



GATOR NEWS

February 2020

goo.scdsb.on.ca

827 9th Line
Innisfil, ON L9S 1A6
goodfellow@scdsb.on.ca

Phone: (705) 436-3600

Safe arrival—PRESS 1

Fax: (705) 436-1868

Michele Walma
Principal

Heather Owen
Vice-Principal

CENTRAL Weather Zone

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Feb 3 Parent Council
- Feb 14 Valentines Day
- Feb 17 Family Day
- Feb 25 Grad photos
- Feb 28 Character Ed assembly

Get Bus notifications
right to your cell
phone or email.



Subscribe to receive bus
delay notifications here:

[https://scstc.ca/
Subscriptions](https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions)

GFPS is a SCENT FREE and NUT FREE school

Please remember to wear proper footwear at all times.

From the Desk of the Principal

Hello!

My name is Mike Howell and for the past few days it has been my pleasure to serve as principal at Goodfellow PS. I have seen many schools over the years and it doesn't take long to get a sense of whether a school is working or not. I have to say that Goodfellow definitely works well as a place to grow and learn. I am impressed by the high commitment of the staff here to ensure a clean, safe environment where everyone is welcomed and supported. I am very impressed by the strong parental support and active School Council. The Pizza/Swiss Chalet/ Pasta program is remarkably well run and easily exceeds the quality of many high school cafeterias. In troubled times like this some people focus on the short term concerns but forget the long term strengths that can always be counted upon. Please accept a kind reminder from me: Goodfellow is a good place to be.

Thanks
Mike Howell
Principal

Attendance on Inclement Weather Days



With the inclement weather approaching, parents please note the following:

If your child is eligible for a bus – please do not call safe arrival – your child will automatically be marked absent due to weather

If your child is a walker – please remember to call safe arrival before 9:20 if your child will be absent or late – please include the reason for the absence

If you receive a safe arrival call, please do not call the school unless you believe your child should be at school. Please note this only applies to inclement weather days.

Thank you for your assistance!

Notes from the Office

- Teach your child good work habits by having them arrive to school on time. **Classes start at 9:20am. Students arriving after 9:20 must sign in at the office.**
- Our school dismissal time is 3:40pm. We appreciate all your efforts in making appointments after school hours.
- **If you need to pick up your child(ren) early, please send a note to their teacher in the morning so that they can make arrangements to have your child in the office.**
- **We kindly ask that you send lunches with your child in the morning.**
- Just a reminder to parents and students, use of personal electronic devices during class time is not permitted, unless the teacher has given permission for use of electronics in the classroom. If you need to reach your child during the school day, please call the office and not the student.
- Please note that WHEELIE shoes are NOT ALLOWED to be worn at school.
- Please note that proper indoor and outdoor shoes must be worn by students at all times.

School Council

Our School Council meetings take place monthly. Everyone is welcome!



If Busses are cancelled:

When the school board cancels busses for our area—**CENTRAL ZONE**- the school is open for students to attend. We ask that you please send your child(ren) to school on these days provided they can travel safely to and from our building. Valuable instruction and learning continue to take place during these inclement weather days.

Please remember to call the safe arrival line if your child is staying home.

Please note that Fun Lunch does not run on inclement weather days, and will be rescheduled to the next available day.

SAFE ARRIVAL CALL—PLEASE NOTE

If you receive the safe arrival call, please call the school back ONLY if your child SHOULD be here.

Inclement weather day absences do not count towards the student absence total.

Reporting Student ABSENCES and LATES

Please remember to call the **Safe Arrival Line BEFORE 9:20 AM** when your child is away or will be late.



705-436-3600, PRESS #1 to leave a message. **Please speak clearly and spell last name for clarification.**

Absences Due To Illness

If your child is away due to prolonged illness, please send a doctor's note to the office so that we can update your child's file accordingly.



Parking Lot

Our parking lot is closed to personal vehicles from **9:00 to 9:20 a.m. and 3:40 to 4:00 p.m. daily.**

Students may continue to walk onto school property using the sidewalks and cross walk.

The two accessibility parking spots will remain open for the public.



School Day Schedule

Supervision Begins	9:05 am
Warning Bell	9:17 am
School Starts	9:20 am
Class Time	9:20-11:00 am
Recess/Snack Time	11:00-11:40 am
Class Time	11:40-1:20 pm
Recess/Lunch	1:20-2:00 pm
Class Time	2:00-3:40 pm
Dismissal:	3:40 pm

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Experienced candidates need not apply: Kindergarten registration is now open!

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2016? If so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Children turning four in 2020 can start school this September. The registration process can be started on the registration page on the SCDSB website, then completed at the school. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten for more information.



High school information nights coming to a school near you!

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen throughout the winter. This event provides 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: Check out the full schedule of info nights and more information at www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning_for_high_school.



**Nantyr Shores
Secondary School**

Keeping SCDSB school communities informed on labour updates

In August 2019, provincial and local contracts for all education workers in the province of Ontario expired. In the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB), this means that all our unionized groups are at different stages of contract negotiations at the provincial and local level. The SCDSB will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates on the status of negotiations and our schools whenever possible.

