

Couchiching Heights

455 Laclie St N, Orillia

T: 705-325-9311

Principal: Lindsey Cook

cou.scdsb.on.ca | Follow @coustaff on Twitter



Upcoming Events

Sept. 4

Welcome Back! Classes resume for Year 2 (SK) – Gr. 8 students

Sept. 6

First day of school for all Year 1 (JK) Students!

Sept. 10

School Council Meeting – 6:30-8:00 PM

Oct. 1

School Council Meeting – 6:30-8:00pm

Oct. 3

School Open House (Meet and Greet) & Book Fair!

Oct. 18

School Picture Day

Principal's Message:

Welcome back everyone! I hope you all enjoyed a summer full of time spent with friends and family creating memories!

This year we have switched up a few things at the school. First we will be trialing a split recess/nutrition break. This means that our students will have more space to play on the yard, which we hope will promote increased student safety and more opportunities for shared use of our playground equipment. Please see page 3 of this newsletter for full details and the new recess/nutrition break times.

We also are welcoming several new staff who bring in amazing educational experiences, backgrounds and interests into the school. We are still filling some EA and teaching vacancies, but I am confident that the occasional staff will do a great job transitioning students into school this week. We are hopeful that all permanent staff will be in place by the end of the second week of school. To view a complete staff listing, please visit our school website. Over the summer months we said goodbye to Mme. Carmen, Ms. McIlmoyle, Mrs. Jacobs, and Mr. Patterson, as they accepted other positions within our board to be closer to home, or for other family reasons. They will all be greatly missed by the CHPS community, but we wish them well in their new schools!

Meanwhile, most things we have in place for student safety remain the same. Supervision begins at 8:35am each morning. Please refrain from sending students to school prior to that time, unless it is for a scheduled extra-curricular activity. The parking lot will remain closed during start/end times (8:30-9:00am / 2:50-3:30pm); we ask you to be respectful of this policy. Parents/guardians are encouraged to park along Orma Drive

and have students enter the school from the back field. You may also drop off at the RRR Car Wash next door, but you are not permitted to park there. If you are dropping students off across the street at the Red Caboose, please remind them to walk up to the crossing guard on Laclie and cross at the crosswalk. All students require a written note if they wish to leave for lunch (2nd break- gr. 7&8 students only). Lastly, teachers will have or will be communicating with you re: student cell phone guidelines and technology agreements here at school. Please remember that the school phone is the most reliable way to reach your child.

Finally, please know that if you have any questions, concerns or ideas, you can contact me at the number above, via email lmcook@scdsb.on.ca, by popping in to the office, or chatting with me in the driveway! Here's to a fabulous year!!

**Sincerely,
Mrs. Cook**

After this month, newsletters will be electronic- email & website. Please let your child's teacher know if you need a hard copy or call the office. Thanks for helping us save trees.

Keep connected with our school and the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Here are some ways to do that:

- Subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://cou.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. Provide your email and click Subscribe, a message will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.
- Sign up to receive Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca. The SCDSB Education Centre can be reached at 705-734-6363.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook ([facebook.com/SCDSB](https://www.facebook.com/SCDSB)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/scdsb](https://www.instagram.com/scdsb)). **You can follow just our school on Twitter @coustaff.**



When you subscribe to our school website 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!

Please note that our school Week-at-a-Glance will only be available via email to website subscribers this year, so don't forget to subscribe ASAP! We have attached this weeks' to the monthly school newsletter as an example.

Revised Bell Times for First and Second Recess/Nutrition Break

This 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 this year will follow this schedule: **(School start/end times have not changed, but times for first and second break have. Students arriving after 8:50am will be marked late).**

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

Class Placements and Elementary Turn-Around-Day: Sept. 26th

Last June, current homeroom teachers, in consultation with receiving teachers, involved support staff and the school administration, worked 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. We do not base class placement decisions solely on student friendships, as you can well imagine, it is extremely difficult to create "balanced" classes if we fulfill these requests.



Every September, teachers sometimes need to change classroom assignments based on adjusted staffing allocations in schools (changes due to student enrolment). We call this Elementary Turn-Around-Day, which occurs this year on September 26th. Once again, we strive to meet the criteria listed above when determining which students may need to move classes. We recognize that this can be a difficult process for many, and we assure you that if changes need to occur, we will do our absolute best to help your child(ren) make a successful transition to their new teacher.

