

Connaught Public School Newsletter

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MARCH 2023

Dear Connaught families:

Happy March!

We have had a very exciting February and anticipate just as exciting a March.

It was so great to see so many parents at our Kindergarten Tea on Thursday. Thank you for coming to share in our community celebration. We hope you enjoyed your tea, cookies and our performance.

Congratulations to both our Boys Basketball Team and our Girls Intermediate Volleyball teams. Both teams represented Connaught at their respective area tournaments this past week and both teams made it all the way to the semi-finals. Both teams represented Connaught positively. Not only were our athletes competitive on the courts, they were also respectful to themselves, their competitors and the officials; they showed great teamwork and sportsmanship! Way to go, Cougars! Thank you to Coach Porteous and Coach Linton. We will have an assembly in the spring to present both teams with their hard-earned semi-finalists pennants.

There are many engaging events planned for March as well. Mrs. Sweeney is taking members of our Chess Team to the Stayner Community Centre on Monday for our Area Chess Tournament. Our Intermediate Business Fair is Tuesday, March 7 from 9:30 – 3:00. Parents are welcome to come for some shopping. (The business fair is closed during lunch breaks 10:45 – 11:25 and 1:05 – 1:45). This is a fundraiser for Mr. Lintern's and Mr. Ball's year-end trip. On Thursday, March 9, Mr. Lintern and Mrs. Morin are organizing an in-house Musical Showcase. Students from the choir, from Mrs. Morin's music class and from Mr. Lintern's grade 6, 7 and 8 music classes will be treating us to their musical learnings. This assembly is for students only and will showcase vocals, guitar, ukelele, drums and Glock and Spiels. As students begin to feel more comfortable performing in front of an audience, we look forward to inviting parents in for a performance later in the spring.

Please look for information about our chocolate-gram and carnation sales coming home with your child soon. Money raised from this school-based fundraiser is going to pay for new board games for our games room/cart and for school yard improvements. Thank you to Miss Rolling and Mrs. McArthur for organizing this fun event. Finally, a huge thank you to all Connaught families for adhering to our parking lot procedures for drop off and pick up. We appreciate your help in keeping our school community safer during these busy times.

With appreciation,
Mrs. Ottewell

Important Dates:

March 3 - National Employee Appreciation Day
March 6 - Area Chess Tournament – Stayner Community Centre
March 7 - Business Fair
March 8 - SK & Grade 8 Grad Photos
March 9 – Music Showcase Assembly
March 11 - National COVID-19 Day of Observance
March 13- 17 – March Break – No School
March 14 - National Pi Day
March 21 - World Down Syndrome Day
March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 23 - National School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day
March 24 - Earth Hour (in schools – official date is Saturday, March 25)
March 24 - Deadline for Easter Fundraiser
March 24 – Wye Marsh Trip – Mrs. Morin & Mrs. McArthur
March 26 - Epilepsy Awareness Day
March 31 - Trans Day of Visibility

Lunchbox Deadline

Sunday at noon for
the weekly order



Domino's on Tuesday
Subway on
Wednesday



Business Fair

Connaught is very happy to announce that we will be holding our annual Business Fair on Tuesday, March 7!

The Business Fair is a big deal at our school. Our intermediate students are busy creating businesses and products to sell to our students and community. This event is very similar to a craft market - students become vendors and sell their items at very affordable prices (between 1-5 dollars). We transform our gym into a market for the day to **raise money for our school**.

On March 7th, students will go with their classes down to the gym and will be able to purchase the goods/services and games that the grade 7/8 students are selling. There will be face painting, food, ice-cream, raffle draws, jewelry, and games for the students to purchase! All proceeds go back to our school - this is a big fundraising event to help support our intermediate field trip! Parents are welcome to come and check it out as well. The fair will be open from 9:30-3:00.

Easter Fundraiser

Our Connaught Easter Fundraiser is BACK for the 2nd year in a row!!! Students, please visit Miss Rolling or Mrs. McArthur to place your order in room 109. We have just over 3 weeks to order before the deadline.

