



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 #1

September 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>

Principal's Message

Dear Maple Grove Families,

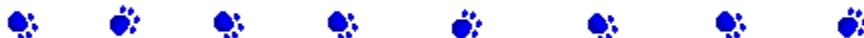
Thank you for the warm welcome to Maple Grove! I'm very excited to be working alongside a dedicated staff and vibrant school community. There are many activities going on in our school during the month of September. Our Green Team has already been rolling out our recycling program. Many students are taking an active role in these environmental initiatives with the organization and collection of recycling materials. New and experienced Bus Patrollers have been coming out in droves to volunteer for this important job. Officer Jackie will be at the school on Wednesday, September 21st to assist with the training. Many of our intermediate students completed applications to volunteer as Student Office Assistants and for Announcement team positions. It's so encouraging to see the level of student engagement and responsibility.

Sports tryouts have also started up. Intermediate Boys have been demonstrating their skills on the volleyball court, while the Intermediate Girls will soon be trying out for Maple Grove's Basketball Team. All students from grades 4 - 8 have been invited to try out the Cross-Country Team. What a great time of year to get out and enjoy the beautiful Fall colours. Over the next few months, I look forward to getting to know the Maple Grove community and working in partnership with families to ensure our students are happy and successful.

Yours truly,
 Jennifer Walsh, Principal

Parent volunteers/ School Council Elections

There are many ways that you can get involved in your child's education. Some of these ways include becoming a parent volunteer or participating in school council. If you wish to volunteer (e.g., safe arrival, milk program, pizza program, field trips, etc.) you will need to ensure that a recent (within the last 6 months) criminal reference check is on file at your child's school, or that you have completed the annual declaration form (available in front office). If you are interested in being a part of school council, please note that our first meeting this year will be on October 3rd from 6:30 - 8:00pm. This is also the evening that we will conduct our formal election process. If you would like to hold an elected position with voting privileges, you will need to complete and submit a School Council Nomination form. These forms are available in the front office, and will also be available the evening of October 3rd. The term of office for school council members is one year, however, members may be re-elected or re-appointed. Please note that you may still attend school council meetings and/or participate in sub-committees (e.g., community/school events, fundraisers, curriculum nights, etc.) without holding a voting position. We are very excited about this year's council, and we hope that you will join us on October 3rd to learn more about the many ways you can contribute to the Maple Grove community!



Terry Fox Run

The Terry Fox Run will be held at Maple Grove on Thursday, September 28 at 2:30 pm. Students are asked to bring a 'toonie' for Terry and put the money in the water jug in the library.

Terry set goals every day and it's great to see students follow in his footsteps and do their best to reach their goal.

Pledge Sheets

A great way to boost fundraising dollars AND if a student completes an entire pledge sheet, they'll be entered into a random draw to win a new bike! [Click here](#) to download a pledge sheet.

Online Fundraising

Your school url link:

<http://www.terryfox.ca/MapleGrovePSBarrieON>

Your school is already set up on our website to receive online donations. It's fast, easy and donors receive their receipt right away.

Simply copy and paste the above link into your school website, fb page or newsletter. The more you share, the higher your donations!

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.

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

Eat Well to Excel

Our breakfast and snack program is up and running.

If you have an hour or so a week and you would like to help out preparing food, grocery shopping or serving breakfast please give Janis Hetu a call.

Please remember all volunteers must have a police check. If you are not sure how to go about this please call and we can help you with the process.

Many hands make light work.

Procedures help keep our school safe

The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations

Parents should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:



- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off.
- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites (www.facebook.com/SCDSB and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (www.scdsb.on.ca), through local police and local media.
- All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. Each school has an evacuation site. Ours is **Barrie North Collegiate Institute and/or Oakley Park Public School**. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.
- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** to enter the building. **Staff**

may not be available to answer the door immediately, please be patient. All visitors, including school volunteers, are required to **sign in** at the school office and wear **visitor identification**.

- Staff and volunteers must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All Simcoe County District School Board schools **have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**.

