



SPARTANS SPEAK

Nov 1, 2017

Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that we are already two months into our school year. There have been a lot of exciting events happening here at SCI. We have had an enthusiastic fall sports season with plenty of action both on the field and in the gym. Our annual Clash of Colours was a huge success. Our Grade 11's won bragging honours, but all grades and staff had fun.

November is also an eventful month as you can see in our list of coming events. Mid-term reports come out on November 20th and these are always a good opportunity to have a discussion with your student around their learning. Before you know it, Christmas Holidays will be here and then we are on to our final exams in January.

September 2018 will mark an important change at SCI. This is when we will be transitioning into a 7-12 school. While we are excited at the opportunities this move will bring to our school, change can be difficult. To help work through this transition, we will be forming a Transition Committee consisting of involved stakeholders including staff, students, parents, and administrators from all of the schools affected by this change. I am looking for an SCI parent, who is available for meetings during the day, to be a member of this committee. If you are interested in this role, please let me know prior to the end of the school day on Friday, November 3rd by responding to this email. If we receive interest from more than one person, one will be randomly selected.

Mark Keating

It's time to update your child's immunization records

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 easier than ever 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.

SCDSB online tool for reporting bullying, drug use or vandalism

The SCDSB has an online Safe Schools Reporting Tool, which is available on our school website homepage, <http://sta.scdsb.on.ca>, as a Quick Access button. We also post the link to this tool in every newsletter. Students and parents can use this tool to submit a report online if they witness a student engaged in inappropriate behaviour such as bullying, drug use or vandalism. Students are still encouraged to speak to a trusted adult at school or home if they have any concerns. This form isn't a substitute for having a discussion with your teacher or principal. Student safety and well-being is our top priority. For more information, visit <http://scdsb.on.ca/ReportAnIncident>.

Coming Events

Nov 1	Take Our Kids To Work Day (Grade 9 only)
Nov 3	Awards Assembly for 2016-17 school year
Nov 5	Daylight Savings Time ends
Nov 8	Term 2 Begins
Nov 10	Remembrance Day Ceremonies at SCI (9:30am)
Nov 11	Remembrance Day
Nov 16	Harvest Ball 6:30-10:00pm (student cards required)
Nov 17	PD Day (No classes)
Nov 20	Mid-Term Report Cards
Nov 27	Full Disclosure
Nov 27	School Council Meeting (6:30-8:00 in the library)
Nov 29	Grade 8 Open House (6:00-8:00)
Dec 2	Santa Claus Parade
Dec 5	Co-op Employer Appreciation Breakfast & Career Fair
Dec 18-22	Holiday Cheer Week
Dec 23 - Jan 7	Winter Break (School closed)
Jan 8	Class resumes
Jan 25-31	Final Evaluations

Bus cancellation information reminder

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the West zone and there is a link posted in all newsletters. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted.

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>

November 12 to 18 is National Addiction Awareness Week

Nov 12 to 18 is National Addiction Awareness Week. The SCDSB will be marking this week by providing schools with a variety of resources to increase awareness and education among staff and students. We hope that your child will share some of what they are learning this week and we have included some helpful resources to support you in conversations you might be having with your kids:

- ◆ www.participaction.com/en-ca/programs/unplug-and-play
 - ◆ <http://parentactionondrugs.org>
 - ◆ www.drugfreekidscanada.org
 - ◆ www.camh.ca
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Treaties Recognition Week takes place Nov. 5 to 11

Did you know we are ALL treaty people? Treaties Recognition Week is the first week of November every year - this year it's Nov. 5 to 11. The Simcoe County District School Board is located on territory covered by several pre-confederation treaties - Treaty 5, 16, 18, 19 and 82, as well as the 1923 William's Treaty.

Treaties Recognition Week was introduced in 2016 to honour the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships. Take some time this week to learn about the treaty in your area. To learn more about the treaties and how we can honour them, visit www.ontario.ca/page/treaties and www.anishinabek.ca/education-resources/gdoo-sastamoo-kii-mi/.

Voluntary self-identification of First Nation, Métis or Inuit ancestry

Self-identification is a personal choice to disclose First Nation, Métis or Inuit ancestry. The choice to self-identify is up to you and does not require proof of documentation (i.e. no status card), regardless of where you live. Self-identification is confidential, securely stored and used only to support First Nation, Métis and Inuit student success. Self-identification helps schools support the needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students and their achievement. Student achievement data is collected and protected with other confidential data used to help improve student achievement.

To self-identify your child as First Nation, Métis or Inuit, check off the First Nation, Métis or Inuit box on the school registration form and write in details if applicable. The SCDSB is committed to meeting the learning needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students through responsive programming and services. Past activities have included: the inclusion of First Nation, Métis and Inuit focused resources in schools; school based pow wows; dedicated First Nation, Métis and Inuit student advisors and cultural awareness training for school staff. To learn more about First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education, visit www.scdsb.on.ca > Programs > First Nation, Métis & Inuit Education.

High school information nights coming to a school near you!

The Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this fall and winter. This event gives an overview of what's new, what to expect, as well as a chance to check out the school and ask questions. Our Grade 8 Open House night will be held here on Wednesday, November 29, from 6:00-8:00pm.

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!](#)

[Is It A Snow Day in West Zone?](#)

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

[Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#)

[Student Accident Insurance Available for Extra-Curricular Activities and Trips](#)

[OHIP+ Provides Free Prescription Drug Coverage For Ages 24 and Under](#)

[Celebrate Peace Week - Nov 18-25](#)

[Volunteer With Big Brothers Big Sisters And Our Schools](#)

[Exercise & Sleep can Turn The Page On Student Pressure](#)

[Why Pets Make Us Happier and Healthier](#)

SCI IN THE NEWS

[Meet The New Principal of Stayner Collegiate Institute](#)

[Small Halls Shows Eclectic Mix](#)