



SPARTANS SPEAK

March 2, 2017

Principal's Message

With the arrival of March, teachers are busy assessing how well your children are doing in their courses. You will be receiving Progress Reports on Tuesday March 21, right after the March Break. These provide an important indication of whether your child is progressing well or if they are encountering difficulties that might, if not corrected, be difficult to overcome. Teachers will be basing this early assessment on tests and assignments completed to date, their observations of work habits and task completion and the all important conversations with your child about their learning.

We encourage all parents to come to meet their child's Semester 2 teachers at **Parent Teacher Interviews** on Thursday March 23 between 5 – 7 pm. Together, we can help your child be successful in their courses.

On March 23, our School Council representatives will be on site asking you to consider volunteering at the "**SCI Celebrate Canada**" event on May 18, 2017. This will be a huge celebration of all things Canadian. We will be celebrating the blooming of our wonderful red and white tulip gardens (all 2250 bulbs!), donated by Canada's Garden Council and Vesey's Bulbs in PEI. We will be looking for parents to run/assist in workshops for students, assist with games and activities, and help our day run smoothly. We might even be having the "mother" of all bake sales (get your mixing bowls out!) with Canadian recipes and the creation of an SCI recipe book that our families can share online. Let us know how you might like to get involved! It will be a great day.

Please take the time to read the important information below about the Ontario Secondary School **Literacy Test** being written by some Grade 10, 11, and 12 students on **Thursday March 30**. This is the **ONLY** date that students can write this important test – a **graduation requirement**.

We hope that you all have a safe and relaxing March Break. As always, if you have any concerns, please contact myself or Mrs. Hand in the Office at SCI. Janice Ellerby

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for Grade 10

Grade 10 students will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on the morning of Thursday, March 30. A change in transportation will allow students who are not writing the test to arrive 3½ hours later to attend afternoon classes. The schedule for the day will be as follows:

OSSLT	8:15-11:20
Lunch	11:20-12:20
All Students Period 1	12:25-12:55
All Students Period 2	1:00-1:25
All Students Period 3	1:30-1:55
All Students Period 4	2:00-2:25

Students and parents can learn about the test and look at sample questions by following the links at the Education Quality and Accountability Office website: www.eqao.com.

Coming Events

Mar 12	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 13-17	March Break (no classes)
Mar 21	Progress Reports
Mar 23	Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews (5:00-7:00)
Mar 28	Grad Photo Retakes
Mar 30	Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test
Apr 1	Deadline for Grade 12's to submit Community Service Hours
Apr 5-15	Vimy 2017 Trip
Apr 14	Good Friday (school closed)
Apr 17	Easter Monday (school closed)
Apr 18-21	Grad Week
Apr 19	Term 2 Begins
Apr 27	Mid-Term Report Cards
Apr 28	PD Day (no classes)
May 3	Semi-Formal Dance
May 5	Full Disclosure
May 22	Victoria Day (school closed)

Developing leadership skills in your kids

There are many reasons why developing youth leadership skills at a young age is important – it builds confidence, perseverance, problem-solving and communication skills. While leadership skills can come naturally, children learn lessons along the way that significantly impact them later in life. The right words at the right time can make all the difference. Here are some ways you can teach your children how to develop leadership skills at a young age:

- Encourage team activities: Identify your children's interests and encourage their participation in group activities. Whether it's participating in afterschool sports or joining the school band, children learn valuable lessons about teamwork through these activities.
- Enrol in camp: Overnight and day camps are filled with opportunities to participate in team-building activities and build self-confidence. Once youth reach a certain age, they can also become counsellors, where they'll be tasked with leading groups of younger children – the ultimate leadership experience!
- Find volunteer and community service opportunities: firsthand experience is one of the best ways to teach leadership skills to children. Look for local opportunities that will welcome youth helpers and volunteers in your community.

The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka offers Youth Leadership Development programs for youth in grades 5 to 12. Participants in our leadership programs often adopt healthier lifestyles, become volunteers in their community, make new friends, earn volunteer hours for school, acquire training certifications, travel to other countries and gain an understanding of their potential impact on their community.

For more information about the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka Youth Leadership Development Programs and opportunities, visit <http://ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/ymca-youth-leadership-development/>.

Your top eight snow day questions answered

Bus cancellations and snow days are inevitable in Simcoe County. Each time buses are (or aren't!) cancelled, the SCDSB and the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) receive many questions from students, parents and community members. Check out the *Sharing Simcoe* blog for the top eight questions and answers - visit www.sharingsimcoe.com and search for 'snow'. Remember to follow the SCSTC on Twitter @SCSTC_SchoolBus for bus updates and cancellations.

Has your teen started driving?

Getting a driver's license and riding as a passenger with friends is an exciting milestone for many teens, but it can also be a stressful and challenging stage for parents. It can be hard to balance giving them independence and trying to keep them safe. Be patient and look for opportunities to help your teen learn driving laws, and how to be safe behind the wheel or as a passenger with friends. For more information, visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Do you know a Grade 12 student in need of a prom dress? The Prom Blitz Project can help!

The Prom Blitz program, a local organization that provides prom dresses for Grade 12 students, is holding Boutique Days on March Break at the Kozlov Centre in Barrie. Students must make an appointment. Appointments are Thurs. March 16 and Fri. March 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sat. March 18 and Sun. March 19 from 12 to 5 p.m. For more info and to book an appointment, visit: <http://promblitz.com/>. Students must have a valid high school ID in order to receive a dress.

Feel like your teen is always on?

Ever consider how all those minutes your teen spends sitting using electronic devices, watching TV or even playing video games add up every day? By replacing some of their screen time with physical activity, you will be helping them to become healthier, reduce stress and be more likely to feel happier and more confident. Here are some ideas to suggest to your teen:

- organize a pick-up game of baseball, ball hockey or basketball
- check out a local nature trail with friends
- try something new like disc golf!

Set a goal to limit screen time to less than two hours each day.

IMPORTANT LINKS

[Check out our website and subscribe to stay up to date!!](#)

[Is It A Snow Day?](#)

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

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

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

[SCDSB Media Fest: What Does Being A Great Canadian Look Like?](#)

[Simcoe County Health Unit Has Lots of Healthy Parenting Tips](#)

[A Little Movement Can Boost Your Mood](#)

[8 Secrets To A Happy Family Road Trip](#)

[22 Quick & Healthy Snacks](#)

SCI IN THE NEWS

[SCI Snowmobile Club Focuses On Safety](#)

[Nobody Program Teaches Stayner Students To Be Somebodies](#)

[Regional Alpine Skiing Championships](#)

[Optimist Club Recognizes Youth Achievements](#)