



THE HUSKY HOWLER

Mapleview Heights Elementary School Newsletter
September 2016

FUTURE DATES

Sept. 9	Welcome Back Assembly
Sept. 20	Volunteer Orientation 2:30pm
Sept. 21	Barrie Colts Game Pep-Rally
Sept. 23	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 29	Meet The Teacher Night
Oct. 3 – 5	Gr. 7 Kamp Kandalore Trip
Oct. 4	School Council Meeting 6:30 – 8:30pm in the Library
Oct. 6	Photo Day
Oct. 8	Barrie Colts Game

STUDENT INFORMATION VERIFICATION SHEETS & PERMISSIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORMS & STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Find attached to this newsletter your child's student information verification form, permissions and acknowledgement form as well as the student accident insurance brochure. Please fill out the permissions and acknowledgement form and make any necessary changes to the student information verification form. Sign and date these forms and return these forms to school asap.

The student accident insurance is optional, and highly recommended if you do not already have extended health benefits and insurance.

In order for your child to participate in school sports, we must receive the signed permissions and acknowledgement form indicating the type of insurance.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this information.

As well, you will find attached to this newsletter information for signing up for the Student Portal and School Cash Online. If you have any questions about these forms, please contact the office.

SAFETY REMINDER: Our school doors are locked during the day

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place designed to keep our school safe. One of the newer initiatives is that our front door is locked during the school day. All other school doors are also locked. To access the building, visitors will need to press the intercom button at the front door.

Staff in the office will let visitors into the school. This will help us ensure that all visitors sign in at the office. Please understand that staff may not be available to answer the door immediately. If you have any questions about safety procedures, as always, please contact the office.

SCOOTER and BIKE REMINDER

Children are encouraged to ride their bikes or walk to school; however this is a reminder there is to be no scooter or bike riding on school property during drop off and pick up times. There is a lot of traffic in our yard at that time and your safety is our top priority. If you are riding your scooter or bike to school please remember your helmet and ride safe.

GIVING BACK TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY – VOLUNTEER IN OUR SCHOOL

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our school a great place to learn and grow. We value and appreciate the support of our volunteers. There are many opportunities available, including school council, breakfast clubs, reading help, assisting in the classroom or library and much more. Everyone who volunteers in a school must have a criminal record check, which includes a Vulnerable Sector Screening. Please call or visit the school office for more information about opportunities available or if you'd like to volunteer!

We value your commitment.

For those individuals currently on our approved volunteer list, your annual offence declarations will be coming home shortly. Please sign, date and return these declarations by Oct. 15th to ensure you remain on our list.



VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION: All volunteers must receive an orientation prior to beginning each school year.

Please attend the volunteer orientation on Tuesday, September 20th @ 2:30pm in the multipurpose room. If you cannot make it, please see Ms. Abernethy or Mrs. McNeice for a private appointment prior to your first volunteer activity.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

If you wish to be a voting member on the school council please obtain your candidate nomination form in the school office. Your form must be returned to the office no later than September 29, 2016. First school council meeting will be on October 4, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the library.



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. Each school has an evacuation site. Ours is Ecole elementaire La Source. 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.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Pay for field trips, lunch days with School Cash Online

The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school. Parents can pay online for lunch days and other items. Parents who sign up will receive a notification when a new item becomes available for purchase. Items are personalized to each student. Parents use a secure online account to process payments, and can either make a one-time payment (e-cheque) for each item as it occurs, or load money to carry a balance in the online account to make payments in the future (e-wallet). To create an online account, go to simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com. Please use the instruction sheet included with this group of forms. Please contact the school office with any questions.

ACTIVE AND SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Walking or cycling to school is a great way to help your child get the 60 minutes of recommended daily physical activity. It also teaches them to be aware of their own safety, builds responsibility and independence, and helps them to feel more connected to the community. And it's good for their physical and mental health!

More walkers also means less car traffic around our school, which will help keep students safe and improve outdoor air quality too. Committing to even one day a week of walking or cycling to school can make a big difference!

To find out more about the recommendations for physical activity and how to make Active and Safe Routes to School happen in your school community, visit www.saferoutestoschool.ca.



NEW STUDENT DRESS CODE

There are lots of ways to dress for school! The SCDSB is introducing a new student dress code this school year. The dress code was developed in consultation with staff and students. 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 garment/objects for the purpose 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.

SCHOOL BUS “BUS TAG” PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS GET TO AND FROM SCHOOL SAFELY

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium’s Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent or guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour coded Bus Tag with the assigned p.m. route number to be attached to the student’s backpack and a colour coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the Bus Tag is matched to. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site daycare to make sure they don’t get on a bus in error.

