



COOKSTOWN CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

<http://ckt.scdsb.on.ca>

Kent Cheesman
Principal

Phone Number (705) 458-4461

Stephanie Jacklin
Vice-Principal

March 2017

Safe Arrival: (705) 458-4461 ext. 1

This year continues to bring with it great accomplishments at Cookstown Central with students excelling in personal achievements. These accomplishments range from academic success, as demonstrated on the Term 1 report cards, to celebrating those that demonstrated the character traits of inclusiveness and caring as well as those that consistently show great character.

We would like to wish everyone a restful and healthy March Break.

Report Cards and Response Form 3rd Page of the Report Card

Report Cards for all students went home in February.

The 3rd page of the report card provides parents/guardians and the student with an opportunity to comment on student achievement, goals and home support and/or to request a meeting to discuss the report card. The response form links formal reporting to the process of assessment (including student self-assessment), reporting and communication about the student's learning that continues throughout the year. It is essential that you return this page even if you do not want to make a comment as this indicates that you have received the report card. Please ensure you celebrate the successes your child has had so far this year and continue to praise them as this will motivate them to be the best that they can be.

Important Dates

March Break	March 13 th to 17 th
First Day back after March Break	March 20 th
Grad Photos (Sr. Kdg. & Gr. 8)	March 28 th
Good Friday (no school)	April 14 th
Easter Monday (no school)	April 17 th
Volunteer Tea	April 19 th
Welcome to Kindergarten	May 31st – 12pm – 1pm

Volunteer Tea

On Wednesday, April 19th at 10:00 a.m. Cookstown Central P.S. will be recognizing all of our wonderful volunteers that have made a difference. We hope those invited can join us.

Developmental Skills Class Popcorn Fundraiser

The Developmental Skills class will be selling popcorn on Fridays to raise funds for the Grade 8 trip. The popcorn costs \$1 per bag and is labelled peanut and gluten free. Popcorn will be sold at the first nutrition break each Friday until the end of April.

Volunteer Needed

We are in need of a volunteer for our Breakfast Club for Monday mornings. This would be between 8:50-9:30 a.m. Please contact the school office if you can help at 705-458-4461.

Procedure for Signing out Students at end of day

If you are picking up students at the end of the day who would normally take a bus please either

sign them out in the office or with one of our teachers on duty at the front of the school. This avoids any confusion as to whether a student is supposed to be on the bus or not.

Planning for Spring Weather

As the warmer spring weather approaches (we hope) and we experience wet conditions in our playground, students need to remember to bring extra clothing to school. Putting extra socks, mitts and pants in your child's backpack can eliminate phone calls home for dry clothing during the school day.

Subscribe to Receive School Bus Delay Notifications

Did you know you can subscribe to receive school bus delay notifications from the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium? Sign up on the Consortium's website: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions> and remember that you can also follow the Consortium on Twitter @SCSTC SchoolBus.

Automated Safe Arrival

Our Safe Arrival program is now automated. Safe Arrival calls are made when a student is absent from school and we haven't been told of the absence. This system is in place to keep students safe. If your child/children will be absent or late, you need to call our Safe Arrival line at 705-458-4461 x 1 and leave a message. If we don't hear from you, we will make calls to find out where your child is. The first call will now be made by an automated phone service. Automated calls will be sent to the home phone number and cell number (if available) for the first parent/guardian listed in your child's file. The automated call will ask you to call our safe arrival line back. If we don't hear from you in 15 minutes, we will start to call other contacts, starting with parents/guardians on file followed by the emergency contacts.

Safe Arrival on Inclement Weather Days

On inclement weather days when buses are cancelled, our system will call the home and cell

number of the first parent on file for all students who are not at school. On these days, the message will ask you to call us back **only if your child should** be at school. If we don't hear from you, we will assume you are aware your child is absent.

Opt out Options

There will no longer be the option to opt out of Safe Arrival for inclement weather only. The new system only allows participation in Safe Arrival or opting out completely. If you would like to opt out mid-year, please visit us in the office, do not leave a message on our Safe Arrival voice mail to indicate this.

Reporting Absences

If your child will be absent, please make sure to call Safe Arrival, or send a note directly to the office. A note in the agenda will not necessarily make it to the office, and you may still receive a Safe Arrival call.

