



# Grizzly News

## November 2020

### DID YOU KNOW?

Use the Google Translate App to read the newsletter in your preferred language!



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Hello Grizzlies:

What a lovely October we had this year. Not only were the leaves traditionally beautiful, but our school has settled into our 'New Norm' wonderfully. The students are into the new routines, our mask wearing and hand washing protocols are working wonderfully, and our building is as calm as ever. It actually feels a little cozy in my office as the snow falls outside my window.

With the snowfall and cold weather upon us, there are a few additional reminders. This year, more than ever, our staff are making every opportunity to get outside during the school day. New this year, students will be learning and taking learning breaks outside. Unlike a traditional recess schedule, teachers will be taking students outside in their cohorts for outdoor learning and movement breaks as part of the class schedule. It is extremely important for students to come to school prepared to spend time outdoors during the day. Students need to come to school with appropriate clothing (boots, hats, mitts, snow pants, etc.).

With the need for additional clothing, we have reopened the coat racks. Students will continue to bring their learning materials into the classroom in order to remain within cohorts wherever possible, but space has been made available to accommodate the additional clothing that winter brings.

As the snow continues to fall, please feel free to send students with soft plastic sliders, traditionally called 'Crazy Carpets'. Our sliding hills are a lot of fun! Students are permitted to use these soft sliders at school. Unfortunately, NO other type of sliding device is allowed at school.

As always, thank you for your support as we learn and grow together through the changes that Covid-19 has brought to education. We continue to strive to create a welcoming, safe environment for our Grizzlies to learn.

Go Grizzlies!

### **Fundraising:**

Scholastic Book Fair (virtual), November 16th—27th, details and link to follow. Please consider buying books to support our school's library. All funds raised will be used to buy reading material for the school.

**Goggle Classroom:**

All in-school students are attached to a Google Classroom. The Google Classroom will be updated weekly and should be used when your child is home ill or learning at home for an extended period. This is not the same as a Learn@Home classroom which some learners opted for instead of in-school learning model. Our Google Classroom will not be synchronous learning as the teacher is in the classroom all day. If you don't know how to sign on using your child's Goggle credentials, please ask their teacher for assistance.

**Parent-Teacher Interviews:**

Parents please sign up for a virtual meeting with your child's teacher, the sign-up sheets have been available since October 6<sup>th</sup>. To sign up you need to sign in to your child's Google Classroom using your child's login and open the Parent-Teacher Interview document. Teacher's will update the Google Classroom with a meeting code the week of Parent-Teacher Interviews and you will access the interviews via Google Meet on your specified date and time using said code. Please email your teacher if you are having trouble signing up for an interview date/time.

**Outdoor Learning Blocks:**

All students will participate in outdoor learning activities for a minimum of 50 minutes daily with our kindergarten students having a minimum of 100 minutes outdoors. Outdoor activities will occur rain or shine (in the absence of severe weather). Please ensure you dress your child appropriately for the weather, this includes rain gear for rainy days and hats for sunny days. Running shoes should be worn daily as there will be a lot of active movement going on. Indoor shoes are now welcome, please send a pair of running shoes that can stay at the school.

**Learn about the new math curriculum in the Parents' Guide to Mathematics:**

Are you curious about the new Ontario mathematics curriculum, and how you can support your child's growth as a mathematician? Visit the Parents' Guide to Mathematics at [ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8](http://ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8), where you can find a summary of the knowledge and skills your child will be learning as they progress through the grades, information about how you can support your child's learning and how the curriculum was developed. You can make a difference and support your child's learning by making math a regular part of your day-to-day life at home. You can help your children make connections between what they learn in school and everyday experiences at home and in the community.

You can:

- find ways to incorporate math at home
- inspire a love of learning and better understanding of math
- talk with your child about their math schoolwork
- show an interest in what they are learning in class

help make learning fun by finding real world applications of what they are learning together

For more ways to support your child's math learning at home, please visit [ontario.ca/page/support-your-childs-math-learning](http://ontario.ca/page/support-your-childs-math-learning).

**Have you met Sora?**

Our digital ebook/audiobook collection contains over 4,000 titles waiting to be checked out by our SCDSB students. Students simply download the app, use their SCDSB login and start reading for free on their phone or tablet. The collection can be accessed at: [meet.soraapp.com](http://meet.soraapp.com). Mr. McKnight is Maple Grove Public School librarian and he promotes the use of Sora.

**November PA Day:**

Please note that Friday, Nov. 20 is a PA day for all secondary and elementary SCDSB students, both Learn@Home and in school. Please refer to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information: [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/school\\_year\\_calendar](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar).

**High school information events for Grade 8 students:**

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will happen virtually this winter. Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Different pathways and courses offered will be explained. Visit your child's Google classroom for more information.

**COVID-19 self-assessment:**

All students and staff will be expected to self-screen prior to attending school each day, using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit the [SMDHU website](#).

### **Treaties Recognition Week takes place Nov. 2 to 6:**

Did you know we are ALL treaty people? Treaties Recognition Week is the first week of November every year - this year it is Nov. 2 to 6. 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](http://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties).

