

Couchiching Heights

455 Laclie St N, Orillia

T: 705-325-9311

Principal: Lindsey Cook

<http://cou.scdsb.on.ca> | Follow @coustaff on Twitter



Upcoming Events

Dec. 7

Kindergarten to Trillium Manor in AM and Mr. Carnie's class in PM

Dec. 13

Holiday Concert 5-7pm (doors open at 4:45PM – Primary from 5-5:45pm – JR./INT. from 6-7pm)

Dec. 18

Last day to send in donations for Bag2School fundraiser

Dec. 20

Pick up for Hewitt's orders

Dec. 22

Last day of classes before Holiday Break

Jan. 8, 2018!

Classes resume – First day back!

Jan. 15

School Council 6:30-8:00PM in the library

Jan. 25

Family Movie Night at CHPS

Jan. 26

PA Day – No school for students

Principal's Message:

Wow... December! It seems like only a few short weeks ago and we were excited to be getting back to school! Now, here we are, just a few short weeks from the Holiday Break. With the passing of time however, there are always moments of pride and accomplishment to celebrate here at CHPS!

For starters, our Intermediate Boys Volleyball Team recently placed first in their pool and defeated Monsignor Lee, Marchmont and Orchard Park. They have now qualified to compete in the area tournament! Our Intermediate Girls Basketball Team is also headed undefeated to the area tournament this month! What an amazing group of athletes we have at our school! Not only do they demonstrate exceptional athletic ability, but they always show great sportsmanship and spirit on the courts as they represent CHPS!

Continuing on the theme of Couch Cat greatness... this month we are welcoming the community to join us for our annual Holiday Concert, that will showcase our students and the Art's. A special performance by our very own CHPS band will surely impress our audiences! In addition, our Art Club will be showcasing an exhibition of student work, which will coincide with the Holiday Concert on the night of December 13th.

As we head into the Holiday Break, we wish all of our students and families best wishes as you celebrate your traditions, or simply take time to be with your family.

**Your Partner in Education,
Mrs. Cook**

School Website

Please visit our school website at <http://cou.scdsb.on.ca/>. Here you will find helpful resources, important dates on our school calendar, and can learn more about the events and activities happening throughout the school year. We also encourage all families to **subscribe** to the school website by clicking on the "subscribe" link at the top of the homepage of the website. When you subscribe you will be emailed our school newsletters, Week at a Glance (an overview of activities occurring at the school each week), and other important updates and messages pertaining to school wide activities and events. Also included on the homepage of the website is our school Twitter feed @coustaff. Check out up-to-date activities happening daily at the school!



News from School Council

Please visit our school website at <http://cou.scdsb.on.ca/> if you would like to view school council agenda's and minutes from our monthly meetings.

School Council would like to invite new members to our **next School Council Meeting on January 15th, from 6:30-8:00pm** in the school library. School Council is always looking for new members and we would love for you to join us to learn more about council and volunteer opportunities. Please know that you do not have to be a voting member to attend council meetings and/or sit on sub-committees. For those interested in being part of a volunteer/fundraising committee, we can work around your schedule. School Council meetings take place on the first Monday of every month (with the exception of a few dates).



Bag2School Fundraiser:

Please help us again this year with our Bag2School fundraiser, by starting to put aside gently used clothing and other household items. This is a great way for you to clean out your closets and donate to those in need. Also, CHPS will receive a small donation for our efforts that will continue to support school enhancements, as well as general school needs. A newsletter about this initiative will be coming home soon. **We will be collecting donations between December 11th-18th and all items will be picked up at the school on December 19th.**



Check out these videos about the textile industry. Every person throws away 82 pounds of clothes per year
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dlq7PSNPtcqZL-Kbt7-iNNwbR4UdOlyJ/view>.

