



COOKSTOWN CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

5088 County Road 27
Cookstown, ON L0L 1L0
705-458-4461 (School)
705-458-4814 (Fax)



Mr. Kent Cheesman
Principal

Mrs. Stephanie Jacklin
Vice-Principal

OCTOBER 2016

**SCHOOL COUNCIL – Next Meeting: November 7, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Library
Elections for Council executive will be at this time**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

September has proven to be a fantastic start to the year as we have a lot to be excited about! We had our first Character Assembly on September 29th to honour those that have demonstrated great character throughout the month. The staff and I would like to wish each and every one of you a safe and relaxing Thanksgiving with family and friends. You certainly have a lot to be thankful for as you have amazing children which we all get to watch learn and grow.

Mr. Kent Cheesman
Principal

Please note that our next Character Ed Assembly will be on **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31st** with the Primary Assembly at 11:35 and the Jr./Int. Assembly at 12:25. The trait for that assembly will be Cooperation and the theme will be Black & Orange Day. No costumes please.

Reorganization balances class sizes to support your child's success

Each September, our school starts off with a certain number of classes and teachers – these numbers are based on estimates made the previous spring about how many students will be enrolled during the next school year. As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education has class size goals that all school boards are required to meet. When the Simcoe County District School Board organized its schools in the spring, they adhered to this expectation. Each September, the board compares actual enrolment numbers to the numbers projected by the board in the spring. At times it is necessary to reorganize classes. After reorganization, some students may move to another class in order to balance class sizes. In some cases, it may be necessary to move teachers to a new school. If your child was affected by a change, you would have received a letter with details following reorganization.

Important Dates

October 5th - Cross Country Areas
October 5th & 6th - Scholastic Book Fair
October 6th - Meet the Teacher (4:45pm)
October 6th - Flag Football Zones
October 10th - Thanksgiving
October 13th - Volunteer Orientation (9:30am)
October 17th - Gr. 7 & 8 Trip Meeting (6:30pm)
October 18th - Cross Country Counties
October 21st - PD Day
October 27th - Flag Football Counties

Message from Director of Education Kathi Wallace

At the September 28th Board Meeting, it was shared publicly that I will retire as of December 31, 2016. As I'm sure you can imagine, this decision was challenging for me. I love what I do - I have felt this way in every role during my 39 years in this board.

It's truly been an honour to serve the students and families of Simcoe County throughout my career. I've had the privilege of working with fantastic staff, parents and community partners. I've been surrounded by skilled, passionate and caring people.

My focus remains on our work as I complete my time here. The Board of Trustees have now started the search for a new director. We will also continue with our strategic planning consultation and analysis. The input provided by our staff, students, parents and community members will be invaluable to the board and senior administration, including the new director, as they move the system forward. If you haven't already, I encourage you to add your ideas by visiting www.scdsb.on.ca/difference.

I am also looking forward with optimism to this next stage of my life. It's a chance to spend some more time with my family. This includes my growing group of beautiful grandchildren who provide that daily reminder of life's wonder and simple joys. It's that same reminder I cherish from my days as a classroom teacher.

Don't forget to register for SchoolCash Online to pay for pizza days, filed trips, fundraisers etc.

You can register at <https://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com> or through the school website at ckt.scdsb.on.ca via Pay Fee Tab. The cutoff date for ordering pizza for October 14 & 28 is Sunday, October 9th. We strongly encourage you to sign up today as we trying to become a cashless school!

School Visitors and Entrance/Exit Procedures

All parents and other visitors are required to check in at the office whenever visiting the school. A visitor tag will be issued identifying you as a welcome guest to our school. Not only does this aid communication but it enhances the security of our school.

At the end of the day, to avoid congestion in our hallways, we ask that parents wait outside the exit door their child uses - thank you for your support and understanding.

Although we wish students to arrive in good time for the start of school, we are unable to provide supervision of students until 9:00 a.m. (and students do not enter the building until 9:15 a.m.), so for safety purposes please ensure that students do not arrive prior to 9 a.m.

Student Accident Insurance for Extra-curricular Activities and trips

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 school board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can happen. It is essential that all students participating in extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage. The SCDSB has selected *Insure My Kids* as an option for parents to consider. The coverage is for 24 hours a day and offers a variety of plans at reasonable prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com.

