

Stayner Collegiate Institute

Phone: 705-428-2639

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SPARTANS SPEAK

September 14, 2018

Welcome Back Spartans – 2018-2019

I am very excited to welcome all Spartans to the 2018-2019 school year here at Stayner Collegiate Institute. I am especially excited to welcome our new Grade 7 and 8 students and staff. All three school communities – Byng, Clearview Meadows, and SCI – did a lot of work last year preparing for our transition to a 7-12 school and those efforts have paid off. Our new 7/8 students have arrived with enthusiasm and excitement. Our 9-12 students have been very welcoming in helping our newest Spartans feel at home at SCI. On our first day, our senior leadership students greeted our 7/8 students with a fun assembly in our gym.

Classes are back in full swing now. There are tests to study for and assignments are due. School teams and clubs are getting started and looking for new members. Our Student Council is busy planning ways to enhance student life here at SCI. They are organizing for our upcoming Terry Fox Run and also for the popular Clash of the Colours. Both events will be happening in September, so it is going to be both an exciting and busy month. I want to encourage students in all grades – 7-12 – to get involved. Remember, a Spartan is a Spartan.

The Simcoe County District School Board has identified four strategic priorities;

- Excellence in Teaching and Learning
- Well-Being
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Community.

These are the four areas that we will focus our efforts on in order to meet the needs of our students.

Our first School Council meeting for 2018-2019 will be held on Monday, September 24th at 6:30 pm in the SCI library. We are always looking for new members for this valuable advisory group. Join us. Your input is critical.

Finally, please do not hesitate to bring me your ideas and your concerns. I look forward to working with you this school year.

Mark Keating, Principal

Coming Events

Sep 20	Parent Evening of Online Learning - 6:30pm in our library
Sep 24	School Council Mtg (Library)
Sep 25	Terry Fox Run/Walk
Oct 8	Thanksgiving (school closed)
Oct 10	Photo Retake Day
Oct 16	Gr 9-12 Progress Reports
Oct 18	Gr 9-12 Student/Parent Teacher Interviews (5:00-7:30pm)
Oct 22	PD Day - All grades
Oct 24	University Information Program
Oct 26	College Information Program
Oct 26	Haunted House (5:00-9:00pm)

New Simcoe County District School Board website launched this summer

Visit www.scdsb.on.ca to check out our brand new look! Our new website launched in July, providing users with an accessible experience that is mobile-friendly – it works well whether you're on a desktop computer, mobile phone or tablet. The new website also has improved search functionality and a special *SCDSBshines* section to highlight and celebrate the amazing accomplishments of our staff.

SCDSB Community Apps portal makes volunteering easy

We appreciate the commitment of all who volunteer at our school. This school year, we are implementing a new online Volunteer Portal. SCDSB Community Apps is a new online portal that allows you to begin the process for volunteering at a SCDSB school. The portal eliminates much of the paperwork currently associated with volunteers. Volunteer applications and approvals will occur online. The new mandate for Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) training, for volunteers, is also part of the portal. The Volunteer Portal is available for all new people requesting to volunteer at a school location: <http://communityapps.scdsb.on.ca>. Only new volunteers or those who require an updated Criminal Background Check Vulnerable Sector Screening (CBC-VSS) are able to register on the portal at this time.

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 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. 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, 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 Simcoe County District School Board 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.

Parent Portal gives parents real-time access to attendance, 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.

Upgrade or learn new skills with Adult and Continuing Education options at the Barrie Learning Centre

Beginning in September 2018, the Barrie Learning Centre will be extending its hours of operation. This will allow for additional programming hours throughout the week, including increased access to evening programs in Night School, Literacy and Essential Skills, English as a Second Language and Personal Support Worker (PSW). Visit www.thelearningcentres.com to find the course that's right for you.

