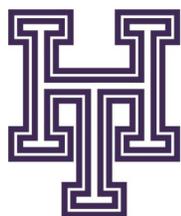


Harriett Todd Public School

NEWSLETTER

har.scdsb.on.ca/



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

Principal: Jennifer Cornick
Vice Principal: Colin Shawyer

OCTOBER 2019

Follow us on Twitter @
Harriett_Todd

NEWS AT A GLANCE:

School News:

- School Council Information
- Terry Fox Walk/Run
- Balancing Class Size
- Inclement Weather Information
- Staying Connected with HT and SCDSB
- Progressive Discipline Plan
- Keeping our School Safe

Health & Wellness:

- Safety Reminder
- Child Immunization
- Walk to School Month
- Children's Vision Month
- Get Active this Halloween
- Cell Phone Restrictions

Parent & Student Resources:

- Parent Portal Information
- Fire Prevention Week

Upcoming October Events:

3—MAAD Presentation Gr. 7 & 8
4—PA Day—NO SCHOOL
7—School Council Meeting 6:30 pm
9, 16, 23, 30—Art Shine 3:45 to 4:45
11- Terry Fox Run
11- Kindies to Hewitt's Farm
14- Thanksgiving Day
15— **Picture Day**
15—Gr. 8 Trip to Scotia Centre
16—Gr. 7 Immunization
16—X-Country Meet-Mt.St.Louis
17—Spirit Day Wear a Sport Jersey
21—Election Day
28—Breakfast of Champions
31— Spirit Day Black & Orange Day
Future Dates:
Nov. 15—Decades Spirt Day
Nov. 15—Talent Show
Nov. 23—PA Day

Message from Our Administrative Team

Dear Harriett Todd Families,

We are off to a fantastic start! Our cross country team has been training for the Area Cross Country Meet at Mt. St. Louis. Our flag football team has been practicing and playing games against area schools. Many students from Grade 6-8 are filling in applications for student leadership positions. Please continue to encourage your children to get involved. We are better together!

We recognize that drop off in the morning can be challenging for students (and parents!). We want to assure you that your children are in safe hands, and in order to maximize student safety we are kindly requesting that parents follow our "kiss and ride" procedures and drop their children off on the tarmac at the primary doors (kindergarten students at kindergarten area). We ask that parents should not remain on school property while children are playing in the morning before school. Staff are on duty at 9 AM daily. Too many adults on the school yard make it difficult for staff to know who should be there and who shouldn't. During the day we ask that if you come to pick up your child during a recess break that you check in at the office and we will page your child to come to the office.

Many of our classes engage in learning opportunities outside on the playground throughout the day. We ask that parents and community members refrain from playing on our school yard during school hours and follow the Safe Schools expectations set out by SCDSB. Families are welcome to enjoy our playground after school hours.

We ask that parents refrain from entering our school yard until 3:35 PM. Our kindergarten students are engaged in outdoor learning during the last part of the day and arrival of early visitors is very distracting for our youngest learners.

An important reminder that our parking lot will remain closed and frozen for non-school vehicles before and after school (8:30-9:15 AM and 2:40-3:45 PM). Vehicles are NOT to be moving around in the parking lot during this time.

VOLUNTEERS—We Need You!

We appreciate the commitment of all who volunteer at our school. This school year, the school board implemented a new online Volunteer Portal. SCDSB Community Apps (<http://communityapps.scdsb.on.ca>) is a new online portal that allows you to begin the process for volunteering at our school. Here is some information to share as we've been receiving some questions:

Only NEW volunteers or those who received a letter in June indicating you require an updated Criminal Background Check Vulnerable Sector Screening (5-year renewal) are able to register as a volunteer on the Community Apps website at this time.

If you're a current, approved school volunteer, you can still volunteer at our school for the time being. You should have recently received a letter with your access code. This code will allow you to register as a volunteer on the Volunteer Portal through the Community Apps website.

Warmly,
Jennifer Cornick
Principal

Colin Shawyer
Vice Principal



PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL SAFE ARRIVAL IF YOU CHILD IS ABSENT 705-325-9388

- * Please drop your child off at their respective doors after 9:00 AM. Students should only enter the front doors after 9:15 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 avoid picking your child up early. Interruptions to the classroom can negatively impact the learning of our students. Unless there is an unexpected appointment or emergency please pick your child(ren) up at 3:35 PM.
- * When coming to the school (at the end of the day) to pick your child/children up, **please wait for them outside at their respective door(s).**

HARRIETT TODD SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council has set the following dates to meet at 6:30 PM in the library: October 7th, November 4th, 2019, January 13th, April 6th, and May 4th, 2020. Please mark these dates in your calendar.
Everyone is welcome to drop in!!

