



THE HUSKY HOWLER

Mapleview Heights Elementary School Newsletter
January 2017

Please follow us on Twitter [@mapleviewhts](#) and see the exciting things that are happening within our day!! Se what's new in our library [@mhtlibrary](#)

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE

Happy New Year and Welcome Back! Hard to believe it is already 2017 but we do wish each and every one of you a safe and healthy year ahead. We want to thank all of you that contributed to our Christmas Cheer and gift bag campaigns for your generosity as these items supported those less fortunate and hopefully created a more positive and uplifting holiday experience for those that wouldn't otherwise have gifts or food at Christmas. Once again our community has made us proud!

Winter has arrived and resulted in some tricky driving days. Please remember that we are Central Zone for buses but when buses are cancelled we are open for learning unless otherwise stated in the media. The walkers should be coming to school as the teachers move forward with lessons as we have many bus students driven in each day. Students are not to think of it as a day off so if you deem the conditions to be safe to come in our staff will be here to receive your child(ren) and provide them with a productive day of learning. Your child will be responsible to catching up on what they miss when they return if they do decide to remain at home.

Please keep an eye on our calendar for information on upcoming events such as School Council (Tuesday, Jan. 10th), PJ Day (Friday, Jan 13th), Character Ed Assembly (Tuesday, Jan 24th) and PA Day (Friday, Jan 27th). We also have another Barrie Colts night coming in February and other fundraisers that you can get involved with to support initiatives within our great school! In addition, please celebrate daily with your child their successes and support them in the areas that they find more challenging so that they feel their best effort is demonstrated on their report card coming home February 17th.

Yours in Education,
Ms. Abernethy



FUTURE DATES

Jan 9	Return to Class
Jan 10	Gr. 7/8 Girls Got Grit Meeting
Jan 10	School Council Meeting 6:30 PM
Jan. 12	Gr. 8 Course Selections
Jan. 13	P.J. Day
Jan. 17	Girls Got Grit Cookie Sales
Jan. 18	Caribou Math Contest
Jan. 20	Back in Time Day
Jan. 20	Girls Got Grit Yoga
Jan. 23	Kindergarten Registration Begins
Jan. 25	Pizza Orders due (Feb – April)
Jan. 26	Pita Orders due
Jan 26	Character Education Assemblies
Jan. 27	P.A. DAY
Jan. 30	Girls Got Grit Yoga
Jan. 31	Immunization Clinic (Gr. 7&8)



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



Kindergarten registration opens in January

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2013? If so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Beginning on January 23, 2017, Simcoe County's public schools will register children for Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.

LAST PAPER NEWSLETTER



This will be the last paper copy of the newsletter, moving forward all newsletters will be sent home via email.

Please make sure the office has your up-to-date email address. Please check your email and if you've received an electronic copy of this newsletter you don't have to do anything. If you did not receive a copy of this newsletter, please send an email to Mapleviewheights@scdsb.on.ca with the Subject Line "Parent Email".



HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHTS

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this winter. Information nights give an overview of what's new and what to expect, and are a chance to ask questions. High school is an exciting time—there are so many programs, clubs and activities for students to try. Attend an information night to find out what's offered at your local high school. See the info night schedule and more information on the SCDSB's website at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.



SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

Students and parents invited to complete the school climate survey From Jan. 9 to Jan. 27, 2017, all students in grades 4 to 8 will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey at school about how they feel about their school. Your child's teacher will supervise the class during the survey and can answer any questions or concerns your child may have. As well, parents/guardians of students in grades 4 to 8 will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey about how they feel about their child's school.

These surveys provide students and parent/guardians with the opportunity to say what is great about their school, as well as express their concerns. The survey results will provide valuable feedback to staff and will help schools to develop their Safe Schools Plans. Respondents are not asked to provide their names and all responses will be combined to ensure confidentiality.

To complete the parent/guardian survey, visit the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) website at www.scdsb.on.ca and click the link to the parent/guardian School Climate survey. The password for the survey is **ElementaryParent2017**. If you do not have access to the internet and/or you prefer to complete a paper version of the survey, you can request one at the school office. Questions about the parent/guardian survey can be directed to SCDSB's Research and Evaluation Services team via email at research@scdsb.on.ca. Thank you for your support!

Consortium on Twitter @SCSTC_SchoolBus for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions>. For school event cancellations in case of inclement weather, follow our school's Twitter account at @mapleviewhths or listen to local radio for event cancellation information.

HOST FAMILIES WANTED

Would you like to become a host family for an international student? Learn more about another culture? Share yours? Make a new friend? There are different hosting programs available - several days, weeks, a month, semester or 10 months...it's up to you and your family. For more information, call 705-734-6363 x11211 or email:

studyinsimcoecounty@scdsb.on.ca

FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION SESSIONS

Apply for French Immersion, find out more at information sessions in January

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout the county beginning in Grade 1. This program gives students a bilingual education and the opportunity to become fluent in another language.

Information sessions will be held 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 under Programs, French as a Second Language.

The FI online application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, until 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017 at www.scdsb.on.ca

under Programs, 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 in the program. **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.