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 welcome families back and extend an invitation to attend our first School Council Meeting of the new school year on September 10th, 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. We will also be discussing our elections procedures during this time. Please know that you do not have to be a voting member to attend council meetings and/or sit on sub-committees. School Council meetings take place on the first Monday of every month (with the exception of a few dates) from 6:00-7:30pm.

Want to volunteer at our school?

Updated criminal background checks required for volunteers

We appreciate the commitment of all who volunteer at our school. In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, and in accordance with the Education Act, the SCDSB requires a complete and up-to-date Criminal Background Check Vulnerable Sector Screening (CBC-VSS) for all volunteers across the system. If you are a current, approved volunteer and your CBC-VSS is more than five years old, you will be receiving a notification this month indicating that you are required to submit a new CBC-VSS. If you wish to continue as a SCDSB volunteer, please complete the following steps:

1. Contact the school principal to obtain a CBC-VSS request letter.
2. Bring your CBC-VSS request letter to your local police detachment.
3. Submit your original and complete CBC-VSS to the school office for review by Oct. 31, 2018.

If you are a current SCDSB employee volunteering in the system, you are required to submit an updated CBC-VSS to the school where you will be volunteering. If you have completed a CBC-VSS within the past



six months of the start of the school year for another organization, you may submit that original CBC-VSS for review. If you have questions, please contact the school.

SCDSB Community Apps portal makes volunteering easy

We appreciate the commitment of all who volunteer at our school. This school year, we are implementing a new online Volunteer Portal. SCDSB Community Apps is a new online portal that allows you to begin the process for volunteering at a SC DSB school. The portal eliminates much of the paperwork currently associated with volunteers. Volunteer applications and approvals will occur online. The new mandate for Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) training, for volunteers, is also part of the portal. The Volunteer Portal is available for all new people requesting to volunteer at a school location: <http://communityapps.scdsb.on.ca>. Only new volunteers or those who require an updated Criminal Background Check Vulnerable Sector Screening (CBC-VSS) are able to register on the portal at this time.



Breakfast Club is Back!

The Breakfast Club will be starting up again through the Eat Well to Excel/Breakfast for Learning program, but we are in need of volunteers. This year the program will be open to students from 8:30-8:50 in room 112 for students. We will also be offering snack bowls in classrooms. Our muffin bakers were a big favourite with our kids last year—if you would be willing to sign up to bake 4 dozen muffins 1 week of the year, please contact the office for us to add you to this list. We look forward to getting the breakfast Club up & running again with your help!



CHPS is a NUT FREE and LATEX FREE school!

We have a number of students in our community with nut allergies and would remind all parents and caregivers to check all labels prior to putting items in lunches. We strive to ensure that this a nut free environment to ensure that all of our students are safe. We also have members of our school community with a latex allergy. Please do not send in any items (e.g., balloons) that contain latex. Thank you for you in advance for your co-operation.



Procedures help keep our school safe

The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations

Parents should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off.
- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all exterior doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Interior doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites (www.facebook.com/SCDSB and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (www.scdsb.on.ca), through local police and local media.
- All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.
- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** to enter the building. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, please be patient.** All visitors, including school volunteers, are required to **sign in** at the school office and wear **visitor identification**.
- Staff and volunteers must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.



- We ask parents to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All SCDSB schools **have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**.

When parents are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Student Dress Code

Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive, and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at www.scdsb.on.ca. If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact the principal or the SCDSB Equity and Inclusion Education Team at 705-728-7570.

Pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with SchoolCash Online

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees"
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

There are lots of ways to dress for school...



...but there are a few things that aren't okay.



It's safe, fast and convenient. Please feel free to contact the office with any questions. **Please note that SchoolCash Online is the preferred method of payment at CHPS.**

Information about student accident insurance for the 2018-2019 school year

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country trips) are not covered by the board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen. The SCDSB has selected the Insure my Kids program through Old Republic Canada as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com. Participation in extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs) or out-of-province/out-of-country trips requires the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage. Student accident insurance packages will be sent home with students.



Parent Portal gives parents real-time access to attendance, grade information

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and grades and includes the option to sign up for email notifications. To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's SCDSB Pupil ID Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID will be provided in a sealed letter this fall with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, you can visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.



