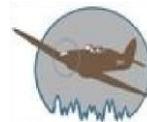




Hewitt's Creek Public School



**Nancy Jones,
Principal**

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

**Fred Van Arragon,
Vice Principal**



From the Principal's Pen

Happy New Year!

We hope you've had a good two weeks with family and friends along with some good times of relaxation. Our staff are rested and ready to get back at it in the classroom with the students. January and February are good months with not too many interruptions which allows for some good traction and consistency in learning in the classroom. We look forward to all the new learning that will take place in the months ahead.

Winter is now upon us! It seems as though it has already been upon us for the last two months! We have been very impressed with the way that the students make sure that they dress for the weather. (We appreciate that this is more than likely due to a lot of 'gentle' reminders from home.) Our students are outside every day for at least 40 minutes, so being prepared is important. On very cold days, -25, we monitor the weather and make adjustments, including bringing the students inside, but most days, students need to be prepared to be outside and properly dressed for the cold weather.

On bus cancellation days, it is business as usual at Hewitt's Creek. We continue to run our regular academic programs. We also continue with our Safe Arrival program. If your child cannot get to school, please call the safe arrival line to let us know that your child is safe and sound. 705.728.2774 ext. #1

We ask the students not to go on ANY snow hills before school. We particularly worry about the snow hills around our parking lots at arrival and dismissal. Thank you to the parents who remind their children to stay off of the hills in the parking lots. Many voices send clear messages.

Please note that our students will be participating in a school climate survey this month. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to complete an anonymous survey about our school. Please see a separate message in this newsletter for more details. We encourage you to participate so we can learn more about the climate of our school and work on next steps to make our great school even better. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Kind Regards,
Mrs. N. Jones
Principal

Mr. F. Van Arragon
Vice Principal

2018-19 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) aims to provide a safe, supportive learning environment that encourages student success. Between January 7 and January 25, 2019, all students in Grades 4 to 8 will be asked to complete a confidential on-line survey exploring how they feel about their school. Teachers will supervise the class during the survey's completion and can answer any questions or concerns your child may have.

This year, parents/guardians of students in Grades 4 to 8 will also be asked to complete an anonymous online survey outlining how they feel about their child's school.

The survey results will provide valuable feedback to staff related to our SCDSB Strategic Priorities and will help schools develop and refine their School Action Plans.

Students, parents/guardians and staff will not be asked to provide their names and all responses will be combined to ensure confidentiality.

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2018-19 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

Similar to prior SCDSB school climate surveys, the questions cover a range of topics, such as:

- the overall tone of the school, often referred to as school climate;
- mental health and well-being;
- equity, diversity and inclusion;
- experiences of school safety and bullying or harassment; and,
- questions to assist the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit in its Healthy Schools Initiative.

Student Survey A sample version of the student survey is available at www.scdsb.on.ca. A paper copy of the student survey is also available in your school's office. Please call your school if you have questions about how the student survey will be administered.

Parent/Guardian

To complete the SCDSB 2018-2019 school climate survey for parents/guardians, please go to www.scdsb.on.ca and click on the link to the survey. If you do not have access to the internet and/or prefer to complete a paper version of the survey, copies of the parent/guardian survey are available in your school's office. Questions about the parent/guardian survey can be directed to SCDSB's Research and Decision Support Services team at research@scdsb.on.ca.

The information collected will be used to help guide our school in creating and maintaining safe and supportive learning environments for all students. Thank you for your support!

TARMAC ONLY FOR STUDENTS BEFORE SCHOOL

For the safety of our students, we've made a change to our morning procedures at school. We are asking our students to remain on the tarmac only before school and stay off the field, the hill and the walking track. Because the field can be very icy and we have limited staff supervision before school, we will now require our students to wait on the tarmac before school starts. For most students this is just a short period of time from when they arrive at school until the bell rings. Students should not arrive at school until after 8:55 AM when staff supervision on the school yard begins. The bell for school to begin rings at 9:07 AM so students will have just a few minutes to wait on the tarmac. Thank you for your help as parents in reminding your children to remain on the tarmac only before school each day.

