



Connaught Public School Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020

300 Peel Street
Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 4N9
(705) 445-1241

Principal: Don Shackell
Vice Principal: Dave Richter
Office Support: Tara Eskra

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 7 - 11th - SCDSB Online Survey
Dec 21 - Jan 1st - Holidays
Jan. 6 - CCI Virtual Open House - Gr. 8 Families

SEE THE CALENDAR ON THE
LAST PAGE FOR SPIRIT DAYS



ELEMENTARY (GRADE JK-8) LEARN@HOME AND IN-PERSON LEARNING

Families will be receiving a survey regarding learning modes (in person and Learn@Home) during the week of Dec. 7-11. If you do not receive your survey by Tuesday, Dec. 8, please contact research@scdsb.on.ca.

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENTS FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will happen virtually this winter. Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Different pathways and courses offered will be explained. Visit your school's website for more information.

Save the date grade 8 families - CCI Virtual Open House - Tentatively Wednesday, January 6th, 2021

CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Empathy - we strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others.

More information about character education can be found here: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES ARE CLOSED FOR THE WINTER

Every winter, school playground structures are closed. Students are made aware of this during school hours through announcements and staff reminders during breaks. This may not be well known throughout the community, despite signs indicating that playground structures are a winter hazard and are closed. The Canadian Standards Association regulations make recommendations for the depth of ground cover required to minimize injuries (e.g. sand, pea gravel or wood chips). These surfaces cannot be maintained when the ground freezes. Injuries from falling would be more significant on frozen ground. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen.



shutterstock - 517922290

DAYS OF AWARENESS AND RECOGNITION TAKING PLACE IN DECEMBER

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 December:

Dec. 6

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women



Connaught Public School Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020

COVID-19 SELF-ASSESSMENT

All students and staff will be expected to self-screen prior to attending school each day, using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit the [SMDHU website](#).

COVID-19 HOLIDAY TRAVEL

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit recommends that you only travel outside of your home for essential reasons such as work, school and purchasing necessities. Avoid travelling outside of your community as much as possible, including to attend family gatherings, religious services or events at municipal venues, in order to reduce transmission between geographic areas.

Recommendations for travel may change. Check for updates regularly at <https://travel.gc.ca/covid-19-travel>. For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this holiday season, contact *Health Connection* at 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/COVID-19.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

Historically, in-person Grade 1 FI Family Information Nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, due to restrictions to large-group public gatherings, in-person Family Information Nights will not be held. In lieu of this, an [information page on the board's public website](#) has been created to allow families the ability to access and learn about the program and the application process.

The online Grade 1 FI application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020 until 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020. In Grade 1, enrollment in the FI program is limited to a maximum of two classes of 20 students per class at each host site for the FI program. The electronic applications will be processed in the order determined by a digitally randomized lottery system.

Please note that the host sites for FI may change during your child's time in the program, and your child may need to move schools. This may also include splitting the program between two different sites.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR EXTRA MATHEMATICS SUPPORT FOR YOUR GRADE 6 TO 10 STUDENT?

[TVO Mathify](#) offers FREE one-on-one online Grade 6-10 math tutoring to students enrolled in Ontario's publicly-funded English-language schools. Features include an interactive whiteboard as well as voice and text chat to make it easy to upload a math question and figure it out with the support of a math tutor, at a time that works for you.



TVO Mathify is like a personalized math coach to support students' learning at home. Sign-up, login and connect with an Ontario certified teacher of your choice. It is anonymous and secure, and can be used from a phone, tablet or computer. Math tutors are available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday to Friday and 3:30 to 9 p.m. ET Sunday.

What students are saying about TVO Mathify:

"I really liked my tutor. She helped a lot. Also I love the whiteboard, and all the tools you can use to solve your problems." – Grade 7 student, Halton District School Board

"The tutor was very calm even though I initially had no clue what I was doing. I would absolutely recommend this site to anyone that needs help with their math." – Grade 10 student, Peel District School Board



Connaught Public School Newsletter

SAFE ARRIVAL

If your child is going to be absent or late please call the school's SAFE ARRIVAL line (705)445-1241 Press 1.
Our Safe Arrival line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

con.scsdb.on.ca



INCLEMENT WEATHER AND 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 **WEST** zone.



When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, as in previous years. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for your child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

This year, please note that students who are unable to attend school due to bus cancellations will be able to access learning materials on the digital learning platform assigned by their teacher, either Desire2Learn (D2L) or Google Classroom.

Students in the Learn@Home program will continue with regular programming as scheduled.

The SCSTC 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](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

Stress: Kids get it too!

Kids have stress, just like us. Stress is a normal part of life, but our bodies are only made to handle it for short amounts of time. Continued stress can cause feelings of pressure, anxiety, and tiredness. It can make it hard for kids to focus in school and can cause them to become sick, get lower grades or make unhealthy choices. It's easy to mistake signs of stress for bad behaviour in your child. You can help them learn to manage stress by staying calm, showing love and talking openly about their feelings. Encourage them to try calming activities like deep breathing or doing something active. If the stress continues, be sure talk to your child's family doctor or health care provider.

For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this school year, contact *Health Connection* at 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahhealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Coping with anxiety

Feelings of anxiety can be common among teens, especially right now. Sometimes normally happy teens will become anxious or fearful about something for a day or two but will return to normal without any need for help from their parents. However, some teens experience more intense and frequent feelings of anxiety that prevent them from participating in normal everyday life.

Creating a positive family environment, encouraging regular school attendance and helping your teen understand and discover ways to cope with their anxiety can help. Encourage your teen to explore available online and local services.

[Big White Wall](#) : 24/7 online mental health support network for individuals 16 years and older.

[Kids Help Phone](#): Children and youth 18 and under who need to talk to someone about their mental health can call Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868, for 24/7 virtual, or text 686868.

[COVID-19 Youth Mental Health Resource Hub](#)

If you would like to learn more about monitoring and understanding your teenager's emotions and behaviours, ways to talk openly with your teenager and encouraging your teenager to practice their coping skills, call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520. *Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*



Connaught Public School Newsletter

December 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Christmas Sweater Day	15 Holiday Gear Day	16 Red & Green Day	17 Everything Christmas Day	18 P.J.'s & Polar Express	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<i>HAPPY HOLIDAYS</i>						
27	28	29	30	31		
<i>HAPPY HOLIDAYS</i>						



Enjoy the holidays!

**SEE EVERYONE ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 4TH, 2021**