



## **ORILLIA SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**February 2020**



### **KEEPING SCDSB SCHOOL COMMUNITIES INFORMED ON LABOUR UPDATES**

In August 2019, provincial and local contracts for all education workers in the province of Ontario expired. In the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB), this means that all our unionized groups are at different stages of contract negotiations at the provincial and local level. The SCDSB will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates on the status of negotiations and our schools whenever possible.

Labour updates are issued on the SCDSB website ([www.scdsb.on.ca/about/labour\\_updates](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/labour_updates)), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/SCDSB](https://www.facebook.com/SCDSB)), Twitter (@SCDSB\_Schools) and on the labour updates information line at 1-877-728-1187.

### **WINTER MAINTENANCE AT SCDSB SCHOOLS**

During the winter season, which typically runs from November to April, numerous contractors are assigned to maintain the SCDSB's school sites, which include parking lots and school play yards.

We would like to remind our school communities that overnight parking on SCDSB school sites is prohibited, especially during the winter months, as it interferes with attempts to manage snow and ice removal.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

### **IT'S TIME TO START PLANNING FOR SUMMER (SCHOOL)! REGISTER TODAY!**

Are you and your child planning their courses for next school year? Looking for a way to create flexibility in their timetable and earn a credit? Consider summer school – registration is now open!

Each year, the SCDSB offers a variety of summer programs to over 2,000 students. Summer school options include open, college and university level courses from Grades 9 to 12. Courses are offered in-person or online. Interested students can also travel and earn credits with the summer EduTravel program.

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at <http://thelearningcentres.com/>. Current SCDSB students should speak to their guidance counsellor for information and to register.

## **KEEP CONNECTED WITH OUR SCHOOL AND WITH THE SCDSB**

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Here are some ways to do that:

Subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://OSS.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. Provide your email and click 'Subscribe'; a message will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.

Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca).

Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB\_Schools), Facebook ([facebook.com/SCDSB](https://www.facebook.com/SCDSB)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/scdsb](https://www.instagram.com/scdsb)). OSS Twitter (<https://twitter.com/OSSAnnouncement>)

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at [simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

## **DAYS OF AWARENESS AND RECOGNITION TAKING PLACE IN FEBRUARY**

Throughout the year, there are many awareness days that focus on different causes and recognition. The Simcoe County District School Board has developed a list of these days as a guide for schools. Schools may participate in recognizing some or all of these days in various ways. This list is not exhaustive. Following are the days of awareness and recognition that the SCDSB will recognize during the month of February:

<b>Feb. 2</b>	Groundhog Day
<b>Feb. 15</b>	National Flag Day of Canada
<b>Feb. 17</b>	National Random Acts of Kindness Day
<b>Feb. 26</b>	Pink Shirt Day

**Character Attribute for the month of February - Inclusiveness:** We include everyone in what we do and value their contributions.

More information about Character Education can be found here:  
[https://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education)

## **COPING WITH ANXIETY**

Feelings of anxiety can be common among teens. Sometimes normally happy teens will become anxious or fearful about something for a day or two but will return to normal without any need for help from their parents. However, some teens experience more intense and frequent feelings of anxiety that prevent them from participating in normal everyday life. Creating a positive family environment, encouraging regular school attendance and helping your teen understand and discover ways to cope with their anxiety can help.

If you would like to learn more about monitoring and understanding your teenager's emotions and behaviours, ways to talk openly with your teenager and encouraging your teenager to practice their coping skills, call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and talk to a public health nurse about Triple P – Positive Parenting Program, or visit <http://www.tripleontario.ca/en/home.aspx>.

*\*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

## **YOUR CHILD'S IMMUNIZATION RECORDS**

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 and pertussis

Measles, mumps and rubella

Meningococcal

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](http://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*

## **LEARNING HOW TO SWIM IS A CRITICAL LIFE SKILL**

Learning how to swim is the first defense against drowning and teaching children how to swim at an early age is essential to their safety. Research shows that children who are not taught when they are young tend to avoid swimming lessons as they age, often due to embarrassment.

According to the [Drowning Prevention Research Centre Canada](#), there is an average of 464 preventable, unintentional water-related fatalities occurring in Canada each year. Forty-five per cent of those who drown are weak or non-swimmers. Formal swimming lessons are proven to reduce the risk of drowning by up to 88 per cent. Swimming instruction is a crucial step to protecting children from drowning.

In Simcoe County, we enjoy a wide variety of aquatic activities during the summer months thanks to the many lakes, waterfronts, and recreational facilities surrounding us. Help keep your children safe by enrolling them in swimming lessons. This will teach them important water safety skills and allow them to enjoy and respect the water.

If you think your child is ready for swimming lessons, here are some things to consider:

**Class placement** – Children should be grouped with others in their age range and skill level, and there should be specific skills to master before advancing into each new level.

**Class size** – No matter what the class size, the ratio of staff to students should be appropriate so that instructors can give each child individual instruction, in addition to the group activities.

**Instructor credentials** – Make sure to ask what training the aquatic instructors have received and what certifications they hold before signing your child up for lessons. The [YMCA](#), for instance, requires that instructors have a current Lifesaving Society National Lifeguard certification as well as a [YMCA Swim Instructor certification](#).

The [YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka](#) believes that learning how to swim is a critical life skill, which is why children and adult [lessons](#) are included with every [membership](#). With guidance from their expert instructors, children learn about water safety, build confidence, make new friends and tackle new challenges. For more information about the YMCA swim programs for both children and adults, please visit [www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/swim-lessons](http://www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/swim-lessons).

*\*Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka*

### **ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION – RIGHT TO READ PUBLIC INQUIRY**

With the goal to improve student learning outcomes, the Ontario Human Rights Commission launched a public inquiry (Right to Read) on October 3, 2019 to understand why students with Learning Disabilities struggle to learn to read proficiently and what can be done to remove barriers that prevent success.

Parents/guardian, students and educators are invited to participate in the public inquiry via:

[legal@ohrc.on.ca](mailto:legal@ohrc.on.ca)

1-800-387-9080

To find out more visit <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-read-public-inquiry-on-reading-disabilities>.