



The Simcoe County District School Board produces this regular e-bulletin to help parents support children on their journey of lifelong learning. We know positive connections between home and school support student achievement. In each edition you'll find practical tips and strategies to help your child achieve success in those important years of learning from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

**Bringing School Home** is available through the Simcoe County District School Board website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)). As well, parents, guardians and other interested members of our school communities may subscribe through our website and have the bulletin e-mailed directly to their e-mail accounts (readers may also unsubscribe at any time). Please send your comments and feedback to: [webadmin@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:webadmin@scdsb.on.ca).

During the summer, thoughts of math, reading, writing and other school subjects may be turning into visions of sleeping in, swimming and playing with friends. Some parents worry about how to get kids re-focused on learning and academics when they return to school in the fall.

### **Question of the Month: What are some ways to my children interested in learning over the summer?**

#### **What are some ways to keep my children interested in learning over the summer?**

Making learning fun is the key to getting kids to exercise their math and reading skills while on vacation. There are many ways to do that.

Crossword puzzles made with the next grade's spelling list, math bingo, and word games using magnetic phrases are just a few examples of fun summer learning activities. Build a reward into the game so players have a goal to reach.



When school lets out and the lazy days of summer roll in, children welcome more freedom—at least for a while. But after the novelty of summer vacation wears off, parents may hear the familiar refrain as younger children try to figure out what to do with unstructured time.

Having unscheduled time and even being bored seem to push children to think on their own and learn to be resourceful. So let summer be a time for children to play, be creative, and explore.

Here are some ideas:

- Get outside and play. Intense physical activity programs have positive effects on academic achievement,

including increased concentration; improved mathematics, reading, and writing test results; and reduced disruptive behaviour.

- Do good deeds. Students learn better and “act out” less when they engage in activities that aid in their social- emotional development, such as community service.
- Keep a schedule over the summer and help kids stay in daily routines.
- As your children’s first and most important teachers, parents have a major role to play in motivating children to read during the summer months. There are many strategies to employ to encourage summertime reading.
- Lead by example. When parents read the newspaper or pick up a magazine or book during the day, children will better understand that literature can be a fun and important part of their summer days.
- It is important to talk about what your children are reading and to tell them what you are reading. Tell them why you like a good book or what you learned from a magazine article. They might start doing the same.



### **What if my children will be separated from friends all summer?**

- Ease disappointment over summer separation from a favourite school buddy by encouraging them to become pen pals. Present both children with postcards or envelopes that are already addressed and stamped. If both children have access to the Internet, e-mail is another option.
- Encourage children to keep a summer scrapbook. Include souvenirs of your family’s summer activities, postcards, ticket stubs, photos, etc. Have your children write the captions and read them aloud as you look at the book together.

## **Links**

We invite you to visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) often for news, facts, school information, Board highlights, and hundreds of other pages about Simcoe County’s public education system.

Some useful links on the SCDSB public website include:

### **Summer School**

Once again, the SCDSB Continuing Education Department will be offering a summer program for students. These courses can assist students to improve understanding, upgrade marks, pick up a missed credit, or prepare for post-secondary education. Students must be referred by their guidance department or principal to ensure appropriate course selection. Registration is limited, so enrol early. For details, registration forms, and locations, please visit:

<http://www.thelearningcentres.com/summer-school/>

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Simcoe County’s public schools are registering children for Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes for the 2009-2010 school year. Contact your local public school to register and for more information. To be eligible for attendance this September, your child must be 4 years of age by December 31, 2009. Visit the SCDSB website at: <http://scdsb.on.ca/parents-corner/kindergarten/>.

### **2009-2010 School Year Calendars**

The 2009-2010 school year calendars are now available on the public website at “Schools” → “School Calendars”. The calendars are available for printing in PDF format for elementary, secondary and modified school years, as well as the Kindergarten “A” and “B” days. Click on <http://scdsb.on.ca/schools/school-calendars/> to view the calendars.

Our internet surfing this month leads to the following summer learning resources for parents:

**Readopoly - Summer Reading Program**

<http://www.library.barrie.on.ca/children/programmes/readopoly.htm>

The Barrie Public Library has a free summer reading activity using a big board game. The places on the board suggest books for children to read and offers the opportunity to share their thoughts on the books. Check the libraries in your area to see if they offer any special summer programming.

**Ministry of Education**

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/links/>

The Ministry website has many useful links for parents to assist their child with learning at home.

**TVO Parents website**

[http://www.tv.org/cfmx/tvoorg/tvoparents/index.cfm?page\\_id=145&action=theme&theme\\_title\\_url=RaisingGoodCitizens&theme\\_id=16&section\\_id=1](http://www.tv.org/cfmx/tvoorg/tvoparents/index.cfm?page_id=145&action=theme&theme_title_url=RaisingGoodCitizens&theme_id=16&section_id=1)

This site features articles on how to choose the most appropriate summer camp for your child.

## Next Issue

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the fall issue of *Bringing School Home*, please e-mail [webadmin@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:webadmin@scdsb.on.ca). We welcome your input!

## Quote of the Month

"Then followed that beautiful season... Summer.... Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood."

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## About the SCDSB

The Simcoe County District School Board is deeply committed to ensuring all learners have the opportunity to realize their dreams within a vibrant and successful public education system. We are very proud of our 50,000 students who are learning and achieving in more than 100 schools and seven adult learning centres throughout our urban and rural communities. Working with school communities, our dedicated and skilled staff members provide quality programs to help students develop lifelong learning skills in safe, caring environments. Our schools are located in the Huronia and Georgian Bay regions of south-central Ontario.

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**Simcoe County District School Board**

(705) 734-6363

1170 Hwy. 26

Midhurst, ON L0L 1X0



**Simcoe County**  
District School Board