

Marchmont Public School  
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December 2016/January 2017  
Newsletter



# The Marchmont Message

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Another year has come and gone. At the same time, we look forward to what's in store for us this coming new year!

December was filled with holiday festivities and cheer.

Well done to the Leadership Team collecting toys for the Salvation Army. Thank you to the staff who organized the many presentations throughout the month. Kudos also to Mrs. Kennedy & Mrs. Leboeuf and the Drama Club who have worked hard to present *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. We have some very talented performers! Congratulations also to the Intermediate Girls Basketball Team for clinching the Simcoe County Championship.

Please take the time to go over the newsletter, as well as subscribe to our website ([mar.sedsh.on.ca](http://mar.sedsh.on.ca)) or follow us on Twitter @Marchmont PS. This will help to keep you updated with the information and events of the school.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday! See you in the New Year!

## BUS CANCELLATIONS

Winter is here in Simcoe County, and with it comes the possibility of severe weather, challenging winter driving conditions and possible bus and school event cancellations.

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's bus information website at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Our school is in the [insert zone for your school] zone. When buses are cancelled, schools are still open for student learning, unless otherwise noted.

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 between 6 and 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 for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scste.ca/Subscriptions>

For school event cancellations in case of inclement weather, follow our school's Twitter account @Marchmont PS or listen to local radio for event cancellation information.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Winter Break  
Dec 24-Jan 8

First School Day Back  
Jan 9

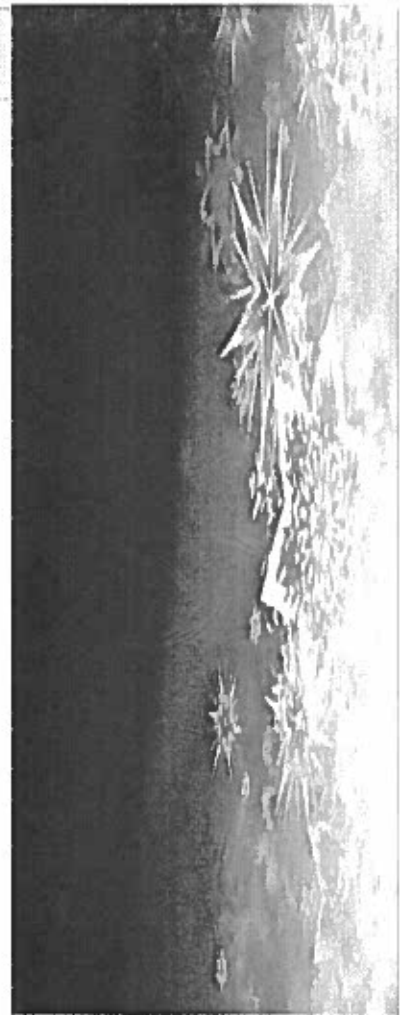
OSS Guidance Visit for Grade 8s  
Jan 9

MADD Presentation  
Jan 10

OSS Information Night  
Jan 18

Gr. 7 Immunizations  
Jan 26

PD Day  
Jan 27



## LOST & FOUND

Please take the time to look through the lost and found if you think your child has lost an item of clothing.

We will keep the clothing items up until the first week back in January, however, after that time, we will be donating the items to Value Village.

## PLEASE DON'T DRIVE IN THE FRONT LOT DURING BUS TIMES

We are still having cars enter the front lot during drop-off and pick-up times.

Please avoid driving into the front lot during the following times:

8:55—9:10 AM

AND

3:30—3:50 PM

It is already a challenge to manage our students getting on and off our 7 buses safely, and even more so when there are cars to navigate around .

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



## HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this winter. 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool). The Orillia Secondary School Information Night is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 from 6 to 7:30 pm.



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2013? If so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Beginning on January 23, 2017, Simcoe County's public schools will register children for Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit [www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten) for more information.

## MARCHMONT STAFF UPDATE

We welcome Madame Pascale Wattiez-Jeffryes to the Marchmont Staff. She will be teaching Core French, (taking the former position of Madam Suddaby) to our Grade 5 and Grade 8 classes.

## MARCHMONT FOOD PROGRAM 2017

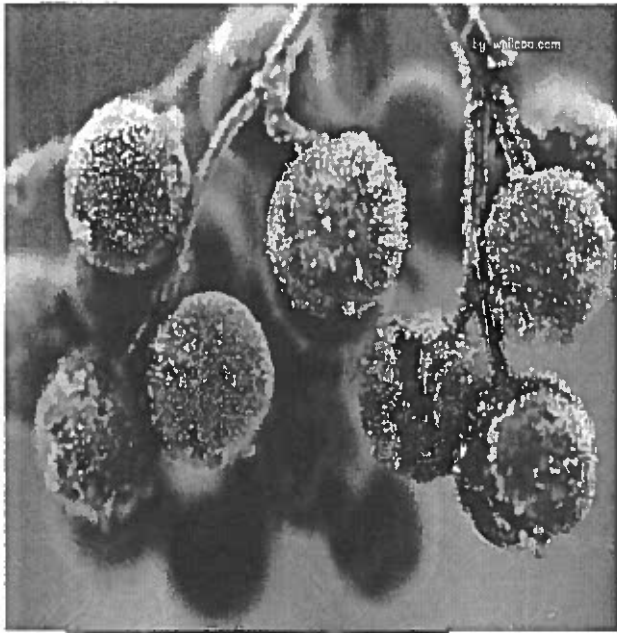
Please be reminded that food orders will now be available **only through School-Cash Online**. Paper forms will not longer be available or accepted.

