



Maple Grove Public School
Administrative Team: Jennifer Walsh, Principal &
Lindsey Cook, Vice-Principal
Secretaries: Deb Dickson, Sarah MacGirr
School Council Co-Chairs - Amanda Trincity
<http://map.scdsb.on.ca>



Newsletter #2

October 2016

"The strength in each of us comes from all of us"

We're On-line!

Maple Grove Newsletters are available on-line at <http://map.scdsb.on.ca>

Administrators' Message

Dear Maple Grove Families,
 It's been an exciting and successful first month in the "Grove." Students are settling nicely into school routines and classroom expectations. We are amazed at how many school clubs, activities and sports are currently underway. In addition to learning and teaching, our students (and staff) seem to have an endless supply of energy for all the extracurricular activities and events! Recently, Maple Grove took part in the Terry Fox Run. We raised over \$500 for the Cancer Society. At this time, we are also collecting nonperishable items for our Fall Food Drive. The generosity and school spirit of this community is truly incredible.

We will soon be introducing our brand new girls' basketball uniforms and new grizzly logo. Special thanks to our Parent Council for making this happen. We plan to also order new boys uniforms later this term. In addition, some new initiatives are in the works including a new look to our Student Council and incentive bear paw bracelets. Stay tuned for more information later this month.

We hope to meet many of you this evening at our Meet the Teacher Night. There will be pizza and snacks on sale starting at 5:30 p.m. If we don't see you, please have a wonderful Thanksgiving Weekend with your families. We certainly have a lot to be thankful for.

Be sure to get outside and enjoy the great outdoors.

Yours truly,
 Jennifer Walsh
 Principal

Lindsey Cook
 Vice-Principal

Safe Arrival

Reminder parents it is your duty to contact the school when your child will be absent. It is imperative we hear from you as we need to know your child is safe and supervised.

Our Grizzly Community is gearing up for a Fall Food Drive



The Food Drive will be running from Sept.26 to Oct 7th. Students can bring items of canned goods, dry goods, toilet paper, cleaning products, etc, no perishable items please. Students will be making announcements and putting posters

around the school as a reminder. Our community is always so generous in supporting our initiatives and we look forward to our first successful Food Drive of the season.

Waste Reduction Week

Oct. 17- 23,
2016#wastereductionweek
Waste Reduction Week aims to inform and engage Canadians about the environmental and social ramifications of wasteful practices. It strives to educate, engage and empower Canadians to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste.



Here at Maple Grove our Green Team will be focused on reducing the waste in our school. During Waste Reduction Week, the students will be encouraged to



bring a litterless or boomerang lunch, where they take all of their waste home or strive to produce less waste by using containers and reusable items.

Mabel's Labels

Maple Grove Public School has joined up with Mabel's Labels to earn funds to fundraise for our school. With the new school year just beginning, now is a great time to purchase durable, waterproof labels from Mabel's Labels and support our school! Simply place your order at campaigns.mabelslabels.com and select "Maple Grove Public School (Barrie)" from the School/Organization drop-down list. You'll know you're crediting your order to us when our school name is displayed on the top left of the screen.

Thank you in advance for assisting us with our fundraising efforts! Enjoy your labels!

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask Mrs. Read

Seven Series Author Visit

We are excited to be hosting Canadian author Shane Peacock at Maple Grove on Tuesday, October 18 in the afternoon. Shane is part of the very popular Seven series. Students in Grades 4 to 8 will be listening to Shane's presentation. Books from this author will be available to purchase.

In the evening of October 18 at Ardagh Bluffs Public School in Barrie, at 7 pm, six of the seven Canadian authors from the Seven series will present. This event is free.

So please mark your calendars for the evening of October 18 and share an evening of Canadian Authors with other Barrie students.

What's the SCDSB Difference? We need to hear from you!

We need your help developing the new strategic plan for the Simcoe County District School Board. The purpose of a strategic plan is to set goals and directions that will guide the work of our organization and help us realize our vision of a community of learners achieving full potential.

We want to know:

- What does the SCDSB do already to help us realize our vision of a community of learners achieving full potential? (What are we doing well?)
- What is the most important thing that we can begin to do to help us realize our vision? (What else can we do to improve?)
- What role do you think SCDSB schools play or should play in your community?

