



# Sunnybrae School News

September 2017

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@Sunnybulldogs

Get Sunnybrae messages directly on your cell phone from Mrs. Smith. Text: @323722 to 647-931-1813 Keep in touch with your school community.

## Important Dates

Sept. 22 Orange Shirt Day  
Sept. 29 Terry Fox Run  
“Bring a Toonie To Support Terry”

Upcoming for October:

Oct 2 School Council 6:00 pm  
Oct 19 Meet the Sunnybrae staff BBQ  
Oct 20 PA day-NO SCHOOL  
Oct 25 Picture Day

## School Times

Supervision Begins	8:45 am
Warning Bell	8:58 am
Entry Bell	9:00 am
Instructional Time	9:00 to 10:40 am
Nutrition Break	10:40 to 11:00 am
Outdoor Play	11:00 to 11:20 am
Instructional Time	11:20 to 1:00 pm
Nutrition Break	1:00 to 1:20 pm
Outdoor Play	1:20 to 1:50 pm
Instructional Time	1:50 to 3:30 pm
Dismissal:	3:30 pm

Please ensure your children are aware of the time that school begins so that they will be on time.

## PRINCIPALS MESSAGE:

Welcome back to one and all. We hope you had a fun and peaceful summer and that you and your family are rested and ready for new learning adventures. All of our staff have been working hard preparing for the arrival of our students. The school looks great and feels like a vibrant learning environment. Our staff and students are ready to begin the new school year. Please support your child's learning by ensuring they arrive to school rested and ready to learn. Punctuality and attendance are a learned life skill. Nutrition and exercise also play an important role in development. Let's have a happy and healthy 2017-2018. Know that class assignments are tentative and that should we need to re-organize care will be taken. Let's encourage resilience and work as a team together to support our students' growth and development. Here is a peek at our current staff:

Kindergarten Team: Mrs. Speare, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Nobili, Miss Wood and Mrs. Reckzin

Primary Team: Mrs. Greatrex, Mrs. Kell, Miss Miller, Mrs. Doyle, Mrs. Nicholls

Junior Team: Mrs. Nowell, Mr. Zwezdaryk, Mrs. Wooley, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Charters

Intermediate Team: Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. Gallant, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Gillen and Mrs. Ellsworth

French Team: Mrs. Veltri (Waiting for Placement), Mr. Hill

Planning Time Team: Mr. Hill and Mrs. Mcclenaghan

Special Education SERT Team: Mrs. McKay, Mrs. McNair

Library Learning Commons: Mrs. Lawrence

Educational Assistant Team: Mrs. Ferri (Waiting for Placement) and Mrs. Rutledge

Custodial Team: Ms. Nichols and Mrs. Stewart

Office Team: Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. McCallum and Mrs. Smith

School Council is an important team too! If you'd like to be part of it please fill out a nomination form and join our meeting on Oct. 2nd in the Library Learning Commons at 6:00 pm. Nomination forms are available in the red folder on the office counter.



## Volunteers

We value and want to keep our volunteers. If you are a current volunteer and wish to continue each year you must submit an Offence Declaration. We really do try to catch everyone when we have events and send home copies if we've missed seeing you where possible. We will try, but in the end it is your responsibility to submit the form. Current volunteers who do not submit an Annual Offence Declaration for Volunteers on or before December 31, 2017, will be deleted from the database on January 1, 2018, and will have to submit a new Criminal Records Check and Vulnerable Sector Screen.

If you are not a current volunteer and would like to join us please pick up a letter from our office to take to the police station to have a Criminal Records Check and Vulnerable Sector Screen done. Once this is completed and returned to us we send it to our Area Superintendent's office where current lists are maintained. If you have any questions please call us.

## Keep Connected with our school and with 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):

- you can subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://sun.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. When you fill out your email and click subscribe, an email 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. Thank you for your patience while we update our website. This is a priority for us this year.
- for Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases and event information, visit the 'News' section under 'About Us' on the SCDSB's website: [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://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)). *Our Sunnybrae Twitter account address is @Sunnybulldogs and our Facebook address is Heather Sunnybrae.* through SCDSB's Sharing Simcoe blog ([www.sharingsimcoe.com](http://www.sharingsimcoe.com)), we share stories of our amazing staff, students and school communities.

