

## Newsletter Template items for SCDSB Schools November 2016

### **It's almost winter: Bus cancellation information for parents**

Winter is just around the corner in Simcoe County, and with it comes the possibility of severe weather, challenging winter driving conditions and 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](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Our school is in the *north zone*. When buses are cancelled, schools are still 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 between 6 and 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 Remind messages or listen to local radio for event cancellation information.

### **Message from SCDSB Director of Education Kathi Wallace**

At the Sept. 28 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 started the search for a new director. We are also now gathering the results of our strategic planning consultation. 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.

I am 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.

### **Free film screening on Nov. 22: *Most Likely to Succeed*, a documentary**

On November 22, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) will hold public screenings of the film *Most Likely To Succeed*. This film examines the history of education, revealing the growing shortcomings of conventional education methods in today's innovative world. The film explores compelling new approaches that aim to transform learning as we know it. To learn more about the film and view a trailer, visit [www.mltsfilm.org/](http://www.mltsfilm.org/).

The following schools will screen the movie:

- Innisdale Secondary School
- Nantyr Shores Secondary School
- Lions Oval Public School
- Nottawa Public School
- Georgian Bay District Secondary School
- Bradford District High School
- Alliston Union Public School

The screenings begin at 6:30 p.m. and the film is 90 minutes in length. Everyone is welcome to attend and the film is appropriate for all audiences (please note that there is one profanity word in the movie). Please pre-register for the event at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca).

### **High School information nights coming soon to a high school near you**

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this fall and winter! Information nights give an overview of what's new and what to expect, and are a chance to ask questions. Please continue to stay informed through Mr. Spears' Google calendar for the latest updates.

High school is an exciting time—there are so many programs, clubs and activities for students to try. Attend an information night to find out what's offered at your local high school. See the schedule of upcoming information nights at [www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool).

### **Space still available in International Language classes**

The Simcoe County District School Board is pleased to offer an International Languages program to students in Grades 1 to 8. This program allows students to develop their first language skills or study a new language.

The Learning Centres offer the following languages:

- Russian, Spanish, Tamil and Ukrainian in Bradford
- Russian, Spanish, Mandarin, Korean and German in Barrie

To register, visit [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) or call 705-725-8360.

### **Safe Schools 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, <http://hid.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>.

**Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:**

**Are you a parent of a JK or SK student? Do you worry about your child's eating habits?**

Nutri-eSTEP can help! Check out [www.smdhu.org/Nutri-eSTEP](http://www.smdhu.org/Nutri-eSTEP) - you answer 17 simple questions to find out what's going well and what to work on to keep your child healthy. Nutri-eSTEP is a questionnaire for parents with children aged 18 months to five years. When you help your young children learn how to eat healthy, move more and limit time spent sitting, you make a difference to their lifelong health. Visit [www.smdhu.org/Nutri-eSTEP](http://www.smdhu.org/Nutri-eSTEP) for tips to keep your child healthy with the *Healthy is as easy as 1, 2, 3* fact sheet. For more information, call Health Connection weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 705-721-7520 or toll free 1-877-721-7520.

**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](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

**Message from the Health Unit: Misusing pain medication is very dangerous**

One in ten students in Grades 7 to 12 report misusing pain medication, and the majority of them got the drug from someone's home. Pain medication (opioids) like Tylenol No. 3®, Percocet, morphine and fentanyl can be misused in two ways:

1. If used in ways other than intended by a physician
2. If used by someone it was not prescribed for.

What can you do?

- Keep your medications locked up and out of sight
- Clean out your medicine cabinet regularly and take left over or expired medication to the pharmacy for safe, free disposal.

For more information, visit the health unit's website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) or call *Health Connection* at 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.