Make sure your contact information is accurate and up to date

Every September we send home a Student Information Verification Form that includes the information we have in our database about your child. We use the parent/guardian and emergency contact information from this form for the Safe Arrival Program.

It's important that you check this form carefully and mark any changes before signing it and returning it to the school. If you need to change contact information at any point throughout the year, please contact us. We'll ask you to provide a written note with the updates. If you have any question about the changes to our program, please contact us.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: WELCOME TO A WONDERFUL JOURNEY OF LEARNING!

Kindergarten registration has begun. To be eligible, your child must be four years of age by December 31, 2017. Please contact the school's office at 705-458-4461 for more information. Appointments are not necessary; however, we suggest you come in between the hours of 9:30-

11:30 a.m. and 2:00-3:00 p.m. daily if you wish to register your child.

We will require proof of your child's birth date (original Canadian birth certificate, Certificate of Canadian Citizenship, Canadian Passport, Permanent Resident Card/Record of Landing, or Statement of Live Birth - long version) and proof of your child's address (e.g., a utility bill). We will also request his/her record of immunization and health card.

Families of Kindergarten students new to Canada or Ontario are asked to contact our "Newcomer Welcome Centre" at 705-725-8360, ext. 310 prior to visiting the school.

For all those that register there will be a Kindergarten event on **May 31st** at 12 p.m. where you will receive information and activities for you and your child and helpful tools for parents of new Kindergarten students.

Shave for the Brave

We are proud to be hosting a Shave for the Brave event. On April 21st, 2017. Volunteering parents/students/staff will be either donating 10 inches of hair or more, or shaving their heads.

The primary students will be involved in the assembly starting at 11:45 and the Junior and Intermediate students will be attending the assembly at 2:00. Parents and the community are welcome to attend. If you are interested in making a donation, you can either go online to Shaveforthebrave.ca, click on Search Event, click on Cookstown Central Public School, then choose a student's name and you can then donate. You are also welcome to donate by cash or cheque (made out to Shave for the Brave) and give it to the office. Thank you for all of your support in this exciting event, we are very proud of our participants.

SMAC Team Campaign

This month our SMAC Team campaign is in support of the only youth shelter in Simcoe County, "Youth Haven." It provides assistance to approximately one thousand homeless teens every

year. You are probably surprised that so many young people find themselves living on the streets in our county. We thought that homelessness was mainly a big city problem too. Sadly, it is not. There are many reasons why young people find themselves homeless. Youth Haven takes them in, regardless of religious beliefs, ethnic, linguistic, or cultural backgrounds, disabilities, or gender identification. The shelter provides them with a safe, caring place to grow and to prepare to support themselves as adults. They receive nutritious food, health care, counseling, educational support, and other services as needed. The employees and volunteers at Youth Haven are thrilled that we are doing a SMAC team campaign for their benefit. Please help us to help them. This is a list of some of the items they need to continue to help the many young people who arrive at their shelter. Let's show them that we care!

Youth Haven Wish List

Household Items (gently used)

Blankets, bed linens, dishes and kitchenware

Hygiene Items (new)

Razors, shampoos, conditioners, deodorants, tooth brushes and paste, toilet paper, pads and tampons.

Clothing (new)

Socks and underwear

Clothing (gently used)

Anything suitable for youth between 12 and 25 years of age.

Food Items (new)

Canned goods, dry non-perishable foods, cereals, crackers, rice, cookies, pasta, juice boxes etc.

Eye See Eye Learn - Free Program for Students Entering Junior Kindergarten

The Eye See...Eye learn program provides comprehensive eye exams by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten 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 the participating *Eye See...Eye Learn* sponsors.

The *Eye See...Eye Learn* program was developed to raise awareness among parents about the importance of having their children's eyes checked upon starting school. The Ontario Association of Optometrists recognizes the important link between eye health and learning, and recommends comprehensive eye examinations for all children entering Kindergarten.

Students entering Junior Kindergarten in 2017-2018 are eligible to participate between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

School Organization 2017-2018

Annually The Simcoe County District School Board uses its staffing formula for teacher assignments to schools. Within the parameters of those assignments, Principals organize their schools based on available staffing and the number of students projected for the following September.

