

Steele Street PS

INCLUDE - UNITE - EMBRACE
TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG AS STEELE!!!

Dianna Wright-Drzazga
Principal

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Shirley Kennedy
Vice-Principal



Bus Cancellation Zone: Central

OCTOBER 2016

Important October Dates

October

- Oct. 3 – Picture Day
- Oct. 5 – Kids of Steele Cross Country Invitational at Sunnidale Park (PM)
- Oct. 12 – BNE Regional Cross Country Meet at Sunnidale Park (Full Day)
- Oct. 13 – Gr. 3 Swim to Survive Begins
- Oct. 18 – Simcoe County Cross Country Meet – Mount St. Louis Moonstone (Full Day)
- Oct. 21 – PA Day
- Oct. 25 – Grade 7 & 8 Immunizations
- Oct. 26 – 28 – Grade 7 Kandalore Trip

Upcoming Dates:

- Nov. 7 – Picture Retake Day
- Nov. 8 – QSP Cookie Dough Pick Up Date
- Nov. 11 – Progress Reports Sent Home
- Nov. 14 – 18 – Student Conferences

Volunteers Needed!

At Steele Street P.S. we have a small group of dedicated parents who are involved in many of the great things that we do at Steele Street. Without volunteers these programs would not be possible and we appreciate all of the work that our parents do!

We are working to grow our volunteer base as we have lots of volunteer opportunities at Steele Street including volunteering in classrooms, going on field trips, running fundraisers, driving students to sports events, and many more. Some of the specific areas we are looking for volunteers at this time include the following:

Sub Days – getting the order form ready, counting money when it arrives, and putting the order in with our vendor (time commitment – approx. 1-2 hour week)

Wrap Days – getting the order form ready, counting money when it arrives, and putting the order in with our vendor (time commitment – approx. 1-2 hour week)

Pizza Days – handing out pizza during Fri. lunch 1-2 times per month

Hot Dog Days – getting the order form ready, counting money when it arrives, picking up supplies, cooking and serving hotdogs (time commitment – approx. 1-2 hour week)

Cross Country Meet Concession Stand – picking up snacks, running the concession stand the day of the Cross Country Meet (October 12).

If you are interested in any of the above volunteer opportunities or have a group that wishes to volunteer together please contact the school for more information at 705-728-9292.

Can't volunteer – no problem! There are other ways to be involved in the school community. Ask your child what they are learning in school, be a part of your child's education, and please consider joining us for any evening or after school events that you are able to attend!

Everyone who volunteers in a school must have a criminal record check, which includes a Vulnerable Sector Screening. Stop by the office to pick up your form so that you can have this completed for free.

Thank you once again to all of our families for your continued commitment to our Steele Street community school!

Hearts Of Steele

Students at Steele are truly showing that they have Hearts of Steele! Our new social cause group is up and running.

Our first initiative is a food drive for the Barrie Food Bank. Last year the Barrie Food Bank supported 33,000 families and handed out over a million pounds of food. We will be doing the food drive for the entire month of October as part of our "We Scare Hunger" challenge but will have a pick up prior to Thanksgiving to help the Food Bank help support families in our community.

In November, we will be raising awareness and support for the We Are Silent. Issues like child labor, child soldiers, and access to water and education, drown out the voices of youth across the world. Everyone deserves the chance to live the life they choose—not one chosen for them by poverty, illiteracy and happenstance. We will take a vow of silence for a day to better understand what it's like to have your voice go unheard.

We will also embrace "Movember" and raise funds for prostate Cancer so that our children don't lose fathers and grandfathers to this terrible disease. Watch for information on our upcoming bake sale that will help support this initiative.

Waste Reduction Battery Contest!

Participate in our EcoKids Battery Busters contest by sending in your used single-use and rechargeable batteries (weighting up to 5kg each) during the month of October.



Our school has a chance to win \$1500!

Cross Country Team News

On October 5th, Steele St. P.S. is hosting the 'Kids of Steele' Invitational cross country running meet at Sunnidale Park. Intermediate students from Steele St. will marshal the meet and hand out ribbons to all competitors.

The Barrie and Northeast Cross Country Running Meet is an all day event at Sunnidale Park on October 12th. Steele St. is again organizing the event and the snack bar for an event that hosts over 700 runners.

The Simcoe County Championship Cross Country Running Meet is being held October 18th at Mount St. Louis Resort. Runners from the top two winning teams and the next eleven fastest runners from the Regional Meet qualify for this highly competitive race.

School Council

All parents are welcome to attend any School Council meeting which take place at Steele Street P.S. in the library. Our meeting dates are as follows:

Dec. 5th 6:00 PM
Feb. 6th 6:00 PM
April 3rd 6:00 PM
May 15th 6:00 PM



Mark your calendar and please consider coming out to our school council meetings. Everyone is welcome!

QSP Subscriptions

Our QSP Family Reading Magazine Program has begun and order forms have come home!

Our school earns profits through magazines people already purchase.

QSP prices are up to 85% off of newsstand prices. A single magazine can cost as little as \$1.00 per issue.

That's a great investment in literacy!

Any reading material, including magazines, will encourage children to read and a parent who reads is a great role model!

Also for sale is cookie dough as well as other great Christmas gift items!

Terry Fox Run a Success!

Steele Street's Terry Fox Run 2016

What a success! After a wonderful assembly about Terry Fox that ended with the children showing their Canadian pride by singing the national anthem beautifully, the children

went outside. There, the children were set for the warm ups led by members of the cross country team. Then it was time for the students in grades 2 to 8 to do the run through the community. The Kindergarten and Grade One children remained on property and ran laps to represent the Canadian provinces. Many children even ran 10 laps around the playground and



were very excited to be a part of this special day. The children were treated to a nice healthy apple to end their day.

The pledge forms are to be sent in by this coming Thursday so we can continue to add to our total. We have met our goal of over \$4000.00 and we thank everyone for your contributions. We especially thank the volunteers who helped out along the route and on the playground that day. A BIG thank you goes out to Mrs. Kim MacPherson, a retired Steele Street teacher for all of her help and her passion for this cause. Thank you to Mrs. Walker for all the collecting and counting of money throughout these last few weeks. It is wonderful to see the children so enthused about Canada's hero, Terry Fox. His dream was kept alive by all of the children who participated in the run. Thank you to EVERYONE! Cancer can be beaten!

Please note that we STILL have some Terry Fox shirts to sell. Please let Mrs. Hornick or Mrs. Turgeon know if you wish to buy one. It can be your donation to the Terry Fox Foundation! Thank you in advance! Small sizes 6x and Y for \$15.00 and adult sizes, S,M, XL, 2XL for \$20.00.

Website & Twitter

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.

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://sst.scdsb.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.

- You can also follow us on Twitter [@SteeleStreetPS](https://twitter.com/SteeleStreetPS)
- **Newsletters and reminders will be sent by email and are available on the school webpage – please ensure that the school has your updated email address; paper copies of the newsletter are available in the office if you would prefer a hard copy**
- 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. Remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

High School Information Nights

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:

Eastview Secondary School 421 Grove St. East, Barrie	Wed., Feb. 22	6:30 to 8:30 p.m
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Check out the full schedule of info nights and more information at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.

Student Accident Insurance

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

SchoolCash Online

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.

International Walk to School Month

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

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.



Eye See...Eye Learn Program

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.Eyeseeyelearn.ca.

Health Unit – Immunization Record

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

What's the SCDSB Difference?

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.

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.

Message from the Director – Kathi Wallace

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.

