



From the Desk of Mrs. Golding:

Nottawasaga Creemore Families,



November was an exciting month full of wonderful events at the school and "Movember" activities organized by our Spirit team! In November our 2017 graduates also planted a tulip garden in honour of Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017. Thank you to the Retired Teachers Organization of Ontario who donated these special "maple leaf tulip" bulbs that were created in the Netherlands to celebrate the occasion. Thank you to Mr. Charman who dug out the gardens and Ms. Angus who helped with planting. We look forward to seeing these special tulips bloom in the spring!

Also in November, due to a decrease in our school Educational Assistant Allocation, we said goodbye to Mrs. Ferrari, who was a .5 EA at our school. Mrs. Ferrari will be missed by the staff and students and we wish her best of luck in her new role at Clearview Meadows. In November, we also welcomed Ms. McBrearty who is a familiar face at the school. Ms. McBrearty is covering for Mrs. Pike who is currently on leave until after the holidays.

As the snow begins to fall we want to remind all of our students and their families about the importance of dressing appropriately for the weather. As well, the parking lot becomes more crowded in the morning. If you must drive your child, please remember to enter the parking lot and proceed to the kiss and ride loop carefully. Alternatively, feel free to park your car if you plan on walking your child to the gate.

The holiday break is fast approaching and we are gearing up for an exciting time. We have our Breakfast with Santa on December 3rd.

The holidays are a special time. Whatever you celebrate, we hope that you enjoy the Holiday Season with your children, family and friends. We have a great team of students, staff and parents working together here at Nottawasaga Creemore...we are fortunate indeed. If I don't see you in the upcoming few weeks, I look forward to seeing you in 2017!

December Important Dates:

- Dec 3- Breakfast with Santa
- Dec 5- Go Girls Program (all week), Elephant Thoughts after school science
- Dec 8- OEYC stay and play group
- Dec 19- MADD Presentation to grades 7/8 in the gym
- Dec 22- OEYC stay and play group
- Dec 26-Jan 6- Winter Break!



New NCPS Motto!

The new NCPS school motto was created with input from students, parents and staff. The goal of re-writing the school motto, which was previously, "A great school in a small community", was to create a statement that reflected the values of the school. We wanted a motto that would answer the question, "What is our why?".

During the 2015/2016 school year, staff and parents were given the opportunity to provide feedback through a survey asking what 3 qualities describe the school. Their responses were summarized in an image found [here](#). The size of the words in the image represent the words that were repeated most frequently in the survey.

Student volunteers from grades 4-8 also participated in an activity where they drew a schoolhouse and labelled the components of the school as follows:

- Foundation- underlying beliefs and core values that the school is built on
- Walls- visible characteristics of the school that are supported by the foundational beliefs and values
- Front door- something the school does to make people feel welcome
- Windows- some of the activities that take place at the school that let people see what is valued by the school
- Roof- large projects at the school that cover several aspects of the school and its values
- Bell- something that draws attention to the school from the perspective of those outside of the school

The key themes that emerged from all stakeholders were the concepts of inclusiveness, the school's community oriented nature, caring, kindness, innovation and the notion that we are "small but mighty".

After gathering this feedback, the committee, made up of parent and staff volunteers, decided that the school mission should be short and catchy, worded in a positive manner and encompass themes of character, mindset and learning. They came up with the following mission statement to encompass all of these components.

"We choose....to be learners, to be supporters and to be proud."

The committee then further discussed these three concepts, breaking them down into a more detailed statement of values...

We choose...

To be learners

- To put forth our best effort, to experiment and take risks in order to meet our full potential

To be supporters

- To show kindness, empathy and include everyone as a valued member of the community

To be proud

- To show responsibility and respect for ourselves, others and the environment

Throughout the coming months of our 50th anniversary year, it is our goal to roll out our school motto through visible signage and discussion with students in regard to school-wide expectations, personal and class goals and code of conduct.



Snack and Breakfast Program

Our breakfast and snack programs are always looking for donations of nut free, healthy foods through the year! Suggestions include eggs, cheese, fruit, yogurt, nut free crackers/cereal/granola bars and bagels. Donations can be directed to Mrs Angus, Mrs. Doner Day or dropped off at the office.

Smart Riders

Please take a minute to review bus procedures with your child:

- Leave home early enough to arrive at your bus stop on time
- Always walk to your bus stop and when around buses
- Wait for your bus in a safe place – well off the roadway
- Refrain from sliding on snow banks
- Enter your bus in an orderly manner and take your seat
- Follow the instructions of your school bus driver or bus patrol
- Remain in your seat while the bus is in motion
- Remain quiet and orderly
- Keep your head and arms inside the bus at all times
- Keep aisles clear at all times
- Be courteous to your school bus driver and fellow passengers
- Be aware of traffic flow and leave the bus loading area promptly
- Refrain from eating or drinking on the bus
- Backpacks must rest on the student's lap while in transit
- Students must be able to use the handrail while entering and exiting the bus

Students may only take their assigned bus. We are not allowed to switch busses to go to another student's house for birthday parties, homework or projects. Transportation is only provided to and from your home.

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Healthy Celebrations

Celebrations are great opportunities for children to practice the healthy eating messages they learn in class. You can help us teach the importance of healthy eating by choosing healthy foods to send to school the next time your child's class is celebrating. Try these ideas:

- send a tray of watermelon slices, box of clementines or fruit kabobs
 - make homemade mini muffins with whole wheat flour and grated carrots or apple
- send a tray of whole grain crackers, cubes of lower fat cheese and grapes

For more ideas, tools and resources to support your healthy classroom celebrations, check out www.brightbites.ca – Reason to Celebrate.

Message from the Health Unit: Is Bedtime Stressing You Out?

Kids need 10 to 12 hours of sleep every night but sometimes getting them to bed can be frustrating. You can help create a regular sleep schedule for your child by setting a clear bedtime and sticking to the same time every night. Start getting ready an hour before bed: turn off the TV, computers and phones. Spend quality time talking or reading stories to help them unwind. Agree on how many books you'll read before you start! Keep their room dark, cool and quiet - a nightlight is fine. Remember, making sure your child gets enough rest will help improve their mood, behaviour and ability to learn. For more bedtime tips, contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

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.

All school playgrounds are closed for the winter

Every winter, school playground structures are closed. Students are made aware of this during school hours through announcements and staff reminders during breaks. This may not be well known throughout the community despite signs indicating that playground structures are a winter hazard and are closed. The Canadian Standards Association Regulations make recommendations for the depth of ground cover required to minimize injuries (eg. sand, pea gravel, or wood chips). These surfaces cannot be maintained when the ground freezes. Injuries from falling would be more significant on frozen ground. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen.

Register your child 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.

Provide input on proposed 2017-18 school year calendar

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) invites public school communities to submit input regarding the proposed school year calendar for next school year (Sept. 2017 to June 2018). Input can be provided by visiting www.scdsb.on.ca, then clicking the link on the 'School Year Calendars' page under the 'Schools' menu. All stakeholders including staff, school council members, parents/guardians, students and members of the school community are invited to provide input. **The deadline to submit input is Jan. 13, 2017.**