



WILLOW LANDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

May NEWS, Volume 2, issue 10

<http://wil.scdsb.on.ca>

From the Desk of Principal Peck

On Thursday, April 20th, I attended the Blue Jays game with about 90 of our grade 6, 7 and 8 students. Despite the weather and the 4.5 hour drive home (the traffic was nasty and our bus broke down), I had a fun time supervising very loud but very well-behaved students. We spent over an hour waiting for a working bus at the King City On Route highway stop. I did not need to speak to anyone about behaviour - not even the teachers; I was not once embarrassed by any students' actions. I was proud of our Willow students and staff.

I was especially proud of one of our grade 6 girls. She lost her wallet at The Rogers Centre. It contained about \$40. Her attitude was brilliant. Her resilience and sense of calm exemplary. She did not complain to me or to any other staff member. She did not break down in tears. She did not blame a friend. I don't think she even texted or called her parents. She did something that I don't see too often from children: she immediately accepted responsibility for her problem. She informed a teacher of the situation then located guest services and, to everyone's surprise, someone had turned in the wallet - with the money still inside!

Students behaving like good citizens; a student reacting to an upsetting problem with calm confidence and aplomb; and evidence that honesty is still practiced when no one is watching. No wonder I was happy, even though the Jays lost.

Doing Mathematics with Your Child (Kindergarten to Grade 6)

Today, critical thinking, problem solving, reasoning ability and ability to communicate mathematically are essential skills. These processes are the foundation of mathematics instruction in Ontario schools. "*Doing Mathematics with Your Child*" is a guide available for parents of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6. This guide offers ways to engage their child in thinking and talking about mathematics around the four strands: number sense and numeration, measurement, patterning and algebra, and data management and probability. Please use the link below to access the guide in English and 13 other languages:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNum.html>

Library News

May 11--"Snuggle up and Read" Day: Special literacy activities for K-4 throughout the school day
An evening of stories, special guests, snacks and fun from 6:15 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more details!

May 10 through 12--Book Fair:

May 10—during the school day

May 11—during the school day and during the evening program

May 12—during the school day

Starting school in the Fall?

This spring, we are hosting an orientation session to welcome new Kindergarten students and their parents to our school. Come experience what life is like in Kindergarten! Explore areas of the program, meet our Kindergarten educators and have the chance to ask questions. Our school's session takes place on Thursday, June 1st from 5:30 PM until 6:30 PM. We look forward to welcoming you! For more information, visit www.scdsb.on.ca, click on 'Programs,' 'Kindergarten' and then 'Kindergarten Orientation.'

School start dates for September 2017 are as follows:

- Senior Kindergarten (Year 2) students will begin school on Tues. Sept. 5.
- Junior Kindergarten (Year 1) students will begin school on Thurs. Sept. 7.

Let's walk/roll/bike to and from school!

Research tells us that children want to walk and bike to school! Children know that using active transportation to and from school is part of a healthy lifestyle, it's good for the environment and it makes them feel happier. A recent Ontario study indicated that a whopping 42% of children are driven to school, and 93% percent of children and youth are not meeting Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines. Did you know that distances up to 5km are travelled more quickly door-to-door by bicycle than by car?

Active school travel is the use of any form of travel that is self-propelled for the trip to and from school. Active & Safe Routes to School mobilizes children with initiatives such as Walking/Cycling School Buses, Walking/Wheeling on Wednesdays or Walk/Wheel Once a Week, and walking buddies. Using active transportation for the school journey is one of the easiest ways for students to get regular daily physical activity. Learn more at www.saferoutestoschool.ca/.

Now that the weather is warming up, including active transport to and from school in your day is easier!

Netflix 13 Reasons Why

Recently there has been significant media coverage of the Netflix series *13 Reasons Why*. The show is a fictional account of one teen's suicide and the factors leading to it.

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has advised staff that they are not to use the series as a teaching tool. This decision is based upon the advice of mental health professionals from across the province, who have stated that the material is graphic and potentially triggering for vulnerable young people. While the themes in this series may not pose a risk or potential harm to most students, for those struggling with mental health issues and/or suicide ideation, this series includes graphic content, glamorizes suicidal behaviours and portrays helpers (school guidance counsellors) in a negative way.