Get involved:

- Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/difference to take our survey and complete the *Where should we invest?* sorting activity to help identify priority areas.
- Follow our @scdsb_schools Twitter account and join our #SCDSBDifference Twitter chat to share your ideas on Thurs., Oct. 6 at 8 p.m.

Other consultation activities:

- We had community outreach booths at Collingwood Downtown Farmers' Market (Sept. 17), Orillia Downtown Farmers' Market (Sept. 24) and Alliston Downtown Farmers' Market (Oct. 1).
- We are conducting on-the-spot interviews with parents and students at select schools across Simcoe County.
- We've invited randomly selected representatives from various stakeholder groups to workshops on Oct. 4 at the Education Centre.

We'll use the input to identify the key areas stakeholders think the SCDSB should focus on. We will also review research on effective practices in education, our own data and the expectations we receive from the Ministry of Education. This information will help the Board of Trustees set our priorities. The strategic plan will outline how—together—we inspire and empower learning for life. Ultimately, our strategic priorities should move us toward our vision of a community of learners achieving full potential.



Reorganization balances class sizes to support your child's success

Each September, our school starts off with a certain number of classes and teachers - these numbers are based on estimates made the previous spring about how many students will be enrolled during the next school year.

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education has class size goals that all school boards are required to meet. When the Simcoe County District School Board organized its schools in the spring, they adhered to this expectation. Each September, the board compares actual enrolment numbers to the numbers projected by the board in the spring. At times it is necessary to reorganize classes.

After reorganization, some students may move to another class in order to balance class sizes. In some cases, it may be necessary to move teachers to a new school. If your child was affected by a change, you would have received a letter with details following reorganization. Please be assured that these changes will not affect the quality of education your child will receive at Maple Grove Public School. Our staff have the skills, training and resources to work effectively with students in a variety of settings.

Student accident insurance available for extra-curricular activities and trips

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 school board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can happen. It is essential that all students participating in extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage. The SCDSB has selected *Insure My Kids* as an option for parents to consider. The coverage is for 24 hours a day and offers a variety of plans at reasonable prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com.

Stay updated, get information about your school and school board

Want to ensure you are receiving up-to-date, accurate information about what's going on at your school and our school board? Here's how:

- You can subscribe to our school's website by clicking on 'Subscribe' at the top of our school website: <http://MAP.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. 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. You can also subscribe to receive board media releases, event information and/or job postings via email by visiting www.scdsb.on.ca and clicking on 'Subscribe' at the top of the page.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb) and follow our school on Twitter @MapleGrovePS
- Check out our *Sharing Simcoe* blog (www.sharingsimcoe.com), where we share stories of our amazing students, staff and community members.
- For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. And remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days. Notifications of bus delays can be emailed to families and students that



subscribe to receive their specific bus delay notification through the SCSTC website.

Subscribe here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/>.

High School information nights coming to a school near you!

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this fall and winter. This event gives an overview of what's new, what to expect, as well as a chance to check out the school and ask questions. Attend our local high school information night to find out what's offered: November 30th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at Barrie North and February 22nd from 6:30 - 8:30pm. Check out the full schedule of info nights and more information at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.

Message from the Health Unit: Ensure your child's immunization record is up-to-date

The Ontario Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires the health unit to have up-to-date immunization records for all students attending school. According to ISPA (2014), students are required to be vaccinated against the following diseases:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio and Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (must have two doses after the first birthday)
- Meningococcal Disease (must have one dose after the first birthday & Men-C-ACYW in Grade 7)
- Varicella (chickenpox) - only for those born 2010 and after

The health unit **does not** receive immunization information directly from doctor's offices. Please contact the health unit each time your child receives a vaccine from their health care provider.

