



WILLOW LANDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

From the Desk of Principal Peck

The other morning I got a nosebleed for no reason; I had not been in a fight; I had not fallen on my face. I could not get it to stop. It was so bad I thought I might need a blood transfusion (my wife says I exaggerate, so take that into account). Sorry to be so graphic. This minor health issue put me a half hour behind schedule. In fact, I texted Mrs. Gray the secretary and Mrs. Best the VP and told them I would be late. I know they really worry about me so I like to let them know what I'm up to. Strangely enough, I wasn't actually late, just later than normal. I allow 45 minutes of buffer time and aim to be at school at 8 AM. So instead, I got here at 8:30 AM.

I am sad to say that many of our students allow no buffer time for their arrival at school. This may be their fault if they are older, or their parents fault if they are younger. It seems we have record numbers of students signing in late and the snow hasn't even started yet. This means they miss out on important learning; they lose a relaxing start to the day; they may miss an important announcement; they unnecessarily add to the busyness in the office and make it more difficult for our secretaries to attend to their work; they make the work of taking attendance (a safety issue) more confusing. Those who are regularly late are developing a bad habit of tardiness. "I never make it to work on time" isn't a phrase an employer likes to read on a resume.

The bell to start the day rings with clarity at 8:45 AM. Staff are outside beginning at 8:25 AM to supervise your children. Pretend school starts at 8:30 AM. Then, if you are a little late, you won't actually be late. Please help your children to develop this good habit of punctuality. It will serve them well for the rest of their lives. My dad taught me this. If he wasn't ten minutes early for an appointment, he felt he was late. It drove me crazy when I was a teenager, but I guess his modelling worked. Incidentally, what we do as parents holds far more weight than what we say. But that's a topic for another newsletter.

From the Desk of Vice-Principal Best

If you're like me, you may feel frustrated with the lack of detail your child shares about their school day! Try out this Parent Pointer Calendar for the week of November 7th - November 11th. Hopefully we can generate some good discussions with our children!

Mon. Nov. 7th	Tues. Nov. 8th	Wed. Nov. 9th	Thurs. Nov. 10th	Fri. Nov. 11th
Ask your child his/her opinion about the Raptors, favourite artist, fashion or social media.	Encourage your child to keep a "to-do" list: -feed the cat -brush teeth, etc.	Ask your child to tell you about a time today when he/she showed caring at school.	Make a "date" with your child to do something fun. Write it on the calendar.	Ask your child to share two great things about his/her day.

Kids, Grab A Good Book. Reading Still Matters!

Below is an article written by Bruce Rodrigues, CEO of EQAO. "I don't understand." Those three little words can be so devastating to our present and our future. Chances are, if you're reading this

article you're probably not one of the thousands of Ontarians who struggle to draw meaning from the important texts that are everywhere around you. Sadly, though, for too many in Ontario — children, adolescents and adults alike — the written word is more of a wall than a gateway to new thoughts, facts and ideas. For the complete story, please go to:

http://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2013/09/08/kids_grab_a_good_book_reading_still_matters.html

Terry Fox Run

Our school raised \$636.96 for Terry Fox this year. Thank you parents for your support.

Do you Eat at Boston Pizza?

Help the school when eating at Boston pizza: Write WILLOW LANDING on the top of your receipt, give it to your server, and 10 percent of food sales comes directly back to the school.

Message from SCDSB Director of Education Kathi Wallace

At the Sept. 28 Board Meeting, it was shared publicly that I will retire as of December 31, 2016. As I'm sure you can imagine, this decision was challenging for me. I love what I do - I have felt this way in every role during my 39 years in this board. It's truly been an honour to serve the students and families of Simcoe County throughout my career. I've had the privilege of working with fantastic staff, parents and community partners. I've been surrounded by skilled, passionate and caring people.

My focus remains on our work as I complete my time here. The Board of Trustees have started the search for a new director. We are also now gathering the results of our strategic planning consultation. The input provided by our staff, students, parents and community members will be invaluable to the board and senior administration, including the new director, as they move the system forward.

I am looking forward with optimism to this next stage of my life. It's a chance to spend some more time with my family. This includes my growing group of beautiful grandchildren who provide that daily reminder of life's wonder and simple joys. It's that same reminder I cherish from my days as a classroom teacher.

It's almost winter: Bus cancellation information for parents

- Winter is just around the corner in Simcoe County, and with it comes the possibility of severe weather, challenging winter driving conditions and possible bus and school event cancellations.
- All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the **CENTRAL** zone. When buses are cancelled, schools are still open for student learning, unless otherwise noted.
- 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 between 6 and 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 for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions>

- For school event cancellations in case of inclement weather, follow our school's Twitter account @WillowLandingES or listen to local radio for event cancellation information.

Message from the Health Unit: Stay Healthy This School Year!

Colds and Influenza spread easily from person to person. These germs can spread directly from person to person when someone coughs or sneezes, or indirectly when germs land on hard surfaces like door knobs, desks, keyboards, or wet tissues and then are touched by someone. These germs can then enter the body through the eyes, nose or mouth.

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick and stop the spread of germs to others is wash your hands with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds. If your hands are not visibly dirty you can use alcohol based hand rub "hand sanitizer" for 15 seconds. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough into your sleeve or upper arm and stay home if you are sick. Teach your kids to do the same!

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.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Important Upcoming Dates

November 7	Guest Speakers from the Ontario Legislature
November 8	Gr. 7/8 Trip to CN Tower & Ripley's Aquarium
November 8	FDK to Scanlon Creek
November 9	Jr Boys Volleyball Zone Tournament at Andrew Hunter
November 10	FDK to Scanlon Creek
November 11	Remembrance Day - parents are welcome to join us at 10:45 am
November 11	Report Cards go home
November 15	Grades 1 and 4 to The Little Mermaid Production
November 16	Character Education Assembly - parents are welcome to join us at 9:00 am
November 16	High School visits Willow Landing
November 16	Picture Retake Day
November 17	Student Conferences - teachers may schedule conferences on other days as well
November 30	Grade 7/8 Immunization
November 30	Intermediate Girls' Basketball Tournament - Willow Landing
November 30	School Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. - Staff Room - All welcome!
December 7	Grade 8 Parent Information Night - Innisdale Secondary School 7:00 p.m.

Important Reminder:

There is no **APP** for your **LAP** - read to your child every day.