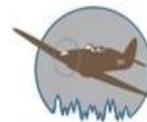




Hewitt's Creek Public School



Nancy Jones,
Principal

February 2019
Website: <http://hew.scdsb.on.ca/>

Fred Van Arragon,
Vice Principal



From the Principal's Pen

We've certainly had some very cold weather over the last few weeks, and winter isn't over yet. Please ensure your child is well dressed for the weather. Our younger students are encouraged to have some extra mitts and socks available in their backpacks especially for those days when the temperatures are a little bit milder and things get slushy and wet on the school yard.

With all the extra sand and salt being spread around our school for safety, we really appreciate our custodians. We encourage our students to ensure they have proper indoor footwear to keep their feet warm, dry and always ready if there is ever an emergency evacuation. It is also important that students have proper footwear for Phys.Ed. classes as well. Thank you parents for ensuring your child has these items. We're grateful for our custodial team and the excellent work they do keeping our hallways and stairwells clean particularly through the winter and spring seasons. We've recently had a staffing change with our custodial team. We wish a fond farewell to Mr. Michalizin who has moved to a different school and we welcome Ms. Johns who has joined our team as one of our evening custodians.

Our teaching staff is now working on completing report cards that you will be receiving on February 15. Please take the time to read through the report with your child and celebrate successes as well as discuss next steps for learning.

We're looking forward to our annual School Council sponsored school dance-a-thon happening on March 8. Thank you to all our volunteers who will help with this fundraiser and to all our families for your support of this event. Thank you to our school council members for their commitment to regular meetings and their hard work with all our fundraisers, including our weekly fun lunches programs. If you are available and willing to help with any of these initiatives, please call the school office.

We hope you have a wonderful time on Monday, February 18 celebrating Family Day and taking time off from all your regular activities to enjoy some extra time with your family members. Please note we also have a Professional Activity day (no school) coming up on March 1. Although the school will be closed for students, our teaching staff will be hard at work improving their skills in the area of teaching numeracy to our students.

Kind Regards,
Mrs. N. Jones
Principal

Mr. F. Van Arragon
Vice Principal

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2015? If so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Beginning Jan. 28, 2019, Simcoe County's public schools will register children for Kindergarten for the 2019-20 school year. New this year, the registration process begins online! Visit https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten for more information.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 14—Valentine's Day (wear red, pink, purple, white)
February 18—Family Day
February 27—Pink Shirt Day
February 28—Character Assembly 11:30
March 1—PA Day
March 8—Dance-a-thon
March 11-15—March Break
March 28—Character Assembly 1:50

RAINBOWS

The Rainbows Program is being offered at Hewitt's Creek this year. The program is committed to supporting children grieve and grow after loss. It supports children who may be working through loss due to death of a parent, divorce or children in foster care. Children meet weekly, with a trained facilitator and a small group of similar aged children. If you are interested in this program for your child, it is recommended that you first talk to your child's teacher and then contact the school coordinator, Kerri-Ann Cappadocia, to place your child's name on the list for Rainbows groupings. Please contact Mrs. Cappadocia if you have questions about the program. kcappadocia@scdsb.on.ca

**PROVIDE INPUT ON PROPOSED 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) invites public school communities to submit input regarding the proposed school year calendar for next school year (Sept. 2019 to June 2020).

Starting Jan. 21, input can be provided by visiting www.scdsb.on.ca, hovering over 'Elementary,' or 'Secondary,' then 'Planning for School,' and clicking 'School Year Calendar.' All stakeholders including staff, school council members, parents/guardians, students and members of the school community are invited to provide input.

The deadline to submit input is Feb. 15.

The Budgeree Bunch

We're a unique group of students who have formed a student club promoting positivity in our school. Now, as a Valentine's initiative, we are reaching out to Georgian College to show that the Hewitt's Creek Hurricanes care about their students too.

There are over 1,200 students at Georgian College regularly needing a helping hand to fill their cupboards. Georgian has an on-campus food bank called the Georgian FoodLocker. It is operated by the Georgian College Students' Association (GCSA).

From Feb. 11-15 we are SHARING THE LOVE by collecting non-perishable food items for the Georgian Foodlocker. We're asking our Hurricane families to donate to this cause by simply dropping off non-perishable food items in the provided boxes located outside the school office. These items will be given to Georgian College to help their students in need. Students Caring for Students....SHARING THE LOVE. Thank you for your help Hurricanes family!

ENTERING GRADE 9 NEXT YEAR? GET A STEP AHEAD WITH SUMMER SCHOOL!

