

INNISFIL CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

FEBRUARY Character Trait-Inclusiveness

“We include everyone in what we do and value their unique contributions.”

Bus Zone – Central

L. Howlett-Lowe, Principal

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YMCA Child Care and SCDSB need to hear from you!

Before and after school (B&A) programs offer care programs for children in Kindergarten to grade 6 before and/or after the regular school day and some schools offer full days of care on PA days and holidays. B&A will only operate in schools if enough families require care. To help us determine the needs of each school, a survey is being sent home with youngest/only students in kindergarten to grade 5 or you can also complete the survey online by visiting:

<http://fluidsurveys.com/s/BeforeandAfterCare2016/>

Even if your child already attends B&A, it is still important to complete the survey. Please be sure to fill out the survey online or return a paper copy to your school office by **Friday, February 12, 2016**. Listings will be available in early spring 2016 confirming which schools will operate B&A in September 2016.

Winter is still here!

Please make sure your children, regardless of age, are wearing a coat, hat, gloves or mittens to school every day. We plan to go outside every day for recess and sometimes for Daily Physical Activity (DPA) blocks. Snow pants and boots make it more fun to play in the snow. It can be helpful to have extra clothes or for Phys. Ed. if your child gets their clothes wet while outside.

QSP Magazine Orders

Please Remember...

You can renew and purchase your favourite magazine subscriptions on-line and help our school. Use our school code 3719747 You can also use the school account finder by keying in Innisfil

Wed. Feb 3 is International Winter Walk Day



Students across Canada are encouraged to walk to school on this day. Since we here at ICPS are unable to walk to school, every student is going outside for a walk. Please come to school dressed for our Winter Walk. It will take place directly after the 9:15

morning bell. We will not come in first to bundle up.

That is why you must come to school fully dressed to walk in snowy winter weather.

Thurs. Feb. 4, Canada celebrates National Sweater Day~wear a creative, interesting & warm sweater

This is a day sponsored by WWF (World Wildlife Fund). Since 2010, over a million Canadians have participated in National Sweater Day at their schools, workplaces and homes.

National Sweater Day is a fun way to learn about the importance of saving energy and to inspire you to use less heat all winter. Heating accounts for 80% of residential energy use in



Canada and is a significant source of emissions. If all Canadians lowered their thermostats by just 2 degrees Celsius this winter, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 4 megatons – that’s equivalent to shutting down a 600 mega watt coal-fired power station or taking nearly 700,000 cars off the road!

In honour of National Sweater Day, our Green Team has begun a clothing recycling campaign. Please send in any gently used clothing that you no longer wear and we will redistribute these clothes to a charity organization. Imagine, if every student brings in just one article of clothing, we will have gathered 170 pieces of clothing to donate. In addition, we will have diverted 168 pieces of clothing from going to the landfill.

STEAM Learning and Maker Space

STEAM stands for learning activities that include various curriculums including Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. "Maker space" is a space where students "make" something and share it with their peers. You may see posts, tweets or information on blogs about supply donations of paper rolls, string or other items that may be around your house for these learning opportunities.

Reminders and Checking In...

Thank you to those who have responded! We have a few more we are waiting for to ensure everyone is getting our e-mails. If you receive this newsletter via our e-mail, send a note in your child's agenda or send an e-mail to icpssafearrival@gmail.com Subject line: "Newsletter received" and in the body let us know the "Family Name of Who" received the e-mail. We will put your child's (or children's) name in for a popcorn or pizza draw.

High School information nights coming soon to a high school near you

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen in January and February! **Nantyr Shores information night is February 17th @ 7:00pm.** Information nights give an overview of what's new and what to expect, and are a chance to ask questions. High school is an exciting time—there are so many programs, clubs and activities for students to try. Attend an information night to find out what's offered at your local high school. See the info night schedule and more information on the SCDSB's website at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.

PA Day added on April 15

An additional Professional Activity (PA) day has been added to the 2015-16 school year calendar for Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) elementary and secondary schools. This PA day is scheduled for April 15, 2016. The school year calendar for 2015-16 now includes 187 instructional days and seven professional activity days. The additional PA Day is part of the settlements that were centrally negotiated with the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers' Federation (OSSTF). View the updated

school calendar at www.scdsb.on.ca and click on 'Schools' and then 'School Year Calendars.'

Nominations invited for Character Recognition Evening on May 18

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) recognizes students, staff and volunteers who demonstrate good character in their daily lives at the annual *Character Recognition Awards Evening*, taking place on May 18 this year.

Each year, nominations from schools and the Education Centre are received highlighting the good character of our students, staff and volunteers. Nominees are invited to the Education Centre on May 18 to celebrate those who exemplify the SCDSB Commit to Character attributes. The nomination process opens on Feb. 8 and ends on Feb. 26, 2016. Recommendations can be made by email or fax. More information and the Character Recognition nomination form is available at www.scdsb.on.ca under 'About Us' and then click on 'Commit to Character.'

Reminder about our school parking lot

A friendly reminder to take extra care in our school parking lot now that snow has finally arrived! Drivers: please be mindful of pulling out of parking spaces as large piles of snow can decrease visibility. As well, remember our Kiss and Ride procedures, cars are not to come into our bus zone. Please pull up where our large blue and green bins are located. If you are picking your child up for any reason and the buses are lined up, please walk to the parking lot in front or behind all of our buses and not in between. School board property is private property, and in some cases (eg. after hours) vehicles could be towed from parking lots to facilitate snow removal. Unauthorized parking in school lots overnight and/or weekends is at the sole risk of the vehicle owner.

Update on Barrie South high school: School board will submit new site plan to city

Simcoe County District School Board staff members are preparing a new site plan package to submit to the City of Barrie in February for the planned secondary school in south Barrie. The revised plan includes an

additional board-owned building constructed on the corner of Mapleview Dr. and Prince William Way that may be home to a Newcomer Welcome Centre and Learning Centre for adult and continuing education.

The City of Barrie denied the original site plan for the south Barrie secondary school in late 2015. The City said the design did not meet its planning policies and Urban Design Guidelines, specifically because the school building was not positioned on the north edge of the property, near the intersection of Mapleview Dr. and Prince William Way.

The school board's design has the building at the south side of the property, further from the main arterial road. The board believes locating the school on the south side is the right choice for three main reasons:

- It's safer. Locating a school directly next to a busy intersection and arterial road creates unnecessary risks.
- Site preparation and construction costs are reduced. The school design works with the natural landscape by acting as a retaining wall. Savings will be used to enhance classrooms and other student spaces.
- It is environmentally responsible. Building the school into the hillside provides passive heating and cooling. The design also maximizes natural light.

The hope is this revised site plan will satisfy the City's requests and approval will take place as quickly as possible. Facilities Services staff believe the site plan package will be ready to submit in February. If the site plan is approved and work can start this spring, it is still possible to have the school constructed by September 2018.

Top 8 snow day questions

Bus cancellations and snow days are inevitable in Simcoe County. Each time buses are (or aren't!) cancelled, the SCDSB and the Transportation

Consortium receive many questions from students, parents and community members. Check out the *Sharing Simcoe* blog for the top eight questions we receive and our responses: visit www.sharingsimcoe.com and search for 'snow'.

Operations Appreciation Day a chance to say 'thank you'

Feb. 17 is Operations Appreciation Day in the Simcoe County District School Board. On that day, school communities across the county will celebrate the positive impact custodians and operations maintenance employees make. The work they do to keep our schools safe and clean affects each of us—they help to create the positive environments for learning and working we all enjoy.

We're grateful to Mr. Brann and Ms. Zemits for all they do around our school!

Please take a moment to thank the SCDSB operations team on Feb. 17. Share your support on social media using #props2ops.

Is your child turning four this year? It's time to



register for Kindergarten!

Do you or someone you know have a child who was born in 2012? If so, it's time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Our school is now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2016-17 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. For more information and to watch our new Kindergarten video featuring local students, visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

OTIP Teaching Awards - nominations due by March 31

Want to recognize a teacher who does great work at our school? For many years, the Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) awards have recognized the excellence of teachers in publicly funded education. There are three categories of awards: elementary school teacher, secondary school teacher and

beginning teacher in the first five years of teaching. Winning teachers attend a fall awards ceremony in Toronto where they are presented with a personal award of \$1,000 and a Certificate of Recognition. Their schools are also recognized with a \$1,000 prize and a Certificate of Recognition. Visit www.teachingawards.ca for details. The deadline for submitting nominations is March 31.

Doodle 4 SCDSB contest open to all students

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is holding a Doodle 4 SCDSB contest, inviting students of all ages to create a 'doodle' using the letters SCDSB, and telling the world "What makes me unique." This exciting contest is modelled after the Doodle 4 Google competition, but is designed specifically for our students! There will be one winner from each grade grouping: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10 and 11-12/Continuing Education. The grand prize includes a 3D Doodler EduBundle (\$1400 value) for the winner's class, and their artwork will be featured on the SCDSB website and next year's student agenda. A runner up from each grade category will win art supply bundles from Brault & Bouthillier Canada and Baldwin School Supply. Find out more at www.doodle4scdsb.blogspot.ca/. The deadline to submit a Doodle is Feb. 26, so students -- get your creative on!

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:

Stressful mornings trying to get out the door - sound familiar?

The key is organization! Try these tips to help get the whole family out the door on time:

1. Plan ahead: try packing lunches and picking clothes out the night before.
2. Go to bed at a reasonable hour so you wake up rested and ready for the day.
3. Wake up and get yourself ready first, before your child.

4. Keep the TV and electronics off. These can be disruptive first thing in the morning.
5. Give clear instructions and be realistic about what your child can do for themselves. Praise them when they do something well to help them learn new skills.

Finally, remember to have patience. Your child learns from watching you! In time your child will learn to plan ahead, be organized and develop patience too. For more tips, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or www.tripleontario.ca.

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:

Unit:

Limit your child's screen time to two hours a day

Cutting back on the time kids spend in front of the TV, playing video games, or online can open up a world of discovery for them to learn new skills. Turning off screens also encourages kids to get up and move, which can help keep them at a healthy body weight and build their self-confidence. So what are you waiting for? Try unplugging and discover something new! For tips to help you get active as a family, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a public health nurse.

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:

Unit:

Protect yourself and others 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 on school property. It's also against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco in a vehicle carrying anyone under age 16. Fines for smoking on school property while in a vehicle with children under 16 years of age could total \$460. For more information or help with quitting, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.