Holiday Concert

Please join us on **December 13th** for our evening holiday concert/celebration. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 are excitedly preparing a presentation with their classmates to share with you at the concert! The program for the evening will be as follows:

4:45pm - Doors Open (hot apple cider and cookies will be served by School Council)

5:00pm - 5:45pm - Primary Division presents

5:45-6:00pm - Intermission (hot apple cider and cookies will be served by School Council - parents of primary students may leave at this time - families of junior and intermediate students will arrive)

6:00-7:00pm - Junior and Intermediate Division will present



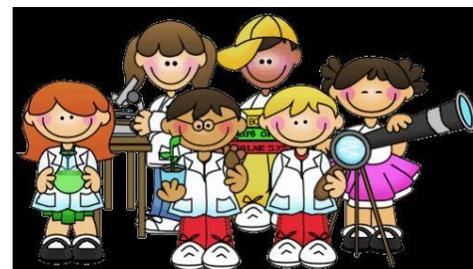
Art Club

On December 6th, Art Club will conclude with a special guest lecturer who will help our club members create a spectacular piece of art. Under the guidance of Mrs. deVeth and Mrs. Soper, Art Club has run since the middle of September. Students who successfully applied to the club worked on a number of projects, learning about artists like Matisse and Kandinsky, and art from different periods including ancient cave art and medieval sculpture. **An exhibition of student work will be held to coincide with the Holiday Concert on December 13th.** Remember to come out and see the wonderful artwork our students have created!



Scientists in the Schools

Our Primary Division has participated in Scientists in the Schools workshops this month (Grade 2s to take part in January). Workshops are facilitated by career scientists, who work to ensure a dynamic, stimulating event using professional equipment and techniques to inspire our budding young scientists. For example, in our recent Kindergarten workshops, students conducted chemistry experiments, dug for dinosaur bones and made casts of fossils, examined marine specimens while working as marine biologists, examined how extreme weather events happen, and sat in the astronomer's tent to examine constellations. All workshops connect directly to grade level curriculum. Hopefully, these workshops have started some future scientists on their paths to discovery!



Partnerships with the Trillium Manor

Students in Kindergarten and some primary classes will walk to the Trillium Manor on December 7th to entertain residents with their seasonal songs and music. Students have been practicing hard for the Holiday Concert and would like to share their enthusiasm and musical talents with residents at the Manor. Ms. Henderson

will also bring band members to perform as well. We hope that our students are able to spread some holiday cheer!

Mr. Carnie's students will help to paint a large mural in the main lounge at the Trillium on the afternoon of the 7th. This gives students a chance to show off their artistic skills and to interact informally with residents at the Manor. Mrs. Soper will supervise the painting, while Mr. Carnie will join Mrs. Newman for the afternoon in Kindergarten as his students who have completed their painting partner up with Kindergarten buddies for some learning activities.



ECO News!

Coming soon to CHPS in partnership with the Sharing Place, is a tower garden! The Green Team is excited to start growing vegetables in January to support our breakfast and lunch programs!

Our Green Team is introducing boomerang lunches. Boomerang lunches are where all your garbage goes home with you. These lunches complement our Litterless Lunches and helps to reduce waste at our school, and it also helps to ensure that things end up in the right bin. Thank you for your co-operation. LIVE GREEN, LOVE GREEN, THINK GREEN. From Jessie & Payton on behalf of the CHPS Green Team!



Safe Arrival:

Remember parents it is your duty to contact the school when your child will be absent. It is imperative we hear from you as we need to know your child is safe and supervised. 705-325-9311 Press #1 for Safe Arrival. Thank you!



Our school has moved to an automated safe arrival system. The first parent/guardian listed in the student file will receive an automated call on days when buses are cancelled if their child isn't at school. The recording will tell you that you do not need to call the school back unless your child should be at school.

S.C.D.S.B. NEWS! -----

Bus cancellation information reminder

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 **North 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 @coustaff or listen to your local radio station for event cancellation information.

Attend a French Immersion information night, registration opens in January

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

Information sessions take place in January for parents of students in Senior Kindergarten. A letter will be sent home to those parents with more details. Information session dates will be posted at www.scdsb.on.ca under Programs, French as a Second Language.

The FI online application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Mon. Jan. 22, until 9 p.m. on Wed. Jan. 24, 2018 at www.scdsb.on.ca under Programs, French as a Second Language. While every effort is made to accommodate all FI applications, available space and staffing will determine how many students can be registered. Applications will be processed in the order they are received electronically. Please contact the school if you do not have Internet access at home or require assistance accessing the online application.