Attention graduating Grade 8 students! Did you know you can earn a high school credit before you start Grade 9? Students entering Grade 9 are eligible to reach ahead and take Civics and Career Studies online during the month of July. Simply download and complete the Summer School registration form from www.thelearningcentres.com, have your principal sign the front and drop it off at your local Learning Centre. Grade 8 grads are also eligible to reach ahead and take part in Civics and Careers or Canadian Geography EduTravel courses. Registration information for these programs can also be found on The Learning Centres website.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS INVITED TO INFORMATION SESSIONS ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting a series of information sessions for parents and guardians to learn about special education in the SCDSB, and how to support students with special education needs. Topics include building a plan for the summer, understanding the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) and applied behaviour analysis (ABA).

Sessions will take place at the SCDSB Education Centre, located at 1170 Highway 26 in Midhurst. Participants may also access the sessions online via Google Meet. More information, including dates, times and links to register, are online at https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education.

NATIONAL ENGINEERING MONTH COMPETITION TAKES PLACE MARCH 23

Students in Grades 5 to 8 are invited to submit a model bridge, catapult or grabber for the National Engineering Month (NEM) event. Models will be tested for design, strength, quality of construction and functionality. Students of any age are invited to attend to check out 3D printers and robots, Raspberry Pi computer coding demos, crystal radio construction and CNC machine coding.

The event takes place on March 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Georgian College, and is jointly organized by the Georgian Bay Chapter of the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT) and Simcoe-Muskoka Chapter of the Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO), under the banner of NEM Ontario. For more information and to register for this free event, visit <https://nemsimcoe.wixsite.com/nemsimcoe>.

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. The immunizations that the health unit requires records for include:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, polio and pertussis
- Measles, mumps and rubella
- Meningococcal
- Varicella (chickenpox) (for those born in 2010 or later)

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

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

During the winter months, hectic schedules and snowy weather often result in a decrease in the number of blood donations. Canadian Blood Services (and all those in need of donations) want to remind you to be part of Canada's lifeline this winter and give the gift of life.

You can book online at www.blood.ca. Look for a clinic in your area!

*Information provided by Canadian Blood Services

PLEASE HELP US WITH OUR CONGESTED PARKING LOT

During the winter months, our parking lot has been very congested with cars, particularly at drop-off and pick-up times. Please help us by having your child walk to school as much as possible to help reduce the amount of vehicles trying to make their way through our kiss 'n ride area of the parking lot. Recently, we've have reports of damaged cars in the parking lot. This makes us even more concerned about the potential for student injuries in the parking lot. It is important that everyone is very careful and patient when they drive through the parking lot. We prefer to keep this area open for everyone's use, but would close the parking lot for the safety of our students if necessary.



Please be mindful of the following basic courtesies to allow our parking lot to remain safe:

- Watch for pedestrians; always give them the right of way
- Watch for other cars. Please report to the office if you have collided with a parked vehicle
- Ensure you are not distracted by your cell phone or anything else
- Be patient and considerate to other drivers
- Please be quick dropping off and picking up your children. Have them dressed and ready to go
- Don't leave your vehicle unattended. Students are aware of where they need to go and school staff are there waiting to greet them in the morning.

WALKING TO SCHOOL IS GREAT FOR STUDENTS

Walking to school is a great way for your child to get the 60 minutes of daily physical activity that's needed for good mental and physical health. It also builds responsibility and independence, and helps them feel more connected to the community. More walkers means less traffic around our school, which helps keep students safe and improve outdoor air quality. Even one day a week of walking to school can make a big difference! To find out more about how to support active and safe routes to school through School Travel Planning, visit www.saferoutestoschool.ca/school-travel-planning.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

No Idle Zone
Young Lungs At Work

IDLING CARS IN THE KISS 'N RIDE

Did you know that an idling engine produces twice as much emissions as a moving vehicle? Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your car. The city of Barrie is working towards an idle control policy for our city and asks that all citizens of our great city help reduce harmful emissions to the environment. At Hewitt's Creek we are particularly concerned about idling cars because our kindergarten students play area is right next to the parking lot and kiss 'n ride. We prefer as many students as possible to walk to school, but if you are giving your child(ren) a ride, please turn off your engine while you are stopped in the kiss 'n ride loop. This will help reduce the amount of toxic fumes our students will have to inhale every morning and afternoon. Each one of us can make a small difference by turning off the engine and keeping the air cleaner for our children to breathe. Thank you.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Our partner in providing homestay to the SCDSB's international students, Canada Homestay Network (CHN), is recruiting host families to welcome international students into their homes.

Host families help international students realize lifelong dreams, and benefit from a unique experience with another culture. As a host, you also receive an allowance to offset expenses.

[Learn about a current homestay family here](#) or get more details about the program on the [Canada Homestay Network website](#).