Tentative assignments are made in May, but not confirmed until the end of September, after all students have been accounted, including families moving into and out of the school area. Classes are of course set up for the first of September, but often significant movement needs to take place because of reorganization late in the month.

Should you have what you believe to be a **significant academic reason** to request a particular placement for your child, please send such requests **IN WRITING** to the school office for consideration no later than **Friday, May 12th**.

New Safe School Tool to Report Bullying, Drug Use or Vandalism

The SCDSB has developed a new on line Safe Schools Reporting Tool, which is available on our school website homepage, <http://ckt.scdsb.on.ca>, As a Quick Access button. Students and parents can use this tool to submit a report online if they

witness a student engaged in inappropriate behaviour such as bullying, drug use or vandalism. Students are still encouraged to speak to a trusted adult at school or home if they have any concerns. This form isn't a substitute for having a discussion with your teacher or principal. Student safety and well-being is always our top priority. For more information please contact the school or visit

<http://scdsb.on.ca/ReportAnIncident>.

Ensure your Child's Immunization Record is up to Date

All families are required to provide the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit with a record of their child's immunization information. This is required by law under the Immunization of School Pupils Act. The SMDHU can suspend students whose immunization records are not up to date.

You can update your child's immunization record in one of the following ways:

- Online at:
www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/immsonline
- Fax: 705-726-3962
- Call: 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext.8807

Cookstown "Ice Cougars" Hockey

This year our school again has the opportunity to have an Ice Hockey team. The team will have the opportunity to compete in an elementary ice hockey tournament to be held in early April. The tournament itself will consist of approximately 4 different divisions, each division being determined by the strength of their team's roster. Each team is guaranteed two games with the possibility of one extra final game for the division championship. The focus of the tournament is on fun participation. There will not be a single county champion, instead there will be a series of divisional champions and finalists. The tournament is co-ed optional, non-contact, with no slap shots.

Our Team this year will consist of grade 7 and 8 students. All players must wear CSA approved

equipment, including helmet, face-shield, neck guard, and mouth guard.

All players must be adhering to their academic responsibilities and receive permission from their homeroom teacher indicating that their behaviour in class and around the school is in line with Cookstown Central's Code of Student Behaviour. All tryouts, practices, and home exhibition games will be held at the Thornton arena at 4:00 PM and will be one hour in length (50 mins.).

Transportation to and from the arena is the responsibility of the student/player. Further, all students are expected to attend school the day of a scheduled ice time.

Please note that in extreme circumstances, players may be asked to leave the team for reasons such as behaviour, attitude, or academic ineligibility/indifference.

Intermediate Boys Basketball Team

Congratulations to the intermediate boys' basketball team this season. This year the boys worked hard in practice to improve their overall skills along with their basketball knowledge. The Cougars put in an excellent effort at our zone tournament and ended up losing in the finals. A special thanks to the grade 8's this season. Your leadership skills and work ethic were fantastic and made it a pleasure to coach. I wish you nothing but the best next year and hope you continue to pursue basketball at the high school level. For the grade 7's your skills have improved greatly this season and Cookstown looks forward to having you try out again for next year's team. Thanks for a great season,

Mr. Armstrong

Intermediate Girls Volleyball

The intermediate girls volleyball team started out their season this year missing 3 matches due to snow days. That allowed the girls limited exhibition games to practice skills against opposing schools. They were able to make it to the quarter finals at the Joan of Arc tournament against possible county tournament opponents.

That is, of course, if they made the county tournament!

Well, the zone tournament was successful for the girls, winning their pool against Alliston and Baxter, then winning the semi-final and final for a spot in the Area tournament. The girls only improved in their comfort and skill as they easily moved through the semifinals of areas beating Chris Hadfield, then taking down Earl Rowe in the finals to win the area tournament banner. The girls are officially heading to the county tournament being held at Eastview on March 22nd. Looking forward to another successful tournament run in a few weeks. Congrats to the girls and wish them good luck!

Junior and Intermediate Debaters' Teams

On January 12, the Intermediate Debate Team travelled to the county Debaters' Forum at the Education Centre, and on February 2, the Junior Debaters' Team did the same. Both teams competed against 18 other teams from schools across the Board. They made a great showing and performed well. They should all be proud of their work. Congratulations to Aidan, Emily, Mika, and Nikki for the intermediates, and to Ali, Isy, Mihaela, and William for the juniors. Well done!