High School Information Nights coming to a School near you!

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this fall and winter. This event gives an overview of what's new, what to expect, as well as a chance to check out the school and ask

questions. Check out the full schedule of info nights and more information at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.

Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair previews are Wednesday October 5th and buying will take place on Thursday October 6th. The book fair will be open during Meet the Teacher Night.

Barrie Colts Night

This year our Barrie Colts Night will take place on Saturday November 19th vs. the Ottawa 67's. Ticket information to follow.

Grade 7 & 8 Trip Meeting

There will be a trip information meeting on Monday October 17 at 6:30 p.m. for all parents of Grade 7 and 8 students. Information regarding the Grade 8 trip to Ottawa and the Grade 7 trip to Toronto will be provided. It is recommended that both students and parents attend this meeting as valuable and important information will be shared by the teachers. Any questions parents or students may have can also be answered at this meeting.

Free math help for students in Grade 7 & 8

Homework Help is a free online math help resource for students in Grades 7 to 10. Homework Help provides FREE math homework help each evening online by following the following link: https://twitter.com/SCDSB_School/status/775416027458994176.

Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15: Join the Don't Wait, Check the Date Selfie Challenge

Fire Prevention Week is October 9 to 15, 2016 and local fire departments wants you to join the *Don't Wait, Check the Date!* Selfie challenge. Smoke alarms wear out over time and need to be replaced within the time frame indicated by the manufacturer, usually 10 years. The date of manufacture is indicated on the back of the smoke alarm and the expiry date is taken from that date. Smoke alarms are required on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Test all of your smoke alarms monthly by pushing the test button on the alarm, and replace batteries at least once a year or when the alarm's low battery signal begins to chirp

Families are challenged to take a selfie of their family checking the expiry date of their smoke alarms and post it on social media using #checkthed8. For more

information about testing and replacing your smoke alarms, visit: www.ontario.ca/firemarshal.

Attendance

It is important that parents ensure that they get their children to school on a regular basis and to make sure they are on time. Regular attendance and punctuality improves student performance and enjoyment. If there are concerns you will receive notice from admin prior to an attendance councilor being appointed.

Reduce the risk of life threatening anaphylactic reactions.

No peanuts or tree nuts please.

Cookstown Central Public School is working to reduce the risk of anaphylactic reactions at school and has asked for the cooperation of all parents/guardians to avoid sending peanuts, peanut butter, tree nuts (walnuts, cashews, almonds etc) or products with peanuts or tree nuts listed in ingredient lists to school. This is very important as trace amounts of peanut butter transferred to desks, sports equipment or classroom materials can be fatal. For an allergic child, touching an allergenic food like peanut butter on a surface and then transferring it to the mouth, nose or eyes could cause a life-threatening allergic reaction.

Please read labels on all packaging for any peanut or tree nuts. Thank you for helping to reduce the risk of anaphylactic reactions while at school.

Halloween and Anaphylaxis

For our students who have life threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts (walnuts, almonds, pecans etc.), **Halloween really is a scary time for them** as so many Halloween treats have peanuts or tree nuts in them.

They and their parents are always reading labels and not eating packaged treats that have peanuts or tree nuts in them. No one wants to spend Halloween in the hospital with a life threatening allergic reaction!!

We can help to make Halloween less scary for them. Please take the time to **read labels on all candy/treat packages. If you see peanuts, tree nuts or any other nut word on the label, please do not bring the package to school - plan to eat the treat at home.**

Remember too that for candies/treats with no ingredient lists..."When no label, leave it at home!"

Thanks for helping to "Reduce the Risk" of anaphylactic (anna-fill-lactic) reactions at our school. A safe and happy Halloween to all of our students, parents and staff!

Insure your child's immunization record is up-to-date

The Ontario Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires the health unit to have up-to-date immunization records for all students attending school. According to ISPA (2014), students are required to vaccinated against the following diseases:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio and Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (must have two doses after the first birthday)
- Meningococcal Disease (must have one dose after first birthday & Men-C-ACYW in Grade 7)
- Varicella (chickenpox) - only for those born in 2010 and after

The health unit **does not** receive immunization information directly from doctor's offices. Please contact the health unit each time your child receives a vaccine from their health care provider.