Labour updates are issued on the SCDSB website (www.scdsb.on.ca/about/labourupdates), Facebook (www.facebook.com/SCDSB), Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools) and on the labour updates information line at 1-877-728-1187.



Winter Maintenance at SCDSB Schools

During the winter season, which typically runs from November to April, numerous contractors are assigned to maintain the SCDSB's school sites, which include parking lots and school play yards.

We would like to remind our school communities that overnight parking on SCDSB school sites is prohibited, especially during the winter months, as it interferes with attempts to manage snow and ice removal.

Your cooperation is appreciated.



It's time to start planning for summer (school)! Register today!

Are you and your child planning their courses for next school year? Looking for a way to create flexibility in their timetable and earn a credit? Consider summer school – registration is now open!



Each year, the SCDSB offers a variety of summer programs to over 2,000 students. Summer school options include open, college and university level courses from Grades 9 to 12. Courses are offered in-person or online. Interested students can also travel and earn credits with the summer EduTravel program.

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at <http://thelearningcentres.com/>. Current SCDSB students should speak to their guidance counsellor for information and to register.

Keep connected with our school and with the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Here are some ways to do that:

-Subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://goo.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. Provide your email and click 'Subscribe'; a message 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.

-Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca.

Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).

-For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.



**Goodfellow
Public School**

**Simcoe County
District School Board**



Days of awareness and recognition taking place in February

Throughout the year, there are many awareness days that focus on different causes and recognition. The Simcoe County District School Board has developed a list of these days as a guide for schools. Schools may participate in recognizing some or all of these days in various ways. This list is not exhaustive. Following are the days of awareness and recognition that the SCDSB will recognize during the month of February:

Feb. 2	Groundhog Day
Feb. 15	National Flag Day of Canada
Feb. 17	National Random Acts of Kindness Day
Feb. 26	Pink Shirt Day

Character Attribute for the month of February

Inclusiveness: We include everyone in what we do and value their contributions.

More information about Character Education can be found here: [https://](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education)

www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education



Is bedtime stressing you out?

Kids need 10-12 hours of sleep every night, but sometimes getting them to bed can be frustrating. You can help create a regular sleep schedule for your child by setting a clear bedtime and sticking to the same time every night. Start getting ready an hour before bed; turn off the TV, computers and phones. Spend quality time talking or reading stories to help them unwind. Agree on how many you'll read before you start! Keep their room dark, cool and quiet - a nightlight is fine. Remember, making sure your child gets enough rest will help improve their mood, behaviour and ability to learn.

For more bedtime tips, contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a public health nurse, or visit the health unit website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

**Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*



Your child's immunization records

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is required to keep up-to-date immunization records for all students who attend elementary or secondary school in the County of Simcoe and the District of Muskoka. Parents are responsible for reporting immunizations to the health unit each time their child receives a vaccine from their health care provider. The immunizations that the health unit requires records for include:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, polio and pertussis
- Measles, mumps and rubella
- Meningococcal

Varicella (chickenpox) (for those born in 2010 or later)

It's easy to update your child's immunization status. Go to www.smdhu.org/immsonline to update your child's record or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 (toll free).



**Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

Learning How to Swim Is a Critical Life Skill

Learning how to swim is the first defense against drowning and teaching children how to swim at an early age is essential to their safety. Research shows that children who are not taught when they are young tend to avoid swimming lessons as they age, often due to embarrassment.

According to the [Drowning Prevention Research Centre Canada](#), there is an average of 464 preventable, unintentional water-related fatalities occurring in Canada each year. Forty-five per cent of those who drown are weak or non-swimmers. Formal swimming lessons are proven to reduce the risk of drowning by up to 88 per cent.

Swimming instruction is a crucial step to protecting children from drowning.

In Simcoe County, we enjoy a wide variety of aquatic activities during the summer months thanks to the many lakes, waterfronts, and recreational facilities surrounding us. Help keep your children safe by enrolling them in swimming lessons. This will teach them important water safety skills and allow them to enjoy and respect the water.

If you think your child is ready for swimming lessons, here are some things to consider:

Class placement – Children should be grouped with others in their age range and skill level, and there should be specific skills to master before advancing into each new level.

Class size – No matter what the class size, the ratio of staff to students should be appropriate so that instructors can give each child individual instruction, in addition to the group activities.

Instructor credentials – Make sure to ask what training the aquatic instructors have received and what certifications they hold before signing your child up for lessons. The [YMCA](#), for instance, requires that instructors have a current Lifesaving Society National Lifeguard certification as well as a [YMCA Swim Instructor certification](#).

The [YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka](#) believes that learning how to swim is a critical life skill, which is why children and adult [lessons](#) are included with every [membership](#). With guidance from their expert instructors, children learn about water safety, build confidence, make new friends and tackle new challenges. For more information about the YMCA swim programs for both children and adults, please visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/swim-lessons.

**Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka*



Ontario Human Rights Commission – Right to Read Public Inquiry

With the goal to improve student learning outcomes, the Ontario Human Rights Commission launched a public inquiry (Right to Read) on October 3, 2019 to understand why students with Learning Disabilities struggle to learn to read proficiently and what can be done to remove barriers that prevent success.

Parents/guardian, students and educators are invited to participate in the public inquiry via:

legal@ohrc.on.ca
1-800-387-9080

