

# Couchiching Heights

455 Laclie St N, Orillia

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

T: 705-325-9311

Principal: Lindsey Cook

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

## Principal's Message:

We are keeping very busy here at Couchiching Heights as we complete the final weeks of the 2016/17 school year. There are lots of June events coming up at CHPS! From sporting events to field trips to school spirit days.

On May 27<sup>th</sup> our School Council hosted another extremely successful fundraiser at the Red Caboose. What a wonderful community event! Thank you to all the parents who worked so hard to plan and run such a successful day.

Our Graduating Class returned last week from their final elementary class trip, and they are now focused on making preparations for Graduation, which will take place on June 27<sup>th</sup>. I'd like to take this time to thank and congratulate our Grade 8 students for their positive and spirited commitment to making CHPS the best school in the SCDSB.

This month we focus on the character trait, RESPONSIBILITY. Last week our Grade 3 and 6 students were busy putting the finishing touches on this year's EQAO Provincial Assessments in Language and Mathematics. We're so proud of these students for demonstrating RESPONSIBILITY, grit, resilience and determination during these tests!

We look forward to enjoying this final month of the school year and all that it has to offer. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Cook



## Upcoming Events

- June 6 – Intermediate Boys Baseball (Orillia)
- June 7 - Grade 8 Day at OSS
- June 8 – Track and Field Area Meet (Gr. 7-8) @ Twin Lakes
- June 8 – Grade 6's to Geneva Park
- **June 9 – PA Day**
- June 12 – Intermediate Girls Baseball (Orillia)
- June 13 – Track and Field Area Meet (Gr. 4-6) @ Twin Lakes
- June 14 – Volunteer Tea from 1:30-2:30pm
- June 15 – GirlStrong 3km Celebration Run at Tudhope Park at 4:30pm
- June 16 - Board the Bus
- June 20 – Intermediate Boys Baseball (Midhurst)
- June 21 – Intermediate Girls Baseball (Midhurst)
- June 21 – National Aboriginal Day
- June 22 - Neema Children's Choir from Uganda (11:30-1:00pm) \*\$1 donations
- June 23 - Celebrate Canada Play Day
- June 23 – School Spirit Day – Wear Red & White
- **June 27 – Report Cards go home**
- **June 27 - Graduation 6pm**
- June 29 - Intermediate BBQ & trip to the park
- **June 30 – PA Day**

## 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.

### Red Caboose Fundraiser

A big thank you to all of those who came out to the Red Caboose on May 27th to support our spring fundraiser! It was a great day. Great vendors, amazing food, and wonderful friends! We sincerely appreciate all those who volunteered their time to help organize and run the event, and also to Nicole from the Red Caboose for hosting us! A special thank you goes to Aimee Cooper, School Council Co-Chair, for all her efforts. Without her this event would not have been possible! All proceeds will support school enhancements, field trips and other general school needs.

**Reminders:** Logoed CHPS water bottles are still available at the school for \$7 each. Please see Mrs. Provenzano in the office if you wish to purchase a water bottle to use at our new water filling station. All proceeds go towards school initiatives. Please clearly label your child's water bottle with their name to ensure that it does not get mixed up with other students' bottles.

Did you know that you can easily help our school raise money? When you visit Boston Pizza for a meal, write "Couchiching Heights P.S." on the back of your receipt and place it in the jar at the entrance of the restaurant. A percentage of your total bill goes back to the school!

### 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, 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. Check out up-to-date activities happening daily at the school!

**Please note that our school Week-at-a-Glance will only be available via email to website sscribers next year (2017-2018), so don't forget to subscribe ASAP!**



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## Class Placements for 2017-2018 School Year

This month, current homeroom teachers, in consultation with receiving teachers, involved support staff and the school administration, work to develop balanced classes that strive to best meet the needs of all students. All class placement decisions are made after extensive planning, preparation and discussion on the part of these people. Our primary goal is to develop balanced classes that reflect the diversity of our community, and allow the variety of interests and talents of our students to emerge. We consider gender, academic ability, interest, special needs, talent, and behaviour, among other criteria, when developing class lists. Your child's teachers have a very good understanding of your child's abilities and needs, both academic and social.

A new school year brings new opportunities for all students to meet new friends and expand their circle of acquaintances. For this reason class placement decisions based solely on friendships will not be considered. As you can well imagine, it is extremely difficult to create "balanced" classes if we fulfill these requests. Parents play a critical role in helping their child make the adjustment to a new teacher, new classroom and new classmates. Teachers will be working very hard to make sure that they create inviting learning environments for all their students. Your support in helping your child embrace the new challenges ahead is important for a smooth transition to the new grade and new class.

