

ORCHARD PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

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FEBRUARY 2018

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Time is a wonderful thing! You can't keep it, save it, sell it or stop it. The value of time and time management skills are very connected to school and life success. Please help us to teach the wonderful value of time to all students. Please ensure that children arrive on time and stay all day whenever possible.

We do really value the partnerships we have with parents. As you will receive report cards later this month, make sure you understand how your child is doing in school. Feel free to call and talk to the teacher. By working together, we can make sure each student is being as successful as possible. Active and involved parents are key to supporting students. *We are all better together!*

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- February 1 National Sweater Day
- February 2 Go Girls Begins – 11 a.m.
- February 5 School Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- February 14 Girlstrong Registration deadline
- February 14 Happy Valentines Day!
- February 16 Report Cards go home
- February 19 Family Day (no school)
- February 21 March food orders are due
- March 12 – 16 – March break (no school)

Girlstrong Registration!

Attention girls in grade 3-8. If you are interested in joining the Girlstrong running and healthy living program, then stop by the office or see Mrs Sopha to get your registration form. Practices will be on Monday and Wednesdays after school from 3:35 - 4:50. The cost for this program is \$20. This includes a Girlstrong t-shirt, finishing medal and final run at Tudhope park.

The deadline to register is Wednesday February 14th. No late registrations will be accepted due to the volume of schools and students to coordinate.

Looking forward to another successful year!

Mrs. Sopha

NATIONAL SWEATER DAY

February 1, 2018

Calling all classrooms to turn down the heat and put on a sweater! **National Sweater Day** is a day to help raise awareness about renewable energy and change behaviours around energy consumption in Canada. Did you know? If all Canadians lowered their thermostats by just two degrees Celsius, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about four megatons — equivalent to taking nearly 700,000 cars off the road.

This year, National Sweater Day will be celebrated on **Thursday, February 1st**. Sweater Day is a fun way for classrooms to get involved in the conversation about **climate change**. National Sweater Day happens once a year, so let's make it count. Ask custodial staff to turn down the heat in school buildings, cozy up in the classroom and learn how your actions can help prevent climate change. Give your students an agenda message or tweet the message home in advance letting families know the school will be a little cooler!

We will also do our annual sweater collection and donate it to local shelters and the less fortunate. Please ask students in your class to bring in unwanted sweaters and hoodies.

Thank you for participating in what ever way you are able.

***COMING SOON – AN ANNOUCEMENT FOR OUR "SWAP YOUR SWEATER" PLAN!**

Orchard Park Eco Team

Parents invited to information sessions about special education

The SCDSB is hosting a series of information sessions for parents/guardians to learn about special education in the SCDSB, and how to support students with special education needs.

Feb. 19

Transition Planning Grade 8 to 9

March 19

Accessing Supports in the Community

April 16

Understanding Alternative/Non-Academic IEP Goals

All sessions take place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the SCDSB Education Centre, located at 1170 Highway 26 in Midhurst. No registration required.

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 2017-2018 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 that is 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!

Now accepting Kindergarten registrations

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2014? If so, it's time to register them for Kindergarten! Elementary schools are now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and immunization records. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.

National Engineering Month competition takes place March 3

Students in Grades 5 to 8 are invited to submit a model bridge, catapult or grabber for the National Engineering Month (NEM) event. Models will be tested for design, strength, quality of construction and functionality. Students of any age are invited to attend to check out 3D printers and robots, Raspberry Pi computer coding demos, crystal radio construction and CNC machine coding. The event takes place on March 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Eastview Secondary School (421 Grove St. E. in Barrie). Lunch will be provided. This event is jointly organized by the Georgian Bay Chapter of OACETT and Simcoe-Muskoka Chapter of PEO, under the banner of NEM Ontario. For more information and to register for this free event, visit <https://nemsimcoe.wixsite.com/nemsimcoe>.

Walking to school is great for students

Walking to school is a great way for your child to get the 60 minutes of daily physical activity that's needed for good mental and physical health. It also builds responsibility and independence, and helps them feel more connected to the community. More walkers means less traffic around our school, which helps keep students safe and improve outdoor air quality. Even one day a week of walking to school can make a big difference! To find out more about how to support active and safe routes to school through School Travel Planning, visit www.saferoutestoschool.ca/school-travel-planning.

Update 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, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal, pertussis and varicella (chickenpox) for those born in 2010 or later.

It's easy to update your child's immunization status. 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

The benefits of youth leadership development

There are many reasons why developing youth leadership skills at a young age is important – it builds confidence, perseverance, problem-solving and communication skills. While leadership skills can come naturally, children and youth often learn lessons through life experiences that significantly impact them later in life. Here are some ways you can help your child develop leadership skills at a young age:

- encourage outdoor adventures and education
- enrol in camps
- find volunteer and community service opportunities

For more information about the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka Youth Leadership Development Programs and Outdoor Education, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

**MARCH FOOD ORDERS DUE
FEBRUARY 21**