During our first council meeting on Sept. 16th the following positions were filled:

Chair—Kristen Nichol
Secretary—Monica Lockie
Members at Large- Meagan Stotesbury
- Thea Cameron

School Council members invited to *Connections* event on Oct. 22

School council members are invited to join us at *Connections*, the Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) school council development and networking event.

When: Tues. Oct. 22, 4 to 8 p.m.

Where: SCDSB Education Centre, 1170 Hwy. 26, Midhurst

Participants can gather tips, resources and important information to help you be more effective in your role on school council. You will also be able to contribute to group discussions, browse booths and enjoy snacks from our approved vendors, and network with fellow school council members and the Parent Involvement Committee. Register to attend at www.scdsb.on.ca/connections.

Terry Fox Run

Harriett Todd will be holding our annual **Terry Fox Run on Friday, October 11th**. Our goal this year is to raise \$4500, which is less than \$500 more than what we raised last year. Each year we have managed to exceed our goal and we are confident we can reach our goal again this year.



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If we meet our goal then Ms. Michaud, Ms. McClinchey and perhaps some other staff will sleep in a tent outside the school. We ask that each child bring in at least a 'Toonie for Terry' and more would be appreciated. Pledge sheets and a T-shirt order forms have been sent home. Thanks for your continued support for this great cause.

Have you met Sora?

Our digital ebook/audiobook collection contains over 4,000 titles waiting to be checked out by our SCDSB students. Students simply download the app, use their SCDSB login and start reading for free on their phone or tablet. The collection can be accessed at: meet.soraapp.com.

Spirit Days

October 17th—Jersey-Sport Team

October 31st—Black/Orange Day

Reorganization Balances Class Sizes to Support Your Child's Success

Each September, our school starts off with a certain number of classes and teachers - these numbers are based on estimates made the previous spring about how many students will be enrolled during the next school year. As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education has class size goals that all school boards are required to meet. When the Simcoe County District School Board organized its schools in the spring, they adhered to this expectation. Each September, the board compares actual enrolment numbers to the numbers projected by the board in the spring. At times it is necessary to reorganize classes. After reorganization, some students may move to another class in order to balance class sizes. In some cases,

Communication to Families Regarding Inclement Weather Days

Please note that APM A3020 – Inclement Weather, 3.1.2 states that “parents/guardians are to be reminded, in writing at appropriate times (October and January) each school year, that it is their responsibility to decide whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.”

If you have not already shared this information with families at your school, please do so via your school newsletter, email or the communication method that you use to reach your families. Our communications department has provided the following message:

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 for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

STAYING CONNECTED WITH HT AND SCDSB EVENTS

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at Harriett Todd and at the SCDSB. Here are some ways to do that:

- ⇒ Please be sure that you are connected with your child's teacher on SeeSaw
- ⇒ Subscribe to our school's website—<http://har@scdsb.on.ca>. All monthly newsletters are posted here.
- ⇒ Ensure we have an accurate email address—important messages are also emailed out from the office.

School bus transportation information available from the SCSTC

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place October 21 to 25, 2019. To support schools in promoting school bus safety to students, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC), in partnership with school bus operators, will offer bus evacuation training to all home-to-school transported students. During this week, school bus drivers will educate students on how to evacuate a school bus safely in an emergency situation.

October 23, 2019 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in the province of Ontario. It's a great opportunity for the school community to thank our bus drivers for all their hard work transporting students to and from

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN

Having a safe school is important to us. Your child's cooperation is expected at all times to ensure a learning environment where all children feel valued and safe.

Harriett Todd's Progressive Discipline Plan includes the use of the restorative room as part of home/school communication, buddy classes, office referrals, etc. We strive to ensure that students have opportunities to reflect on the impact that their words and actions have on others in both positive and negative ways.

Restorative room sheets are sent home to communicate concerns in the hope that a strong home/school partnership will support students in making positive choices and correcting behaviour that negatively impacts the school climate.