In the event of a snow day, please note that food orders are rescheduled for the next "non-food" day (details will be posted on our website and Twitter feed). Also, note that Nicholyn lunches are refunded to your account on inclement weather days.

## AN AWESOME SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Marchmont Public School staff would like to thank all children, parents, grandparents and friends who supported our Scholastic Book Fair. The total sales amounted to four thousand three hundred eighty-four dollars and twenty cents (\$4 384.20). From this total, ninety dollars (\$90.00) worth of books were selected from the Book Fair modules. This year we kept a cash value of nine hundred eighty-nine dollars and sixty-eight cents (\$989.68), which will be used to purchase new literacy materials, along with S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) materials. A cheque in the value of three thousand three hundred ninety-four dollars and fifty-two cents (\$3 394.52) was made out to Scholastic Canada Inc. for the remainder of the sales. As always, we are very thankful for your support of our literacy initiatives.

We would like to congratulate Peyton from Mrs. Leboeuf's grade 7 class for winning the Family Event Door Prize at the Book Fair. Peyton and Mrs. Leboeuf each had the opportunity to choose twenty-five dollars worth of free books from the great selection on hand.



## SAFE ARRIVAL ON INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS

On inclement weather days when buses are cancelled, our system will call the home and cell number of the first parent on file for **all students who are not at school.**

This includes students who ride buses and those who walk to school.

On these days, the message will ask you to call the school back **ONLY IF** your child should be at school.

*“Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers.” - Kalil Gibran*

### **Provide input on proposed 2017-18 school year calendar**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) invites public school communities to submit input regarding the proposed school year calendar for next school year (Sept. 2017 to June 2018). Input can be provided by visiting [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca), then clicking the link on the 'School Year Calendars' page under the 'Schools' menu. All stakeholders including staff, school council members, parents/guardians, students and members of the school community are invited to provide input. The deadline to submit input is Jan. 13, 2017

## SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

**Students and parents invited to complete the school climate survey . (Details will follow in a separate letter that will be sent on January 9).**

**From Jan. 9 to Jan. 27, 2017, all students in grades 4 to 8 will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey at school about how they feel about their school. Your child's teacher will supervise the class during the survey and can answer any questions or concerns your child may have. As well, parents/guardians of students in grades 4 to 8 will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey about how they feel about their child's school.**

**These surveys provide students and parent/guardians with the opportunity to say what is great about their school, as well as express their concerns. The survey results will provide valuable feedback to staff and will help schools to develop their Safe Schools Plans. Respondents are not asked to provide their names and all responses will be combined to ensure confidentiality.**

**To complete the parent/guardian survey, visit the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) website at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) and click the link to the parent/guardian School Climate survey. The password for the survey is ElementaryParent2017. If you do not have access to the internet and/or you prefer to complete a paper version of the survey, you can request one at the school office. Questions about the parent/guardian survey can be directed to SCDSB's Research and Evaluation Services team via email at [research@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:research@scdsb.on.ca). Thank you for your support!**



## MESSAGES FROM THE HEALTH UNIT

### Life with kids is messy – and that's OK!

Ever feel like some days you have it all together, and some days you don't? Love your kids to bits, but sometimes feel like you're the only parent who has hard days? Want to connect with other parents who have those kinds of days too? Come join the conversation on Facebook @lifewithkidsismessy. Laugh about the tough stuff, hear about what works for other families and to share the ways you give your kids your best. When the messy days pile up, call Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

### Stay healthy this school year

Colds and influenza spread easily from person to person. These germs can spread directly from person to person when someone coughs or sneezes, or indirectly when germs land on hard surfaces like door knobs, desks, keyboards or wet tissues and then are touched by someone. These germs can then enter the body through the eyes, nose or mouth.

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick and stop the spread of germs is wash your hands with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds. If your hands are not visibly dirty you can use alcohol based hand rub hand sanitizer for 15 seconds. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough into your sleeve or upper arm and stay home if you are sick. Teach your kids to do the same!

For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this school year, contact Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit's website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

### HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S PHYSICAL LITERACY

Physical literacy is the ability to move with competence and confidence in a wide variety of physical activities. Much like learning to read using the ABC's, it's important to start with the basics. The most important step in developing physical literacy is the mastery of fundamental movement skills.

As kids become more confident in their movements, they're able to progress their physical skills faster and more successfully than if they skip over the basics and jump right into recreational athletics. Physical literacy not only supports physical fitness and health, it's proven to support strong social skills, mental health, cognitive skills and educational success.

The best way for parents to support physical literacy is to start young providing safe, play-based activities. As they reach the age of four, be sure to support fundamental movements such as climbing, kicking, catching, throwing, dodging, twisting, skipping, sliding, running and jumping. Help your children master these fundamentals as they age by exposing them to activities such as swimming, gymnastics, running games and athletics. And most importantly, make sure that physical activity is always delivered in a fun, safe and supportive way to develop a positive outlook on active movement.

For more information on physical literacy and how organizations like the YMCA can help support your family's healthy lifestyle, visit your local YMCA Health, Fitness and Aquatics Centre.