When parents are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

**There are lots of ways to dress for school:
Learn about the new student dress code**

The SCDSB is introducing a new student dress code this school year. The dress code was developed in consultation with staff and students. Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive, and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or



other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at www.scdsb.on.ca. If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact the principal or the SCDSB Equity and Inclusive Education Team at 705-728-7570.

**There are lots of ways
to dress for school...**



...but there are a few things that aren't okay.



Exposed underwear



Spiked or chained accessories



Offensive or inappropriate contact

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

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that 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. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site daycare to make sure they don't get on a bus in error. For more information, visit

main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the 'Safety' tab.

Safety reminder from the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)

A reminder to drivers as children return to school this fall, and school buses are back on the roads:

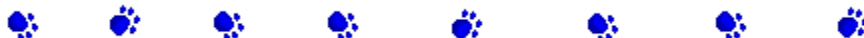


- Take caution - be extra cautious in the vicinity of school buses and around school bus loading and unloading zones
- Pay attention - Watch for school buses' distinctive chrome yellow colouring, flashing red lights and stop arms. **Drivers travelling in both directions on a road without a median must stop for a stopped school bus** that has its upper red lights flashing
- Know the repercussions - Any driver that fails to stop for a school bus with its lights flashing is subject to a fine of up to \$2,000 and six demerit points for a first time offence
- Be empowered - Anyone who witnesses a driver failing to stop for a school bus can report the incident to the police

Visit the SCSTC web site at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the 'Home' button then the 'Safety' tab for more details.

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

The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school. Parents can 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. Please contact the school office with any questions.

Schools are available for community use

Through our Community Use of Schools program, almost all of our schools are available outside of school hours for not-for-profit community groups. Our gyms, fields, auditoriums and classrooms are available for your sporting events, concerts, recitals and more.

You can apply online. A Permit Clerk will process the application and advise if the facility is available at the requested time. Once an application is approved, a rental contract will be issued and the applicant will be invoiced.

For more information, visit www.scdsb.on.ca, click on 'Schools' and then 'Community Use of Schools.'

Free International Languages classes - registration for fall program available now

Would your child like to learn a new language or maintain their first language? These courses are FREE and open to any student in Grades 1 to 8. Classes run Saturday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 17, 2016. Registration forms can be found at www.thelearningcentres.com or call 705-725-8360 x45151 or 45160 if you have any questions.

Register now for ESL fall classes

Do you or someone you know want to improve English language skills? The SCDSB Learning Centres can help. English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults are offered at the Alliston, Barrie and Bradford Learning Centres. Visit

www.thelearningcentres.com or call for more information: Alliston: 705-435-7778; Barrie 705-725-8360; Bradford: 905-775-4432.

Reminder from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Packing a healthy school lunch

A school lunch 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, left over chicken chunks, veggie sticks or fruit slices
- Get your kids to eat more veggies! Send cucumber coins, zucchini sticks and pepper strips with dip
- Fill whole wheat or multi grain wrap/pits/tortilla shells with your child's favourite foods such as hummus and grated carrot or sliced turkey with honey mustard.
- Water is the best option for hydration.

Looking for more information to help keep you and your family healthy? Call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 to speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Active and Safe Routes to School

Walking or cycling to school is a great way to help your child get the 60 minutes of recommended daily physical activity. It also teaches them to be aware of their own safety, builds responsibility and independence, and helps them to feel more connected to the community. And it's good for their physical and mental health!



More walkers also means less car traffic around our school, which will help keep students safe and improve outdoor air quality too. Committing to even one day a week of walking or cycling to school can make a big difference!

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.

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.

Important Dates

- Sept. 21st- Safety Patroller Training
- Sept.28th-Milk & pizza forms due
- Sept.28th-Terry Fox Run
- Sept. 30th- Intermediate Students go to Fort Willow
- 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
- Oct. 10th- Thanksgiving
- Oct.11th- Picture Day
- Oct. 19th- Grade 7/8 HEP B & HPV immunization
- Oct.21st- PA Day
- Oct. 28th- MADD presentation to intermediate students