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

## Gifted Screening

Some children who display an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential. In consultation with parents, the school staff determines who these students are through the gifted screening process. Parents of a student who is in Grade 3 or above, who wish the school to consider their child for screening are asked to contact Mrs. Jill McNair before Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The gifted screening process consists of three components:

- a Teacher Rating Scale;
- a Parent Questionnaire;
- standardized test results (usually the Otis Lennon School Ability Test)

After signing a permission form, parents/legal guardian will complete the Parent Questionnaire. Information obtained from this questionnaire will help the school gain a better understanding of your child's early development as well as his/her strengths, interests, needs and abilities, which the standardized test may not identify. The teacher will complete a Rating Scale, which examines areas such as learning, motivation, creativity and leadership, which he/she has observed in the classroom. Group testing will be completed and the results will provide a standardized measure of school abilities. The information gathered from all three components will assist the school in programming for your child.

If you require information about the gifted screening process, please contact Mrs. McNair at (705) 436-1100.

## 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. We teach emergency responses and expectations and practice them throughout the school year. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

Reading and following the posted safety rules around the school. Dogs are not permitted anywhere on school property unless they are service dogs and identified as such. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on school property at anytime. We ask that parents/caregivers determine a meeting spot outside the school for dismissal. Please do not enter the building to pick students up. They can come to you by exiting with the rest of their classmates out the appropriate door. The only time caregivers should be entering the school at day's end is if there is an appointment or if you are driving students for extra-curricular events. We ask that you respect this important safety rule please. Below are some additional ways you can help keep our students safe and secure:

- 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 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. 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](http://www.facebook.com/SCDSB) and [www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](http://www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://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 Simcoe County District School Board 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.

## School bus 'Bus Tag' program helps students get to and from school safely

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent or guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour coded Bus Tag with the assigned p.m. route number to be attached to the student's backpack and a colour coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the Bus Tag is matched to. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site childcare centre to make sure they don't get on a bus in error.

## 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca). If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact the principal or the SCDSB Equity and Inclusive Education Team at 705-728-7570.

## Your child can learn a new language for free this fall in Barrie and Bradford

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 language, every student can benefit from this program. The Barrie Learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) is offering Arabic, Russian, Mandarin, Korean, German, Spanish and Ukrainian. The Bradford Learning Centre (157 Holland St. E, Suite 200) is offering Arabic, Tamil, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. The course takes place Saturday mornings, 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 16. 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](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) and clicking on 'Elementary Student.'

## 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](http://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com) or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees"
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account

View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card  
It's safe, fast and convenient. Contact Mrs. Hunter in the office with any questions

## Information about student accident insurance for the 2017-2018 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 Simcoe County District School Board 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](http://www.insuremykids.com). Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities and out-of-province or out-of-country trips.

## 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:

- Before and After School fee: \$18.90
- Before School only fee: \$9.45
- After School only fee: \$13.80
- PA day, holiday fee: \$34.20

Please contact Upper Canada Day Care at 705-726-5674 to register your child(ren).

### **How exercise can help with homework**

It's the start of a new school year and students need to get back into the swing of things! Many students and parents adopt a similar philosophy for success – clear your schedule, buckle down and focus. Although the intention is great, by focusing solely on the books and neglecting the body, students are not actually reaching their full potential. Here are three reasons why exercise can make students more productive:

- Better sleep – it's a fact that our brains work better with a good night's rest. Getting enough sleep contributes to the brain's capacity to store and retrieve information, complete tasks efficiently, maintain focus and manage stress – all of which will improve student success.
- Stress release – exercise is proven to release endorphins that reduce stress. We all know how hard it can be to focus with an aching back, cramped neck or jittery leg. These physical distractions are often a result of excessive time spent in sedentary activities. A quick body break can relieve tension, stress and excess energy, making it easier to focus on the tasks at hand.

Retain more – blood pumping exercise increases the flow of oxygen to the brain making it more receptive to the flow of new information coming in. Studies prove that students who exercise three times a week or more get higher grades. In addition to exercise, students should ensure they are eating healthy, staying hydrated and getting lots rest and fresh air.

*Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka ([www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca](http://www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca))*

### **Simcoe Community Services' Grandparent System Support Program**

Simcoe County is home to approximately 4,000 grand-families. 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. The GSSP Support Groups take place in Barrie, Bradford, Orillia and Midland. For more information about the support group, meeting dates/times or if you have questions about the GSSP, contact Trish Longo at [gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca](mailto:gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca) or 705-726-9082 x2321.

### **Gifted Screening Process**