Please note that the host sites for FI may change during your child's time in the program, and your child may need to move schools. This may also include splitting the program between two different sites.



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. Attend our local high school information night to find out what's offered: Orillia Secondary School's information night will be held on Wednesday January 17th from 6:00-7:30PM at 250 Collegiate Dr., Orillia. Check out the full schedule of info nights and more information at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.



Kindergarten registration opens in January

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2014? If so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Beginning Jan. 22, 2018, Simcoe County's public schools will register children for Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.



Land/territory acknowledgement introduced for SCDSB meetings, events and schools

Over the past few months, the SCDSB has worked with Indigenous partners, local elders and the First Nations Education Advisory Committee to develop a land/territory acknowledgement. A land/territory acknowledgement is an act of respect and reconciliation, based on the First Nations' tradition of acknowledging the land of others when they were guests in that territory. The statements will be used at SCDSB meetings and significant events, and daily in all schools to respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous people of this territory, their sharing of the territory and the benefits we have received, as settlers, from that sharing.



For school daily use:

"Simcoe County District School Board acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people. We acknowledge the enduring presence of First Nation, Métis and Inuit people on this land and are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect."

For more information, visit www.scdsb.on.ca – 'About Us'.

Parents invited to information sessions about special education

The SCDSB is hosting a series of information sessions for parents and guardians to learn about special education in the SCDSB, and how to support students with special education needs.

Dec. 18

Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC)
Information for Families

Jan. 22

Assessments in Special Education: Psych Ed and Other
Assessments

Feb. 19

Transition Planning Grade 8 to 9

March 19

Accessing Supports in the Community

April 16

Understanding Alternative/Non-Academic IEP Goals

All sessions take place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the SCDSB Education Centre, located at 1170 Highway 26 in Midhurst. No registration required.

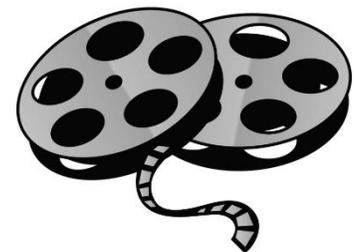
School playgrounds are closed for the winter

Every winter, school playground structures are closed. Students are made aware of this during school hours through announcements and staff reminders during breaks. This may not be well known throughout the community despite signs indicating that playground structures are a winter hazard and are closed. The Canadian Standards Association Regulations make recommendations for the depth of ground cover required to minimize injuries (e.g., sand, pea gravel or wood chips). These surfaces cannot be maintained when the ground freezes. Injuries from falling would be more significant on frozen ground. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen.

RVH Film Festival welcomes student submissions

Barrie's Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) has partnered with the Simcoe County District School Board, the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board and Unity Christian High School to offer students, classes and schools the opportunity to participate in RVH's annual Film Festival in two external categories:

- Kindergarten to Grade 6
- Grade 7 and up



This year's theme is "Making mental health matter - how are you making a difference?" Students and classes are invited to make a two-minute video showing how they promote mental health. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 5, 2018. Voting will take place from Feb. 16 to 26 and those with the winning entries will be invited to an awards ceremony on March 8. Find out more and submit your video at:

www.rvh.on.ca/SitePages/rvhfilmfestival.aspx.

Eye See...Eye Learn program offers free glasses for Junior Kindergarten students

The Eye See...Eye Learn program provides comprehensive eye exams by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten (JK) 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.Eyeseeyelearn.ca.



OHIP+ provides free prescription drug coverage for children

Beginning Jan. 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.



Free prescription medications for children and youth

ontario.ca/budget 

It's time to update your child's immunization records

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is required to keep up to date immunization records for all students who attend elementary or secondary school in the County of Simcoe and the District of Muskoka. Parents are responsible for reporting immunizations to the health unit each time their child receives a vaccine from their health care provider. It's easier than ever to update your child's immunization status. Go to www.smdhu.org/immsonline to update your child's record, or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520. *Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*



**No Shots?
No Records?
NO SCHOOL!**