What you can do:

- check your child's yellow immunization card
- contact your child's health-care provider to obtain records or get missing vaccinations

- go to <http://www.smdhu.org/immsonline> to enter the complete record, or fax a completed record to 705-726-3962

Message from the Health Unit: Smoke-free movies support healthy choices for our kids

Parents are always doing their best to protect their kids from harm. Have you ever wondered how movies influence our children? Research shows that seeing smoking in movies has a direct impact on youth smoking. In fact, the more often kids see smoking in the movies, the more likely they are to smoke. So why is smoking allowed in children and youth-rated movies? Movies influence kids. Make them smoke free. For more info visit the health unit website: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or www.smokefreemovies.ca.

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!

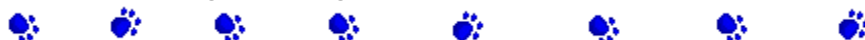
October is International Walk to School month

Did you know that October is International Walk to School month? It is a great way for children to get their recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day and also gives parents and staff a chance to be part of a worldwide event that celebrates the many benefits of walking.



Get in on the fun and try these activities:

- Create a walking group/"bus" to and from school



- Create a fun walking challenge for your school community involving students, parents and teachers
- Create and sign a Walk to School pledge

Check out the website at www.saferoutestoschool.ca for more information. You can also call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15: Join the Don't Wait, Check the Date Selfie Challenge

Fire Prevention Week is October 9 to 15, 2016 and local fire departments want you to join the *Don't Wait, Check the Date!* selfie challenge. Smoke alarms wear out over time and need to be replaced within the time frame indicated by the manufacturer, usually 10 years. The date of manufacture is indicated on the back of the smoke alarm and the expiry date is taken from that date. Smoke alarms are required on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Test all of your smoke alarms monthly by pushing the test button on the alarm, and replace batteries at least once a year or when the alarm's low battery signal begins to chirp.



Families are challenged everyone to take a selfie of their family checking the expiry date of their smoke alarms and post it on social media using #checkthed8. For more information about testing and replacing your smoke alarms, visit: www.ontario.ca/firemarshal. For more information please call 705-728-3199 or visit Barrie.ca/FPW

Eye See...Eye Learn program offers free glasses for Junior Kindergarten students

The Eye See...Eye Learn program provides comprehensive eye exams by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten students. The eye exams are covered under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) when parents show their child's health card. There is no out-of-pocket cost for the eye exam and if the child requires a pair of glasses, they will receive them free of charge from a participating optometrist. For more information, visit

www.Eyeseeeeyearn.ca.

Message from Director of Education Kathi Wallace

At the Sept. 28 Board Meeting, it was shared publicly that I will retire as of December 31, 2016. As I'm sure you can imagine, this decision was challenging for me. I love what I do—I have felt this way in every role during my 39 years in this board.

It's truly been an honour to serve the students and families of Simcoe County throughout my career. I've had the privilege of working with fantastic staff, parents and community partners. I've been surrounded by skilled, passionate and caring people.

My focus remains on our work as I complete my time here. The Board of Trustees have now started the search for a new director. We will also continue with our strategic planning consultation and analysis. The input provided by our staff, students, parents and community members will be invaluable to the board and senior administration, including the new director, as they move the system forward. If you haven't already, I encourage you to add your ideas by visiting www.scdsb.on.ca/difference.

I am also looking forward with optimism to this next stage of my life. It's a chance to spend some more time with my family. This includes my growing group of beautiful grandchildren who provide that daily reminder of life's wonder and simple joys. It's that same reminder I cherish from my days as a classroom teacher.

Important Dates

- Oct. 3rd- School Council Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm
- Oct. 3rd- Milk Day starts
- Oct. 5th- Pizza Day starts
- Oct. 6th- Meet the Teacher Night 5:30 - 7pm
- Oct. 9 -15th- Fire Prevention Week
- Oct. 10th- Thanksgiving
- Oct. 11th- Picture Day
- Oct. 12th- Cross Country Regionals
- Oct. 17th -23rd - Waste Reduction Week
- Oct. 18th- Seven Series author visit for Gr.4-8
- Oct. 18th- Ardagh Bluffs P.S. visit from Canadian Authors from the Seven Series @ 7pm
- Oct. 19th- Grade 7/8 HEP B & HPV immunization
- Oct. 20th- Grade 4's go to the Tiffin Centre
- Oct. 21st- PA Day
- Oct. 28th- MADD presentation to intermediate student