## Volunteer Tea

Every year we rely on the dedication of our wonderful school volunteers to enhance the education of our children. Whether it may be reading with a child, helping out with breakfast club, attending a field trip, or helping to organize fundraising events, our volunteers help make Couchiching the awesome place it is! To show our thanks for these efforts, we will be hosting a volunteer tea on June 14th from 1:30-2:30pm at the school. Invitations were sent home, however if you did not receive one and you have volunteered at CHPS this year, please know that you are invited!! We appreciate all those who are attending to RSVP to Jodie in the office at 705-325-9311 so that we can plan for snacks and refreshments! Hope to see you there!

## Grade 8 Graduation - Ceremony

On June 27th we will be celebrating the graduating class of 2017. Graduates are asked to be at school for 5:45pm and the ceremony begins at 6pm. If your child is in Grade 8 please ensure you've returned grad forms and sent in a baby photo.

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### **Grade 8 Graduation – Post Ceremony Celebration!**

A sincere thank you to Sandra Huxtable, Lori Aubin and Kim Price for planning the graduation celebration after the school ceremony on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Also, a big thank you to all of the parents that are contributing chips, water, veggie and fruit trays; Pizzaville Pizza & Panzerotto for donating pizza; and PepsiCo Beverages Canada for donating pop to make the graduation party for the Class of 2017 a very fun and special night. A final thank you goes to the Leacock Museum for allowing the parents to host. It is sure to be a great night!



### **Grade 8 Trip – A Great Time Had By All!**

On May 29 - May 31st the Grade 8 students travelled to Camp Wenonah in Haliburton. Although here at home there was a lot of rain the 8's were lucky to have very little rain on the trip. There was, however, an aptly timed lightning storm that enhanced bedtime ghost stories. The students' were challenged to try new things and give their best in every situation, which they did. The highlights of the trip included kayaking, archery, canoeing, backcountry cooking and tie-dye.



### **School Spirit Leadership Team**

The Spirit Team is hosting their final Play Day on June 23rd. The theme is 'Celebrating Canada' and students will be participating in many different events throughout the day. Students will be outside for the majority of the day so should come dressed appropriately for the weather, have sunscreen, hats and refillable water bottles.



### **Popcorn and Chocolate Bars on Sale – End of Year Deal!!**

Final Blowout! All stock must go... Popcorn and Chocolate Prices have been reduced to \$1.00 a bag for popcorn and \$2.00 a chocolate bar. These items will be sold each Tuesday and Thursday at nutrition break until they are gone. If you would like to purchase some to have at home, please call the office or send a note with your child stating how many you would like to purchase (students in older grades do not need a note).



### **Board the Bus**

Our final Board the Bus event will take place on June 16th at Horseshoe Valley Resort. Students who have contributed a lot of time and energy to enhancing the school experience for others are recognized and thanked for their efforts. Attendees have shown strong leadership skills throughout the year through various teams and initiatives - Spirit Team, Green Team, PALS team,



Library, Lunch and Office Helpers (this list is not exhaustive of all teams, clubs and initiatives). We thank all who show responsibility, commitment and enthusiasm toward making CHPS a better place!

### **Gifted Screening Process**

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction and through providing program modifications. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate and challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular classroom or in gifted classroom placements.

Parents/Guardians of a student who will be in or above Grade 3 in the next school year, who wish to nominate their child for gifted screening are asked to contact one of the Special Education Resource Teachers at the school, or Mrs. Cook, before then end of October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Students may be nominated by either a teacher or a parent/guardian.

A letter examining the gifted screening process in greater detail will be sent to parents/guardians of students in Grade 3 in September. Parents/Guardians will still have the opportunity for nominating their child in September and October. If you require further information about the gifted screening process, please contact the school.

### **DPA (Daily Physical Activity) at Couchiching Heights P.S.**

Please note that next year we will not be continuing with school wide DPA first thing in the morning. Students will participate in DPA with their classroom teachers and/or division at varying times throughout the day, depending on their specific classroom schedules. As such, our school day will follow this schedule as of September 2017:

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>8:50 AM</b>             | <b>→ Morning Bell/Entry</b>   |
| <b>10:30 AM – 11:10 AM</b> | <b>→ First Break</b>          |
| <b>12:50 PM – 1:30 PM</b>  | <b>→ Second Break</b>         |
| <b>3:10 PM</b>             | <b>→ Final/Dismissal Bell</b> |

### **Is your child turning four this year? It's time to register for Kindergarten**

Our school is now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of



immunization. Visit [www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten) for more information.

School start dates for September 2017 are as follows:

- Senior Kindergarten (Year 2) students will begin school on Tues. Sept. 5.
- Junior Kindergarten (Year 1) students will begin school on Thurs. Sept. 7. They will attend continuously from this time

### Approved school year calendar for next year

The Ministry of Education has approved the Simcoe County District School Board elementary and secondary school year calendars for the 2017-2018 school year. School starts on Tues. Sept. 5, 2017. The Holiday Break takes place Dec. 25, 2017 to Jan. 5, 2018, and March Break is March 12 to 16, 2018. The last day for elementary students will be Thurs. June 28, 2018 and the last day for secondary students will be Wed. June 27, 2018. To view the full calendar for next school year, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) – 'Schools' – 'School Year Calendars.'