For more information, visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the ‘Safety’ tab.



There are lots of ways
to dress for school...



...but there are a few things that aren't okay.



Exposed
weapons



Held or chained
accessories



Offensive or
inappropriate content

SAFETY REMINDER FROM THE SIMCOE COUNTY STUDENT TRANSPORTATION CONSORTIUM (SCSTC)

A reminder to drivers as children return to school this fall, and school buses are back on the roads:

- Take caution – be extra cautious in the vicinity of school buses and around school bus loading and unloading zones
- Pay attention – Watch for school buses’ distinctive chrome yellow colouring, flashing red lights and stoparms. **Drivers travelling in both directions on a road without a median must stop for a stopped school bus** that has its upper red lights flashing
- Know the repercussions – Any driver that fails to stop for a school bus with its lights flashing is subject to a fine of up to \$2,000 and six demerit points for a first time offence
- Be empowered – Anyone who witnesses a driver failing to stop for a school bus can report the incident to the police

Visit the SCSTC web site at

www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the ‘Home’ button then the ‘Safety’ tab for more details.

FREE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES CLASSES Registration for fall program available now

Would your child like to learn a new language or maintain their first language? These courses are FREE and open to any student in Grades 1 to 8. Classes run Saturday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 17, 2016. Registration forms can be found at www.thelearningcentres.com or call 705-725-8360 x45151 or 45160 if you have any questions.

REGISTER NOW FOR ESL FALL CLASSES

Do you or someone you know want to improve English language skills? The SCDSB Learning Centres can help. English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults are offered at the Alliston, Barrie and Bradford Learning Centres. Visit www.thelearningcentres.com or call for more information: Alliston: 705-435-7778; Barrie 705-725-8360; Bradford: 905-775-4432.

REMINDER FROM THE SIMCOE MUSKOKA DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT:

Packing a Healthy School Lunch

A school lunch should give children the energy and nutrients they need to be ready to learn, be more alert and perform better at school. When planning lunches keep these tips in mind:

- Include one serving from at least three of the four food groups from Canada's Food Guide
- Rather than buying pre-made lunch kits, make your own healthy lunch kit with divided containers and small 'bite-sized' cheese cubes, left over chicken chunks, veggie sticks or fruit slices
- Get your kids to eat more veggies! Send cucumber coins, zucchini sticks and pepper strips with dip
- Fill whole wheat or multi grain wrap/pits/tortilla shells with your child's favourite foods such as hummus and grated carrot or sliced turkey with honey mustard.
- Water is the best option for hydration

Looking for more information to help keep you and your family healthy? Call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 to speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

REMINDER FROM THE HEALTH UNIT: School Grounds are smoke free 24/7

Protect yourself and your children from the health hazards of secondhand smoke. Remember, it is against the law to smoke ANYWHERE on school property at ANY TIME. This includes smoking in your vehicle while picking up or dropping off students. It is also against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco in a vehicle carrying anyone under the age of 16. The fine for ignoring the law is \$250. For more information contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

NO DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The SCDSB also has a policy of no dogs allowed on property for the animals' safety as well as that of our students. Some students suffer severe allergies to animals and we need to protect them as we do those with asthma and nut allergies.

STUDENT SAFETY AT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

The safety of students is our top priority. Arrival and dismissal are busy times at our school. We need to work together with parents/guardians and childcare providers to make sure students are safe.

Here are key points to be aware of when planning pick up and/or drop off of students:

- Supervision starts fifteen (15) minutes before bell time and ends fifteen (15) minutes after bell time. School staff will contact the parent/guardian, followed by emergency contact, for any student who is not picked up within this time. If late pickup happens often, additional support services may be involved.
- If parents/guardians arrange for other people to pick up their children, like a private childcare provider, the parent/guardian is responsible to ensure the alternate person/program is picking up on time.
- Designated bus loading zones (front driveway) are out-of-bounds during arrival and dismissal times, with the only exception being Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium buses. Private childcare providers will be asked not to use these areas. Parents are also not allowed to drop off or pick up in the bus zones.
- Once buses have departed and the driveway has been opened up by school staff, vehicle traffic may begin to flow through the Kiss N'Ride. Traffic must be in constant flow in this area at all times, meaning no unattended parked vehicles in this area.
- Unattended vehicles must be parked in an approved parking space, outside of the kiss and ride area, with the engine turned off.

A full description of the Supervision, Arrival and Dismissal Procedures is available at www.scdsb.on.ca – Parents – Safe and Healthy Schools – Procedures.