



Steele St. Spitfires



Mrs. M. Northrop, Principal

705-728-9292

www.sst.scdsb.on.ca

Mrs. S. Kennedy, Vice Principal

September 2017

Principal's Corner

Welcome Back!!

We are all excited to be back after another fun-filled summer. As we anticipate a wonderful year of learning and growing, we want to assure our families that our focus will continue to be on engaging our children in exciting and positive educational opportunities while developing students of character. I am looking forward to meeting our students in the classroom and on the school yard.



School Schedule

- 8:20 Playground Supervision Begins
- 8:35 Entry Bell
- 10:15 1st Nutrition Break
- 10:35 1st Outdoor Break
- 12:35 2nd Nutrition Break
- 12:50 2nd Outdoor Break
- 2:55 Dismissal

Calendar Dates for this Year

The 2017-18 school year calendar has been provided as part of this year's school agenda. It is also included with this newsletter.



Newsletter on-line-- (sst.scdsb.on.ca)



Please remember to subscribe to our website so that you will receive newsletter updates.

Volunteers Wanted!

The SCDSB policy requires all volunteers to have a criminal record check including the vulnerable sector screening. Current volunteers will be sent an offence declaration to sign and return. If you are a new volunteer, a criminal record check, including the vulnerable sector screening must be done before you begin volunteering. Please contact the office for this paperwork.

Safe Welcome at Steele St

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 these procedures is that the front door is locked during the school day. All of the 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, please contact the office.

*All visitors to the school need to report to the office **TO SIGN IN**. If given permission to go into the school, a visitor's badge must be worn. We make every effort to minimize interruptions to the instructional flow in the classroom. Our students deserve excellent learning conditions and as few distractions as possible. If you need to speak to a teacher, please send a note or leave a message. Please leave the forgotten lunch, clothing item or project at the office counter with your child's name on it. Thank you for supporting our productive and safe environment.*

No act of kindness no matter how small is ever wasted.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club will begin on Monday, September 11th. We will also have bagels and cheese/cream cheese in the office for our *Grab and Go Lunch Program* and snack bins and fruit bowls for our *Classroom Snack Program*. This will begin on Monday, September 11th.



Dates to Remember

Mon. Sept. 25th - School Council Meeting

6:00 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 28th - Meet the Teacher
Night - 5 pm to 7 pm

Thurs., Sept. 28th - Terry Fox Walk

** Red and White Day **

Mon., Oct. 2nd - Picture Day

Indoor Shoes

It is important that all students wear indoor shoes in order to continue to keep the school clean, comfortable and hygienic for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.



School Council Nominations - If you are interested in putting your name forward, please contact the school office and ask for a nomination form to be sent home. Please return form to the office by Friday, September 22nd. Elections will be held on Sept. 25th.

Nutrition Break Routines

All students are expected to remain at school during the first nutrition break. During the second break, students could go home for lunch. It is important for us to know if your child will be going home to eat on a regular basis or if he/she will stay at school during the nutrition break. Please indicate this in the Back to School Pack. If your child would like to go home for lunch occasionally, you will need to send a letter on those days otherwise our school staff will not be able to allow his/her departure. We are asking that only grade 5-8 students go off of school property at the 2nd nutrition break. Once students are off property, they are not supervised by SCDSB staff.

Safe Arrival Program

(705-728-9292 #1)

Please remember to sign up for the Safe Arrival Program in the *Back to School Pack*. It is important that you call into the school by 8:15 a.m. to let the school know if your child will be away. Our voicemail operates 24 hours a day.

Character Matters at SSPS

Our goals at Steele St are to promote the virtues of a free and democratic society and to guide students in their journeys toward becoming people of good character.

Each month, we will highlight an attribute with the students.

Our focus for September is CARING.

We show kindness towards each other.

We demonstrate caring by:

- ❖ Doing kind acts
- ❖ Sharing
- ❖ Being helpful
- ❖ Thinking about others' needs and feelings
- ❖ Not leaving others out during activities

Please continue to discuss at home other ways to show acts of caring.

Permission for Walking Trips and Playing at the Park

At various times throughout the year, our students are involved in supervised activities that require them to leave the school grounds and walk to various locations in the community.



These activities will always be supervised by school staff. Please see the *Back to School Pack* (Permission and Acknowledgements form).

Peanuts/Tree Nuts

Please pay careful attention to the ingredient list on packages. Do not send any food to school where the ingredient list states "contains peanut or peanut products" or "may contain trace(s) of peanut or peanut products". As well, if your child eats nut products in the morning before coming to school please be sure face and hands are washed and teeth are brushed thoroughly. Some students' have an allergy so severe that even touching or inhaling a trace amount can trigger a life-threatening reaction. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Please remember that all classroom placements are tentative. This first few weeks of school is a time of "settling in" which often includes some adjustment in class organization. We always know we'll be welcoming new registrants but can't accurately predict in what grades they'll be. Thus it is necessary to move some students to different classrooms so that all classes are balanced. It is important that you help your child understand that this may take place within the first month of school.

Proper shoes for physical education are required by the latest Physical Education Safety Requirements for Schools. Indoor shoes may certainly be used for physical education classes IF they are proper running shoes. High-soled shoes, sandals, etc will NOT be permitted in physical education class, nor will bare feet or sock feet be allowed.

Student Accident Insurance 2017-2018

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (eg. athletics) 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 those participating in out of regular school 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. This allows your child to participate in extra-curricular sports. 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.

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 *Grove Park Home*. 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.
- 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)**.

*Watch your thoughts;
They become your words.*

*Watch your words;
They become your actions.*

*Watch your actions;
They become your habits.*

*Watch your habits;
They become your character.*

*Watch your character;
It becomes your destiny.*