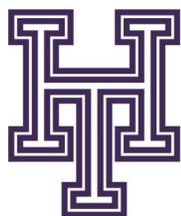


Harriett Todd Public School



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

NEWSLETTER

har.scdsb.on.ca/

Principal: Jennifer Cornick
Vice Principal: Colin Shawyer

Message from Our Administrative Team

December 1, 2020

Hi Everyone,

It is hard to believe that it is December already! We are proud of the gains made by students so far this year. You can help at home by continuing to encourage your children to read, read, read!

Snow Days

This year, teachers will be posting work on their Google Classrooms on bus cancellation days. Schools will still be open for student learning, however if you do decide to keep students at home, please know that if they log into their Google Classroom, there will be work for them to do.

If your child is ill at home or waiting on Covid test results, they can access their Google classroom and keep up to date on the work that is happening in class. If you have questions about this, please send your child's teacher a message using See Saw.

Safety

Masks - Students from grade 4-8 must wear masks at all times while inside the building. Students from kindergarten to grade three are encouraged to wear masks as well. Please remind your child to bring their own mask from home.

Covid 19 Symptoms

Please continue to screen for symptoms of Covid 19 every morning. Students who have symptoms cannot attend school.

Recess Zones

Please reinforce the importance of staying with class cohorts. Students must stay in their own area during recess time.

Pick up and Drop off

Please drop your child off at their respective doors between 9:00—9:15 AM. Students should only enter the front doors after 9:20 AM and come to the office for a late slip.

If you are changing arrangements for pick up, your cooperation in communicating this to the classroom teacher in advance is appreciated. Please avoid calling the school with changes. We cannot guarantee that messages called in later in the day will reach the student.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL SAFE ARRIVAL IF YOU CHILD IS ABSENT

705-325-9388

Holiday Concert

This year our school has decided to host our annual Winter Concert **Virtually**. Students will be practicing and performing in their own classrooms, these performances will then be recorded and combined into a school-wide Virtual Winter Concert. Students will have the opportunity to watch each class perform on the last day of school as they celebrate and watch the concert together with their classmates. We understand that families may appreciate the opportunity to watch their child's performance as well. In an effort to allow families to view our Virtual Winter Concert (while also ensuring privacy), a unique link will be provided to families that will attach to a **private** YouTube broadcast that **will not** be viewable to the general public.

December 18th – Last Day of School for the 2020 School Year

Please note that Friday, December 18th, 2020 will be the last day of school before we take our Winter Holiday Season Break. School will be closed from December 19th to January 3rd, 2021. Students will return to school on Monday, January 4th, 2021. Please refer to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/

Grade 1 French Immersion information

The SCDSB offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

Historically, in-person Grade 1 FI Family Information Nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, due to restrictions to large-group public gatherings, in-person Family Information Nights will not be held. In lieu of this, an [information page on the board's public website](#) has been created to allow families the ability to access and learn about the program and the application process.

The online Grade 1 FI application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 until 4 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2020. In Grade 1, enrollment in the FI Program is limited to a maximum of two classes of 20 students per class at each host site for the FI program. The electronic applications will be processed in the order determined by a digitally randomized lottery system.

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.

Inclement weather and bus cancellation information reminder

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the North zone. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

The Consortium and bus operators try to make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and make every effort to post announcements before 7 a.m. Inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day. You can follow the Consortium on Twitter [@SCSTC_SchoolBus](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

High school information events for Grade 8 students

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will happen virtually this winter. Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Different pathways and courses offered will be explained. Visit your school's website for more information.

School Playground Structures 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 (e.g. 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.

Are You Looking for Extra Mathematics Support for Your Grade 6 to 10 Student?

TVO Mathify offers FREE one-on-one online Grade 6-10 math tutoring to students enrolled in Ontario's publicly-funded English-language schools. Features include an interactive whiteboard as well as voice and text chat to make it easy to upload a math question and figure it out with the support of a math tutor, at a time that works for you.

TVO Mathify is like a personalized math coach to support students' learning at home. Sign-up, login and connect with an Ontario certified teacher of your choice. It is anonymous and secure, and can be used from a phone, tablet or computer. Math tutors are available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday to Friday and 3:30 to 9 p.m. ET Sunday.

