



ORCHARD PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Home of the Panthers

24 Calverley Street, Orillia L3V 3T4

School Web Page <http://orc.scdsb.on.ca>
Follow us on Twitter: @OrchardParkPS

(705) 325-7772 Fax (705) 325-5522



GREG JACOBS
Principal

CYNTHIA MICHAUD
Vice-Principal

SEPTEMBER 2017

Balanced School Day Schedule

Supervision Starts	8:50
Period #1	9:00 – 9:50
Period #2	9:50 – 10:40
Nutrition Break	10:40 – 11:00
Fitness Break	11:00 – 11:20
Period #3	11:20 – 12:10
Period #4	12:10– 1:00
Nutrition Break	1:00 – 1:20
Fitness Break	1:20 – 1:50
Period #5	1:50 – 2:40
Period #6	2:40 – 3:30

Simcoe Community Services' Grandparent System Support Program

Simcoe County is home to approximately 4,000 grand-families. The Grandparent System Support Program (GSSP) was established in response to the increased needs and unique challenges experienced by grandparents with the sole responsibility of raising their grandchildren. Caregiver fatigue, health concerns, aging, social isolation, financial strain, legal challenges and complex familial relationships can be some of the challenges faced by grandparents parenting again. The GSSP Support Groups often offer a place to share stories, information and resources in a nonjudgmental way and confidential environment. For more information about the support group, meeting dates/times or if you have questions about the GSSP, contact Trish Longo at gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca of 705-726-9082 x2321

WELCOME TO THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR AT ORCHARD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL!

I am very excited, as the new Principal, to be at Orchard Park Elementary School! I enjoyed meeting a number of students, parents and staff at the year-end BBQ and look forward to our school year together.

The staff at Orchard Park P.S. is pleased to welcome our former students and parents back to school as well as welcome the new students and families to our school. Our school population has grown a little over the summer with a population a little over 425 at school start.

The parents/guardians, caregivers and extended family of Orchard Park E.S. are integral to a child's growth and learning. It is essential that you and your child(ren) feel a sense of belonging at our school. This belonging includes knowing the staff and ensuring that you, your child and your child's teacher are well connected. Teachers, support staff and administrative staff are always available during school hours to assist you and your child in their learning pathway.

We look forward to staff, student and parental support this year as we settle in to our new school year so please do not hesitate to get involved by filling out a volunteer form in our office. We need to get our food programs at the school running in the very near future and volunteer support is essential to make this happen.

We look forward to seeing our families at our new school on Meet the Teacher Night (Open House) on Thursday, September 28, 2017.

Greg Jacobs
Principal

Cynthia Michaud
Vice Principal

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We welcome all parents to be involved in the school. The first School Council meeting is Monday, Sept., 18, 2017 at 6:30 in the school library. If you would like to join us simply come out or if you happen to be unavailable, please call the office to receive a Parent Nomination Form. Our other meeting dates are: Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 15, Feb. 5, Mar. 5, Apr. 9, May 7, Jun 4

STUDENT INFORMATION VERIFICATION FORMS

**PLEASE RETURN ALL CORRECTED,
SIGNED AND COMPLETED FORMS TO
THE SCHOOL BEFORE WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13TH. THANK YOU!**

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. 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 childcare centre 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.

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.

Pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with SchoolCash 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 for each item as it occurs, or load money to carry a balance in the online account to make payments in the future. To create an online account, go to simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com. Please contact the school office with any questions.

YOUR START UP PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Permissions and Acknowledge Form
- Technology Use Form
- Student Verification Form
- SchoolCash.net letter
- Parent Portal Letter
- School Year Calendar

Please make any corrections on the Student Verification Form and return to the office by September 13, 2017.
Thank you!

Information about student accident insurance for the 2017-2018 school year

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 Simcoe County District School Board 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. Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities and out-of-province or out-of-country trips.

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 Pupil ID Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. 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.

Want to volunteer at our school?

Current volunteers who do not submit an Annual Offence Declaration for Volunteers on or before December 31, 2017, will be deleted from the database on January 1, 2018, and will have to submit a new Criminal Records Check and Vulnerable Sector Screen. Please see the office for more information or if you have questions about volunteering in our school.

Career Centre provides job search help for free

Are you looking for work? Would you like help with your job search at no cost to you? The Career Centre is available to help. Visit www.barriecareercentre.com for more information.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 8, 9, 10 – Orillia Fall Fair
September 18 – School Council Mtg at 6:30pm
September 25 – 29 – Safety Village Week
September 27 – 29 – Scholastic Book Fair
September 28 – Open House
November 17 – Parent/Teacher Interviews
November 25 – Christmas Bazaar

School grounds are smoke free 24/7



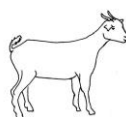
Protect yourself and your children from the health hazards of secondhand smoke. Remember, it is against the law to smoke ANYWHERE on school property at ANY TIME. This includes smoking in your vehicle while picking up or dropping off students. It is also against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco in a vehicle carrying anyone under age 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.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

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.

WATCH FOR OUR FOOD ORDER FORMS LATER THIS MONTH!



ORILLIA FALL FAIR
Sept 8, 9, 10, 2017

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. 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.