### **Grade 1 French Immersion information:**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

Historically, in-person Grade 1 FI Family Information Nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, due to restrictions to large-group public gatherings, in-person Family Information Nights will not be held. In lieu of this, an [information page on the board's public website](#) has been created to allow families the ability to access and learn about the program and the application process.

The online Grade 1 FI application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020 until 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020. In Grade 1, enrollment in the FI Program is limited to a maximum of two classes of 20 students per class at each host site for the FI program. The electronic applications will be processed in the order determined by a digitally randomized lottery system.

Please note that the host sites for FI may change during your child's time in the program, and your child may need to move schools. This may also include splitting the program between two different sites. A school connects message was sent October 30th to all year 2 families about this.

### **No visitor access:**

Following the direction from our local health authority, the SMDHU, all SCDSB schools will be closed to parents/guardians and visitors. Parents/guardians may ring the doorbell at elementary schools to receive assistance.

### **Student Pick Up:**

Parents/Guardians have been doing a great job at pick-up. Please keep physically distancing and wearing masks while on school property.

### **Inclement weather and bus cancellation information reminder:**

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Our school is in the Central zone. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

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](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

### **Reminders:**

- Absolutely no toys/gadgets are to be sent to school.
- Please ensure the school has **3** contact numbers in case your child gets ill during the day.
- If your child's end of day plans need to be changed we ask that you send a note to their teacher in the morning. Unless it is an emergency we would appreciate it if your child knows how they are getting home in the morning as we cannot always get the message regarding last minute changes in time.
- Indoor shoes are now welcome, please send a pair of running shoes to be kept at school.



### **Keeping kids healthy and active:**

National health guidelines recommend that children and youth (aged 5-17) have high levels of physical activity, low levels of sedentary behavior and sufficient sleep each day for a balanced lifestyle. Here are three easy tips to help your kids stay healthy and active:

**Get more sleep** – Getting the recommended hours of sleep each night can go a long way in ensuring everyone in your family has the proper energy to take on the next day. More sleep means better ability to get moving and think more clearly!

**Practice relaxation** – Mental health is just as important as physical health. Now more than ever, we are realizing the important connection between the mind and body in our overall wellbeing. Providing yourself and your kids with a small amount of relaxation or ‘time out’ every day – even just 15 minutes – can improve your health dramatically. Try doing a virtual family yoga class to reduce stress and clear the mind!

**Get active together** – When you’re active with your kids, it sends them an important message about healthy living. Get out for a walk, play outside or do a family workout from the comfort of your home. It’s always more fun to exercise with a buddy!

Looking for ways to keep your children active and healthy while in a remote learning environment? YGym offers free virtual physical activities from YMCA certified fitness instructors for children of varying ages and abilities. Visit [YMCAHome.ca/YGym](http://YMCAHome.ca/YGym) for free virtual physical activities for children and youth, anywhere, anytime!

### **Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) Clinical Services changes due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (Elementary)**

#### **Vision screening:**

The SMDHU will not be offering the Vision Screening Program for JK/SK for the 2020-2021 school year. Eye exams are free, with an OHIP card, for children 19 years old and under. Visit the [College of Optometrists of Ontario](#) to find an optometrist near you.

#### **Oral health:**

Oral health screening at school will be delayed this year. The SMDHU will be looking for an opportunity to offer this screening later in the year if possible. Screening and fluoride varnish application continues to be available in our offices by appointment for children 17 years and under.

#### **Immunization:**

The SMDHU will not be holding immunization clinics at your child’s school during the 2020-2021 school year. We are planning to have school-based immunizations offered in the 2021-2022 school year for Grade 7 and 8 students. For families of current Grade 8 students who have not completed their immunization series of Hepatitis B (HB), Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Menactra due to COVID-19, we are offering immunization clinics at our health unit offices throughout Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka. Immunization clinics start Nov. 2, 2020 and are by appointment only. No walk-ins will be immunized. Please call us at 1-877-721-7520 x8827 to book your child’s appointment.

For more information on SMDHU clinical services for children, please contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, or visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

#### **Royal Canadian Legion poppy campaign:**

The SCDSB has a time-honoured relationship with our local Royal Canadian Legions through the annual poetry and poster competitions and the annual poppy campaign. For the 2020-2021 year, it is our intention to once again support the poppy campaign. Due to the health and safety protocols in place, we will not be collecting donations from students. Instead, schools are asked to work with their school councils to make a suitable donation through school generated funds. Families interested in making their own donations can do so by visiting the Royal Canadian Legion’s poppy campaign at [www.legion.ca/remembrance/the-poppy](http://www.legion.ca/remembrance/the-poppy).

#### **Barrie Food Bank:**

Your contribution can be made online at [www.barriefoodbank.org](http://www.barriefoodbank.org) or by mail to Barrie Food Bank, P.O. Box 145, Barrie, ON L4M 4S9. There will be **no** in school donations allowed at this time.