

Stayner Collegiate Institute

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SPARTANS SPEAK

September 9, 2016

Welcome Back to 2016-17 @ SCI

Welcome one and all to the 2016-17 academic year at Stayner Collegiate Institute! With one week under our belts, it is like the summer was never here. First assignments are already being submitted for initial assessments. Sports teams are up and running with try-outs and practices well under way. New students and staff are settling into their new routines and our latest crop of Spartans – our Grade 9's -- are looking like old pros as they navigate their way to their four classes a day.

Preparations are already in full swing for the fall, yes that is fall, writing of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test for all Grade 10 students on **October 20**. This will be the first year that the OSSLT is written in the fall. If you have a Grade 10 student, please mark this on the calendar as they **MUST** be in attendance that day to write the test. The new online format will be introduced to the students at school, but if you want a preview, [click here](#) to go to the sample online test. Please refer to the letter sent with report cards in July for more details or give us a call.

This year, SCI will be hosting students from Clearview Meadows Elementary School and Byng Public School for the annual Terry Fox run on Friday September 30 from 10 – 11 am. This promises to be a fun filled event for a very good cause. We will send home details on how you and your families can support the Terry Fox Foundation – watch your emails for more.

Our first School Council meeting for 2016-17 will be held on Monday September 26 at 6:30 pm in the SCI Library. We are always looking for new members of this advisory team. I value the input that our School Council provides as we meet the challenges of educating our young folks together.

As you know, my door is always open. Please let me know how we can best help you and your children on their quest for success at SCI.

Janice Ellerby, Principal

A Service Dog Among Us

We are proud to announce that there will be a service dog in our school supporting one of our students this year. This service dog is a highly trained and certified support for this student. The dog, whose name is Jake, will assist the student with many parts of the school routine which otherwise might be challenging for them. The *Human Rights Code of Canada* provides the authority for service dogs to accompany their handlers in all public places, including schools.



Students have had an information session to explain how the service dog will become integrated into the school routines and procedures. They have been informed that the dog is a working service animal while at the school, not a pet, and have been instructed how to respond to the dog at school.

Coming Events

Sep 9	Photo Day
Sep 23-25	Ontario Universities Fair at Metro Toronto Convention Ctr
Sep 26	School Council Meeting (6:30 - 8:30pm)
Oct 10	Thanksgiving Day (no classes)
Oct 11	Progress Reports
Oct 13	Photo Retake Day
Oct 13	Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews (5:00 - 7:00pm)

Safety reminder from the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)

A reminder to drivers as children return to school this fall, and school buses are back on the roads:

- Take caution – be extra cautious in the vicinity of school buses and around school bus loading and unloading zones
- Pay attention – Watch for school buses' distinctive chrome yellow colouring, flashing red lights and stoparms. **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 flashing 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 the police

Visit the SCSTC web site at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the 'Home' button then the 'Safety' tab for more details.

Pay for student cards, field trips, teams and more with SchoolCash Online

The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school. Parents can pay online for lunch days and other items. Parents who sign up will receive a notification when a new item becomes available for purchase. Items are personalized to each student. Parents use a secure online account to process payments, and can either make a one-time payment for each item as it occurs, or load money to carry a balance in the online account to make payments in the future. To create an online account, go to simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com. Please contact the school office with any questions.

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. Each school has an evacuation site. Ours is *[insert evacuation site name and address here]*. 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.

Annual Notice To Adult Students or Parents/Guardians of Students Under the Age of 16

A completed Student Medical Form (FORM A1420-1) is required each school year, or when a medical need is identified, or when the student transfers to another school, in order to authorize the administration of prescribed medication to students who require it during school hours, or when the medication and/or dosage requirements change.

Specific to asthma, every student is now permitted to carry his or her asthma medication if the student has his or her parent's or guardian's permission.

Parents/guardians and adult students are responsible for ensuring that a current, completed Student Medical Form is signed by a physician and on file at the school.

Some students may experience severe life-threatening allergic reactions to bee, hornet, wasp or other flying insect stings or to certain foods or food ingredients such as peanuts. For students with life-threatening allergies, it is recommended that two doses of an epinephrine auto-injector are available on site at school.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions you may have.

IMPORTANT LINKS

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

[Check out our Morning Announcements on Facebook](#)

[SCDSB Media Releases & Events](#)

[SCDSB Sharing Simcoe Blog](#)

[SCDSB 2016-17 School Year Calendar](#)

[SCDSB Schools Are Available For Community Use!](#)

[Register for Fall Classes at The Learning Centre](#)

[Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#)

[Ontario Universities Fair](#)

SCI IN THE NEWS

[Stayner Collegiate Athletes Use Positive Thinking to Succeed](#)

[Stayner Collegiate's Incoming Grade 9 Class Get Lesson On Starting High School](#)

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