

ORCHARD PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

24 Calverley Street, Orillia L3V 3T4
School Web Page <http://orc.scdsb.on.ca>

Phone 705) 325-7772 Fax (705) 325-5522
Follow us on Twitter: @OrchardParkPS

Greg Jacobs
Principal

JANUARY 2018

Cynthia Michaud
Vice Principal

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to Orchard Park and to what promises to be the continuation of a great school year filled with positive learning opportunities for all students.

Every January, many of us make New Year's Resolutions. Resolutions offer opportunities for improvement in whatever area of life we choose. We, at Orchard Park, are no exception. Please join us, as our partners, to work together toward student safety and achievement for all of our students.

1. Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time every day, prepared to learn i.e. homework completed, nutritious lunch & snacks, appropriate clothing and outerwear, fully rested.
2. Please read with your child every day and talk about the story or book with your child.
3. Please walk your child to and from school and encourage older children to walk with friends.
4. Please familiarize yourself with our character traits and discuss examples of good character with your child(ren)
5. Please follow all of our safety procedures with your child as outlined in previous newsletters. Together we can make a difference in your child's success at school.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR KITCHEN!

If you are able to give us a couple hours a week to help with filling snack bowls, please contact the school office.

LABEL YOUR CLOTHES!

Our Lost & Found bin is often full. Please stop by and ask your children to stop by to check for any lost items. **Also, please remember to label all clothing items so they can be returned to your students if lost.**
Thank you!

OHIP+ provides free prescription drug coverage for children

Beginning Jan. 1, the province will provide free prescription drug coverage for children and youth aged 24 and under, regardless of family income. Under OHIP+, Ontario children and youth will have access to over 4,400 medications and other drug products. Enrolment in OHIP+ will be automatic, based on age. There are no upfront costs, no co-payment and no annual deductible. Those who are eligible for OHIP+ will only need their health card number and a valid prescription from their doctor or nurse practitioner when they visit their pharmacist. For more information, visit: www.ontario.ca/page/learn-about-ohip-plus.

Questions about your child's health?

Health Connection offers free, confidential health information from nurses and health inspectors on:

- how your child is growing, parenting tips, fast and healthy meals, safe food and water, common illnesses, keeping kids safe, fun family activities
- health unit programs such as vaccinations and dental care
- community resources for parenting, mental health, addictions, quitting smoking or financial help

Contact Health Connection at 1-705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or <http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/>. If English is not your first language, we have a telephone interpretation service.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

ATTENDANCE REMINDER – please have your children to school on time and only sign them out early if it is absolutely essential. Thank you.

Provide input on proposed 2018-19 school year calendar

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) invites public school communities to submit input regarding the proposed school year calendar for next school year (Sept. 2018 to June 2019). Starting Jan. 9, input can be provided by visiting www.scdsb.on.ca, then clicking the link on the 'School Year Calendars' page under the 'Schools' menu. All stakeholders including staff, school council members, parents/guardians, students and members of the school community are invited to provide input. The deadline to submit input is Jan. 31.

Kindergarten registration starts this month

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2014? If so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Beginning Jan. 22, our elementary schools will register 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.

Changes to Ontario Early Years Centres effective Jan. 1

In February 2017, the Ontario government announced the transformation of the delivery of early years programs for children and families. Starting in January, Ontario Early Years Centres, Parenting and Family Literacy Centres, Child Care Resource Centres and Better Beginnings, Better Futures centres will collectively be known as EarlyON Child and Family Centres. These EarlyON Child and Family Centres will be open to all families across Ontario, and provide support, parenting programs, personal connections and a network of resources as well as play- and inquiry-based programs for young children.

Effective January 1, Child and Family Programs currently in schools will be relocated to the community. These four agencies will now manage EarlyON Child and Family Centres in Simcoe County:

- OEYC Simcoe North, www.oeycsimcoenorth.ca
- Simcoe Community Services, www.simcoecommunityservices.ca,
- E3 Community Services, www.e3.ca
- La Clé (Francophone), www.lacle.ca

For specific days and hours of operation, please contact your local lead agency. Information can be found by visiting www.scdsb.on.ca – ‘Schools’ – ‘Before & After School Care.’

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

Five healthy New Year’s resolutions for your family

Some of the top New Year’s resolutions across all age groups for 2017 were eating healthy, getting in shape and reducing stress. So, how do you set and achieve a resolution to be healthier? It’s been proven that the key to success is setting small goals which require steps towards a larger goal. Here are some New Year’s resolutions that families can work on together in 2018:

- spend 30 minutes outside playing together as often as possible, regardless of the weather
- find a place that provides opportunities for the entire family to be physically active together or offers child care and after-school programs
- add physical activity or play time to the calendar, such as scheduling an evening walk or fitness class, with the same commitment as other important meetings
- pick a fun run/walk or 5K to do as a family – sign up, train and participate together
- have more family dinners together and involve children in preparing meals as much as possible

For more information about programs offered at the Y for the whole family, please visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka (www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)



DATES TO REMEMBER

January 8 th	Return to school
January 15 th	School Council 6:30 p.m.
January 26 th	P.A. Day
February 5 th	School Council 6:30 p.m.
February 19 th	Family Day
March 12 th – 16 th	March Break