

Connaught Public School Newsletter

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JANUARY 2023 – HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Connaught Families,

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone was able to enjoy a safe and restful holiday.

It is great to be back and to see everyone's smiles.

The start of a new year is a good opportunity to review expectations and renew commitments. We have been spending time in our classes and as a whole school reviewing our code of conduct. We have been reiterating the importance of following this code of conduct - it helps create an environment in which everyone can learn and most importantly, it helps to keep all members of our school community safe.

Please ask your child to tell you about the expectations we have been discussing to help everyone be safe: respectful language, helpful actions, hands to ourselves, sitting at our desks while eating, walking in the halls, one person using the washroom at a time, lining up quietly to enter and exit the building among others. When we adhere to these expectations, we feel calm, we feel respected, and we feel safe. And that is when we can do our best learning!

For additional information on the school code of conduct that you and your child may review, please see Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

It is also a good time to review the procedures for student drop off and pick up. Parents are not permitted on the yard. Please note that staff meet the students at the front gate and are supervising on the yard to ensure students enter the building safely and efficiently from 8:50-9:05. There is no supervision on the yard before 8:50 am. If you are dropping your child off from a vehicle and would like to walk your child to the front gate, please be sure to park in designated parking spaces and walk your child to the gate. Please do not park in the "drop and go" section – this is the area for dropping off students that can exit the car independently. Thank you for keeping our parking lot and our school yard safe.

We are looking forward to a safe and successful 2023!

Sincerely,
Sara Jo Ottewell

Important Dates:

January 11 – Grade 8 Night at CCI 6-8pm
January 13, 20 & Feb 3 - Grade 5/6 Curling
January 25 – Bell Let's Talk Day
Jan. 27 - Family Literacy Day
January 27 - PA Day
January 31 - Wye Marsh here for grade 4s
Jan. 27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Feb. 6 – School Council Meeting at 6pm

Chess Club starts this month for grades 4-8

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; the email is just an alternative option.

Character attribute for the month of January

Honesty - we behave in a sincere, trustworthy and truthful manner.

More information about character education can be found here:

www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education.

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, unless otherwise noted. School staff are expected to plan for such emergencies in order to transition students who are unable to attend due to inclement weather, to their online platforms (Google Classroom and/or SCDSBhub [Brightspace by D2L]) and continue with academic programming. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

The Consortium 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>.

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: www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Let's talk Kindergarten! Join the SCDSB for a live virtual info session on Jan. 24

Do you have a child who is turning four in 2023 and are interested in learning about Kindergarten in the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB)? Join us Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 7 to 7:30 p.m. for a virtual info session. This presentation will be hosted by members of the SCDSB's early years team, who will provide parents/guardians with important information they need to know about Kindergarten. More details regarding this event will be shared on the SCDSB website and social media platforms in January.

Early learning and child care

The Simcoe County EarlyON Child and Family Centres are excited to offer programs that help prepare children and parents for Kindergarten. Programming will be offered in the spring of 2023. For more information and to find your local EarlyON provider, visit: <https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>.

High school information events for Grade 8 students

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will take place in person this winter! Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Learn about courses offered, as well as information about teams and clubs. Please visit the [SCDSB website](#) to find details on your high schools' info night, and contact the school directly for more information.

Standards of behaviour and consequences for student action related to racism, bias or hate

At the SCDSB, we are committed to maintaining safe, inviting and supportive school environments, and recognize that all students have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in our schools. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate.

We want you to know that any incident of racism, bias or hate will not be tolerated. Any such incident is treated very seriously with immediate action and consequences in accordance with the requirements of the *Education Act*, and consistent with our values and obligations under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

Students who engage in acts of racism, bias or hate will face severe consequences as a result of their actions. Please take a moment to review the [SCDSB Code of Conduct](#) with your child(ren). The Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour and specifies consequences for student actions that do not comply with these standards.

We are dedicated to educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism. We continue to work with students, staff, parents/guardians and community partners to ensure that our schools are the safe places they are intended to be for all students.

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.

IEPs and school-based assessments – information for parents/caregivers

Jan. 12

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Supporting students with autism spectrum disorder

Feb. 14

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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 www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions.