ATTEND A FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION NIGHT, APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS IN JANUARY

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, empowering them to function with ease in both French and English. Information sessions take place in January for parents of students in Senior Kindergarten. A letter will be sent home to those parents with more details. Information session dates will be posted at www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/program_options/French_as_a_second_language. The FI online application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 21, until 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019 at www.scdsb.on.ca under Elementary, French as a Second Language. While every effort is made to accommodate all FI applications, available space and staffing will determine how many students can be registered. Applications will be processed in the order they are received electronically. Please contact the school if you do not have Internet access at home or require assistance accessing the online application. Please note that the host sites for FI may change during your child's time in the program, and your child may need to move schools. This may also include splitting the program between two different sites.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OPENS THIS MONTH

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.

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.

SCHOOL'S IN FOR SUMMER AT THE SCDSB

Are you and your child planning their courses for next school year? Looking for a way to create flexibility in their timetable and earn a credit? Consider summer school!

Each year, the SCDSB offers a variety of summer programs to over 2,000 students. Summer school options include open, college and university level courses from Grades 9 to 12. Courses are offered in-person or online. Interested students can also travel and earn credits with the summer EduTravel program.

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at www.learningcentres.com. Current SCDSB students should speak to their guidance counsellor for information and to register. Registration opens January 14!

PARENTS/GUARDIANS INVITED TO INFORMATION SESSIONS ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION

The 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, can be found at https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education.

IS HOMEWORK STRESSING YOU OUT?

Throughout the year, your child may have homework or need to spend time studying at home. You can help make homework time less stressful. First, let your child relax with a healthy snack when they get home from school. Ask if they have homework, what kind, and how long they think it will take to finish. It's a good idea to set a regular time each day and decide on a specific place to do homework. Your child might need help for a couple minutes to get started.

Looking for more parenting support? Speak with a public health nurse by calling 705-721-7520 or 1-877-7217520 or visit the health unit website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH?

Health Connection offers free, confidential health information from nurses and health inspectors on:

- How your child is growing, parenting tips, fast and healthy meals, safe food and water, common illnesses, keeping kids safe, fun family activities
- Health unit programs such as vaccinations and dental care
- Community resources for parenting, mental health, addictions, quitting smoking or financial help Contact Health Connection at 1-705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or <http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/>. If English is not your first language, we have a telephone interpretation service.

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.*

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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).

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 holiday season 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

FIVE WAYS FAMILIES CAN IMPROVE HEALTH AND FITNESS IN THE NEW YEAR

It's that time of year again - time to focus on New Year's resolutions. Making your family better, stronger and healthier may require just a few simple tweaks. It's been proven that the key to success is setting small, attainable goals. Here are some New Year's resolutions that families can work on together to get healthy and fit in the New Year:

- Play together. Spend time outside playing together as often as possible, regardless of the weather. Go skating, build a snow fort or go tobogganing – fun for the whole family!
- Join a family-friendly gym. Find a place that provides opportunities for the entire family to be physically active together or offers child care and after-school programs.
- Pencil it in. Add physical activity or play time to the calendar, with the same commitment as other important meetings. Schedule an evening walk or a fitness class – seeing it on the calendar will help motivate your family to stay on track. * Set goals. Pick a fun run/walk or 5K to do as a family, like YMCA Move to Give. Sign up, train as a family and participate in it together.
- Make healthy meals together. Allowing kids to participate in cooking healthy meals and snacks can make them more adventurous to try foods they may not usually eat. It's more satisfying to eat something you helped chop, stir or season!

For more information about programs offered at the Y for the whole family, please visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka (www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)



DATES TO REMEMBER

January 25th—P.A. Day

January 30th—Character Ed Assembly 1:50 p.m.