



# COOKSTOWN CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Mr. Kent Cheesman  
Principal

Mrs. Kristy Reynolds  
Vice-Principal



## **SEPTEMBER 2017**

Welcome back! We have many new faces joining our community and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them. Our staff has some new faces as well who are very excited to be part of such a dedicated and energetic team that focuses on ensuring a great learning environment for everyone. With all the growth in our community this summer, we may see some reorganization later this month. We will keep everyone informed as information becomes available.

A huge thank you to our custodial team for working during the summer months to make our school shine! Our office support staff have worked very hard to keep everyone informed and make our new students/families feel comfortable. We thank them for their kind and caring ways and for keeping us organized and well informed.

Finally, keeping in touch with your child(ren)'s learning is key. Please use the agenda daily and visit our website for key information. Good luck everyone and I wish you all a great 2016-2017 school year!

### **School Council Election 2017-2018**

If necessary, elections for our school council will take place on Monday, October 2nd,

2017 at 6:00 pm during our first School Council Meeting. There are 11 positions for parents on our council. A nomination form may be picked up in the school office or obtained through the school website. Nominations will close at 4:00 p.m. on September 15, 2017.

All parents are eligible, and are encouraged to consider becoming a school council member. School council membership is an effective way of connecting with the admin team about policy decisions affecting education at the school, school board, and provincial levels. For more details about the election procedure or role of the school council please contact Mr. Cheesman at 705-458-4461.

### **Please Note School Hours**



9:00 a.m.	Supervision begins
9:15 a.m.	Entry Bell Rings
9:15-10:55 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Teaching Block
10:55-11:35 a.m.	1st Nutrition Break
11:35-1:15 p.m.	2nd Teaching Block
1:15-1:55 p.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Nutrition Break
1:55-3:35 p.m.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Teaching Block
3:35 p.m.	Dismissal/Buses

## **Meet The Teacher Night**

Meet the teacher Night will tentatively take place on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. Parents will have the opportunity to sign up for grades K-8 fall conferences. Further details will follow. This is an opportunity for an informal “meet and greet” among teachers and parents. Students are encouraged to take a leadership role in making appropriate introductions.

## **FORMS...FORMS...FORMS**

At this time of the year, we are required to send home a number of information sheets, which need to be signed and returned to the school. We apologize for the deluge of paper but all are essential. The following either accompany this newsletter or will follow shortly.

### **Safe Arrival**

Please complete and return the Safe Arrival forms. If your child is going to be absent, please contact the school via the Safe Arrival Line (705-458-4461 ext.1) before 9:00 a.m. and leave a message. Please note – this program will not operate until later in September. In the meantime, please phone the school office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to report an absence.

### **Student Accident Insurance 2017-2018**

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country field 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. Due to recent injuries in Ontario during school extra-curricular activities and field trips, and the resulting financial cost, a risk exposure to school boards and families has been highlighted. It is essential that all those participating in extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage for all instances of injury.

The Simcoe County District School Board has selected Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider with regards to purchasing student accident insurance coverage for the upcoming school year. The coverage is for 24 hours a day. They offer a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com).

Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities and out-of-province or out-of-country field trips.

### **Public Website**

There is a page on the public website where parents can locate information about student accident insurance year-round at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca). Please see the Acknowledgement Form and letter attached.

### **Students with Medical Conditions**

If your child requires an emergency medical plan (anaphylaxis, diabetes, asthma, epilepsy etc.) ask at the office for this form.

### **Walking/Media Coverage Permission Form**

See Permissions and Acknowledgement Form attached.

### **Code of Student Behaviour Acknowledgement Form**

See Permissions and Acknowledgements Form attached.

### **Sabrina’s Law**

Sabrina’s Law is an Act to protect anaphylactic pupils and is currently in effect at all schools in Ontario. As part of Sabrina’s Law there is a requirement that every school principal develop an individual plan for each pupil who has anaphylactic

allergy. In order to protect students within our school community to the best of our ability it is critical for parents of children with an anaphylactic allergy to do the following: Inform the school of your child's allergies. Work with the school to complete an Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan which has your child's photograph, allergy information and emergency plan. Provide a medic alert bracelet for your child to wear at all times. Encourage your child to keep an Epi pen on their person when age appropriate. Provide an up to date/non expired Epi pen that may be kept in the office or in a mutually agreed upon location within the school. Parents should keep a log of expiry dates and replace outdated auto-injectors.

### **Permission To Leave School Property**

Parents: If you wish your children to have permission to leave school property during our afternoon nutrition break they will require a signed, dated note stating the details of your request for **each** occurrence. We need to ensure our student's safety and without your written permission we will not permit your child to leave school grounds where they will be unsupervised. This applies to **Grade 7 & 8** students only. Thank you in advance for your support.

### **Safe Welcome now in Effect**

**Front doors will be locked during the school day from 9:15 to 3:35.** The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place designed to keep our school safe. All other school doors are also locked. To access the building, visitors will need to press the intercom button to the left of the front doors. Staff in the office will be responsible for letting visitors into the school. It's one more way we can keep track of who is visiting our school. It will help us ensure all visitors sign in at the office. The secretarial staff take their lunch breaks from 12-2p.m. so only one will be in the office during that time. Therefore there

may be an extended wait at the door. If possible, please try to avoid visiting the school during these times. It is important for you to know that we will always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe. If you have any questions about safety procedures, as always, please contact the office.

### **How to Update your Contact Information**

It is important we have your current contact information on file at the school. If your email address or any other information has changed, you can update it by:

- Making changes on the Student Information Verification Form we sent home at the start of every school year
- Contacting the school office during the year

### **Bus Safety**

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS (e.g., travelling on a different bus) CAN ONLY BE MADE FOR REASONS OF **EMERGENCY**. In the interest of student safety, please reserve alternate transportation arrangement requests for true emergencies only. Transportation to birthday parties, to play together after school, to work on a project are not considered valid reasons. Should an emergency arise, submit a written request for the change to the office in the MORNING. The reason for the change and a daytime phone number must be included in the note.

### **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 during the month of September (date still to be determined). Each year, all volunteers must take part in orientation according to SCDSB APM A7220. There is a form attached to this newsletter where you can indicate areas where you are able to volunteer your time. Please return this form to the school if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you!

### **Pizza Days**

Our school Pizza Days and Sub Days will begin in late September or early October. A notice will be sent home with the dates and prices.

### **School Photographs**

Green Apple Studio will be taking student and class photos on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Further details will follow.

### **Agendas**

Students from JK to 8 receive school agendas. Agendas have been produced under the direction of the School Board for all schools. Your child's school agenda is standardized throughout each school in Simcoe County. There is no cost charged to students and their families for school agendas.

The following outlines our expectations for the agenda program;

#### **Purpose:**

- To provide daily communication between our students, parents, teacher/school
- To assist student development of goal setting, personal evaluation and organizational strategies
- Please ensure that agendas are checked and signed each day

### **Pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with SchoolCash Online**

The SchoolCash Online Program is available at our school, offering parents the option to pay online for lunch days and other items. Parents who sign up will receive a notification when a new item becomes available for purchase. Items are personalized to each student. Parents use a secure online account to process payments, and can either make a one-time payment for each item as it occurs, or load money to carry a balance in the online account, go to [simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com](http://simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com)

We encourage you to use this method of payment as we move to a cash free school. Please contact the school office with any questions.

### **Reminders**

**We are a gum-free school** – both inside and outside. The absence of gum allows more time and energy to be spent on legitimate cleaning tasks so we can maintain a clean inviting atmosphere.

**Hats** – Hats for both girls and boys, are removed upon entering the building as a sign of respect and openness to other school members.

