



Harriett Todd Public School

NEWSLETTER

har.scdsb.on.ca/

11 George Street
Orillia, Ontario, L3V 2V1
705-325-9388

Principal: Jennifer Cornick
Vice Principal: Andrea Newburn

Message from our Administrative Team

April 8, 2021

Happy Spring! The weather has been fantastic and students and teachers have been taking advantage of the opportunity to take the learning outside.

Thank you for remembering to do the Covid 19 screening every morning before school <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. This is one way that we can keep our students and staff safe. Just a reminder that all people on school property, including visitors during pick up and drop off, must wear a mask.

Huge thanks to Mr. Burnie for his work with students to recognize the International Day of Pink. As a part of school-wide anti-bullying lessons and activities, students designed running shoes which say "We Will Stand". Some of these shoes were then selected to create a very unique design for a school t-shirt. Thanks to some community donations, t-shirts are being provided to each student who participated in the lessons with Mr. Burnie. We can't wait to see the bright colours of those shirts throughout the community in the weeks and months to come. I know that our students will wear them with pride.

If you are in the neighbourhood, be sure to check out the artwork on the windows all around the school. Ms. Svanda has created an outdoor art exhibit. Since we can't have guests inside the school to view the beautiful artwork, Ms. Svanda brought the artwork to you! Students are especially proud to see their masterpieces on display for everyone to see!

As we look towards the end of the month, we are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to remain in school. We are seeing some amazing academic growth from students, especially in reading and mathematics. Please keep encouraging your child to read at home. Even older children enjoy bedtime stories. The grade eight students are beginning to prepare for their graduation ceremony, a sure sign that the year is coming to a close.

Follow us on social media! We are on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Harriett-Todd-Public-School-105020711167926/> and Twitter @Harriett_Todd

Have a safe and healthy April Break. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Jennifer Cornick

Character Attribute for the month of April

Optimism - we maintain a positive attitude and have hope for the future.

More information about Character Education can be found here: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) to deliver first-ever student census in April 2021

At the SCDSB we are committed to identifying and removing barriers within our system that impact equity, achievement and well-being of students, and to ensuring that all students are offered supportive, inclusive and respectful learning environments. To support these efforts, we must learn more about our students.

In April 2021, the SCDSB will hold its first student census. The confidential SCDSB Student Census 2020-2021 will be used to collect identity-based student data so that systemic barriers can be identified. The results will guide our focus on programs, supports and resources to address inequities within our system.

Between April 1 and 30, 2021 students in Grade 7 to 12 and parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be invited to participate in the SCDSB Student Census 2020-2021. To support the delivery of the SCDSB student census, the SCDSB is hosting information sessions in March. Details regarding the information sessions, including how to register, will be available on the SCDSB website.

For further information regarding the SCDSB Student Census 2020-2021, visit the SCDSB website or contact Lisa Newton, Manager of Research and Decision Support, at census@scdsb.on.ca or 705-734-6363 x11731.

Kindergarten registration for September 2021 is open!

Kindergarten is the beginning of a wonderful journey of learning and we want your child to begin their journey in a SCDSB school! Do you have a child who is turning four in 2021? If so, we invite you to register your child for kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten.

Family fun with multiplication facts!

Has your child been asked to practice their math facts at home? Math facts are best learned in a purposeful way that helps students make connections between the facts, as opposed to memorizing them individually.

Tips for supporting fact fluency at home

1. Practice the facts in a meaningful order:

- Start with foundational facts like 2s, 10s, 5s, 1s, and 0s

Move on to more challenging facts that can be found using combinations of foundational facts, like 3s, 4s, 6s, 8s, 9s and 7s

The Mastering Math Facts resource provides strategies to support each group of facts:

<https://bit.ly/39cNzLE>

2. Help your child see that the order of the factors does not change the product:

- Example, $2 \times 5 = 10$ and $5 \times 2 = 10$

3. Help your child practice by decomposing more challenging facts into known facts:

- Example 1: 7×8 can be thought of as $(7 \times 4) + (7 \times 4)$
- Example 2: 5×7 can be thought of as $(5 \times 5) + (5 \times 2)$

4. Help your child visualize the facts by building arrays and drawing pictures to represent them: <https://mathvisuals.wordpress.com/multiplication-division/>.

5. Play games such as:

- Blockout! - <https://mathforlove.com/lesson/blockout/>
- Math Flips - <https://mathvisuals.wordpress.com/math-flips/>
- Stick and Split - <https://www.stickandsplit.com/>
- Games to play with a deck of cards - https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B_wlnPzXZBUZRk0yNXFBd3dqTDg/edit

6. Allow your child as much time as they need to find an answer for a fact. This will lower stress, support them with using the

Supporting student mental health and well-being

When students attend school, whether in-person or online, they engage in important routines and foster connections that can help them to feel more balanced amidst the uncertainties of the pandemic. Our school is committed to bolstering student mental health and well-being by teaching our students to practice strategies to increase their stress management and coping skills.

School Mental Health Ontario works together with Ontario school districts to support student mental health. [Name of School] will be using a collection of resources for educators to support student mental health during the ongoing pandemic response. These resources are evidence-based. This month, we will be practicing various breathing strategies.

Try the hand tracing exercise: <https://bit.ly/2OWOAN>

- Starting at your wrist, trace the left side of your hand up to your middle finger while taking a deep breath for four seconds
- Pause at the top of your middle finger and hold in your breath for four seconds
- Breathe out while tracing down the right side of your hand for four seconds
- Repeat four times

The teenage brain

Did you know that the teen brain is still developing until about the age of 25? The part of the brain that powers a teen's ability to think, plan, solve problems, make decisions and control emotions is one of the last parts to mature. This may help explain certain teenage behaviour such as poor decision-making, recklessness and emotional outbursts.

Due to their brains still developing, young people are at greater risk from the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs. Stay connected, keep talking with your teen and be a good role model.

For more information, visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Get outside and play!

Active play does more than help kids to achieve the 60 minutes of physical activity they need every day; it supports their development in many ways – especially when the play is outdoors, self-directed and fun. This allows kids to test boundaries and problem-solve, develop social skills, resolve conflict and learn to control their emotions and behaviour.

Active play outdoors in the fresh air and nature also helps to improve mood and lower stress. Support your child to play outside in the neighbourhood and at your local park as much as possible, while staying safe by maintaining COVID-19 prevention protocols for physical distancing and mask use.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit