



WILLOW LANDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

From the Desk of Principal Peck

I recently watched a documentary on Netflix called “The Minimalists”. These are people who have decided that making more and more money for the accumulation of more and more stuff isn’t necessarily the best way to live. They try to get by on as little as possible. One of the main characters in the documentary brought less stuff for five months of travelling than some of our kindergarten students bring for a day at school. I found the whole concept intriguing. I now look at my closets and garage in a whole new light. We educate your children so they can one day get jobs and make the money they need to live in Ontario. But we also aim to teach character traits like Integrity, Honesty, and Empathy, to name a few. Technically, one doesn’t get paid for character, but it’s critical to success and helps us to keep our jobs and our relationships. Let’s all work together to help one another become “Maximalists” when it comes to character. As far as being a minimalist with your material possessions, well, those are decisions you’ll have to make as a family.

From the Desk of Vice-Principal Best

Fitness and Fun...two words many families just aren’t getting enough of. Health Canada recommends adults should accumulate at least 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week, and children/teens require 60 minutes of physical activity every day. Getting our daily dose of exercise not only helps to prevent health risks, it builds strong muscles and bones, develops positive body image and supports mental health. Here are some great tips to make family fitness fun for everyone:

Plan ahead - it’s hard to have fun when you’re rushed or overwhelmed. Schedule family time in your calendar and treat it like any other appointment you need to be prepared for.

Put family first - make the focus of family fitness about family time. Use this time to connect with one another, share stories, discuss interests, check in on the day or just make each other laugh.

Take turns - to ensure that family fitness stays fun for everyone, take turns choosing the activity.

Bring on the music - adding a soundtrack to your favourite workout is a great way to turn up the fun.

End on a high note - follow your fit-time with activities your family loves to help make the habit fun for all. Plan a movie night at home after attending a fitness class together, or make it a tradition to share a healthy treat after your heart-pumping fun.

Source: Melanie Rumley @ SCDSB, Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka (www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)

School bus evacuation training takes place April 3 to 7

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC), in partnership with school bus operators, is offering school bus evacuation training to all home-to-school transported students the week of April 3 to 7. During this week, school bus drivers will educate students on how to evacuate a school bus safely in an emergency situation. For more information, visit

main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/.

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.

Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards and Baseballs

What do these four items have in common? Easy. They are all excellent items to use outdoors, all excellent ways to improve health and coordination, and three of them are great ways for kids to travel around the neighbourhood. But please remember the following:

- if students ride scooters to school, we ask that they be stored indoors in our scooter racks at the front of the school (the students know where this is; skateboards may be kept here as well)
- if your child rides his or her bike to school, please be sure to provide them with a lock so they can lock their bike up outside at the front of the school
- if students wish to practice throwing baseballs at school, this is fine as long as it is done in a safe manner; hard balls or soft balls must be the soft rubber variety, not actual hard balls or soft balls (our playground is too crowded for safe use of such items)
- we aim to prevent theft, but we can't be responsible for loss or theft of the above items, baseball gloves, etc. Please be sure all items brought to school are permanently labelled with your child's name

Summer childcare available at select SCDSB schools

In partnership with community child care operators, we are pleased to support your child care needs, offering full-day child care programs for children (aged JK to 12 years) in select schools across Simcoe County this summer. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to register. A fee subsidy may be available to families who qualify. For more information, regarding Upper Canada Child Care (UCCC) Summer camps, please contact Danielle Gladney at 705-735-6683 for the Willow Landing Child Care or the School Age Office at 705-726-5674 for additional UCCC camps in the area. For the full listing of childcare centres in the SCDSB, visit www.scdsb.on.ca and click on 'Schools' and then 'Before & After School Care.'

