



The SIMCOE STREET Public School ...

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Our website: simcoestreet.dsbns.org



OCTOBER 2017

SOME NEWS FOR OCTOBER !



Our very first School Council meeting for 2017-2018 will be on October 2, 2017 at 9:15 a.m. in the WELCOME ROOM. At this time, we will be voting for our Chairperson/Co Chair and Secretary who will guide us until June 2018. Please join us.

School Council members act as an advisory council to the Principal about issues that concern our school. School Council members represent the voices of our entire school population and they have the best interests of ALL at SIMCOE STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL with the focus to make our school a better place. We may be seeking ideas about our nutrition programs at our school, Code of Conduct and/or Parent Guide to Safe Schools.

Please be reminded that children play on our grass on our school property and it isn't very pleasant when there are animal feces around. If you see anyone walking their dog or using our property as a dog run, please speak up and remind them of their responsibility to clean up after their dog(s) using bags. We cannot supply doggie bags but we do have signage regarding the picking up of feces. Please help us keep our school clean for our students.

Hallowe'en is on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 this year and we welcome parents to bring their lawn chairs, Tim Horton's coffee/tea, hot chocolate and just set up in the middle of our tarmac **beginning 1:00 p.m.** Our students and staff will be walking around the perimeter of our tarmac (probably twice!) so that you can see all of us. If it rains that day, parents may line up along the hallways as we wander through our halls. Students will be getting ready in the classroom with their teacher at 12:30 p.m. with our parade beginning at 1:00 p.m. beginning at DOOR B. We understand that parents will want to come into the school to help their child get dressed, however for the safety of everyone, we encourage and invite you to meet us at the tarmac when our parade begins. Keep your fingers crossed that it doesn't rain. See details about Hallowe'en in this newsletter.

Please note parents/guardians that regardless of the weather conditions outside, supervision outside for our students in Grades 1-8 begins at 8:35 a.m. The office cannot let students in prior to that time either. This is very important. Please make sure that your child arrives to school between 8:35 a.m. and 8:50 a.m.. If you drop your child off at school before 8:35 a.m., please note that there is absolutely no supervision inside or outside the school.

Sincerely, Genny Weerdenburg (Principal)

OUR CARETAKER AND EVENING CLEANERS



I would like to highlight our caretaking staff who work so hard behind the scenes. Our Head Caretaker, Mr. Felton, is with us during the day to attend to our cleaning and maintenance needs. He opens and closes our gate for families who arrive to school via Armoury Street. Mrs. Knox and Mrs. Carr are our Evening Cleaners and they work during everyone's supper hour getting our classrooms ready for the morning. We always receive so many compliments as to how clean they keep our school, not only from our staff, but from our parents and community as well! You will enjoy their cheerful nature just like all of us do! They truly work as a team and we are glad they are at our school!

HALLOWE'EN IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Each classroom teacher will be deciding what Tuesday, October 31, 2017 celebrations AFTER our parade, will look like for the afternoon. Teachers will provide you with details about the afternoon either through your child's AGENDA or a note home. *Please note, that I will be waiting on the school front door step for our little ghosts and goblins from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. handing out treats and treasures for our students who stop by. We hope that you will visit us at the front veranda of our very own school! Yes, I know. This sounds pretty spooky!*

Please be respectful of our "violence free costumes" for Halloween. We understand that students like to show off their pirate costume with a sword or possibly a hooked hand. However for the afternoon at our school, a pirate costume would be just perfect. **Please save the blood, gore and any plastic/toy weapons for after school trick or treating.** Please try to be creative about a costume. I understand that a toy gun in a holster for a cowboy costume would be what most cowboys wore on television. However the holster would be perfect without the gun. We are not going to personally inspect each and every costume that the children wear, but should the teacher find that the costume weapons that are brought to school 'take over' the meaning of the costume, your child will be asked to place it in their locker. You may be thinking that 'what is the grim reaper if they can't have their scythe'. Our response to this would be 'the grim reaper costume is perfect without the scythe'. Once, again, please be respectful of our 'violence free costumes' expectations.



