

Couchiching Heights

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Principal's Message:

Happy February! This month marks the official half way point of the school year. This very important event allows us to pause and reflect on how your child has grown in the first half of the year. In just a few weeks you typically would have been receiving a report card for your child. This school year due to current strike action this will not be happening. However, should you have questions regarding the progress of your child at this point in the year you should not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.

Building success for your child is a team effort and it is at this point that we need to step back and re-evaluate the plan of action for your child. Please take this opportunity to contact your child's teacher with any questions regarding your child's success, and do not hesitate to contact the office with any concerns or questions.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the entire Couchiching Heights family for the very warm welcome that I have received. I am very thankful and excited to have been placed here and look forward to meeting each of you as the weeks move on.

Please know that should you have any concerns at any time, you are strongly encourage to contact the office staff.

Happy February and keep warm.

Stephen

Upcoming Events

Feb. 4

School Council Meeting
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the library

Feb. 17

Family Day – Schools are closed

Experienced candidates need not apply: Kindergarten registration is now open!

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2016? If so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Children turning four in 2020 can start school this September. The registration process can be started on the registration page on the SCDSB website, then completed at the school. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten for more information.



It's time to start planning for summer (school)!

Register today! Are you and your child planning their courses for next school year? Looking for a way to create flexibility in their timetable and earn a credit? Consider summer school – registration is now open!

Each year, the SCDSB offers a variety of summer programs to over 2,000 students. Summer school options include open, college and university level courses from Grades 9 to 12. Courses are offered in-person or online. Interested students can also travel and earn credits with the summer EduTravel program.

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at <http://thelearningcentres.com/>. Current SCDSB students should speak to their guidance counsellor for information and to register.



Days of awareness and recognition taking place in February

Throughout the year, there are many awareness days that focus on different causes and recognition. The Simcoe County District School Board has developed a list of these days as a guide for schools. Schools may participate in recognizing some or all of these days in various ways. This list is not exhaustive. Following are the days of awareness and recognition that the SCDSB will recognize during the month of February:

- Feb. 2 Groundhog Day
- Feb. 15 National Flag Day of Canada
- Feb. 17 National Random Acts of Kindness Day

Feb. 26 Pink Shirt Day

Labour Updates

Keeping SCDSB school communities informed on labour updates In August 2019, provincial and local contracts for all education workers in the province of Ontario expired. In the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB), this means that all our unionized groups are at different stages of contract negotiations at the provincial and local level. The SCDSB will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates on the status of negotiations and our schools whenever possible. Labour updates are issued on the SCDSB website (www.scdsb.on.ca/about/labour_updates), Facebook

(www.facebook.com/SCDSB), Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools) and on the labour updates information line at 1-877-728-1187.

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. Our next School Council meeting will take place on February 4th 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.



Bus cancellation information reminder

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'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 @coustaff or listen to your local radio station for event cancellation information.

Your child's immunization record

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. The immunizations that the health unit requires records for include:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, polio and pertussis
- Measles, mumps and rubella
- Meningococcal
- Varicella (chickenpox) (for those born in 2010 or later)

It's easy 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 (toll free).
Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