**Punctuality** – is emphasized so that students maximize their learning time in the classroom and show respect for others by not interrupting the flow of the lesson. Students arriving after the morning and afternoon entry bells must report to the office to sign in and receive a late admission slip.

**Appropriate language and tone of voice** – must be used at all times in and around our school by all students and community members.

**“Hands off”** – a “hands off” policy is part of our program. Students are taught to solve

conflicts through problem-solving and non-aggressive strategies if disputes arise.

### **Procedures help keep our Schools 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)), 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. Each school has an evacuation site. Ours is the LaeStadian Lutheran Church across the road from 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 won'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 student 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.

### **Keep Valuables at Home**

Students should remember, when bringing items to school, that valuable items belong **at home**. If something is costly or carries sentimental value for a student and/or their family, it should remain at home where it can be safe. The staff members of Cookstown Central Public School are not responsible for the loss or damage to students' personal items

## **There are lots of ways to dress for school...**



**...but there are a few things that aren't okay.**



Exposed underwear



Spiked or chained accessories



Offensive or inappropriate content

## **There are lots of ways to dress for school**

The SCDSB is introducing a new student dress code this school year. The dress code was developed in consultation with staff and students. 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 of the SCDSB Equity and Inclusive Education Team at 705-728-7520.

## **Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Grade 8 Female Students**

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will offer the HPV vaccine at no cost to all female students in Grade 8 at school clinics. The HPV vaccine is given in three doses; the first dose in the fall, the second dose in the winter, and the third dose in the spring. More information and a consent form for the HPV vaccine will be sent home in September. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

## Immunizations for Grade 7 Students

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will offer the Hepatitis B (Hep B) vaccine and the meningococcal conjugate ACWY (Men-C-ACWY) vaccine to all grade 7 students at school based immunization clinics; Both vaccines are publicly funded for all grade 7 students. The Hep B vaccine is a two dose series and the Men-C-ACWY vaccine is one dose. More information will be sent home in September for review by the parent and student. As consent form will be sent home at the same time and is to be signed by both parent and student in their respective sections. All consent forms must be returned to the school before the clinic date regardless of the decision for vaccination. The consent form is valid for the 2017-2018 school year. For more information visit the immunization page of the Health Unit's website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) or call Your Health Connection at 705-7217520 or 1-877-721-7520.

## 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 (e.g., 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 material 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.**

## Active and Safe Routes to School

Walking or cycling to school is a great way to help your child get the 60 minutes of recommended daily physical activity. It also teaches them to be aware of their own safety, builds responsibility and independence, and helps them to feel more connected to the community. And it's good for their physical and mental health!

More walkers also means less car traffic around our school, which will help keep students safe and improve outdoor air quality too. Committing to even one day a week of walking or cycling to school can make a big difference!

To find out more about the recommendations for physical activity and how to make Active Safe Routes to School happen in your school community, visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

## QSP Magazine Fundraiser Returning Soon

Each year, we hold our QSP magazine subscription fundraiser to raise money to benefit our students while also encouraging more at home reading. The success of the program depends on your participation. **Please save your magazine subscription renewals for our sale.** It is only when you renew directly through our program that our school receives any profit from your order. QSP will honour publisher price discount coupons, so save them too. If you are anxious to renew before the official campaign begins, you can support us today by shopping online! It's easy....visit [www.gsp.ca](http://www.gsp.ca). All early orders will count towards your child's rewards. **Plan ahead and help even more...** Consider giving magazine subscriptions as gifts this year! Each issue acts as a reminder of your thoughtfulness! Order a subscription for your child! Children love receiving mail and it's proven that reading print material benefits children far greater than reading material online. Let friends and family

know about our upcoming fundraiser. Send them an email using the email service at [www.qsp.ca](http://www.qsp.ca) and your child will receive a thank you reward for spreading the work about our campaign.

### **Ontario Early Years Centre**

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 prepare your child for this exciting transition.

Check out our website, [www1.e3.ca](http://www1.e3.ca) or call 705-435-4308 for hours, directions and more information.