Register for Before & After School/Childcare at our school

Register now for before and after school programs/childcare. The Before and After School Program is for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 who need care before and/or after the regular school day hours. The fees are as follows:

2018-19 Daily Fees

Before and After School Fee: \$20.75

Before School Only Fee: \$10.50

After School Only Fee: \$15.25

PA day, holiday Fee: \$37.75

Please contact the YMCA to register your child(ren).



Safety reminder: School buses are back on the roads

As students return to school, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) reminds everyone that school buses are back on our roads. The majority of school buses in Simcoe County are on the road in the morning from 7 – 9:30 a.m. and again in the afternoon from 2 – 4:30 p.m. As a reminder to drivers:

- **Take caution** – Be extra cautious in the vicinity of school buses and around school bus loading and unloading zones
- **Be alert** – Watch for school bus chrome yellow colouring, flashing red lights and stop arms. Drivers travelling in both directions on a road without a median must stop for a stopped school bus that has its upper red lights flashing
- **Know the repercussions** – Any driver that fails to stop for a school bus with its lights engaged is subject to a fine of up to \$2,000 and six demerit points for a first time offence
- **Be empowered** – Anyone who witnesses a driver failing to stop for a school bus can report the incident to police.

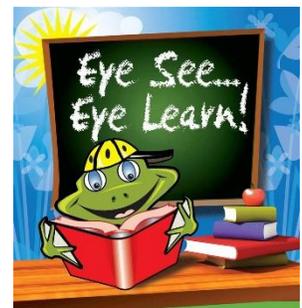
For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

Eye See...Eye Learn program offers free glasses for Year 1 (JK) 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.eyeseeeyelearn.ca.

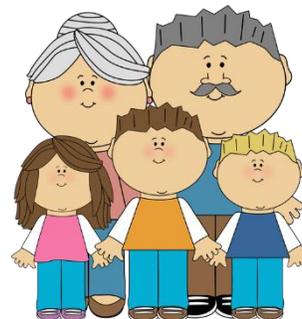
Reminder from the Health Unit: School grounds are smoke free 24/7

Protect yourself and your children from the health hazards of secondhand smoke. Remember, it is against the law to smoke ANYWHERE on school property at ANY TIME. This includes smoking in your vehicle while picking up or dropping off students. It is also against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco in a vehicle carrying anyone under age 16. The fine for ignoring the law is \$250. For more information, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health



Simcoe Community Services' Grandparent System Support Program

The Grandparent System Support Program (GSSP) was established in response to the increased needs and unique challenges experienced by grandparents with the sole responsibility of raising their grandchildren. Support Groups are available now in Barrie, Bradford, Orillia and Midland with plans for support groups in local communities across Simcoe County. Support groups provide a safe and confidential environment where grandparents can create relationships with others who understand and have lived experiences in similar situations. Grandparents can build on skills, resource share and network to build a community of support. For more information about the support group, meeting dates/times or if you have questions about the GSSP, contact gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca or 705-726-9082 x2321. Childminding and transportation assistance may be available.



New Simcoe County District School Board website launched this summer

Visit www.scdsb.on.ca to check out our brand new look! Our new website launched in July, providing users with an accessible experience that is mobile-friendly – it works well whether you're on a desktop computer, mobile phone or tablet. The new website also has improved search functionality and a special SCDSBshines section to highlight and celebrate the amazing accomplishments of our staff and students.



New Community Apps feature allows parents to register online and apply to volunteer

The new SCDSB Community Apps website provides access to volunteer and community applications for our schools – you can register your child(ren) for school or apply to be a volunteer at your school. More functionality will be added in the future. You can create a "Community Account" to access these applications. Visit communityapps.scdsb.on.ca.



Register now for free International and Indigenous Language Programs

The SCDSB offers children in Grades 1 to 8 an opportunity to learn and/or maintain a language other than French or English. Whether you enroll your children in this program to learn a new language, understand a new culture or to extend their



knowledge of their first or second language, every student can benefit from this program. The Barrie Learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) offers Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Mandarin, Ojibwe, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian and Urdu. The Bradford Learning Centre (157 Holland St. E, Suite 200) offers Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, Ukrainian, Urdu and Vietnamese. The classes take place Saturday mornings, 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 15 (classes are dependent on student enrollment). There is no charge for this program. Most classes fill quickly on a first come, first served basis. Register your child by visiting www.thelearningcentres.com and clicking on 'Elementary Student.'