Science Fair

On February 27th, we held our school-wide Science Fair. There were 45 projects presented by over 60 grade 4 to 8 students. The fair was a huge success and the caliber of the projects was exceptional. Congratulations to all who participated for a job well done! Fifteen projects have been selected by a panel of judges to proceed to the Simcoe County Regional Science and Technology Fair to be held at Bear Creek Secondary School on April 7th and 8th. Please consider coming out to support our students. The fair will be open for public viewing during the morning on April 8th. The students who will be representing our school are: Mika J., Emily G., Sylvie P., Nikki V., Owen G., Olivia H., Kaylyn W., Mitchell D., Kiefer H., Emma M., Rebecca L., Rachael L., Jacob P., Jalen M., Daniel R., Thea H.,

Christian L., Garrett L., Aytal E., and Catherine H.
Congratulations and good luck!

Attention All Girls in Grades 3 to 8

Cookstown Central will be running the "GirlStrong" program at our school this spring. This program is similar to Girls on the Run. GirlStrong is a 6 week program and girls would have to commit twice a week after school for the 6 weeks (1.5 hour sessions), with a final 3K fun run on a Saturday in June (TBD). We are hoping to run a program for girls in grades 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 so their discussions can be meaningful and appropriate for their age groups. The program cost is \$25.00 per girl. Dates and times will be on the permission form. The fee includes:

- Running workouts, character development sessions and games for each session
- Girlstrong T-shirt for each girl
- Girlstrong finishing award

Some information about Girlstrong:

Girlstrong provides girls in Grades 3 to 8 with the opportunity to achieve fitness and lifestyle goals in an active, non-competitive environment. The 6 week running program will focus on training for a 3km challenge, while enhancing self-esteem and encouraging healthy living. We have teachers who have volunteered to coach, so we do not need any additional volunteers at this time.

Primary & Junior Assessments

During the months of May and June, Grade 3 and 6 students will be participating in the Province wide Education Quality and Assessment Office (EQAO) assessment. Grade 3 will be participating May 23 - 26 and Grade 6 will be participating May 30 - June 5. The assessment requires students to participate for up to 2 blocks each day over five days.

This year the assessment package contains four separate booklets; math investigation, reading, writing and a multiple-choice booklet, which encompasses all three subject areas. In our partnership with parents to help their students achieve success, we have created a list of things

parents can do to ensure that each student has a positive experience when writing the assessment:

BEFORE THE ASSESSMENT

- Mark the assessment dates on your calendar at home
- Discuss the assessment with your child; ask about activities that are being done in class to prepare for the test
- Help your child feel comfortable by letting him/her know that we only want them to do their best

DURING THE ASSESSMENT

- Support your child by discussing the daily assessment activities
- Avoid making appointments on assessment days as attendance is crucial
- Ensure your child has a good night's sleep so they are well rested and has a great breakfast!

As we continue to work together as a team in your child's education we can help students see the assessment as an important and positive part of their learning experience.

Lost and Found Items

We will be displaying lost and found articles from Monday, March 6th to Thursday March 9th in the lower hallway. On Friday, March 10th we will be packing up any remaining articles and donating them. If your children have lost any articles of clothing please encourage them to check the items on display or come in and have a look yourself.

Events at Eastview Secondary School in April open to all parents

On April 10 at 7 p.m., Eastview Secondary School will host a screening of the film *Screenagers*, a study of growing up in the digital age. Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston created *Screenagers* to probe into the vulnerable corners of family life to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. This presentation will help parents learn how tech time impacts kids' development

and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world. On April 12 at 7 p.m., the school welcomes financial literacy expert Robin Taub, the author of the bestseller, *A Parent's Guide to Raising Money-Smart Kids*. Her presentation will cover why it's important to teach kids about money, as well as the challenge of being a good financial role model. She will explain how to address money-related topics with young kids, pre-teens, teenagers and emerging adults.

All parents/guardians are welcome to attend the above events. For more information, please contact Eastview Secondary School at 705-728-1321. The school is located at 421 Grove St. E. in Barrie.

SCDSB Media Fest: What Does Being a Great Canadian Look Like?

Students are invited to submit an entry for the 2017 SCDSB Media Fest. This media festival is open to all Simcoe County District School Board students and can include images, audio and video. For more information, visit www.scdsbmediafest.com. The submission deadline is April 3.