We recognize that your children may watch the series on their own. If they do, we encourage you to talk with them about their thoughts and feelings. The SCDSB has supports in place for students and staff, and there are many community resources you can access as well. More information and contact details are available on our website.

The National Association of School Psychologists has also developed information regarding the series [LINK -

<http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing->

[youth-suicide/13-reasons-why-netflix-series-considerations-for-educators](#)]. You may also find this helpful in discussions with your children about suicide and mental health. If you have questions or concerns please contact your principal.

Are you looking for work?

The Simcoe County District School Board's Career Centre is ready to help at no cost to you. The Career Centre has experienced, professional employment consultants available to help job searchers prepare for and find work. Visit the Career Centre for resources, including the use of computers, internet, printer, fax, information sessions, job board and online postings. No appointment necessary and the Centre is open Monday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information on the services available, visit barriecareercentre.com or call 705-725-8990. This Employment Ontario service is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

YEARBOOK ORDERS - What Are You Waiting For?

It is time to order your yearbook! This year they will be full colour and created in a digital format. The book is 76 full-colour and exciting pages. The only catch is we need 150 orders in order to proceed. We are halfway there. If we don't get 150 orders we will not be able to proceed, so get those orders in NO LATER THAN MAY 12th. They can be purchased with School Cash Online or with cash. No cheques please. For your convenience, an order form is attached to this newsletter.

Changes to our Lunch Program

Remember, all ordering is now done online with School Cash Online. Our first "online ordering only" this year went very well. **The final order for this school year will go online on May 15th and will remain open until May 21st.** Don't wait until the last minute to order. Once you miss the online deadline, you've missed your chance to order.

Shine green for Mental Health Week, May 1 to 7

The Canadian Mental Health Association invites us to wear green during Mental Health Week. Be sure to share online with the hashtag #GETLOUD. Going green for mental health is a simple way for all of us to recognize that we must make mental health a priority. Visit www.greenformentalhealth.ca for more information.

Immunization Reminder

By law, all students need to have an up-to-date immunization record on file at the health unit. Since starting Kindergarten, your child may have received new immunizations. A reminder – you must send your child's updated immunization records to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit for:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio, and Pertussis, Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
- Two-doses of a Chickenpox (Varicella) containing vaccine

If your child will not be getting these vaccines, you will need to give the health unit a valid exemption (medical or affidavit). If the health unit does not have an updated record, students could be temporarily suspended from school. Follow these steps to help us:

1. Check your child's yellow immunization card
2. Contact your health care provider to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations
3. Share the complete record with us at www.smdhu.org/jimmsonline or fax the record to the health unit at 705-726-3962

Questions? Contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or toll-free at 1-877-721-7520.
Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- May 2 - Gr. 3 Swim to Survive begins
- May 5 - Jump Rope for Heart Kick Off Assembly
- May 10 - Talent Show 1:35 p.m.
- May 11 - Snuggle Up & Read 6:15-8:00 p.m.
- May 12 - Poetry Cafe (Mrs. Persson's Class)
- May 17 - Track and Field (Gr. 4-8)
- May 19 - PA Day (no school for students)
- May 22 - Victoria Day
- May 23 - EQAO Provincial Assessment begins
- May 23 - Gr. 7 Swim to Survive begins
- May 25 - Champions of History Gr. 4 Workshop
- May 31 - School Council (6:00 p.m. in staffroom)
- June 27 - Gr. 8 Graduation
- June 29 - Last day of classes

YEARBOOK ORDER FORM

Yearbooks are now full colour and need to be pre ordered. If you wish to purchase a yearbook, please fill out the form below and return it to your child's teacher. Payment must be either cash or School Cash Online – cheques will not be accepted. Yearbooks are \$25 each. Yearbooks will be on Sale from April 18th to May 12th

LATE ORDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Student's name (please print): _____

Student's teacher: _____

of yearbooks ordered _____ (x \$25). Total cost \$ _____

Payment method please check one:

_____ School cash on line (please print receipt and include with the order)

_____ Cash