IMPORTANT LINKS

[Subscribe to our SCI website and stay up to date!!](#)

[Report Bullying, Drug Use or Vandalism](#)

[We post our Announcements to Facebook & Twitter every day!](#)

[Homework Help for students in Grades 7 to 10](#)

[SCDSB 2018-19 School Year Calendar](#)

[Subscribe To All SCDSB Media Releases](#)

[Ontario Universities Fair](#)

[Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#)

[Tired of Fighting Your Teen To Wake Up In The Morning?](#)

[What's Happening in Clearview Township](#)

[10 Tips For Fall Fitness](#)

[Harvest Bowls Recipe](#)

SCI IN THE NEWS

[Grade 7 and 8 Students Now Attend Stayner Collegiate](#)

[Construction Wrapping Up At Simcoe County Schools](#)

[Senior Year Film](#)

Pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with SchoolCash Online

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! Follow these three steps to get started:

- Go to www.simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees"
- Register and add your child to the newly created account
- View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

It's safe, fast and convenient. Contact the office with any questions.

Information about student accident insurance for the 2018-19 school year

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country trips) are not covered by the board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen. The SCDSB has selected the Insure my Kids program through Old Republic Canada as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com. Participation in extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs) or out-of-province/out-of-country trips requires the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage. Student accident insurance packages will be sent home with students.

Register now for free International and Indigenous Language Programs

The SCDSB offers children in Grades 1 to 8 an opportunity to learn and/or maintain a language other than French or English. Whether you enrol your children in this program to learn a new language, understand a new culture or to extend their knowledge of their first or second language, every student can benefit from this program. The Barrie Learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) offers Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Mandarin, Ojibwe, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian and Urdu. The Bradford Learning Centre (157 Holland St. E, Suite 200) offers Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, Ukrainian, Urdu and Vietnamese. The classes take place Saturday mornings, 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 15 (classes are dependent on student enrollment). There is no charge for this program. Most classes fill quickly on a first come, first served basis. Register your child by visiting www.thelearningcentres.com and clicking on 'Elementary Student.'

Community Involvement Hours – Opportunity for high school students who speak an International Language

Do you speak Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese or an Indigenous language? The SCDSB is currently looking for high school student volunteers to help support the Saturday morning international language classes for students in Grades 1 - 8. The classes run from 9 to 11:30 a.m., starting Sept. 15, at the Barrie Learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) and the Bradford Learning Centre (157 Holland St. E., Suite 200). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the program coordinator, Amanda Hickling, at ahickling@scdsb.on.ca

Supporting your teen through high school

It can be tough to find a balance between providing support and guidance to teens, while also helping them gain their independence. Here are some tips to support your child as they move through high school:

- Continue to set clear expectations, boundaries and rules to help them deal with new situations and challenges.
- Stay connected and show interest in what they are doing and who their friends are.
- Let them know you believe in them and encourage them to problem solve by letting them succeed and make mistakes on their own.
- Be a positive role model. Teens get mixed messages when what we say is not reinforced by what we do. Consider what your habits, attitudes and behaviours are saying to your teen.

Keep in mind that teenagers still need guidance and support from parents and other caring adults. Positive, caring relationships help them to do well at home and in school. Show that you care by listening carefully to their needs and feelings, and let them know that they can come to you or another trusted adult if they need support. For more information, visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call *Health Connection* at 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

There's still time to register for Night School

Night School courses for 2017-18 start Tues. Sept. 12 for semester one and Tues. Feb. 13 for semester two. Courses run on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Barrie Learning Centre, 320 Bayfield Street in Barrie. Each course offers a hybrid of in-class and online learning. For a list of available courses and to register, visit: www.thelearningcentres.com/adult-student/night-school.

Career Centre provides job search help for free

Are you looking for work? Would you like help with your job search at no cost to you? The Career Centre is available to help. Visit www.barriecareercentre.com for more information.

Reminder from the Health Unit: School grounds are smoke free 24/7

Protect yourself and your children from the health hazards of secondhand smoke. Remember, it is against the law to smoke ANYWHERE on school property at ANY TIME. This includes smoking in your vehicle while picking up or dropping off students. It is also against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco in a vehicle carrying anyone under age 16. The fine for ignoring the law is \$250. For more information, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Simcoe Community Services' Grandparent System Support Program

Simcoe County is home to approximately 4,000 grand-families. The Grandparent System Support Program (GSSP) was established in response to the increased needs and unique challenges experienced by grandparents with the sole responsibility of raising their grandchildren. The GSSP Support Groups take place in Barrie, Bradford, Orillia and Midland. For more information about the support group, meeting dates/times or if you have questions about the GSSP, contact Trish Longo at gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca or 705-726-9082 x2321.