



WILLOW LANDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JANUARY NEWS, Volume 2, issue 6

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

From the Desk of Principal Peck

Although it would be incorrect to call me a sun worshipper, I do love sunlight and find myself in a better mood when the sun is shining. In fact, if I didn't have all my family in Ontario, I might just move to California, southern California that is, where "it never rains". The winter solstice occurred just two days before the last day of school in 2016. It was a sad and a happy day for me. Sad because on December 21 we don't even get 9 hours of sunlight. Happy because the days start to get longer and before you know it we'll be enjoying over 15 hours of sunlight towards the end of June. But June is a long way from now. Well, yes and no.

June will come more quickly than we think and students need to plan ahead for success and keep working hard. 6 months may go quickly, but it's certainly plenty of time to develop a new positive habit for 2017. Here are several simple ones to choose from that will absolutely improve a child's school experience, and even his or her life experience:

- always arrive for school early every day (no later than 8:40 AM)
- always say "Good Morning" to your teacher with a smile
- always look behind yourself and hold the door if there's someone behind you
- always make and pack a healthy snack and healthy lunch the night before
- always say "Thank you" whenever anyone does anything for you or gives anything to you
- always say "Please" when asking for something
- always leave your desk, workspace or room cleaner and tidier than you found it

Remember the hard part: in order for something to become a habit, we need to do it about 20 times!

From the Desk of Vice-Principal Best

Welcome back to all Willow Landing students, families and staff! I hope that 2017 will be a great year for everyone filled with happiness and good health.

The importance of regular school attendance and being on time for class is supported by research. We know that being present and on time has a positive impact on learning from K-12. It is difficult to "catch up" when time is missed and for some children, starting the day late can impact their entire day. We care about each child and our hope is for all students to feel welcome and connected here at Willow Landing. Regular attendance helps to build habits that will last a lifetime and transfer to life beyond public school. We do track data on student attendance and are committed to contacting parents and guardians to work with you to develop a plan when we see irregular attendance. Our grade 6 to 8 students are at a stage in their development where they can take on an increasing level of personal responsibility for getting to school on time. Effective January 11, 2017, daily student lates will be tracked by the office. Our expectation is that instructional time missed due to unexcused lates will be made up at recess. It is important for school and home to work together for the success of your child. Where possible, we ask that you

try to schedule appointments outside of the instructional day. Thank you for your continued support.

Apply for French Immersion, find out more at information sessions in January

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout the county beginning in Grade 1. This program gives students a bilingual education and the opportunity to become fluent in another language.

Information sessions will be held in January for parents of students in Senior Kindergarten. A letter will be sent home to those parents with more details. Information session dates will be posted at www.scdsb.on.ca under Programs, French as a Second Language.

The FI online application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, until 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017 at www.scdsb.on.ca under Programs, French as a Second Language. While every effort is made to accommodate all FI applications, available space and staffing will determine how many students can be registered in the program. Applications will be processed in the order they are received electronically.

Please contact the school if you do not have Internet access at home or require assistance accessing the online application. Please note that the host sites for FI may change during your child's time in the program, and your child may need to move schools. This may also include splitting the program between two different sites.

Students and parents invited to complete the School Climate Survey

From Jan. 9 to Jan. 27, 2017, all students in grades 4 to 8 will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey at school about how they feel about their school. Your child's teacher will supervise the class during the survey and can answer any questions or concerns your child may have. As well, parents/guardians of students in grades 4 to 8 will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey about how they feel about their child's school.

These surveys provide students and parent/guardians with the opportunity to say what is great about their school, as well as express their concerns. The survey results will provide valuable feedback to staff and will help schools to develop their Safe Schools Plans. Respondents are not asked to provide their names and all responses will be combined to ensure confidentiality.

To complete the parent/guardian survey, visit the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) website at www.scdsb.on.ca and click the link to the parent/guardian School Climate survey. The password for the survey is **ElementaryParent2017**. If you do not have access to the internet and/or you prefer to complete a paper version of the survey, you can request one at the school office. Questions about the parent/guardian survey can be directed to SCDSB's Research and Evaluation Services team via email at research@scdsb.on.ca. Thank you for your support!

Kindergarten registration opens in January

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2013? If so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Beginning on January 23, 2017, Simcoe County's public schools will register children for Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.

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 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.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

The Facts of Lice: How to prevent and treat this nuisance

Like everywhere else, there are head lice in Simcoe County. Lice are a nuisance, but do not pose a public health hazard as they are not known to transmit any infectious diseases. Anyone can get head lice but kids tend to get them more often because they can have head-to-head contact with other children during school and play. The best way to keep head lice in check is to work together to prevent the spread.

Schools are required to inform parents when a case of head lice is confirmed, to provide parents with timely information to begin their own checks at home. Head lice management and treatment is a responsibility of parents/guardians.

Here are some tips to help prevent and treat lice:

- Teach your child not to share personal things like hair brushes, combs and hats
- Set a schedule to check your child's head regularly. Use an area with bright light and look carefully for nits (shells containing eggs) and live lice in the hair, behind the ears and around the neck and hairline. Nits looks like half the size of the head of a pin, shaped like a teardrop and stick to the hair so you can't blow, flick, or easily side them off. Lice are about the size of a sesame seed and are very hard to see because they can crawl and hide but they cannot hop or fly.
- If you find nits or live head lice, you'll need to use a head lice treatment to kill them. Make sure to follow the directions, and then to do a second treatment 7 to 10 days later to help stop the lice from returning. Head lice are not likely to live in clothing, furniture or bed linen but it's a good idea to wash bed linen and hats in hot water and dry them in a hot dryer just in case.

For more information, visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's website www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.
Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

School Council is on Facebook and Twitter

Check out this link: <https://www.facebook.com/WillowLanding-School-Council-1328400890533300/>

Follow School Council: @WillowLandingSC

Changes to Safe Arrival Calls

Safe Arrival calls are now automated. When calling Safe Arrival, please do so as early as possible during the morning of the absence, or even the night before. The sooner the better. Safe Arrival is "manned" by an auto-attendant. Always call as early as possible. Thanks for your cooperation. On an inclement weather day, anyone who is not at school will get an automated call even if they have already called in the absence. Only return this call if your child SHOULD be at school.

Going Outside in Cold Weather

Both the Ministry of Education and our School Board are encouraging more outdoor play; research and common sense indicate that there are multiple health and learning benefits to being in the outdoors. Please dress your children for the weather. As cold weather approaches, remember this:

Both the Canadian Paediatric Society and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) recommend minimum temperature limits for outdoor play. These organizations and the SCDSB recommend that children be kept indoors if the temperature falls below -25°C , or if the wind chill is -28°C or greater (Canadian Paediatric Society, 2009).

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

January 9	Happy New Year and Welcome Back to school!
January 11	Gr. 6 VIP Program begins
January 18	Character Education Assembly 9:00 a.m. Family & Friends Welcome!
January 25	School Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. in the staff room - All Welcome!
January 27	Professional Activity Day - No school for students
February 1	Earth Rangers Assembly - 1:45 p.m. (Grades K-6)
February 6-8	Gr. 6 Kandalore Trip