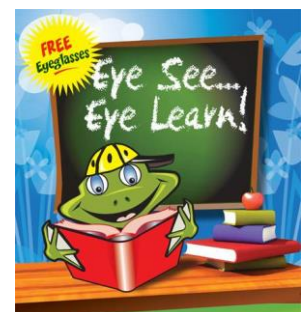
### First Rider program gives students the chance to ride a school bus

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) welcomes students to take part in the experience of riding on the school bus for the first time through their First Rider program. This program, offered in the summer, teaches school bus safety for first-time school bus riders and includes a ride on a real school bus. This FREE program is provided by the SCSTC, in partnership with school bus operators, to educate students and their families about the rules and responsibilities on and around the school bus. The sessions start in late August at school locations across Simcoe County. Parents/guardians and students attending school in Simcoe County may attend any of the sessions. For more information and session dates/times, visit the SCTSC website at: [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) and click on the 'Safety' link.



### Eye See Eye Learn program offering free eye exams, glasses for JK students – deadline is June 30

Your child may have a vision problem. Only an optometrist knows if your child sees to the best of their ability. Get them a comprehensive eye exam, covered for children under 19 years-old with their Ontario Health Card. The Eye See...Eye Learn® program offers one free pair of glasses to this year's Junior Kindergarten (JK) students with their OHIP-covered eye exam, if prescribed by a participating optometrist. Learn more at [www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca](http://www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca). The deadline for this year's JK students to receive free eye glasses is June 30.



## Ministry of Education seeks online engagement regarding implementation of *First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework*

The Ontario Ministry of Education is working with researchers to gather feedback and input to inform the development of the Third Progress Report on the implementation of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework. Students, parents/guardians and families, teaching and nonteaching staff, Indigenous communities, organizations and partners, and school boards are invited to participate in an online survey and/or online focus groups to capture successes and help to identify promising practices and opportunities to provide further support to enhance the achievement and well-being of Indigenous students.

To learn more, visit the SCDSB website, click on 'About Us', 'News', and look for the article entitled "Ministry of Education seeks online engagement regarding implementation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework."



## Safe Kids Week is June 5 to 11

Did you know that a properly fitting helmet reduces the risk of head injuries like concussions by 85%? Teach your children to wear a helmet that fits properly while wheeling and riding. Help prevent injuries by teaching your children the skills they need to wheel and ride safely. For tips, visit [www.parachutecanada.org](http://www.parachutecanada.org). Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit



## Summer child care available at select SCDSB schools

In partnership with community child care operators, we are pleased to support your child care needs, offering full-day child care programs for children (aged JK to 12 years) in select schools across Simcoe County this summer. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to register. A fee subsidy may be available to families who qualify. For more information, please contact the **YMCA at 705-329-3996 or Orillia Central Preschool at 705-327-2764**. For the full listing of childcare centres in the SCDSB, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) and click on 'Schools' and then 'Before & After School Care.'



## Register now for YMCA Before/After Child Care Program for September 2017

Register now for this September! Your child's space in the program for the 2017-2018 school year will be considered if completed registration forms have been submitted by June 29, 2017. Please contact Dana Drysdale at 705-955-4800 (until June



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29<sup>th</sup>), or through email [dana.drysdale@sm.ymca.ca](mailto:dana.drysdale@sm.ymca.ca) (throughout the summer months) to register your child(ren).

### **Keeping kids' minds and bodies healthy this summer**

All parents want their children to grow up healthy. Being healthy means lots of things – growing up strong and active, making connections, developing positive relationships with others, and learning to make good, responsible decisions.

Here are some tips on how to keep your child's mind and body active this summer.

- Summer programs - over the summer months there are a wide variety of programs to keep children and youth active. Whether outdoors or in a facility like the YMCA, swimming is a summertime favourite. Consider signing your child up for swimming lessons, giving them the confidence they need to be safe in and around the water.
- Summer day camps – summer camp is a great opportunity to introduce your child to “physical literacy.” This means getting kids to feel comfortable being active, so when asked to play a game such as soccer at recess, they are confident to say “yes.” Summer camp teaches children how to be active in a fun and supportive environment.
- Child care - when looking for child care for your youngster, make sure the centre is health conscious and provides nutritious meals to ensure children develop in a positive environment. Try to find a centre that incorporates a “Play to Learn” curriculum and make sure the staff observe and document your child's daily activities. A good child care centre should feel like home away from home while providing the tools to help children reach their full potential.

The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka offers child care and summer programs for children of all ages and abilities. To learn more about the programs being offered this summer, visit [www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca](http://www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca).