The accumulation of restorative room sheets may result in the following:

3 Sheets – A phone call home to discuss

4 Sheets— A meeting with parent, student and administration

5 Sheets – 1/2 day in school suspension

7 Sheets – 1 day in school suspension

More than 7 referrals may result in an individual plan that may include suspension from school. Behaviours of a more serious nature will be dealt with by following the SCDSB Code of Conduct and Ontario Safe Schools legislation. This may involve suspension and/or police involvement.

We look forward to working with our parent/guardian partners to ensure that Harriett Todd is a safe place to learn and grow.

Procedures Help Keep Our School Safe

The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare

telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations

Parents should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in Place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off.
- A **Hold and Secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all exterior doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **Lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Interior doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites (www.facebook.com/SCDSB and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (www.scdsb.on.ca), through local police and local media.
- All schools have **Evacuation Plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.
- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** to enter the building. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, so please be patient.** All visitors, including school volunteers, are required to **sign in** at the school office and wear **visitor identification**.
- Staff and volunteers must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.

At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All SCDSB schools **have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**.

When parents are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Health & Wellness

SAFETY REMINDER: SCHOOL BUSES ARE BACK ON THE ROADS

As students return to school, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) reminds everyone that school buses are back on our roads. The majority of school buses in Simcoe County are on the road in the morning from 7 – 9:30 a.m. and again in the afternoon from 2 – 4:30 p.m. As a reminder to drivers:

- Take caution – Be extra cautious in the vicinity of school buses and around school bus loading and unloading zones
- Be alert – Watch for school bus chrome yellow colouring, flashing red lights and stop arms. Drivers travelling in both directions on a road without a median must stop for a stopped school bus that has its upper red lights flashing
- Know the repercussions – Any driver that fails to stop for a school bus with its lights engaged is subject to a fine of up to \$2,000 and six demerit points for a first time offence
- Be empowered – Anyone who witnesses a driver failing to stop for a school bus can report the incident to police.

It's Time to Update Your Child's Immunization Record

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is required to keep up to date immunization records for all students who attend elementary or secondary school in the County of Simcoe and the District of Muskoka. Parents are responsible for reporting immunizations to the health unit each time their child receives a vaccine from their health care provider. It's easy to update your child's immunization status. Go to www.smdhu.org/immsonline to update your child's record, or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 (toll free).

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

October is International Walk to School Month

The Simcoe County District School Board recognizes October 2 as International Walk to School Day. Get in on the fun and be part of this worldwide event! Encourage your child or teen to walk or cycle to and from school if you live close by and team up with others to make the trip more fun. If you usually drive your child to school, try getting them to walk part of the way. If your child takes the bus, walking to and from the bus stop is a great way to add physical activity minutes into the day. Walking or cycling allows kids to enjoy the outdoors and get their recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day. Learn more: <http://ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/international-walk-to-school-month/>.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

October is Children's Vision Month

Did you know that school-age children should have their eyes checked by an optometrist every year? These visits are free with an OHIP card from birth until age 19.

Young children may not know that they have a vision problem. They don't complain because they assume that everyone sees the way that they do. For parents and caregivers, there are sometimes no obvious signs or symptoms to indicate that their child has a vision problem. But if not identified early, some eye problems can permanently reduce a child's vision. This is why it's important for children to have their eyes checked by an optometrist starting at a young age.

For more information, or if you need help finding an optometrist for your child, please visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/ or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Get active and have fun this Halloween

Halloween is just around the corner, and it's a great opportunity to get your whole family outside, explore the neighbourhood and meet people in your community. While your kids may be focused on their costumes and candy, here are five tips on how to get active and ensure a fun and safe Halloween for everyone:

- **Stay visible** - Costumes should be light-coloured with reflective stripes so that children are more easily seen at night. And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards and brooms, too!
- **Go as a group** - Don't be a spectator – join in the fun as much as possible! Take turns handing out candy at home so that everyone gets a chance to get outside. Parents can walk alongside youngsters or with other adults to casually keep an eye on older kids. A stroll around the block means more physical movement!
- **Network with neighbours** - One of the benefits of Halloween is the chance to catch up with neighbours and introduce yourself to newcomers who have recently moved in. Parents of little ones might discover families who want to meet up for an active playdate, and school-aged kids may find a new friend they can walk or ride to school with. Having like-minded people nearby can help your family form even more healthy habits!
- **Think outside the box** - Trade the candy collected for non-edible treats such as toys or arts and crafts. Or, consider offering to buy back some of the candy, giving your kids some extra spending money at the toy store as a reward.
- **Have fun** - Collecting (and consuming) Halloween candy is fun, but the real treat is getting out there as a family and enjoying the full Halloween experience!

