

# Huron Park Public School

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## Keep connected with Huron Park and the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and your school board, including possible labour situations. Please feel free to call the school at any time if you have questions or concerns.

- You can subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://hur.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. When you fill out your email and click Subscribe, an email will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.
- For Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases and event information, visit the 'News' section under 'About Us' at the SCDSB's website: [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca). The SCDSB Education Centre can be reached at 705-734-6363.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB\_Schools), Facebook ([facebook.com/SCDSB](https://www.facebook.com/SCDSB)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/scdsb](https://www.instagram.com/scdsb))
- Follow Huron Park on Twitter (@hpprincipal1), Facebook ([facebook.com/huronparkmidland](https://www.facebook.com/huronparkmidland))
- Through SCDSB's *Sharing Simcoe* blog ([www.sharingsimcoe.com](http://www.sharingsimcoe.com)), we share stories of some of the amazing people involved in our schools. The blog features stories and tips from our own in-house experts and experts we work with in the community, as well as good news stories about our schools.



## Upcoming Events

### September 25

School Council nominations due. Forms available in the office and online. All-candidates forum (if required at 5 p.m. in the library)

<http://hur.scdsb.on.ca/parents/forms>

### September 28

Chocolate Almond Sales begin

### September 28

School Council Elections (if required) from September 28-October 5 during school hours in the office.

### October 5

First School Council Meeting of year 7 p.m. in Staff Room

## Important Announcements

We are no longer using the website [huronpark.edublogs.org](http://huronpark.edublogs.org). Please update your link to <http://hur.scdsb.on.ca> The school yard is supervised from 8:45 a.m. until the bell rings at 9:00. Please do not send your children to school before 8:45 as there is no one to supervise. Our YMCA before and after care program uses the yard before this time but they cannot supervise children who are not registered in their program.

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

### **School bus 'Bus Tag' program helps students get to and from school safely**

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) launched the Bus Tag program in September 2014. The Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school identified students by providing a process to match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and to also identify they must be met by a parent or guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour-coded Bus Tag with the assigned p.m. route number to be attached to the student's backpack and a colour-coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the Bus Tag is matched to.

New for the 2015-2016 school year:

- The SCSTC will provide access to a new tag for students who are walkers and/or remain at an on-site daycare. These tags will be printed at the school with notes specific to the student.
- School Staff will update and provide walker and/or on-site daycare tags to JK/SK and other school-identified students that require either tag.

The SCSTC and Bus Operators have established policies and procedures that are used on all school vehicles to ensure students in JK/SK and other school-identified students are met at their afternoon bus stop. The Bus Tag program has been established to assist schools and school bus drivers to load students on the correct afternoon bus and identify they are to be met at their bus stop by a parent or guardian. For more information, visit <http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca> and click on the 'Safety' tab.

### **September school bus safety tip - School Buses are back on the road**

The SCSTC reminds all drivers to be extra cautious in the vicinity of school buses and in school bus loading and un-loading zones. Review school bus safety tips with your child at the beginning of the school year to ensure the school bus ride is safe and enjoyable. School bus safety tips and activities are available at Elmer's Safety Village: [elmer.ca/safety-village/school-bus-safety](http://elmer.ca/safety-village/school-bus-safety).

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

The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school, offering parents the option to 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](http://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com). Please contact the school office with any questions.

### **Student Accident Insurance 2015-16**

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. It is essential that all students participating in extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage for all instances of injury. The Simcoe County District School Board has selected the "insure my kids" program through Old Republic Canada as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider with regards to purchasing student accident insurance coverage for the upcoming school year. The coverage is for 24 hours a day. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com). Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities and out-of-province or out-of-country trips.

### **Giving back to the school community - volunteer in our school**

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our school a great place to learn and grow. We

value and appreciate the support of our volunteers. There are many opportunities available, including school council, breakfast clubs, reading help, assisting in the classroom or library and much more. Everyone who volunteers in a school must have a criminal record check, which includes a Vulnerable Sector Screening. Please call or visit the school office for more information about opportunities available or if you'd like to volunteer!

### **Safety reminder: Our school doors are locked during the day**

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place designed to keep our school safe. One of the newer initiatives is that our front door is locked during the school day. All other school doors are also locked. To access the building, visitors will need to press the intercom button at the front door.