THE GILBERT CENTRE

The Gilbert Centre offers support group for parenting LGBTQ kids and youth

The Gilbert Centre facilitates the Parenting LGBTQ Support Group, which is a drop-in meeting group for parents, caregivers, family members and friends. Meetings take place every other Wed. in Barrie. The group offers a safe and confidential space for you to share your experience, hear the experiences of others and grow in your abilities to support your LGBTQ child. Meetings are held every other Wed. at 7 p.m. at The Gilbert Centre, located at 80 Bradford Street (Suite 345) in Barrie. For more information, call 705-722-6778, visit gilbertcentre.ca or email info@gilbertcentre.ca.

LIFE WITH KIDS IS MESSY – AND IT’S OK!



Ever feel like some days you have it all together, and some days you don't? Love your kids to bits, but sometimes feel like you're the only parent who has hard days? Want to connect with other parents who have those kinds of days too? Come join

the conversation on Facebook

@lifewithkidsismessy. Laugh about the tough stuff, hear about what works for other families and to share the ways you give your kids your best. When the messy days pile up, call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

STAY HEALTHY THIS SCHOOL YEAR

Colds and influenza spread easily from person to person.

These germs can spread directly from person to person when someone coughs or sneezes, or indirectly when germs land on hard surfaces like door knobs, desks, keyboards or wet tissues and then are touched by someone. These germs can then enter the body through the eyes, nose or mouth.

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick and stop the spread of germs is wash your hands with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds. If your hands are not visibly dirty you can use alcohol based hand rub hand sanitizer for 15 seconds. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough into your sleeve or upper arm and stay home if you are sick. Teach your kids to do the same!

For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this school year, contact Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit



THE FACTS OF LICE: HOW TO PREVENT AND TREAT THIS NUISANCE

Like everywhere else, there are head lice in Simcoe County. Lice are a nuisance, but do not pose a public health hazard as they are not known to transmit any infectious diseases. Anyone can get head lice but kids tend to get them more often because they can have head-to-head contact with other children during school and play. The best way to keep head lice in check is to work together to prevent the spread.

Schools are required to inform parents when a case of head lice is confirmed, to provide parents with timely information to begin their own checks at home. Head lice management and treatment is a responsibility of parents/guardians.

Here are some tips to help prevent and treat lice:

- Teach your child not to share personal things like hair brushes, combs and hats
- Set a schedule to check your child's head regularly. Use an area with bright light and look carefully for nits (shells containing eggs) and live lice in the hair, behind the ears and around the neck and hairline. Nits looks like half the size of the head of a pin, shaped like a teardrop and stick to the hair so you can't blow, flick, or easily side them off. Lice are about the size of a sesame seed and are very hard to see because they can crawl and hide but they cannot hop or fly.
- If you find nits or live head lice, you'll need to use a head lice treatment to kill them. Make sure to follow the directions, and then to do a second treatment 7 to 10 days later to help stop the lice from returning. Head lice are not likely to live in clothing, furniture or bed linen but it's a good idea to wash bed linen and hats in hot water and dry them in a hot dryer just in case.

For more information, visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's website

www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S PHYSICAL LITERACY

Physical literacy is the ability to move with competence and confidence in a wide variety of physical activities. Much like learning to read using the ABC's, it's important to start with the basics. The



most important step in developing physical literacy is the mastery of fundamental movement skills. As kids become more confident in their movements, they're able to progress their physical skills faster and more successfully than if they skip over the basics and jump right into recreational athletics. Physical literacy not only supports physical fitness and health, it's proven to support strong social skills, mental health, cognitive skills and educational success.

The best way for parents to support physical literacy is to start young providing safe, play-based activities. As they reach the age of four, be sure to support fundamental movements such as climbing, kicking, catching, throwing, dodging, twisting, skipping, sliding, running and jumping. Help your children master these fundamentals as they age by exposing them to activities such as swimming, gymnastics, running games and athletics. And most importantly, make sure that physical activity is always delivered in a fun, safe and supportive way to develop a positive outlook on active movement. For more information on physical literacy and how organizations like the YMCA can help support your family's healthy lifestyle, visit your local [YMCA Health, Fitness and Aquatics Centre](#).

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



We are so very grateful for your participation in our Ghana Gift Bag project. The way your school community came together to work towards a goal is remarkable! The 31

drawstring bags that you filled are absolutely wonderful!

As most of you now know, many of the students of Dekpor Basic School show up to class each day with nothing but the smile on their face and the eagerness to learn. They don't have pens, pencils, paper or any of the other school supplies that we often take for granted. The contents of the GGBs will certainly make a big difference!

The hygiene items will be gratefully received and the toys/fun things will bring many smiles. The truth is, we can't wait to see the reactions of all of the students as they each open their very own gift bag! I truly hope that you will take a look at the photos and videos by checking our website and Facebook page in the New Year. In the meantime, there have been posts about what you've done on Facebook. On behalf of Dekpor School Development Organisation, I'd like to thank you for your kindness and generosity in donating so many fantastic Ghana Gift Bags to us! You rock, Mapleview Heights, you truly rock!

