



# 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

Remind Texts <https://www.remind.com/join/3eghae>

**MEGAN FRANCIS**  
Vice-Principal

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

## BALANCED SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE

Supervision Starts	8:55 AM
Period #1	9:10 – 10:00 AM
Period #2	10:00 – 10:50 AM
Fitness Break	10:50 – 11:10 AM
Nutrition Break	11:10 – 11:30 AM
Period #3	11:30 AM – 12:20 PM
Period #4	12:20 – 1:10 PM
Fitness Break	1:10 – 1:30 PM
Nutrition Break	1:30 – 1:50 PM
Period #5	1:50 – 2:40 PM
Period #6	2:40 – 3:30 PM
Dismissal	3:30 PM

## STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE 2018-2019

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](http://www.insuremykids.com). Participation in extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs) or out-of-province/out-of-country trips requires the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage. Student accident insurance packages will be sent home with students.

## WELCOME TO THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR AT ORCHARD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL!

Mrs. Francis and I are excited to be at Orchard Park Elementary School!

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 460 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 school on Meet the Teacher Night (Open House) on Thursday, September 27, 2018.

Greg Jacobs  
Principal

Megan Francis  
Vice Principal

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 17:	School Council Meeting at 6:00 PM
September 25:	Turn Around Day
Sept. 27 – 28:	Scholastic Book Fair
September 27:	Open House
September 28:	Terry Fox Run

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

We welcome all parents to be involved in the school. The first School Council meeting is Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 PM 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 tentative meeting dates are: October 1, November 5, December 3, January 14, February 4, April 1 and May 6.

### **STUDENT INFORMATION VERIFICATION FORMS**

PLEASE RETURN ALL CORRECTED, SIGNED AND COMPLETED FORMS TO THE SCHOOL **BEFORE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018.** 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](http://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 TAGS**

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](http://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](http://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**

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to [simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com](http://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com) or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees"
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

It's safe, fast and convenient. Contact the office with any questions.

### **PARENT PORTAL**

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.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

We appreciate the commitment of all who volunteer at our school. This school year, we are implementing a new online Volunteer Portal. SCDSB Community Apps is a new online portal that allows you to begin the process for volunteering at a SCDSB school. The portal eliminates much of the paperwork currently associated with volunteers. Volunteer applications and approvals will occur online. The new mandate for Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) training, for volunteers, is also part of the portal. The Volunteer Portal is available for all new people requesting to volunteer at a school location:

<http://communityapps.scdsb.on.ca>. Only new volunteers or those who require an updated Criminal Background Check Vulnerable Sector Screening (CBC-VSS) are able to register on the portal at this time.

## **CROSSING GUARDS**

The City of Orillia will be providing crossing guards before & after school only. As such we are expecting all students to stay at school all day, including lunch/recess breaks. If you need to pick up your child before the end of the school day, please come into the office to sign them out.

### **A Friendly Reminder from the Eco Team**

School lunches are a major source of waste in Ontario. The average student's lunch generates a total of 30 kg (66 lbs.) of waste per school year, and an average elementary school generates 8,500 kg (18,700 lbs.) of waste per year.

This fall, we will continue our efforts to reduce the amount of garbage that we produce at school by implementing **Trashless Tuesdays**. A waste-free lunch contains no throwaway packaging. We will be encouraging students to bring all food and drinks in reusable containers. As you prepare for the upcoming school year, please consider purchasing easy-to-open, reusable food and beverage containers for your child's lunch instead of plastic wrap, sandwich bags and/or plastic water bottles.

Thank you for supporting our waste-reduction efforts!  
The Eco Team

### **Ideas for packing healthy school lunches**

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 multigrain wrap/pita/tortilla shells with your child's favourite foods such as hummus and grated carrot or sliced turkey with honey mustard.
- Don't have them drink their fruit - send water instead.

For more information to keep you and your family healthy, visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) or call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

### **Stressful mornings sound familiar? Here's how to get organized and out the door on time**

Try these tips to help get the whole family out the door on time:

1. Plan ahead: pack lunches and pick out clothes the night before.
2. Go to bed at a reasonable hour so you wake up rested and ready for the day.
3. Wake up and get yourself ready, before your child.
4. Keep the TV and electronics off. These can be disruptive first thing in the morning.
5. Give clear instructions and be realistic about what your child can do for themselves. Praise them when they do something well to help them learn new skills.

Finally, remember to have patience. Your child learns from watching you! In time your child will learn to plan ahead, be organized, and develop patience too. For more tips, visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) or [www.triplep-parenting.ca](http://www.triplep-parenting.ca)

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

### **READING CLUB**

Orchard Park will be running a before and after-school Reading Club this year for students in **Grades 1-5**. This 8-week session will provide an opportunity for children to build and improve their reading skills and literacy awareness. Children who are struggling with various aspects of reading are able to get individualized instruction.

