

Connaught Public School Newsletter

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

Principal: Sara Jo Ottewell
Vice Principal: Colin McIntosh
Office Support: Tara Eskra

APRIL 2023

Dear Connaught Families,

Spring has arrived!

Thank you for your support with our Chocolate Egg and Carnation Fundraiser – all funds raised from this event will go towards playground improvements and the purchase of board games to supplement our games cart. Thank you to Miss Rolling, Mrs. McArthur and the students in the grade 3-4 class for all of their work to make this fun fundraiser such a success.

There are a lot of fun activities planned for the next few months.

Our School Council is planning a **fun school community evening** for all Connaught families on **Thursday, June 1 from 5:00-7:00 pm**. There will be interactive outdoor games led by members of our student leadership team, generously donated to us for the evening by Built by Barron. There will be an art gallery display in the gym of student artwork. And, there will be an opportunity to purchase dinner (a hotdog or hamburger, a drink and chips). Mark your calendars – we are looking forward to seeing you there.

Practices have started for junior girls and boys volleyball and for intermediate rugby. Thank you to the coaches - Ms. Evans, Ms. Farnand, Mrs. Sweeney, Ms. Linton and Mr. Lintern.

Ms. Taylor has organized for the dance company, Moving Dance EDGEducation, to come into Connaught at the end of the month to teach classes about the power of movement in establishing and maintaining well-being. We will be collecting \$2.00 from every student to help offset the costs of this opportunity. Please look for further details about this fun learning session in the next few weeks.

Mrs. Morin will be taking the choir to Music Mania on May 1 at the Rec Plex in Wasaga Beach for a “celebration of music” event.

Teachers will be working on making classes for next year in the upcoming weeks. We work very hard to ensure that the cognitive, social and emotional well-being of each student is carefully considered when determining class placement. If you have a request for a particular class placement for your child for next year, please email Mrs. Ottewell by April 27. We will do our best to honour these requests, where possible.

Have a safe and happy long weekend.

Take good care,
Mrs. Ottewell

Important Dates:

April 2 World Autism Awareness Day
April 3 - 6 - School Bus Evacuation Training
April 7 - Good Friday – No School
April 9 Vimy Ridge Day
April 10 - Easter Monday – No School
April 12 International Day of Pink
April 16-22 National Volunteer Week
April 17-18 Holocaust Memorial Day
April 22 Earth Day
April 26 - Moving Dance EDGEducation – School-Wide
April 26 Administrative Professionals Day
April 27 - Cougar Spirit Assembly
April 28 - PA Day
April 28 National Day of Mourning (World Day for Safety and Health at Work)
May 1 - Music Mania - Recplex – Morning – Choir
May 1 – School Council Meeting – 6:00 PM - Library

Lunchbox Deadline

Sunday at noon for
the weekly order



Domino's on Tuesday
Subway on
Wednesday



Connaught Safe Arrival

With the ongoing technical issues with our phone lines and safe arrival voicemail, we have created another option for you to report your child's absence: you can now send an email to conattendance@scdsb.on.ca. Voicemail is still active; email is just an alternative option.

Character attribute for the month of April

Optimism - we maintain a positive attitude and have hope for the future.

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

April PA Day

Please note that Friday, April 28 is a PA Day for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2022-23 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information:

scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar.

Kindergarten registration for September 2023 is open!



Kindergarten is the beginning of a wonderful journey of learning, and we want your child to begin their journey in a SCDSB school! Do you have a child who is turning four in 2023? If so, we invite you to register your child for Kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Kindergarten Orientation is May 25th from 4:00 to 5:00 pm

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

The Simcoe County EarlyON Child and Family Centres have locations throughout Simcoe County. These centres offer a variety of services, including programs that help prepare children and parents/guardians for kindergarten. Programming will be offered in the spring of 2023. Check with your local EarlyON provider for dates and times. <https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>

Licensed summer school age child care programs

Child care programs for children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are provided by independent, third-party child care operators in some SCDSB schools. To support your child care needs, some operators offer child care over the summer holidays. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register. More information and contact numbers can be found at scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after.

Join us! A learning series for parents/guardians with Pine River Institute

Mental health and well-being continues to be a key strategic priority within the SCDSB. We are pleased to continue our partnership with the Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) to provide several curated learning sessions focused on student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities.

There are five webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents, guardians, and other caregivers during this school year. The final session, 'The Biology of Stress', is April 27.

We hope you join us for this learning opportunity. For more information and to register, please visit the SCDSB website: <https://bit.ly/3jGaC74>.

Pine River Institute is a live-in treatment centre and outdoor leadership experience for youth aged 13 to 19 struggling with addictive behaviours and often other mental health issues. Combining therapy with a fully-accredited education program, PRI reinforces the healthy life skills required for a successful future. CFI@PRI extends PRI's knowledge, experience and evidence-informed treatment approach to families and care providers in the community to support youth mental wellness and prevent the need for more intensive interventions. Learn more about PRI by visiting their website at www.pineriverinstitute.com.

Join the SCDSB's Parent Involvement Committee for 'Safe connections: navigating a digital world'

On April 25, the Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is hosting a virtual learning session for parents/guardians. *Safe connections: navigating a digital world* is a virtual event focused on digital mindfulness and well-being, and Internet safety.

This virtual event will run from 6 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. Presenters include:

- Chris Vollum, CMV SocialMedia
- Sergeant Aaron C. Arnett, Ontario Provincial Police
- Abby Zantingh, Imani's Place

Participants are asked to register in advance: <https://bit.ly/40tEg22>. Information to access the session will be shared via email with individuals who have pre-registered.

The PIC is a county-wide advisory committee made up of parents/guardians and community representatives from across Simcoe County. The committee works with SCDSB staff and trustees to support student success through parent/guardian engagement. Visit scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent/parent_involvement_committee for more information on the PIC.

Interested in learning more about the ways that the SCDSB supports students with special education needs and their families? Join us for a virtual special education outreach series

In 2023, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/caregivers in learning more about programs, supports and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs. The remaining sessions include:

Supporting students as they transition into school, from one school to another, and from school upon graduation

April 20

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

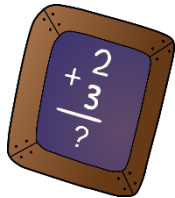
Working with families to create safe and supportive environments for children who have experienced trauma

May 9

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Participants are asked to register in advance. Information to access the sessions will be shared via email with individuals who have pre-registered. Learn more about each session and how to register on the SCDSB website at scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions.

Math @Home parent series



Fostering a strong school-home partnership is an important part of reinforcing math learning at school and extending the learning beyond the classroom. Families are a child's first educator and help build a strong foundation for future success. The virtual math series outlined below is intended to support a positive attitude towards mathematics, enhance motivation and ultimate success.

The SCDSB math department is pleased to offer three evening virtual sessions for families and caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support students with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. The first 200 registrants will receive a math pack of resources to use at home. Participants must pre-register for each of the sessions.

Making Math Connections @Home

Wednesday, April 12

7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore where we find numbers, patterns, measures, and shapes in our daily lives. Participants will learn about practical ways to help their child notice and wonder about the math in their world.

Problem Solving @Home

Tuesday, April 25

7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore how to encourage children to be active thinkers and problem solvers, both in math and around the house. Participants will learn about how solving problems at home can help their children solve problems in math class.

Having Fun with Math Facts @Home

Thursday, May 11

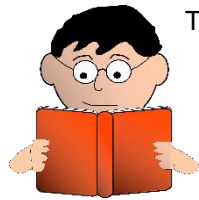
7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore practical, intentional, and fun ways to practice math facts at home. Participants will leave with ideas, games, and activities to support their child with becoming fluent with their math facts.

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Participants who register before March 24 will receive their math pack of resources in time for the first session on April 12. Those who register after March 24 will still receive a math pack of resources, but may not receive them in time for the first session.

Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/23MathAtHome>

The science of reading and structured literacy



The science of reading is a body of research that focuses on how students learn to read, what parts of the brain are utilized when learning to read, and what skills are ultimately required to be successful readers. Structured literacy is how educators take the knowledge gathered through research and apply it. There are five key components that make up an effective literacy program. Students need explicit instruction and repeated opportunities for practice with phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Visit the following link to support your child's reading at home:

<https://bit.ly/LiteracyHomeSupport>

Tense and relax coping strategy

Well-being is a Strategic Priority in the Simcoe County District School Board, and our mental health and well-being department provides monthly strategies to support student and family well-being.

This month's strategy is tense and relax. Parents/guardians can guide their child/youth through a tense and relax muscle relaxation exercise to help them notice whether they feel tense or relaxed in a particular area and understand how their body feels when they are tense and relaxed. This helps children/youth to learn to sooth their body and mind, and assists with regulating emotions during times of stress.

To practice tense and relax at home, have your child/youth get comfortable by either standing or sitting. Encourage them to keep their back straight, and shoulders and head relaxed. If they're comfortable, ask them to close their eyes. Have your child/youth intentionally tense and relax isolated body parts and be aware of how they feel when they tense their muscles and when they relax them. Children can be encouraged to: bring their shoulders up to their ears, hold for a count of 3, and relax; squeeze their hands into fists, hold for a count of 3, and relax; squeeze their stomach in as if fitting between a fence, hold for a count of 3, and relax; and, pushing their feet down to the ground, hold for a count of 3, and relax. Repeat the actions a few times and discuss how these body parts felt before, during, and after the exercise.

Parents/guardians can practice tense and relax at home any time with their child/youth to help them learn how to relieve tensions. Click on the following link to watch a guided video of tense and relax together:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4mQm0hux1Q&t=1s>.

Follow along the SCDSB's mental health and well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

Significant need for foster caregivers in our community

There is a significant need for foster caregivers in our local community. When a child or youth is brought into temporary foster care and placed outside of their community there is a loss of family, friends, schoolmates, teachers, and everything that is familiar to them. The increase in the number of foster homes across the communities in Simcoe Muskoka allows children and youth to remain connected to what is important to them.

Foster families are regular families wanting to give back to their community. When a family faces hardship and challenges, they need a community to support them and their children. In many situations, foster care can provide vital support that enables parents to address issues that are putting their children's safety and well-being at risk. Keeping children connected to their family, community, and extended supports is crucial. Foster caregivers provide a caring home that encourages a child or youth's growth, development, and well-being. If you're interested in becoming a foster caregiver in our community, please visit the foster recruitment website at www.fosterconnexions.ca to learn more or call the foster recruitment line at 705-734-6777.

Information provided by Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions