



Marchmont Public School

1902 Division Road West
R. R. #2, Orillia, Ontario L3V 6H2

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Primrose Goss
Principal

Sheila Phillips
Senior Administrative Support

September 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We wish you all a very warm welcome back to school after a very warm summer! Our staff is looking forward to catching up with our returning students and becoming acquainted with our new students and their families. We anticipate another fantastic year of learning and we will be working to share this learning openly through our school and classroom websites.

There have been a few minor changes to our school yard. Two of our portables were removed as they were needed at other schools in our board. Also, a number of structures were added in the Primary yard area such as a stage, art board and a few tractor tires to support our outdoor learning for Kindergarten play-based program. We hope to continue to enhance our school yard over the next few years.

We are continuing our focus on our Numeracy and Literacy goals, working toward integrating the use of digital and online technology to demonstrate student learning as well as using it as a tool for problem-solving. Thanks to our school fundraising efforts, we have increased the number of iPads as well as new Chromebooks for student use. In addition, Marchmont received a GoPro camera and an iOgrapher (iPad camera, microphone & stand) from our school board to help support sharing our learning beyond our school community.

A school start-up information package will be sent home as well as the information contained in this letter. Please review the contents as there may be changes in some routines from the previous year.

Looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Primrose Goss

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The beginning of the school year...

At this time students are settling into routines that are expected for all students in the school. Students are working along with all teachers on clearly defined curriculum and behavioural expectations that all educators believe are necessary for a positive educationally safe learning experience. This year our 'turn around day' will take place around the end of the month. There may be class re-organization happening and some students may have to change classes. We thank-you in advance for your understanding if this does happen for your child. The staff at Marchmont will work along with all students to make any transitional changes as smooth as possible. Thank-you for your co-operation.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION & STAFF (Prior to class restructuring; if necessary)

Mrs. Marla Vandenberg & Mrs. Lisa Ayers	Kindergarten Teacher & Designated Early Childhood Educator
Mrs. Jennifer Madden & Mrs. Gail Molenaar	Kindergarten Teacher & Designated Early Childhood Educator
Mrs. Rebecca Dickie	Grade 1 Teacher
Ms. Debra Gardiner	Grade 1/2 Teacher
Mrs. Tracey Fedorowich	Grade 2 Teacher
Mrs. Karin Penny Nie	Grade 2/3 Teacher
Mrs. Sandra Downer	Grade 3/4 Teacher
Mr. Rick Clendinning	Grade 4 Teacher
Mrs. Debora Kennedy	Grade 4/5 Teacher
Ms. Tina Tanzi	Grade 5 Teacher
Mrs. Sheryl McNiven	Grade 6 Teacher
Mr. Michael Davidson	Grade 6/7 Teacher
Mrs. Haido Leboeuf	Grade 7 Teacher
Mr. Vodarek	Grade 8 Teacher
Mrs. Lisa Tucker	Special Education Resource & Planning Time Teacher
Mr. Anders Hagman	Special Education Resource & Learning Centre Teacher
Mrs. Sheryl Davey	Planning Time Teacher
Mrs. Jennifer Doyle	Planning Time Teacher
Ms. Cindy Glenney	Librarian and Teacher Resource Teacher
Mme Kelly Lyons Bowman	French as a Second Language Teacher
Mrs. Marg Perigo	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Connie Millman	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Mandi Beers	Educational Assistant
Ms. Jackie Hodge	Chief Custodian
Mr. Brian Hughes	Custodian
Mrs. Sheila Phillips	Senior Administrative Support
Mrs. Primrose Goss	Principal

We welcome Mrs. Doyle to Marchmont P.S. as one of our planning time teachers.

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The Balanced School Day Schedule

8:55 Bus arrivals & Supervision begins on the yard

9:10 School Bell Rings (start of the instructional day)

9:10 - 10:50 First Instructional Block

10:50 - 11:10 First Nutrition Break (Students eating inside the school)

11:10 - 11:30 First Recess (Students outside on the school yard)

11:30 - 1:10 Second Instructional Block

1:10 - 1:40 Second Nutrition Break (1:10 - 1:20 Drop Every Thing & Read - D.E.A.R, Students eating inside)

1:40 - 2:00 Second Recess (Students outside on the school yard)

2:00 - 3:40 Third Instructional Block

3:40 School Bell Rings (end of instructional day)

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Friendly Reminders & Important Messages...

- Please do not send any food with peanuts or nut products to school
- When dropping off and picking up your child(ren) please wait outside the entry doors or the "Kiss & Fly Area at the front of the school, this allows your child to develop independence
- While students use personal electronic devices (Tablets, iPods & Cellphones) to support their learning at school, he/she is responsible for its care and appropriate use. If such items are brought to school, **the SCDSB is not responsible for devices that are lost, stolen or damaged in any way.** (Devices should be easily identifiable, clearly labelled and, where possible, registered with the manufacturer).
- Cell phones are **NOT** to be used in the school to make phone calls or text message - all phone contact will be made through the phones in the office during the school day.
- All students who ride a bike to school must, for safety reasons wear a helmet. Bike locks will ensure that your child's bike remains safely in the bike racks
- Please **write your child's full name** on all lunch bags, shoes and all other personal items that your child brings to school. This is vital to prevent lost items and enables lost items to be identified.
- Transportation is provided for most of the students who attend our school. If you choose to drive your child to school, please drop off and pick up your children so as not to interfere with the entry and exit of busses off and on school property. If you are within walking distance from the school and walk your child to school please ensure that you do not walk between busses. If your child is a walker, please discuss the importance of safe walking rules with your child. Thank-you for your co-operation in this matter in ensuring all students are safe at all times.

Keep connected with your school and the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and your school board, including possible labour situations. Please feel free to call the school at any time if you have questions or concerns.

- You can subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://marscdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. 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. The SCDSB Education Centre can be reach at 705-734-6363.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb) and our school on Twitter (@MarchmontPS)
- Through SCDSB's *Sharing Simcoe* blog (www.sharingsimcoe.com), we share stories of some of the amazing people involved in our schools. The blog features stories and tips from our own in-house experts and experts we work with in the community, as well as good news stories about our schools.
- For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. And remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

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

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) launched the Bus Tag program in September 2014. The Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school identified students by providing a process to match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and to also identify 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.

New for the 2015-2016 school year:

- The SCSTC will provide access to a new tag for students who are walkers and/or remain at an on-site daycare. These tags will be printed at the school with notes specific to the student.
- School Staff will update and provide walker and/or on-site daycare tags to JK/SK and other school-identified students that require either tag.

The SCSTC and Bus Operators have established policies and procedures that are used on all school vehicles to ensure students in JK/SK and other school-identified students are met at their afternoon bus stop. The Bus Tag program has been established to assist schools and school bus drivers to load students on the correct afternoon bus and identify they are to be met at their bus stop by a parent or guardian. For more information, visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the 'Safety' tab.

September school bus safety tip - School Buses are back on the road

The SCSTC reminds all drivers to be extra cautious in the vicinity of school buses and in school bus loading and unloading zones. Review school bus safety tips with your child at the beginning of the school year to ensure the school bus ride is safe and enjoyable. School bus safety tips and activities are available at Elmer's Safety Village:

elmer.ca/safety-village/school-bus-safety.

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

The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school, offering parents the option to 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.

Student Accident Insurance 2015-16

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 Board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen. It is essential that all students participating in extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage for all instances of injury. The Simcoe County District School Board has selected the "insure my kids" program through Old Republic Canada as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider with regards to purchasing student accident insurance coverage for the

upcoming school year. The coverage is for 24 hours a day. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com. Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities and out-of-province or out-of-country trips.

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!

Safety reminder: Our school doors are locked during the day

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place designed to keep our school safe. One of the newer initiatives is that our front door is locked during the school day. All other school doors are also locked. To access the building, visitors will need to press the intercom button at the front door.

Staff in the office will let visitors into the school. This will help us ensure that all visitors sign in at the office. Please understand that staff may not be available to answer the door immediately. If you have any questions about safety procedures, as always, please contact the office.

Free International Languages Program! Would your child like to learn a new language or maintain their native language?

This program is open to any student in Grades 1- 8, and languages offered include Arabic, Russian, Mandarin, Korean, Greek, Farsi, Tamil, German, Spanish and Urdu. Classes run Saturday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting September 19, in Barrie and Bradford. To register, please visit www.thelearningcentres.com and click on "Elementary student" and "International Languages After School Program."

Reminder from the Health Unit: Packing a healthy school lunch

School lunches 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, leftover chicken chunks, veggie sticks or fruit slices
- Get your kids to eat more veggies! Try sending cucumber coins, zucchini sticks and pepper strips with dip
- Don't have them drink their fruit - send water or milk instead

For more information, call the Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 and speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org. Also, check out the SCDSB's *Sharing Simcoe* blog post on healthy school lunch ideas your kids will actually eat: www.sharingsimcoe.com.

Safe and active routes to school

Do you remember walking and biking to school and how much fun it was to meet up with your friends, and how physical activity made you feel energized for the day?

Most Canadian children are not getting enough daily physical activity which means they're not active enough to achieve optimal growth and development and maintain a healthy weight. Regularly walking or cycling to school is an excellent way to get the 60 minutes of recommended daily physical activity, but few children now regularly walk and cycle to school. Children can also learn other valuable skills such as safety, responsibility, independence and an increased connection to the community. Decreased car traffic in and around the school also means increased safety and improved air quality.

In the Simcoe County District School Board, we are working with Active Transportation Barrie to positively impact student lifestyles with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Healthy Communities Partnership Fund through the Barrie/Simcoe Cycling Club and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. Two SCDSB schools, Portage View Public School and Emma King Elementary School, are currently participating in a pilot project focused on promoting and facilitating active transportation.

School Travel Planning (STP) coaches are working with both schools as volunteers, documenting barriers to active and safe routes to school and creating and implementing unique school travel plans based on data collected through classroom and family surveys. 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. For more information, call the Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and speak with a public health nurse or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Ontario's new Health & Physical Education Curriculum

The world has changed since the sexual health education section of the curriculum was last updated in 1998. Research shows that children now enter puberty earlier. Young people now have widespread access to the Internet, social media and smart phones, giving them easy access to both helpful and potentially harmful and incorrect information. Educating children with accurate and current information, and skills and strategies to help them navigate a digital world can help keep them safe and healthy. Ontario's updated Health and Physical Education Curriculum includes sexual education. Get accurate information about the topics and concepts students learn in school – by grade level – at www.ontario.ca/hpe.