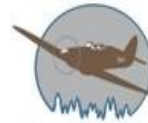




Hewitt's Creek Public School



Nancy Jones,
Principal

September 2017
Website: <http://hew.scdsb.on.ca/>

Fred Van Arragon,
Vice Principal



From the Principal's Pen

Welcome back to all! Happy New Year!

We are all excited to be back and I am certainly happy to be back for my fourth year at Hewitt's Creek. We have had a change in the office. Mrs. McCann has been moved to Tottenham Public School. We welcome our new Vice Principal, Mr. Van Arragon. We are happy to have him join us in the Hangar!

We have had a great start up this year. We welcomed a number of new students and 64 new kindergarten students! As always, we remind families that in the early days of the school year, things must remain flexible with regard to classes and teachers. We may have to reorganize classes later in September. Thank you for helping us with this.

Bell times: Our arrival bell is 9:07 and our dismissal bell is 3:30. Supervision starts in the morning at 8:55. Please ensure that your child does not arrive prior to this time as the playground is NOT supervised.

Medication and Health Concerns: If your child needs medication at school, we require a medication form to be filled out. Please contact the school office to obtain the form, which includes a portion for your doctor to complete. If you have health concerns regarding your child that pertain to school, please contact the school office to ensure that we know about these.

Practice for Emergencies: We are required to practice for a great many emergencies. We practice for fires, tornadoes and lockdowns, to name a few. Often times, these are unannounced drills. These are nothing to worry about. As they say, practice makes perfect!

Walk to School Wednesdays: Students and families are encouraged to walk to school every day, most particularly Wednesdays. This is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint and get more steps in! Reducing congestion in our parking lot is always appreciated. Thank you in advance.

Paper copies of newsletters: Please contact the office if you wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter. In the future, our newsletters will be emailed and posted on our website.

We are looking forward to a great year of learning together. We are certainly off to a great start!

Sincerely,
Mrs. N. Jones
Principal

SAFE ARRIVAL—(705) 728-2774 Ext.#1

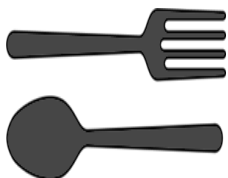
This important program continues this year. Details are in the package of permission slips. **PLEASE** remember to phone into safe arrival if your child is going to be absent or late from school. Please call (705) 728-2774 Ext.#1 before the school day starts. We have an answering machine set up so you may call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Thank you for assisting in the safety of our children.

NO DOGS PLEASE

A school yard full of children is not a place for dogs. Some students are allergic to dogs, some have a fear of dogs and other students are so friendly with dogs that your pet may feel uncomfortable with the attention. Please remember to leave your dog and other pets at home when taking your child to or from school or arrange a meeting place off school grounds. We appreciate your consideration and believe your pet will too.

SPOONS & FORKS

Reminder to bring spoons or forks to school in your student's lunches please.



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 4 - Picture Day
October 20 - PA Day

KEEP CONNECTED WITH OUR SCHOOL AND WITH THE 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):

- you can subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://hew.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). Twitter @HewittsCreek
- 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: 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.

GIFTED SCREENING

Some students who display an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential.

In consultation with parents, the school uses the board's Gifted Screening Process to determine who these students are. Typically, gifted learners comprise approximately 1% of the population.

If you would like to request gifted screening for your child, please contact Ms. Barry at the school by November 20th, 2017. Typically, this is done in the Grade 3 year for students who display significant gifted characteristics, including advanced cognitive ability, intellectual curiosity, sensitivity and creativity, capacity for intense motivation and advanced affective capacity.

The gifted screening process consists of three components:

1. Teacher Rating Scale;
2. Parent Questionnaire;
3. Otis Lennon School Ability Test

After signing a permission form, parents/legal guardians will complete the Parent Questionnaire. Information obtained from this questionnaire will help the school gain a better understanding of your child's early development as well as his/her strengths, interests, needs and abilities, which the standardized test may not identify. The teacher will complete a Rating Scale, which examines areas such as learning, motivation, creativity and leadership, as observed in the classroom. Group testing will be completed in November and the results will provide a standardized measure of school ability. The information gathered from all three components will assist the school in programming for your child.



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.

INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

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 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. 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.



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.

**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.

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.

BALANCED DAY SCHEDULE

9:07	SCHOOL ENTRY BELL
9:10	SCHOOL STARTS
10:50	NUTRITION BREAK
11:30	20 minutes to eat and read 20 minutes outside
11:30	CLASS RESUMES
1:10	NUTRITION BREAK
1:50	20 minutes to eat and read 20 minutes outside
1:50	CLASS RESUMES
3:30	DISMISSAL

LATE STUDENTS

All late students will be signed in through the back east doors until **9:30** a.m. An office staff member will meet you there. Thank you.

NUT ALLERGIES

An important reminder to parents that some of our students have life-threatening allergies to nuts. It is most important that students do not bring nut products (this includes almond butter, Nutella and peanut butter) to school. We truly appreciate your total cooperation in this regard. Thank you.