Please be advised that we will not be able to accept any orders after Friday, March 24th to make sure we have our carnations arrive in time from the flower shop. All chocolate filled plastic eggs and carnations will be delivered to staff and students on Wednesday, April 5th before the Easter weekend.



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 March

Integrity: we act justly and honourably in all that we do.

More information about character education can be found here:

www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

March Break

Please note that March 13 to 17 is March Break for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information:

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

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). Here are some ways to do that:

- Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).

Collection and use of personal student information

As students' progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared which eases each student's transition to secondary school. Sharing this information also improves our ability to program effectively to benefit all students. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes are authorized under the *Education Act*. Please note that all information used for the transition process is limited, secure, and protected at all times.

Please contact Greg Jacobs, Superintendent of Education, if you would like more information about the transition process at Connaught Public School.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

Is your child starting JK or SK in September? The Simcoe County EarlyON Child and Family Centres are excited to offer in person and virtual programs that help prepare children and parents/guardians for Kindergarten. Parents/guardians and children will have the opportunity to interact together in a variety of school readiness activities. We will look at and discuss how does learning happen, self-regulation, social skills, and how to get ready to start school.

If program registration is full, please check back regularly as there may be cancellations. To register for a program in your area visit www.earlyonsimcoenorth.ca/GRFK.

How is your infant, toddler, or preschool child developing?

Is your child meeting their milestones? Age-appropriate speech and language skills are critical to your child's ability to read, write and be successful in school as well as to their ability to engage with their peers. Free services are available to support you with your child's development. Preschool speech and

language programs are located across the County of Simcoe. Call (705) 739-5696 or 1-800-675-1979 to complete a developmental screen. The earlier we work together, the better!

Licensed March Break 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 on PA days and holidays including over the March Break (March 13 to 17). 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 www.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 remaining sessions include:

March 2, 2023	Emotional Regulation for Kids and Adults
April 27, 2023	The Biology of Stress

We hope you save these dates in your calendar and join us for these learning opportunities. 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.

Registration now open for summer eLearning!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school courses in July 2023 for current high school students or adult learners who are interested in earning a new credit or upgrading a previous mark. Students can advance online learning skills, earn missed credits, or fast-track preparation for graduation or post-secondary in just four weeks. eLearning is fully supported by certified teachers who are available electronically daily.

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at thelearningcentres.com/high-school-student/summer-school.

#ITSTARTS week in the SCDSB

The County of Simcoe has once again proclaimed March as #ITSTARTS month. The Simcoe County District School Board will be championing the #ITSTARTS campaign from March 6 to 10. This campaign promotes inclusion, acceptance, and equity within the vibrant, diverse, and growing communities that make up Simcoe County. For more information, visit: www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ccs/lip/itstarts.

SCDSB eBook library - SORA

Did you know that the SCDSB has a digital eBook library available for all students from K-12? Students may access books using either the SORA app on a tablet or visiting <https://soraapp.com/welcome/login/202712> on the desktop version. They simply use their school Google login and password to access the library. Picture books, beginner chapter books, graphic novels, magazines, young adult novels, audio books; there is something for every student. Students may use the search function to select a specific book or browse through one of the many curated collections. Happy reading!

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

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

Just breathe coping strategy

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

This month's strategy is deep breathing. Parents/guardians should practice deep breathing with their children to help them develop a deeper mind/body connection, self-regulation, awareness of emotions, and build resiliency. To practice deep breathing at home, have your child 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 place their hands flat on their stomach. Ask your child to breathe in deeply through their nose, filling the belly with breath. Point out how hands move out. Encourage them to hold their breath for a few seconds, then slowly breathe out through the mouth to feel the stomach contract and hands move in. Repeat 5-6 times.

Parents/guardians should practice deep belly breathing at home any time their child seems stressed or upset. Watch a deep breathing video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le2TO_MNFxE&t=3s.

Follow along the Mental Health and Well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

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 path 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. Registered participants will receive a pack of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on their registration form.

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