



COOKSTOWN CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

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NOVEMBER 2017

SCHOOL COUNCIL – Next Meeting: Monday, November 6, 2016 in the Library at 6:00pm

Remembrance Day

We will be holding a Primary Remembrance Day service on Friday, November 10th at 9:30 a.m. and a Junior/Intermediate Remembrance Day Assembly at 10:20 a.m. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome to do so. Please remember to sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's tag and poppy. All students will receive a poppy prior to the assembly. Any donations would be greatly appreciated by the Royal Canadian Legion.

Important Dates

November 6	School Council Meeting
November 10	Report Cards Go Home
November 14	Picture Re-takes
November 16	Gr. 7 Immunizations
November 16/17	Student Led Conferences
November 17	P.A. Day
November 30	Character Ed Assembly P.J. Day

New School Council Executive, 2017-18

Elections for this year's School Council were held in October. The following are our 2017-18 executive members:

Chair - Erin Helleman
Vice-Chairs - Alison Hall & Petronela Groza
Secretary - Vicki Gillespie
Treasurer - Donna Lange
Volunteer Coordinator - Laura Cochrane

Thank you to these individuals for the key roles they play, helping the students and staff of Cookstown Central Public School.

Student Led Conferences

If you have not booked a time for your child's student led conference please contact the school to do so. They are taking place on November 16th from 3:45 to 8:00pm and November 17th from 9:00 to 11:45am.

Picture Re-takes

Please note that Picture Re-take day is on Tuesday, November 14th.

Start Knittin' those Mittens!

We will have our annual mitten tree in the Library again this year. We hope to have a tree full of **NEW** mittens, hats, gloves, scarves, socks and slippers for all ages. Please send your donations into the office. Thank you!

Snow Valley Coupon Booklet Fundraiser

Once again this year we will be selling coupon booklets for Snow Valley at a cost of \$20.00. These booklets are available for purchase through SchoolCash online or you may purchase them in the school office.

Barrie Colts Fundraiser

Please join us for an exciting hockey game! Barrie Colts vs Oshawa Generals at the Barrie Molson

Centre on Saturday, November 25th, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are still available online for \$20.00.

Cookstown Elf Shelf



It's that time of year again for the Cookstown Elf Shelf!!

This event is the perfect time for the little ones to do some grown-up Christmas gift shopping of their own!

- ✿ Cookstown is looking for items to fill our Elf Shelves so our children can purchase and wrap their treasures for their families.
- ✿ Special Elf helpers will assist their young customers with gift selection and wrapping.
- ✿ Shopping will take place on December 19th but collection of items is starting now so box up all those giftable items and support the Cookstown Elf Shelf fundraiser.
- ✿ Drop box will be in front of the office.

Items needed

- ✿ New or gently used items, especially gifts for men!
- ✿ Wrapping paper, gift bags
- ✿ Tape, tissue paper
- ✿ Name tags

Elf Shelf Shopping will take place on
Tuesday, December 19th

Christmas For Kids 2017

Starting the week of November 6th and continuing until December 22nd, Cookstown Central Public School will be having its annual food, toiletries, and toy drive.

Christmas for Kids is a registered charity in Innisfil that helps families at Christmas. In the past many families in Innisfil have contacted the Christmas Cheer program in Barrie; however, families do have the option of getting help in their own community. There are many generous people in Innisfil who want to support their own residents. "Christmas for Kids" treats all families with dignity and respect as all information is kept confidential. If your family could use assistance this Christmas, please speak to the principal in confidence before December 15th and you will be referred to the director of the program who will give you a call.

Coats and Boots

We will be collecting new and gently used coats and boots for the month of November to be donated to families (children and adults) in our area. Please bring any donations into the school office. Thank you.

Gift Card Program

The Gift Card Program will be underway soon so please watch for the email or order forms to be sent home. There will be opportunities to place orders before Christmas. Thank you to all who purchased the cards last year making the program a huge success!!

You can purchase gift cards for grocery or personal shopping you would be doing anyway. They make great birthday gifts, teacher gifts and Christmas gifts!

Book Fair

Our recent Book Fair was the most successful yet! Mrs. Warren would like to thank everyone who supported this event. It brought us many new books for the library!

Terry Fox Fundraiser

Thank you to all Cookstown families who donated and made our Terry Fox Run successful this year. Our school collected a total of \$2,900.

Cookie Dough Pick up

Cookie dough will be available for pick up on **Thursday November 16th from 3:35 until 8 p.m.** This is a one night only pick up time as the cookie dough needs to be kept cold. Make arrangements to have your order picked up no later than 8 p.m. in the front foyer of the school. Orders will not be sent home with students on busses.

Congratulations to Our Teams**Cross Country Team**

Mrs. McDermott and Mrs. Morris would like to recognize students who made up this year's cross country team. They are all true examples of what sport, character, commitment and dedication are. Over the course of 4 weeks, these students ran between 16 and 24 km just to try out. They are examples of dedication and responsibility. They continually listened for announcements and made sure that they fulfilled their responsibility by coming out for their runs and if any runs were missed, they ensured that they ran at home or ran at another recess. These students were truly dedicated and committed athletes and this resulted in a 1st place finishing at Areas. The coaches extend their thanks for making the day at the Area meet so enjoyable, despite the weather. 32 of 50 then qualified for the County meet. These students competed against the top athletes in all of Simcoe County; this included the Public board, the Catholic board and the French board (well over 30,000). Our school was one of a few schools that had athletes in each and every race.

Thanks to all athletes for a truly enjoyable and successful season. Mrs. McDermott and Mrs.

Morris were very proud to be Cookstown Central coaches.

Junior Girls Volleyball

Congratulations to the Junior Girls Volleyball Team. They played with integrity, sportsmanship and enthusiasm. The girls should be proud of themselves as their volleyball skills improved and were demonstrated on the court. Congratulations to Alyssa, Mackenzie, Brea, Mariah, Calianne, Sydney, Abby, Vanessa-May, Rachel L., Saige, Madelyn, Rachel R., Chace and Riley. Well done!

Junior Boys Volleyball

Mrs. Kell would like to thank all who tried out for the volleyball team this year! The Junior Boy's volleyball team went from team try outs to zone play downs in 2 weeks! The team was made up of: Anthony, Camden, Cooper, Davis, Jacob, Jake E., Jake M., Kallum, Nathan P., Owen, Palmer, Preston, Sebastien and Topper. The team successfully worked hard and together to defeat Adjala, Alliston, and Ernest Cumberland in the Zone Play downs on October 18th to earn 1st place in the round robin play. The team went on to a re-match against Alliston Union, winning the first game of three. Cookstown came 2nd overall. The Cookstown Cougars played strong and proudly represented the school with team cheers and positive support for each other throughout the season. Go Cougars!!

Intermediate Co-ed Flag Football Team

The intermediate flag football team participated in the South area tournament on October 13th. Our season was short so expectations at the tournament were up in the air. Well, they handled themselves very well, showing leadership, positivity and teamwork. The team steamrolled the competition through pool play, landing in first seed heading into playoffs. The next game, being the semifinals, was also easily won by our squad. The team had scored 134 points and had given up 0 points through pool play to the end of their semifinal match. In the final we faced a tough

opponent, Alliston Union. Unfortunately they were able to break through our defense and we lost in the final 26-15. With the final berth, it did lock our school a spot in the county tournament on October 24th.

At the counties they showed incredible leadership and teamwork throughout the day. All players knew their role and worked within their own systems deserving of a spot in the top 16 in the county.

They played Couchiching Elementary in their first game losing a tough one 7-6, then took down a well-coached Guthrie team 28-0. Their final pool play game came against a well ranked Nottawa team that has consistently come top four in the county tournament. With a strong comeback in the last minutes of the game, Cookstown unfortunately came up short, losing 26-14 and finished their season in the top ten of the county. One or two points one way or another and our Cougars were playing with the top teams. Mr. Miller would like to thank all the players on the team for making the season competitive, fun and successful!

Pizza Days for December

Remember to order pizza for the month of December through SchoolCash Online at <https://simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com> or through the school website at ckt.scdsb.on.ca via Pay Fee Tab. December's orders are due November 27, 2017.

Healthy Snack Program

The Healthy Snack program is in full swing at Cookstown Central. Thank you to Angela Hickey for all her work to get this program organized and running smoothly. This year healthy snacks will be available in the office only. Our Breakfast Club is also up and running and we would like to thank the numerous volunteers who make this program a success.

We have been very fortunate to receive funding from the Eat Well to Excel program. Please

check out their website for information about other programs available in Simcoe County. You can find them at www.eatwelltoexcel.ca

Safe Arrival (705) 458-4461 x1

Please remember to call in to the Safe Arrival program and leave a message if your child(ren) is going to be absent/late. The Ministry of Education requires that all schools operate a Safe Arrival program using volunteers.

We would like to thank Lisa Peterson for coordinating the program again this year as well as the many other volunteers who are donating their time each week to keep this program running smoothly. ***Our Safe Arrival Program is now fully operational.***

High School Information Nights

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. Attend our local high school information nights to find out what's offered. Check out the full schedule of info nights and more at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.

Meeting Your Child from the Bus

We have had a few incidents of bus drivers not being able to release a student at the end of the day because a parent is not there to meet them. The transportation policy is that Junior and Senior Kindergarten students and other identified students must be met at their assigned spot by a parent/guardian or responsible older student. This is to assist with the safe return of these students from school vehicle to home.

If a parent is not there, then the driver has no option but to contact their manager who then contacts the school. The driver will then return the student to the school. Please understand the impact this has, not only on school staff who will

now need to be at the school to supervise the student until a parent can come but also the bus driver who must now return to the building.

Parents can be charged the overtime required for the driver to return a student to the school.

Thank you for your understanding on this matter and please be at the stop to greet your child at the end of each day.

Bus Cancellation Information

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, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted.

The Consortium and bus operators try to make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and make every effort to post announcements before 7 a.m. 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 follow the Consortium on Twitter @SCSTC_SchoolBus for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions>.

For school event cancellations in case of inclement weather, follow our school's Twitter account at @cookstowncps or listen to your local radio station for event cancellation information.

The Hot lunch or milk program will not run on bus cancellation days. During very cold temperatures, please take extra measures to ensure children are dressed appropriately and please do not send children to the bus stop too early (to avoid having them standing in cold weather for lengthy periods).

Dress for the Weather

We are now well into fall. Days can combine sun, rain, warmth and cold. All students should dress

in layers each day. Students should be dressed for cooler temperatures at the beginning of each day.

Playground Equipment

At the onset of colder temperatures (i.e., when night temperatures are below freezing), for safety reasons we will close the playground equipment due to unsafe ground conditions. It will reopen with the arrival of good weather in the early spring.

Magazine Sales Fundraiser

Our Family Reading program (QSP) offers a large selection of the most popular magazines. There are over 700 of your favourite titles to choose from including children's, teen's, entertainment, business, sports, lifestyles, crafts, computer, travel and much more.

Magazines can be ordered online throughout the year by using group # 8985.

National Addiction Awareness Week

November 12 to 18 is National Addiction Awareness Week. The SCDSB will be marking this week by providing schools with a variety of resources to increase awareness and education among staff and students. We hope that your child will share some of what they are learning this week and we have included some helpful resources to support you in conversations you might be having with your kids:

- www.participaction.com/en-ca/programs/unplug-and-play
- <http://parentactionondrugs.org>
- www.drugfreekidscanada.org
- www.camh.ca

Voluntary Self-identification of First Nation, Metis or Inuit Ancestry

Self-identification is a personal choice to disclose First Nation, Metis or Inuit ancestry. The choice to self-identify is up to you and does not require proof of documentation (i.e. no status card),

regardless of where you live. Self-identification is confidential, securely stored and used only to support First Nation, Metis and Inuit student success. Self-identification helps schools support the needs of First Nation, Metis and Inuit students and their achievement. Student achievement data is collected and protected with other confidential data used to help improve student achievement.