MILK AND PIZZA TICKETS

You may wish to purchase PIZZA or MILK tickets at the office . We will also be selling MILK (chocolate or white), or ice cream during the FIRST nutrition break only which is at 10:35 a.m.. The MILK program will be available for the first 10 minutes of this nutrition break. MILK tickets may be purchased at the office:

6 tickets for \$5.00 12 tickets for \$10.00 18 tickets for \$15.00 24 tickets for \$20.00

Parents have requested lactose free milk however our supplier tells us that they do not carry this.

PIZZA day is scheduled EVERY WEDNESDAY of this school year and our supplier is Little Caesar's Pizza. Pizza will be available to our students during the second nutrition break ONLY which begins at 12:55 p.m. PIZZA tickets may be purchased at the office for the following amount:

5 tickets for \$5.00 10 tickets for \$10.00 15 tickets for \$15.00 20 tickets for \$20.00

The tickets have your child's last name on them so that they are never lost and , THEY NEVER EXPIRE. Now this is great news! Please note parents that tickets will only be sold as above and not one , two , three or four tickets at a time.

MEDICATION AND CELL PHONES

Please be reminded about the following:

MEDICATION: Should your child require ORAL/TOPICAL medication that is prescribed by a doctor, then we will provide you with a form to complete and the medication is dispensed from the office. If your child requires ASTHMA puffers and you prefer to have your child keep the puffer in his/her locker for quick and easy access, please ask the office for a form requesting this. Please contact the office for any additional information.



CELL PHONES: It is the District School Board of Niagara's policy that students do not bring cell phones into the school. We understand that parents provide cell phones for student safety on the way to school and back from school and we respect that. However, once students arrives at their locker, students must keep their cell phones in their locker until the end of the school day. The school is not responsible for any lost, damaged or stolen cell phones and staff/office do not store student cell phones for safe keeping. **If students use their cell phone during the school day it will land at the Principal's office and parents will be informed to either pick it up at the school at a later date or to give us permission to lock it our safe for a week at which time it will be returned .** Thank you for you're attention in this important matter and supporting our expectations.

NIAGARA NUTRITION PARTNERS



We are so fortunate to once again, continue our partnership with Niagara Nutrition Partners (NNP) BREAKFAST PROGRAM. NNP provides funds to provide a breakfast program for our students who have eaten their breakfast and are still hungry or just haven't had enough to eat in the morning. Mrs. Gilmour develops the menu ensuring that we provide food from 3 food groups. Each classroom has a FOOD BIN and Mrs. Preston, and Mrs. Lachance and a few students deliver the food during the first period each and every day to each classroom and once again for the afternoon. Niagara Nutrition Partners promotes the connection between healthy food choices and improved learning through the provision of breakfast at our school. Currently, Niagara Nutrition Partners supports 208 schools and community based programs, nourishing 13,000 children and youth. Mrs. Trcovic, Mrs. Preston, Mrs. Gilmour and Mrs. Lachance are quite the team! We depend on them so much!

PROGRESS REPORT CARDS



PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS

Please note the following:

Progress Reports (Grades K-8) will be going home on Thursday, November 9, 2017 and details about **Parent/Teacher Interviews** and the interview process will be sent home closer to the end of October.

Term 1 Report Cards (JK Progress report) and (SK - Grade 8) will be going home on Friday, February 9, 2018 Parent teacher interviews will be scheduled only on an 'as needed' or requested basis before or after these report cards go home.

Term 2 Report Cards (JK- Grade 8) will be going home on Wednesday, June 27, 2018. Details regarding Kindergarten reporting/ interviews and parent observations will be shared through the Kindergarten Program D2L site.

