieve information, complete tasks efficiently, maintain focus and manage stress - all of which will improve student success.
- Stress release - exercise is proven to release endorphins that reduce stress. We all know how hard it can be to focus with an aching back, cramped neck or jittery leg. These physical distractions are often a result of excessive time spent in sedentary activities. A quick body break can relieve tension, stress

and excess energy, making it easier to focus on the tasks at hand.

Retain more - blood pumping exercise increases the flow of oxygen to the brain making it more receptive to the flow of new information coming in. Studies prove that students who exercise three times a week or more get higher grades.

In addition to exercise, students should ensure they are eating healthy, staying hydrated and getting lots rest and fresh air.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca

Simcoe Community Services' Grandparent System Support Program

Simcoe County is home to approximately 4,000 grand-families. 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. Caregiver fatigue, health concerns, aging, social isolation, financial strain, legal challenges and complex familial relationships can be some of the challenges faced by grandparents parenting again. The GSSP Support Groups often offer a place to share stories, information and resources in a nonjudgmental way and confidential environment. For more information about the support group, meeting dates/times or if you have questions about the GSSP, contact Trish Longo at gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca of 705-726-9082 x2321



What's Happening?

Sept. 5 - **First Day of School - Welcome Back!**

Sept. 14 - Kandalore Parent Information Session - 6:00-7:00

Sept. 18 - School Council Meeting 6:30 Everyone Welcome!

Sept. 22 - Terry Fox Run

Sept. 27 - QSP Kick Off

Oct. 3 - School Photos

Oct. 4 - Meet the Teacher

Oct. 9 - Thanksgiving