To self-identify your child as First Nation, Metis or Inuit, check off the First Nation, Metis or Inuit box on the school registration form and write in detail if applicable. The SCDSB is committed to meeting the learning needs of First Nation, Metis and Inuit students through responsive programming and services. Past activities have included: the inclusion of First Nation, Metis and Inuit focused resources in schools; school based pow wows; dedicated First Nation, Metis and Inuit student advisors and cultural awareness training for school staff. To learn more about First Nation, Metis and Inuit Education, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca/Programs/First Nation, Metis & Inuit Education](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/Programs/First%20Nation,%20Metis%20&%20Inuit%20Education).

SCDSB online tool for reporting bullying, drug use or vandalism

The SCDSB has an online Safe Schools Reporting Tool, which is available on our school website homepage, www.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 our top priority. For more information, visit <http://scdsb.onca/ReportAnincident>.

Eye See...Eye Learn

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 a participating optometrist. For more information, visit www.Eyeseeyear.ca.

Treaties Recognition Week takes place Nov. 5 to 11

Did you know we are ALL treaty people? Treaties Recognition Week is the first week of November every year - this year it is November 5 to 11. The Simcoe County District School Board is located on territory covered by several pre-confederation treaties - Treaty 5, 16, 18, 19 and 82, as well as the 1923 William's Treaty.

SCDSB's new Holy Days and Holidays Calendar

The students and staff of the SCDSB represent a rich diversity of faith traditions. The Holy Days and Holidays calendar helps identify some of the important days of commemoration, however it isn't designed to be a complete listing of religious days. Students and staff from a particular faith background may or may not be absent from school on these special days. If they do attend, certain accommodations may be required.

To view the July 2017 - December 2018 calendar, visit www.scdsb.on.ca, click on 'Schools, 'School Year Calendars' and then 'Holy Days and Holidays Calendar.' You can also learn more about the significant faith dates that the SCDSB recognizes.

Message from the Health Unit: Stay Healthy This School Year!

Colds and Influenza spread easily from person to person. These germs can spread directly from person to person when someone coughs or sneezes, or indirectly when germs land on hard surfaces like door knobs, desks, keyboards, or

wet tissues and then are touched by someone. These germs can then enter the body through the eyes, nose or mouth.

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick and stop the spread of germs to others is wash your hands with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds. If your hands are not visibly dirty you can use alcohol based hand rub "hand sanitizer" for 15 seconds. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough into your sleeve or upper arm and stay home if you are sick. Teach your kids to do the same!

For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this school year, contact *Health Connection* at 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

OHIP+ - Free Prescription Drug Coverage for Children

Beginning January 1, 2018, the province will provide free prescription drug coverage for children and youth aged 24 and under, regardless of family income. Under OHIP+, Ontario children and youth will have access to over 4,400 medications and other drug products. Enrollment in OHIP+ will be automatic, based on age. There are no upfront costs, no co-payment and no annual deductible. Those who are eligible for OHIP+ will only need their health card number and a valid prescription from their doctor or nurse practitioner when they visit their pharmacist. For more information, visit: www.ontario.ca/page/learn-about-ohip-plus.

Celebrate Peace in Your Community

November is a month of reflection and gratitude. The sight of poppies and wreaths serve as a reminder of the brave men and women who have fought for peace and freedom.

The month of November also celebrates a nationwide YMCA initiative called *Peace Week*, from November 18-25. This is a time when we can celebrate the presence of peace in our local and global communities. *Peace Week* offers

activities and opportunities for people of all ages to explore peace from personal, community and global perspectives. Simple actions like sharing, being patient or smiling and saying hello can have a far greater impact than we think.

As an advocate for peace, the YMCA invites everyone to be part of the conversation. Share something you do to foster peace in your home, school, workplace or community. Join in spreading kindness.