ALL ABOUT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

The primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning. Teachers use **assessment** to gather information about your child's strengths and needs as a learner and to provide feedback to improve his/her learning. **Evaluation** is used to judge how well your child is meeting the curriculum expectations. Marks are assigned during the evaluation process and these are included in your child's report card grade. Evidence of your child's achievement for evaluation is collected over time from three different sources

observations, conversations, and your child's products.

or what he/she produces as the final product of his/her learning. Your child's products could include tests or assignments for evaluation. Assignments for evaluation do not include ongoing homework that your child may have completed or work that your child has completed while on vacation. At our school this year, the only homework your child should be involved in is reading for pleasure, reading for fact finding, reading for the love of reading and just ANY KIND of reading even if it is reading cereal boxes. PLEASE ENCOURAGE READING.

Determining a Report Card Grade – Grades 1-8

Before making a decision about the grade to be entered on the report card, teachers consider:

- *all evidence collected through observations, conversations, and your child's products;
- *equity for all students, by ensuring that test and assignments for evaluation are completed whenever possible, under the supervision of a teacher;
- *assignments for evaluation must not include ongoing homework that students do in order to consolidate their knowledge and skills or to prepare for the next class;
- *assignments for evaluation may involve group projects as long as your child's work within the group project is evaluated independently and assigned an individual mark, as opposed to a common group mark;
- *when appropriate, the impact that missing assignments will have on your child's grade when they fail to submit major assignments; and,
- *that bonus marks may not be included when determining report card grades.

Late and Missed Assignments for Evaluation (Grades 7 and 8)

Your child must understand that he/she is responsible not only for their behavior in the classroom and the school, but also for providing evidence of their achievement of the curriculum within a time frame specified by the teacher, and in a form approved by the teacher. There will be consequences for not completing assignments for evaluation or for submitting assignments late.

Each teacher will use his/her own professional judgment, including the consideration of specific individual circumstances, when determining if a late penalty will be applied. Before a late penalty is applied a teacher will use strategies to support your child to meet their responsibilities including, for example:

- asking your child to clarify the reason for not completing the assignment;
- helping your child develop better time management skills;
- taking into consideration legitimate reasons for missed deadlines;
- providing alternative assignments or tests where, in the teacher's professional judgment, it is appropriate to do so;
- deducting marks for late assignments; or, the full value of the assignment may be deducted if the assignment is not submitted.

Deduction of Marks

For major assignments for evaluation, teachers may impose mark deductions for lateness, after considering your child's circumstances. A 5% per day deduction **up to a maximum of 15%** of the assignment may be deducted. For example, if your child earns 80% on a major assignment for evaluation, and it is handed in one day late, the mark on that assignment is 75%. If the assignment is two days late, the mark becomes a 70%. If the assignment is three days late or more, the mark becomes a 65%.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

October 2: our first School Council meeting of this 2017-2018 school year at 9:15 a.m. in our WELCOME ROOM

October 3: SCHOOL PHOTO DAY!

October 4: PARENT BREAKFAST IN OUR WELCOME ROOM beginning at 8:30 a.m. for coffee/tea then followed by breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Sponsored by Public Health and the NIAGARA FALLS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE. Please join us!

October 6: Professional Activity DAY : There will be no school on this day.

October 10: THANKSGIVING DAY: Enjoy this l-o-n-g weekend.

October 11 : DENTAL SCREEN for all students.

October 13: OUR COOKIES DOUGH fundraiser begins today. Please support us!

October 26: HOT DOG DAY!

October 30: OUR COOKIE DOUGH fundraiser ends today.

October 31: Hallowe'en Parade. Parents requested to wait for us outside on the tarmac at around 1:00 p.m. If it rains, we welcome you to line our hallway and watch our wonderful parade.

SNEAK PEEK FOR NOVEMBER!

November 7,8 and 9: MOBILE DENTAL TEAM in front of our school.

November 8: PHOTO RETAKE day for those students who missed photo day.

November 9 : Progress reports go home today for Grades K-8

November 10: REMEMBRANCE DAY service at our school at 9:30 a.m

November 15: 3:15p.m. – 8:15 p.m. : Parent Teacher Interviews (scheduled) and details will follow . ALSO NEW! Public Health will be here to provide FLU SHOTS (appointments will be scheduled) during Parent Teacher interviews on an appointment basis only. Details will follow.

November 30: HOT DOG DAY!