Staff in the office will let visitors into the school. This will help us ensure that all visitors sign in at the office. Please understand that staff may not be available to answer the door immediately. If you have any questions about safety procedures, as always, please contact the office.

### **Free International Languages Program! Would your child like to learn a new language or maintain their native language?**

This program is open to any student in Grades 1- 8, and languages offered include Arabic, Russian, Mandarin, Korean, Greek, Farsi, Tamil, German, Spanish and Urdu. Classes run Saturday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting September 19, in Barrie and Bradford. To register, please visit [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) and click on "Elementary student" and "International Languages After School Program."

### **English as a Second Language – register now for fall session**

Do you or someone you know want to improve your English language skills? The SCDSB Learning Centres can help. English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults are offered at the Barrie, Bradford and Alliston Learning Centres. Please visit [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) or call for more information: Barrie 705-725-8360, Bradford: 905-775-4432, Alliston: 705-435-7778. Day and evening classes start in September.

### **Register now for Night School courses – new blended format offers online option**

Night School programs at The Learning Centres offer secondary school credits in a variety of subjects for students completing their Ontario Secondary School Diploma, students who are preparing for post-secondary education and adult learners. Subjects include math, English, chemistry, biology, physics, social sciences and international languages (Spanish, Mandarin, German and Japanese).

All night school courses (with the exception of international languages) are now offered in a blended format where students attend in-class sessions once per week and complete the remainder of their weekly work through online modules.

Night School is offered during the following dates:

- Semester 1: September 15, 2015 to January 21, 2016
- Semester 2: February 16 to June 16, 2016

Visit [www.thelearningcentres.com/learning-centres-programs/night-school](http://www.thelearningcentres.com/learning-centres-programs/night-school) for more information, locations and to register.

### **Reminder from the Health Unit: Packing a healthy school lunch**

School lunches should give children the energy and nutrients they need to be ready to learn, be more alert and perform better at school. When planning lunches, keep these tips in mind:

- Include one serving from at least three of the four food groups from Canada's Food Guide

- Rather than buying pre-made lunch kits, make your own healthy lunch kit with divided containers and small bite-sized cheese cubes, leftover chicken chunks, veggie sticks or fruit slices
- Get your kids to eat more veggies! Try sending cucumber coins, zucchini sticks and pepper strips with dip
- Don't have them drink their fruit - send water or milk instead

For more information, call the Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 and speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org). Also, check out the SCDSB's *Sharing Simcoe* blog post on healthy school lunch ideas your kids will actually eat: [www.sharingsimcoe.com](http://www.sharingsimcoe.com).

### **Safe and active routes to school**

Do you remember walking and biking to school and how much fun it was to meet up with your friends, and how physical activity made you feel energized for the day?

Most Canadian children are not getting enough daily physical activity which means they're not active enough to achieve optimal growth and development and maintain a healthy weight. Regularly walking or cycling to school is an excellent way to get the 60 minutes of recommended daily physical activity, but few children now regularly walk and cycle to school. Children can also learn other valuable skills such as safety, responsibility, independence and an increased connection to the community. Decreased car traffic in and around the school also means increased safety and improved air quality.

In the Simcoe County District School Board, we are working with Active Transportation Barrie to positively impact student lifestyles with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Healthy Communities Partnership Fund through the Barrie/Simcoe Cycling Club and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. Two SCDSB schools, Portage View Public School and Emma King Elementary School, are currently participating in a pilot project focused on promoting and facilitating active transportation.

School Travel Planning (STP) coaches are working with both schools as volunteers, documenting barriers to active and safe routes to school and creating and implementing unique school travel plans based on data collected through classroom and family surveys. To find out more about the recommendations for physical activity and how to make Active and Safe Routes to School happen in your school community, visit [www.saferoutestoschool.ca](http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca). For more information, call the Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and speak with a public health nurse or visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

### **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](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

### **Ontario's new Health & Physical Education Curriculum**

The world has changed since the sexual health education section of the curriculum was last updated in 1998. Research shows that children now enter puberty earlier. Young people now have widespread access to the Internet, social media and smart phones, giving them easy access to both helpful and potentially harmful and incorrect information. Educating children with accurate and current information, and skills and strategies to help them navigate a digital world can help keep them safe and healthy. Ontario's updated Health and Physical Education Curriculum includes sexual education. Get accurate information about the topics and concepts students learn in school – by grade level – at [www.ontario.ca/hpe](http://www.ontario.ca/hpe)