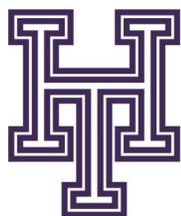


Harriett Todd Public School



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

NEWSLETTER

har.scdsb.on.ca/

Principal: Jennifer Cornick
Vice Principal: Andrea Newburn

Message from Our Administrative Team

January 1, 2021

2020 sure was an interesting year! I think many of us are glad to start fresh in 2021. As you likely heard in December, Mr. Shawyer has become the principal at Andrew Hunter Public School in Barrie. We are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Andrea Newburn to Harriett Todd as our new Vice Principal.

At the time of writing this, I believe that we will all be returning to school on January 4. Teachers have prepared their Google Classrooms, in case we do need to pivot to virtual learning. All students have a Google classroom and should know their login information. Students had a chance to navigate their virtual classrooms prior to the break and should be comfortable with this platform.

As we enter a new year, it is a time to recommit to high expectations for both academics and behaviour. Our focus on developing reading skills will continue. We will also work with our math Instruction and Assessment Facilitator, Mr. Finney to ensure that we are using best practices to teach students the new Ontario mathematics curriculum. Thank you for continuing to encourage your children to read at home, every day.

We are looking forward to all of the new things that 2021 has to offer. Let's make this the best year, yet!

Covid 19 Symptoms

All students and staff will be expected to self-screen prior to attending school each day, using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit the SMDHU website at www.simcoemuskohealth.org.

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.

Character attribute for the month of January

Honesty - we behave in a sincere, trustworthy and truthful manner. More information about character education can be found here: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education.

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.

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.

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>

Get into coding!

Interested in exploring coding with your child at home? There are several user-friendly programs that make coding fun, accessible and easy to discover! [Code.org](https://code.org) is a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools and increasing participation by young women and students from other underrepresented groups. They offer easily accessible coding projects, lessons and experiences for students to create and alter code.

Visit this website for Hour of Code tutorials (<https://studio.code.org/courses>) or try some of the ones we recommend below!

Dance Party - <https://studio.code.org/s/dance-2019/stage/1/puzzle/1>

Minecraft Voyage Aquatic - <https://studio.code.org/s/aquatic/stage/1/puzzle/1>

Flappy Code - <https://studio.code.org/flappy/1>

Classic Maze - <https://studio.code.org/hoc/1>

Scratch Junior (www.scratchjr.org/) - With the ScratchJr iPad app, young children (ages 5-7) can program their own interactive stories and games. In the process, they learn to solve problems, design projects and express themselves creatively on the computer.

Scratch (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>) - Scratch is a web-based tool where you can program your own interactive stories, games, and animations and share your creations with others in the online community. Scratch includes easy to follow tutorials, and endless project ideas to get your young coder creating and exploring the world of code.

Check out some of the great Scratch Tutorials (<https://scratch.mit.edu/ideas>) or try some of the ones we recommend below!

Animate your Name - <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462492913/editor>

Make a Chase Game - <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462493493/editor>

Create a Story - <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462493360/editor>

Brush as a team until age 8

Baby teeth are important, and kids under age 8 still need help from an adult to brush. Help your child to brush their teeth twice a day for two minutes using a pea-sized amount of fluoridated toothpaste. Before school and before bed are two great times to get into the habit of brushing. Cavities can be painful and can lead to infection, so be sure to get any toothaches checked by a dental professional.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit offers some **free** dental services for children and teens. Contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

It's all about the connection

Young people are more likely to grow up successfully when they have close connections with the important adults in their lives. Through these connections, young people discover who they are, what they are capable of and how to make a positive contribution in their community. Here are some ways to help keep your relationship with your child strong:

- ✦ *Show me that I matter to you.* Encourage my efforts, and believe in me
- ✦ *Push me to keep getting better.* Expect my best, while helping me learn from mistakes
- ✦ *Help me complete tasks and achieve goals.* Stand up for me when I need it
- ✦ *Treat me with respect and give me a say.* Take me seriously and treat me fairly

Connect me with people and places that broaden my world. Inspire me about my future.

Looking for more parenting support? Speak with a public health nurse by calling 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit