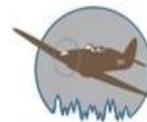




# Hewitt's Creek Public School



Nancy Jones,  
Principal

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

Jill MacAlpine,  
Vice Principal



## Welcome back to all! Happy New Year!

We are all excited to be back and I am certainly happy to be back for my sixth year as principal at Hewitt's Creek. We are excited to welcome Mrs. MacAlpine as our vice principal.

We have had a great start up this year. We welcomed over 30 new students in grades 1-8 and 62 new kindergarten students! We also welcomed many new teachers this year as we had some changes over the summer. Welcome to the following staff who have joined us this year: Mr. White, Ms. Yakiwchuk, Mr. Hamilton, Ms. Bennett, Mr. McDonald, Ms. Dougherty, Miss Reilly, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Ouderkirk.

**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. Last year the ministry of education introduced a new document called a Plan of Care which is also needed. Please contact the school office to obtain the necessary forms, 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:** School newsletters will be emailed and posted on the school website. Please contact the office if you wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter in the future.

We are looking forward to a great year of learning together. We are certainly off to a great start! Attached please find our school handbook information.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. N. Jones  
Principal

Mrs. J. MacAlpine  
Vice Principal

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Thursday, September 26	Terry Fox Run (last block of the day)
Tuesday, October 1	Volunteer Orientation 5:00—5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 1	Parent Council - 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 2	Picture Day
Wednesday, October 2	Meet the Teacher 5:30-7:00p.m.
Thursday, October 3	Volunteer Orientation 10:00—10:30 a.m.
Friday, October 4	PA Day (no school)
October 7-16	Thanksgiving Food Drive
Monday, October 14	Thanksgiving (school closed)

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

It's time again for you to consider joining school council. School councils in Ontario have been established as important vehicles for improving student achievement and enhancing the accountability of the education system to parents.

At Hewitt's Creek, the goal of the school council is to enhance the learning experience of the students. This is done through establishing and maintaining partnerships with the school administration and staff, parents and students, and the community.

Nomination forms can be picked up at the office.

**FIRST COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST FROM 5:30—6:30**

### **SCDSB COMMUNITY APPS PORTAL MAKES VOLUNTEERING EASY**

We appreciate the commitment of all who volunteer at our school. Last year, the Board implemented a new online Volunteer Portal. SCDSB Community Apps is a new online portal that allows you to begin the process for volunteering at a SCDSB school. Volunteer applications and approvals will occur online. The new mandate for Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) training, for volunteers, is also part of the portal. The Volunteer Portal is available for all people requesting to volunteer at a school location:

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

New volunteers will also require a Police Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Screening. Letters to take to the Police station can be picked up in the school office.

### **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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca). If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact the principal or the SCDSB Equity and Inclusion Education Team at 705-728-7570.

### **REGISTER NOW FOR FALL INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

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 or second language, every student can benefit from this program.

The Barrie Learning Centre (at the Bayfield Mall) offers Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Mandarin, Ojibwe, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian and Urdu. The Bradford Learning Centre (157 Holland St. E, Suite 200) offers Dari, Mandarin, Russian and Tamil. The classes take place Saturday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 14 (classes are dependent on student enrollment).

We are also offering Spanish and Mandarin classes on Monday nights at the Barrie Learning Centre starting September 16 from 5 to 7 p.m.

There is no charge for these programs. Most classes fill quickly on a first come, first served basis. Register your child by visiting [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) and clicking on 'Elementary Student.'

### 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.
- **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 exterior doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- **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. Interior 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](http://www.facebook.com/SCDSB) and [www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](http://www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)) and 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 an 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 and Vulnerable Sector Screening** 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 SCDSB 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.

### **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 Student Number and an Access ID. The Student Number can be found at the top of the Student Information Verification Form which will be sent home later in September. 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. Office staff cannot provide Access ID's over the phone.

### **THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE**

The Outreach Team at Hewitt's Creek will be having a Thanksgiving Food Drive from:

**October 7th-October 16**

Once again, we will be collecting non-perishable food items. Monetary donations will also be accepted, payable to the "Farm Credit Canada to Drive Away Hunger" campaign.



### **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.eyeseeeyelearn.ca](http://www.eyeseeeyelearn.ca).

### **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 Mrs. Barry at the school by September 27, 2019. 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.

**SAFE ARRIVAL**

If your child will be absent from school or late arriving to school, please call the school as soon as possible and leave a message on the Safe Arrival Line.



**Call 705-728-2774. Select Option #1.**

**CUTLERY FOR LUNCHES AND SNACKS**

If your child requires a spoon or fork to eat their lunch/snack, please pack them in their lunch bags. The school office does not have spoons and forks to give to students.

**STAY 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). Here are some ways to do that:

- 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. Provide your email and click Subscribe, a message 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.
- Sign up to receive Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://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](https://facebook.com/SCDSB)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/scdsb](https://instagram.com/scdsb)).
- For **School Bus Transportation Information**, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at: [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: [simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

**STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

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 SCDSB 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](http://www.insuremykids.com). Participation in extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs) or out-of-province/out-of-country trips requires the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage. Student accident insurance packages will be sent home with students.

**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 [simcoecountyschoolcashionline.com](http://simcoecountyschoolcashionline.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.