

June 28th, 2018

Couchiching Heights

455 Laclie St N, Orillia

T: 705-325-9311

Principal: Lindsey Cook

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

Principal's Message:

It is hard to imagine that the year is coming to a close. The saying, "time flies when you are having fun," is so true. This has been another great year at CHPS for me! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all of the students, staff and community better. I would like to say a sincere thank you for all you have done to help make 2017/18 such a positive school year. We have appreciated your ongoing support of your children and the school community.

This is the time of year when we have to say good-bye to several valuable staff members. I would like to thank Ms. Frumau for her great work over the past years at CHPS. Ms. Frumau will be joining the staff and students at Lions Oval next year and we wish her all the best in her new role. We also are saying good-bye to Mrs. McGavin, who has been in a long-term occasional role this year. Mrs. McGavin will be welcoming her new baby in a few short days, and we are so excited for her! Mrs. Ariganello (or Mrs. A. as her students like to call her), and Mr. Patterson our school custodian, will be moving on to Andrew Hunter and Holly Meadows respectfully, in Barrie this fall. They have both been an important part of the school community this year and will be missed, but we are happy that they have found schools closer to their home and will not need to make the commute anymore. Next, I would like to thank Ms. Richardson for her hard work over the past few months in the Kindergarten division. Ms. Richardson has been in a temporary position, covering for Mrs. Waine who continues to be off on maternity leave. We wish Ms. Richardson all the best in her future schools. We also want to express our appreciation to Mrs. Jackson, who has worked as an Educational Assistant in our learning center since this past January. She too has been in a temporary role, but we hope that she will return to Couch one day! Finally, I would like to extend a special thank-you to Ms. Barr, for all of the years she has dedicated to the



Upcoming Events

Sept. 4

Welcome back Year 2 (SK) –
Grade 8 students

Sept. 6

First day of school for Year 1 (JK)
students

Sept. 10

First School Council Meeting
(nominations for elected SC
roles) – 6:30-8:00pm (Library)

Sept. 25

Elementary Turn-Around Day
(classroom reorganizations if
necessary)

Oct. 1

School Council Meeting
(Elections) – 6:30-8:00pm

Oct. 3

Back to School Open House –
5:00-7:00pm

teaching profession. Ms. Barr is retiring this year, but her legacy will live on in the Girlstrong program that she founded, and which has inspired so many young girls and colleagues. Best of luck, Ms. Barr, as you enjoy all that retirement has to offer!

There will be a number of new staff joining the team in September. At this point in time we are still working through the staffing process, and will announce final teaching assignments in the first newsletter in September.

On behalf of the entire CHPS staff, I would like to wish the entire community a safe and wonderful summer. See you on September 4th!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Cook

First Day Procedures – **NEW!

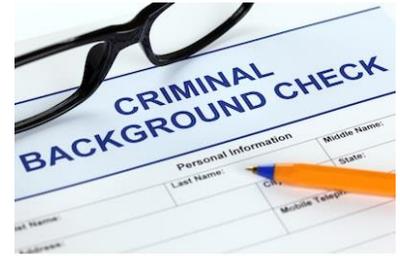
Each year we strive to help support students in a smooth transition to their new classrooms and teachers on the first day of school. This however, can sometimes be a challenging process in the morning on that busy first day, as teachers help students find where they need to go. In an effort to improve this morning transition, we will be doing things a little different on September 4th. Upon the ringing of the bell at 8:50am on the first day, students will be encouraged to line up with their classes in the same spot from the previous school year. They will then proceed to either the gym (all primary and junior students, with the exception of Kindergarten) or the library (all intermediate students). They will then be met there by teachers who will help them to find their new classes. All new students will be permitted to enter the building upon arrival and will be directed to the correct location based on their grade. Kindergarten students will continue to meet in the kindergarten play area, outside the kindergarten classroom doors. **Parents are kindly asked to say goodbye before students enter the building, and not accompany their children inside the school once the bell has gone.** We promise to take good care of your children and reassure them that they will have a great first day!

School Volunteers – Important information!

This fall, the SCDSB will be implementing a new online Volunteer Portal. The portal will eliminate much of the paperwork currently associated with volunteers. Volunteer applications and approvals will occur online. The new mandate for AODA training, for volunteers, will also be part of the online portal. In addition to the implementation of the volunteer portal, **current approved**



volunteers who have Criminal Background Checks/Vulnerable Sector Screenings (CBC/VSS) that will expire (older than 5 years) are required to submit a new CBC/VSS for review. As such, individual letters have been sent this week to notify existing volunteers who will need to submit a new CBC/VSS for the new school year. **Please Note: for volunteers to remain active on the list, the deadline for submitting a new, original CBC/VSS is October 31, 2018.**



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It should also be noted that any SCDSB staff who participate as volunteers in a school other than their own, are also required to provide a new CBC/VSS, for volunteering purposes, at the time their current CBC/VSS expires.

If you would like to become a school volunteer, or you are an existing school volunteer who needs to do a renewal, please note that CBC/VSS forms are available in the office that you can take with you to the police station to receive a CBC/VSS check, free of charge. More information about declaration forms, which must be completed annually to be permitted to continue volunteering in the new school year, will be communicated in early September.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

A reminder to all parents that any medication (including an Epipen) for your child that is kept in the school office, must be picked up by the end of the school year. The office will be open next week if you would like to stop by to pick up. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Mabel Labels – Order now and get ready for next school year!

It's always a great idea to label your child's clothing and other belongings each school year. Our lost and found is always overflowing. Couchiching Heights makes 20% of all sales and proceeds will be used toward reducing field trip costs for students. Simply visit: campaigns.mabelslabels.com, search for Couchiching Heights in the drop down and place your order to support our fundraiser! Thanks so much! Happy Labelling!



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 12th, 2018. 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.

2018-19 school year calendars now approved

The Ministry of Education has approved the elementary and secondary school year calendars for the Simcoe County District School Board's 2018-19 school year.

2018-19 Highlights:

- First day of school: Tuesday, September 4, 2018
- First day of school for Junior Kindergarten students: Thursday, September 6, 2018
- Winter Break: December 24, 2018 to January 4, 2019
- March Break: March 11 to 15, 2019
- Last day for elementary students: Thursday, June 27, 2019
- Last day for secondary students: Wednesday, June 26, 2019

You can view the 2018-19 calendars on the SCDSB website (www.scdsb.on.ca) by clicking on 'Schools' and then 'School Year Calendars.' We have also attached a calendar to this newsletter for your convenience.