Phoneless "Phridays"

Staff and Students are challenged to get by without their cellphones or smartphones each Friday in April, starting on April 7th. This is a chance for staff and our older students to reflect on how distracting our phones can be, a chance to spend more time in face to face interaction, and a chance

to determine who really is “addicted”. When students leave their phones at home on Fridays, they may wear a hat in school to show that they are participating in Phoneless Phriday. Let’s hope for fewer phones and more hats on April 7, 21 and 28. The 14th is Good Friday. Try going phoneless together at home.

Changes to our Lunch Program

Set up your School Cash Online Account as soon as possible if you have not already done so. You have already received information on how to set up School Cash Online. In order to make the lunch ordering process as simple and error free as possible, **School Council will be having May’s order fully online - no paper order forms will be sent home.** Thanks for your cooperation in this matter. Our parent volunteers work hard to provide your children with a special lunch twice a week. We need to make the process as simple and efficient as possible for them. We will let the school community know when the May Order Form goes online.

Understanding Your Child’s Individual Education Plan (IEP)

If your child has an IEP, mark April 12th on your calendar. There will be a helpful information session held at Bear Creek Secondary School from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in their cafeteria. More information will follow closer to the date.

SCDSB Media Fest: What Does Being a Great Canadian Look Like?

Students are invited to submit an entry for the 2017 SCDSB Media Fest. This media festival is open to all Simcoe County District School Board students and can include images, audio and video. For more information, visit www.scdsbmediafest.com. The submission deadline is April 3.

Vaccination reminder for parents of Grade 1 students

All students must have an up-to-date immunization record on file at the health unit. Since starting Kindergarten, your child may have received new immunizations. If so, you must send their updated immunization records to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit for:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Polio
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
- Meningococcal disease
- 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 medical exemption or affidavit. To complete either of these forms, you can call the health unit. Your child could be temporarily suspended from school if the health unit does not have an up-to-date record on file.

Follow these steps to help protect everyone in your school community:

- Check your child’s yellow immunization card
- Contact your health care provider to get a record or to get missing vaccines
- Share the complete record with the health unit at www.smdhu.org/immsonline or fax the record to the health unit at 705-726-3962

For more information, visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit’s website at: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Events at Eastview Secondary School in April open to all parents

- On April 10 at 7 p.m., Eastview Secondary School will host a screening of the film Screenagers, a study of growing up in the digital age. Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston created Screenagers to probe into the vulnerable corners of family life to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. This presentation will help parents learn how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world.
- On April 12 at 7 p.m., the school welcomes financial literacy expert Robin Taub, the author of the best-seller, A Parent's Guide to Raising Money-Smart Kids. Her presentation will cover why it's important to teach kids about money, as well as the challenge of being a good financial role model. She will explain how to address money-related topics with young kids, pre-teens, teenagers and emerging adults.
- All parents/guardians are welcome to attend the above events. For more information, please contact Eastview Secondary School at 705-728-1321. The school is located at 421 Grove St. E. in Barrie.

Measuring school safety and inclusion: survey results and next steps

In January, students, staff and parents provided feedback on our school climate through a survey. The survey included questions about the tone of the school, safety, inclusion, activities and more. The results of the survey are now available on our website under the "Newsletters" heading.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Mon. April 3 - School Bus Evacuation Training (bus students only)
- Grade 4 Caribou Math Contest

Wed. April 5 - Safety Patroller Movie Day at Barrie Cineplex
- Comic Book Artist Justin Sperling at Willow (Grades 2-5)
- Chess Tournament at Royal Canadian Legion

Thurs. April 6 - "Rehearse the Verse" Mindfulness Assembly (K-8) 11:05 a.m.

Fri. April 14 - Good Friday and Mon. April 17 - Easter Monday (no classes)

Tues. April 18 - Firefighter Visit - Mrs. Pappas' class

Wed. April 19 - Character Assembly - "Optimism" 9:00 a.m.; parents are welcome
- Enrichment Team(Quest Art)

Thurs. April 20 - Jays' Game Gr. 6-8
- P/J Choir at Barrie Kiwanis Music Festival

Fri. April 21 - School Council Dance-a-thon

Wed. April 26 - School Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. in the staffroom