Student Information Notice for Parents of Grade 8 Students

As students progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared which eases each student's transition. Sharing this information also improves our ability to program effectively to benefit all students. Select student information will be shared at different times as appropriate. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes is authorized under sections 170, 171, 190 Part X and Part X111 of the Education Act. All information used for the transition process is limited, secure and protected at all times. Please contact Mr. Daryl Halliday, Superintendent of Education for this area, if you would like more information about the transition process.

Messages from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:

March is Nutrition Month - Tips for packing a healthy school lunch

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 kids to eat more veggies! Send cucumber coins, zucchini sticks and pepper strips with dip
- Fill whole wheat or multi grain wraps/pitas/tortilla shells with your child's favourite foods such as hummus and grated carrot or sliced turkey with mustard

Looking for more information to help keep you and your family healthy? Call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 to speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Get outside to play on March Break

Active play does more than help kids to achieve the 60 minutes of physical activity they need every day, it supports their development in many ways - especially when the play is outdoors, self-directed and fun. This allows kids to test boundaries and problem-solve, develop social skills and resolve conflict, and learn to control their emotions and behaviour. Active play outdoors in the fresh air and nature also helps to improve mood and lower stress. Support your child to play outside with friends in the neighbourhood and at your local park as much as possible.

Reminder: School Playground Safety in the Spring

The sun is warming things up, days are getting longer and many students are itching to get back on the school playground equipment. While it's hard to say 'no' to those eager faces, it's important to make sure the equipment is safe and ready to be played on.

Over the winter, school play structures have to be closed. The closure is for many reasons. The main reason is that snow and ice change the surface of the ground surrounding the play structure, packing the sand/gravel/mulch into a hard, packed surface, which can be a significant fall hazard. (Equipment is inspected by the school principal or designate during the school year.)

These inspections are to ensure that there are no obvious hazards, broken equipment, vandalism, graffiti, litter, dangerous items or play items left behind. There is also an annual inspection by a professional company employing Canadian Certified Playground Inspectors.

Each spring, a designated contractor travels to all schools with playground equipment to till the surface to ensure that the sand is no longer compacted before opening the equipment for student use. In some cases, the wear and tear, rain or winter may have washed some sand away and it will need to be replaced.

Playgrounds can be fun learning opportunities for students, so let's all make them safe spaces - we look forward to spring and getting students back on our school playground structures soon!

Ontario Early Years Centre - Alliston

Are you home with little people and looking for something fun to do? Drop by the Ontario Early Years Centre in Alliston! The OEYC is a free service for all adults with children 0 to 6 years of age. Adults and children participate in activities together. Children have the opportunity to play with other children and participate in many different types of programs and activities, which promote early learning and school readiness, and they are FUN for children and adults alike. Do you have a child starting school in 2017?

Participating in activities at the OEYC is a great way to help prepare your child for this exciting transition. OEYC staff have resources for kindergarten preparation. Just drop by and ask! Check out our website, www.e#.ca or call 705-435-4308 for hours, directions and more information.

Calling all adults home with pre-school children! Join Debra from the Ontario Early Years Centre on Wednesdays March 8th and 22nd and Friday March 17th at 10:30 a.m., at the Cookstown Library for an early learning program for children 0 to 6 years of age accompanied by an adult, which will include literacy and sensory experiences, songs, crafts and more. Fun, early learning for children!

AND/OR you can:

Join Marie at the Thornton Library Fridays March 10th and 24th at 10 a.m. for an early learning program for children 0 to 6 years of age accompanied by an adult, which will include literacy and sensory experiences, songs, crafts and more. Fun, early learning for children!

Triple P Seminar Series for parents of children 0 to 10 years of age.

Small changes can make a big difference! Plan to attend these three seminars for tips to make parenting easier and more fun!

- The Power of Positive Parenting
- Raising confident Competent Children
- Raising Resilient Children

Wednesdays March 22 and 29 and April 5 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Presented by Janet Humphrey, Ontario Early Years Centre Simcoe Grey at the Alliston OEYC site, 13 Wellington Street West, Alliston. Call 705-435-4308 to register.

Reminder:

Please continue to save your pop tabs and Campbell's Soup Labels!