Visit your local YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka for some fun Halloween activities for the whole family to enjoy. For more information visit www.JoinTheY.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka

Ministry of Education – Cell Phone Restrictions

To help ensure students can focus on learning without distraction, the Ministry of Education has updated the Provincial Code of Conduct to address the use of cellphones and other personal mobile devices during instructional time, unless they are required:

- for health and medical purposes,
- to support special education needs, or
- for educational purposes, as directed by an educator.

This new requirement will come into effect provincially on Nov. 4, 2019.

The SCDSB will make the necessary revisions to our code of conduct and procedures to align with the Ministry update. This direction from the Ministry of Education aligns well with the procedures that our schools have had in place for many years. We encourage the use of board-provided and personal technology to support student learning. This reality is governed by the need to support our students with special needs, for students' health or medical purposes and in learning settings where the use of technology is directed by an educator.

The following resources from the Ministry of Education provide information and guidance to parents, guardians, educators and students about the new requirement:

- Parents' Guide to the Provincial Code of Conduct (updated)
- Cellphones and Other Personal Mobile Devices in Schools – Questions and Answers for Parents and Guardians (new)

We thank our parents/guardians for reviewing this information with your children.

Information provided by the Ministry of Education

Parent & Student Resources

Days of Awareness and Recognition Taking Place in October

Throughout the year, there are many awareness days that focus on different causes and recognition. The Simcoe County District School Board has developed a list of these days as a guide for schools. Schools may participate in recognizing some or all of these days in various ways. This list is not exhaustive. Following are the days of awareness and recognition that the SCDSB will recognize during the month of October:

October	Canadian Autism Awareness Month
Oct. 1	International Coffee Day
Oct. 2	International Walk to School Day
Oct. 2	National Custodial Workers Recognition Day
Oct. 5	World Teachers' Day
Oct. 10	World Mental Health Day
Oct. 11	International Day of the Girl
Oct. 21-25	National School Bus Safety Week
Oct. 23	School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
Oct. 24	Ontario Dress Purple Day - Association of Children's Aid Societies
Oct. 24	Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation Day

PARENT PORTAL GIVES PARENTS REAL-TIME ACCESS TO ATTENDANCE, GRADE INFORMATION

Parent Portal gives parents real-time access to attendance and grade information The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and grades and includes the option to sign up for email notifications. To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's SCDSB Pupil ID Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID will be provided in a sealed letter this fall with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, you can visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - OCT 6 to 12

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!" is aimed at educating everyone about the small but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe. If there is a fire in your home, you may have as little as one to two minutes to safely escape. Escape planning and practice can help you make the most of the time you have, giving everyone enough time to get out. Plan ahead for your escape. Make your home escape plan and practice today.

Information from the Government of Ontario website



Orillia Fire Department

T: 705-325-5201
F: 705-325-5039
✉ ofd@orillia.ca
🌐 orillia.ca
📍 500 Gill St.
Orillia, ON L3V 7T5

September 20, 2019

Harriett Todd School,
11 George Street,
Orillia ON L3V 2V1

Attention: Jennifer Cornick

Re: Fire Prevention Week 2019

Fire Prevention Week 2019 is fast approaching, and we are asking for your assistance in conveying a message to your staff and students.

The theme for Fire Prevention Week 2019 is **"Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape"**. Fire Prevention Week is recognized every October, and this year will be held from Sunday, October 6th through Saturday, October 12th, 2019.

This year fire prevention and suppression crews will be teaming with **Home Depot** for their **"Safety Day"** activities on Saturday, October 5th between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. As a special event, the Orillia Fire Department will be illustrating the power of fire in a **live-burn demonstration**. This event will take place at **12:00 pm at the Orillia Home Depot on Saturday, October 5th**.

The Orillia Fire Department is committed to reducing fire losses by promoting fire safety in the community. With your help, we can achieve this goal. Our crews will be conducting spontaneous fire drills in the local schools October 8th, 9th and 10th and we ask that you be prepared for the disruptions.

At this time, I would like to thank you for your assistance in making your school and the community more fire safe.

Yours truly,

Brent Thomas
AC/Fire Chief