

# *W. H. Day Elementary School*

*410 Maplegrove Avenue  
Bradford, Ontario L3Z 2V4  
whd.scdsb.on.ca  
(905) 775-9691*

*Mr. P. McKenna  
Principal*

*Ms. F. Telesco  
Vice-Principal*

Dearest W.H. Day Families:

Welcome back to another exciting and wonderful year of learning at W.H. Day Elementary School. We have completed the first week of school and the students are well established in their classes. So far the school is running very smoothly and there is a great tone of learning and family in the building. We are looking forward to an amazing year at W. H. Day. Our enrollment increased over the summer. We are now a family of close to 700 students. With this, we have very full classes and many new staff brought on board to the team. We are continuing to hire next week as there are some positions to fill. During the second and third weeks of school, our Board will review our staffing numbers and making final decisions on staffing. It may occur that the teacher and/or class a student begins the year with may change on September 26, 2017. If this affects you, a letter will be sent home in the next few weeks. In saying this, please note that the teachers are working close together on similar programming and assessments to ensure that if a move needs to occur, it will be very smooth and not affect programming. Newsletters will be uploaded automatically to our website, and sent via your email address. However, should you require a paper copy instead, please indicate so through your eldest child's classroom teacher.

## **Volunteering:**

Volunteer programs foster a strong school and community partnership, enhances the quality of education, expands learning activities, provide innovative programs and enrichment activities using community skills and resources, and optimize learning opportunities for all. We encourage and welcome volunteers. The process is the following:

- Obtain a CBC VSS ( Criminal Background Check ) form from our office, then obtain a background check from your local police department within the last 6 months.
- Submit the original CBC VSS to our office in a sealed envelope so that we may in turn, send directly to the Board office who will review and add your name to the roster.
- When you have confirmed through our office that your name is on the list, please arrange with us for an orientation session. At this point, your volunteership commences. N.B. Please allow for sufficient time for South Simcoe to process the CBC VSS, and our board office to add you to our list.

## **Safe Arrival:**

Our Safe Arrival program is operating in the front foyer until further notice. Should there be numerous lates once again, we will devise an innovative approach to Safe Arrival to ensure that our children are safe at all times. You will be notified of any changes.

## **Early Dismissals:**

We strive to be responsive with regards to your telephone calls, however due to our growing population demands, we are finding it increasingly difficult to arrange early dismissal telephone call requests in a timely fashion. Messages will be checked as protocol requires, however we look forward to your support in having permission notes/letters beforehand to avoid any delays.

## **Home-School Communication:**

We feel that communication is important at W.H. Day. If you have concerns regarding your child's education, the first line of contact should be with the teacher. Please use the agenda / planner, send notes or call the school as needed. Last year, we began a process of moving away from newsletters to become more environmentally-aware. We will continue this process this year. Monthly calendars will be updated on the school website on an ongoing basis. The main page will have news from both the school and the board. We will continue to use our automated call-out and email process to share information as well. It is important to keep the office updated when phone numbers and email addresses change. Our school website is <http://whd.scdsb.on.ca/>

## **School Bus & Parking Lot:**

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at: <http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/>. Remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: <http://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/> for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days. We are in the south zone.

Our parking lot and the lane beside the school will be closed to traffic from approximately 8:35 AM to 9:00 AM. If you are in the parking lot you will not be able to get out until 9:00 AM. If you are not in, you will not be permitted in after

8:35 AM. Only school vehicles will be permitted to enter or exit the lot during this time. Our kiss and ride area adjacent to the island will remain open, but as always, parking on either side (island or grass) is NOT permitted. These changes are for the safety of your children. Thank you for your cooperation. The same rules will apply from about 3:00 PM until 3:30 PM. We are a walking school with the exception of the French busses and a very small number of students on Bus 619. It is both healthier and safer for students to walk to school every day. Less traffic on school property will mean that our students are safer when arriving at school. The Town of BWG has some adjustments. The north side of Maplegrove directly in front of the school does allow parking. The south side is posted as no stopping zone in the morning and afternoon. The town has done some ticketing in this area. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### **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](http://www.facebook.com/SCDSB) and [www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](http://www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://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. 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.

### **Parent Portal:**

Parent Portal gives parents real-time access to attendance, grade information. The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and grades and includes the option to sign up for email notifications. To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's SCDSB Pupil ID Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID will be provided in a sealed letter this fall with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, you can visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity. This information will be sent home soon.

### **Free Eyeglasses for JK Students:**

*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 (JK) 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 courtesy of a participating optometrist. For more information, visit

[www.Eyeseeyelearn.ca](http://www.Eyeseeyelearn.ca).

#### **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](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org). *Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

#### **Free Dental Care for Children under 18:**

Free dental service is available to your child through Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Healthy Smiles Dental Clinic in Barrie, or on the dental bus that visits many communities across Simcoe Muskoka throughout the year, as long as you qualify for the program. To find out if your child qualifies or to book an appointment, call the health unit (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) oral health team at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, extension 8818. Healthy Smiles Ontario is a government-funded program that provides free dental care for children and youth 17 years old and under from low-income households. This dental program provides free preventative, routine and emergency dental services.

#### **Simcoe Community Services' Grandparent System Support Program:**

Simcoe County is home to approximately 4,000 grand-families. The Grandparent System Support Program (GSSP) was established in response to the increased needs and unique challenges experienced by grandparents with the sole responsibility of raising their grandchildren. The GSSP Support Groups take place in Barrie, Bradford, Orillia and Midland. For more information about the support group, meeting dates/times or if you have questions about the GSSP, contact Trish Longo at [gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca](mailto:gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca) or 705-726-9082 x2321.

**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**CURRICULUM**

**(MEET - THE -**

**TEACHER) NIGHT**

**WEDNESDAY,**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2017**

**6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.**