What you can do:

- Check your child's yellow immunization card
- Contact your child's health-care provider to obtain records or get missing vaccinations
- Go to <http://www.smdhu.org/immsonline> to enter the complete record, or fax a completed record to 705-726-3962

Eye See...Eye Learn Program

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 from a participating optometrist. For more information, visit www.Eyeseeyelearn.ca.

Bus cancellation information in case of inclement weather

Although fall has just arrived, winter is just around the corner in Simcoe County. With it comes the possibility of severe weather, challenging winter driving conditions and, as a result, possible bus and school event cancellations.

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the

South zone. When buses are cancelled, please remember that schools are still open (unless otherwise noted) for student learning. The Consortium, in conjunction with bus operators, will make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and as such, will make every effort to post announcements between 6 and 7 a.m. Parents should also note that inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day.

You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notification here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions> and you can follow the Consortium on Twitter @SCSTC_SchoolBus.

School Website

We would like to remind all students and parents of Cookstown Central P.S. that our school website is another good medium to navigate. On the site you will find information such as newsletters, forms, school policies, team schedules, news, events, classroom pages, and more. The site address is: www.ckt.scdsb.on.ca.

Volunteers

Volunteers are enthusiastically welcomed in our classrooms, to help with reading programs, school projects and field trips. They are needed to assist with special events, in the library, with safe arrival, the snack program, breakfast club, pizza days and to drive for sporting events. Each year every volunteer must go through an orientation/update session. All volunteers must have a vulnerable sector police check completed before volunteering. **Our volunteer orientation will be held on Thursday, October 13th at 9:30 a.m.**

Cookstown Reading Adventures

Join us on an adventure to promote reading at Cookstown Central Public School.

This program will provide parents/caregivers with resources and strategies to support children's reading progress.

We need volunteers to become **Reading Leaders** for our students.

What does it involve?

- Once a week conduct a reading session - 30 - 45 min. per week

There will be a 30 minute information session that will:

- Provide strategies to help children become more fully engaged in reading.
- Show how to provide positive praises to encourage reading.

- Explain leveled reading expectations.

For further information please feel free to email Erin Helleman: erhelleman@hotmail.com

Ontario Early Years Centre

Are you home with little people and looking for something fun to do? 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!

Call 705-435-4308 for hours, directions and more information.

Join Debra from the Ontario Early Years Centre on Wednesdays October 12th and 26th and Friday October 21st 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 that 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 October 14th and 28th at 10 a.m. for an early learning program for children 0 to 6 years of age accompanied by an adult, that 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 October 19 & 26, November 2, 2016 - 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Essa Township Programs

IN THE MIX (Thornton Arena & Angus Rec Centre)

HIP HOP DANCE & IPAD MUSIC-VIDEO CREATION - Ages 3 - 6 and Ages 7 - 12 (8 weeks) minimum 8 per class

In the Mix is an innovative program that provides a unique opportunity for children to explore what's new in dance, music and internet technology. This experience is very much about developing mind and body, and gaining confidence and social skills. Students will learn a brief hip-hop dance to share with parents at the last class. They will also work collaboratively in small groups to create one-of-a-kind music-videos, using iPads supplied by In the Mix. Kids get to be Directors, DJs, and Choreographers while producing their own custom Hip Hop music-videos! Students have full creative freedom yet are guided appropriately to help them progress and spice up their videos and dancing. At the end of the session, students receive a special "In the Mix" keepsake and can also securely view their videos at the in the Mix website. To learn more about this program visit www.inthemixprogram.com.

Youthreach - Opening doors to the future

Youthreach is a charity in Simcoe County supporting youth and families who might not otherwise participate in programs and activities with fees.

Can't afford extra-curricular programs for your kids? **Youthreach** helps pay registration fees and equipment/instrument costs for kids from Simcoe County for a huge variety of organized programs and camps when families are facing financial challenges. These programs include sports, music, theatre, etc. For more information contact www.youthreach.ca.

Innisfil Skating Club

Offering programs for every level of skater from beginner to competitive: Learn to Skate, PreCanSkate, CanSkate, STARSkate and Competitive.

Offering the only nationally recognized Learn to Skate Program in Canada and provides kids with the best foundation for skating, hockey, speed skating and ringette.

All Programs are instructed by nationally certified professional coaches.

For more information please go to our website at www.innisfilskatingclub.ca.