The upcoming session will run from **September 24th to November 16th, Monday - Thursday**. We have **4 spots** available in the morning (8:40 am - 9:10 am) and **4 spots** available in the afternoon (3:30 pm - 4:00 pm). Students will meet with their reading instructors 4 times a week for short, intensive sessions, focusing on improving skills such as phonics, vocabulary and comprehension. Our Orchard Park Educational Assistants will be the reading instructors for this program. Your child will be assigned to one of our Educational Assistants who will focus on the learning needs of your child.

Parents will be responsible for dropping their children off at 8:35 am for the morning Reading Club. Students will

need to be picked up no later than 4:00 pm for the afternoon session.

If you are interested in your child participating in the Reading Club, please contact Laurie Bertils at [lbertils@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:lbertils@scdsb.on.ca), or by calling the school no later than September 17th. Spots will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

### **GIFTED SCREENING PROCESS**

Some children who display an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential.

In consultation with parents, the school staff determines who these students are through the gifted screening process.

Parents of a student who is **in or above Grade 3** this school year, who wish the school to consider their child for screening, are asked to contact their child's teacher or Laurie Bertils, Special Education Resource Teacher.

The gifted screening process, which will take place this fall, consists of three components:

1. Teacher Rating Scale;
2. Parent Questionnaire;
3. standardized test results (usually the Otis Lennon School Ability Test)

After signing a permission form, parents/legal guardians will complete the Parent Questionnaire. Information obtained from this questionnaire will help the school gain a better understanding of your child's early development as well as his/her strengths, interests, needs and abilities, which the standardized test may not identify. The teacher will complete a Rating Scale, which examines areas such as learning, motivation, creativity and leadership, which he/she has observed in the classroom. Group testing will be completed and the results will provide a standardized measure of school abilities. The information gathered from all three components will assist the school in programming for your child.

If you require information about the gifted screening process, please contact the school.

### **ORCHARD PARK LIBRARY and TECHNOLOGY INFO.**

#### **SIGN-OUT RESOURCES**

Students sign out all materials using TLC, our automated library system. Materials may be kept for two weeks. If after two weeks the student still requires the material(s) they may return it to school for another two week renewal.

#### **LOST MATERIALS**

On occasion, material(s) a student signed out may go missing and they will need to return the overdue slip, mentioned above, signed by their parent or guardian. The material(s) will then be marked as lost and the child

will get back their borrowing privileges. It is not necessary to pay for a book at this time as it may have been lost in the library, or may turn up at home. Towards the end of the year, if the book is still missing, a note will be sent home reminding parents of this lost item. If the parent or guardian feels it was their child's fault the item is missing, they may voluntarily replace the book or material with a similar one from home.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes each have 5 iPads, and every Jr. and Intermediate classroom has Chromebooks. We also have several travelling sets of Apple iPads and Chrome Books that circulate between classes. The school has a website on the Internet. The address of the website is: [orc.scdsb.on.ca](http://orc.scdsb.on.ca)

### **BOOK FAIR(S)**

This year we will be hosting a Scholastic book fair on September 27-28. The profits from this fair go towards purchasing new books for the library as well as supporting programs in the library. Parents are invited to visit the fair on 'Meet the Teacher Night' on Thursday, Sept. 27 and then the fair will be open to students in Grades 2-8 on Friday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> to purchase books during the school day. More detailed information will go home closer to the fair. We will also have a used book fair in February to provide students a chance to purchase used books for 25 cents. Parents may want to donate unwanted children's book to the used book fair. More info will go home closer to the fairs.

### **LIBRARY TIMES**

Grades 1-4 classes will all receive one library/book exchange period each week. Grades 5-8 students may exchange their books in the morning between 9:10 and 9:40 on an as needed basis.

### **TERRY FOX RUN**

As you all know, our school has raised nearly \$2000 dollars each year for the past 5 years. We would love if you could help us reach that goal again this year. To make things a little more convenient, we now have a link to the Terry Fox Foundation so you can make your donations online. Please share this link with your friends, as every dollar helps us find a cure.

Our school run this year will be held on Friday, September 28th.

Thank you for your support.

<http://www.terryfox.ca/OrchardParkESOrillia>

### **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](mailto:gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca) of 705-726-9082 x2321

**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.Eyeseeyelearn.ca](http://www.Eyeseeyelearn.ca).

**WATCH FOR OUR FOOD ORDER FORMS LATER THIS MONTH!**

## **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](http://www.facebook.com/SCDSB) and [www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](http://www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://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.