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) Clinical Services changes due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Physical Activity Can Make the Holidays Less Stressful For Many

The holiday season can be a source of great physical and mental stress, and this year is no exception with the added pressures of the pandemic. Balancing finances, purchasing gifts, finding new ways to celebrate and connect while staying safe, eating unhealthy foods and staying up late can all contribute to increased anxiety, stress and fatigue. Did you know that being physically active is one of the single best ways we can naturally reduce stress? Here are three reasons why you should consider staying active this holiday season:

- Physical activity boosts your mood – The relationship between the mind and the body is very strong. Physical activity releases endorphins in your body – making you feel calm, less anxious and happier. Providing yourself and your kids with a small amount of relaxation or ‘time-out’ every day – even just 15 minutes – can also improve your health dramatically. Try taking a virtual yoga class; even a 10-minute walk can do the trick!
- Physical activity helps you sleep – Physical activity leads to better sleep and better sleep leads to less stress. Research shows that people who get regular physical activity fall asleep faster, sleep longer and get higher quality sleep. Being well-rested helps us cope with stress and gives us more energy to tackle whatever life throws our way!
- Physical activity reduces your stress hormone – Physical activity decreases the amount of cortisol – the body’s stress hormone – circulating in our bloodstream. When we get stressed out, our cortisol levels spike. Exercise is a great way to help lower them. The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka offers many opportunities to stay active this holiday season, both in-person and virtually. Our health and fitness centres in Innisfil and Collingwood are open and ready to safely welcome you and your family. With registered activities like open gym, family swim and our popular Y Kids program, the Y offers plenty of great opportunities to be active with your family in a safe environment. For more information on booking a visit to your YMCA, visit ymcasm.ca/FAQ. If you are looking for activities to do in the comfort of your home, YMCAHome.ca has a variety of free, virtual fitness classes and family-friendly workouts. Be well and stay safe this holiday season!

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

Stress: Kids Get It Too!

Kids have stress, just like us. Stress is a normal part of life, but our bodies are only made to handle it for short amounts of time. Continued stress can cause feelings of pressure, anxiety, and tiredness. It can make it hard for kids to focus in school and can cause them to become sick, get lower grades or make unhealthy choices.

It’s easy to mistake signs of stress for bad behaviour in your child. You can help them learn to manage stress by staying calm, showing love and talking openly about their feelings. Encourage them to try calming activities like deep breathing or doing something active. If the stress continues, be sure talk to your child’s family doctor or health care provider. 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

Coping with Anxiety

Feelings of anxiety can be common among teens, especially right now. Sometimes normally happy teens will become anxious or fearful about something for a day or two but will return to normal without any need for help from their parents. However, some teens experience more intense and frequent feelings of anxiety that prevent them from participating in normal everyday life.

Creating a positive family environment, encouraging regular school attendance and helping your teen understand and discover ways to cope with their anxiety can help. Encourage your teen to explore available online and local services.

Big White Wall : 24/7 online mental health support network for individuals 16 years and older. Kids Help Phone: Children and youth 18 and under who need to talk to someone about their mental health can call Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868, for 24/7 virtual, or text 686868. COVID-19 Youth Mental Health Resource Hub

If you would like to learn more about monitoring and understanding your teenager’s emotions and behaviours, ways to talk openly with your teenager and encouraging your teenager to practice their coping skills, call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit



HARRIETT TODD PUBLIC SCHOOL HOLIDAY "FUND" DRIVE

This year instead of a Holiday Food Drive we are asking you to consider making a financial donation to The Sharing Place Food Centre in support of their Student Nutrition Program. The students at Harriett Todd have access to daily healthy snacks in their class, helping keep their minds focused and calm during the day. With a little support The Sharing Place can continue to improve this program and help fuel our students minds for years to come.

Donations can be made at
SharingPlaceOrillia.Org

- or -

By Mail: PO BOX 743 Orillia ON L3V 6K9

Wishing the entire Harriett Todd Family
a safe and happy holidays



Harriett Todd
Public School