Ontario Ministry of Education tutoring services

The Ontario Ministry of Education is supporting tutoring services in schools and in the community until the end of March 2023. Schools offering after school tutoring services will advertise this service directly to parents/guardians. Community tutoring agencies provide free-of-charge tutoring to Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students after hours in the community and online. Contact information for community tutoring agencies can be found at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring_programs. Tutoring is available to all SCDSB students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12. The SCDSB is also seeking members of the community to act as tutors in our schools during the school day. All candidates must apply through Apply to Education Posting #3361243. Candidates are required to be interviewed by SCDSB administration, provide professional references, and complete a Vulnerable Sector Screen through their local police service. For more information, please email tutoring@scdsb.on.ca.

Bite-sized math support at home

Are you looking for a quick way to support your child in developing their numeracy skills? Here are two resources that provide math activities that can be done in 5 minutes or less!

1. mathbeforebed.com/
We know that daily reading at home supports your child's literacy development; the same is true with math! This website provides images that can be used as a quick number talk before bed. Ask your child: "how many do you see?" and "how do you know?" This website has content for students of all ages.
2. www.parentengagementmatters.ca/math-storytime
Math Storytime is a tablet-based app for ages 5-8 that contains stories about basic math concepts. The stories provide the opportunity for talking about math at home.

Foundational literacy skills - oral language

Based on decades of research, we know the foundational literacy skills necessary for students to learn to read. Oral language is a natural process for us as humans, and our brain is wired for speaking and listening. As children interact with others, they acquire language skills, learning the pronunciation of words and their meaning. Oral language helps children learn the sound structure of language and build vocabulary and background knowledge. Oral language is the foundation for reading and writing.

Here are some ways you can support oral language development with your child(ren) at home:

- Sharing oral stories
- Active, everyday conversations
- Listening games such as Simon Says
- Dramatic play where your child takes on imaginary roles
- Reading books together

Four ways to improve your child's study habits

As we welcome the new year, people often take this time to reflect and make resolutions to form good habits for the year ahead. For some, these resolutions are personal goals, like cooking more meals at home, or joining a local gym – but what about setting family goals? As a parent, you can help your children set goals that will help them succeed at school, such as improving study habits.

It is difficult to see your child struggle with their schoolwork, but with these tips, your child will be able to effectively use their study time to thrive in school this year. Even better, working on these habits now will set them up for success for years to come — both in school and in the workplace. Here are four ways you can help improve your child's study habits:

1. Eliminate distraction

Learning requires focus and concentration to be successful. Removing distractions from your child's learning space is crucial. Portable technology is the largest distraction when it comes to studying. While studying, try to choose a location outside of their study space where they can leave their phone or tablet to minimize distractions. Of course, there are other types of distractions as well, such as a

nearby TV or other children. If possible, find a study location away from the home's common space. Allow your child to turn on white noise or music if it helps them concentrate. It might aid in blocking out other obtrusive sounds so they can concentrate on their schoolwork.

2. Try alternatives to reading

It can get tiresome to read notes and textbooks to learn new information. Your child can only focus for so long before they begin to lose interest and tire of the subject. Try alternative strategies, such as creating flashcards, finding an informative video, listening to educational podcasts or audio books, or asking them to visualize a concept with a graphic or diagram. Kids learn in different ways. Find what works best for your child and use it to their advantage. Just be sure to keep the focus on studying and avoid the online distractions.

3. Give regular praise

Positive parenting and recognizing their accomplishments (both big and small) may be all the motivation they require to succeed. Let them know you appreciate all their effort and hard work. Make sure to celebrate effort over outcome to show your child that trying is the most important thing. Some great wins to celebrate include solving a tricky problem, reaching a reading or math goal, or finishing a project or assignment. Let them know you are proud of them and that they should be proud of themselves as well. They'll be eager to advance if you sometimes throw in a special treat or outing!

4. Find additional help when needed

Perhaps one of the biggest lessons for students to learn is not be afraid to ask for help when needed. However, as a parent, sometimes we don't have the knowledge or ability to provide the help they need when it comes to schooling. That's when it's important to seek additional help, such as a tutor. Tutors can provide professional, tailored help to students, whether it is with an entire subject or a concept within a subject. Tutors can help your child succeed in school, while giving you peace of mind that they are learning with a professional.

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has teamed up with the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka to launch the Y Achieve Tutoring program. This program provides free tutoring sessions outside of school hours, free of charge for any students who may be struggling. These sessions are open to students from Grades 6 to 12 attending a school within the SCDSB, whether you have a YMCA membership or not. For more information, or to book a session online, please visit www.ymcasm.ca/tutoring or contact morgan.gillies@sm.ymca.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka