

Parent eBulletin – *Bringing School Home* January 28, 2011



The Simcoe County District School Board produces this 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). 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.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Where do I find information about SCDSB's Kindergarten program?



Right here! It's that time of year when parents of young children start to think about registering their child for Kindergarten. It's normal parents have lots of questions – for example, when and how do we register for Kindergarten, how will my child adjust, and, what will my child be learning?

We hope the following information will be helpful to you as you and your child prepare for a new educational journey. This information can also be found on the [Kindergarten](#) page of our website. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that your child's first school experience will be remembered as a time of joy and success. Welcome to a wonderful journey of learning with the Simcoe County District School Board!

When do we register for Kindergarten?

To be eligible for attendance this September, your child must be 4 years of age by December 31, 2011.

Beginning on January 31, Simcoe County's public schools will be registering children for Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes for the 2011-2012 school year. Contact your local public school for more information and to register your child. Contact information for SCDSB schools can be found on our website under the "Schools" menu tab. If you are not sure which school serves your area, please call our Property and Planning Department at (705) 734-6363, ext. 11297 or (905) 729-3600, ext. 11297.

Will we receive a Kindergarten information package?

A parent information package will be provided upon registration. Click [here](#) to access a PDF version of our parent information booklet *Welcome to a Wonderful Journey of Learning*.



What documents do we need for registration?

The following documents are required to register your child in Kindergarten:

- Birthdate Documentation: Proof of birthdate (original Canadian birth certificate, Certificate of Canadian Citizenship, Canadian Passport, Permanent Resident Card/Record of Landing, or Statement of Live Birth – long version).

- Residential Address: Proof of your child's address.

Below is a list of appropriate pieces of documentation that a parent/guardian may present to verify address:

- Driver's Licence
- Local Property Tax Assessment
- Utility Bill
- Credit Card Statement
- Bank Statement
- Residential Lease, Residential Mortgage Statement or Agreement
- Canada Child Tax Benefit Statement

- Record of Immunization: A record of immunization is also requested to assist the District Health Unit in meeting its requirement under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) to collect and maintain immunization records for every child registered in school. For further immunization details, contact the [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#).

How do we register if my family is new to Canada?

Additional valid documentation is required to register visa/foreign students. Families of Kindergarten students new to Canada are invited to contact our [Newcomer Welcome Centre](#) at 705-725-8360, ext. 310.

Do you have information about child care centres and before and after school programs?

Yes, click [here](#) to view our listing of Child Care Centres and before and after school programs.

Some helpful information about finding child care can also be found on the [Ministry of Education's website](#).



What schools are offering the Early Learning Program?

In 2009, the Ministry of Education announced full-day early learning for four- and five-year-olds. The Early Learning Program (ELP) is being phased in locally as follows:

Schools offering full-day kindergarten in the 2010-2011 school year:

- Adjala Central Public School
- Admiral Collingwood Elementary School
- Assikinack Public School
- Baxter Central Public School
- Clearview Meadows Elementary School
- Codrington Public School
- Coldwater Public School
- Hon. Earl Rowe Public School
- Killarney Beach Public School
- Lions Oval Public School
- Oakley Park Public School
- Port McNicoll Public School
- Sir William Osler Public School
- Sunnybrae Public School
- Warminster Elementary School
- Waubaushene Elementary School

Additional schools offering full-day kindergarten in the 2011-2012 school year:

- Angus Morrison Elementary School
- Ardtrea Cumberland Beach Public School (Cumberland Beach location)
- Cookstown Central Public School
- Portage View Public School

More information on the Early Learning Program can be found on the SCDSB's [website](#), and on the Ministry of Education's [website](#).

What other resources are available to help my child in the transition to Kindergarten?



- The SCDSB parent information booklet [Welcome to a Wonderful Journey of Learning](#). Copies are also in all SCDSB Kindergarten registration packages.
- The [Ontario Early Years Centres](#) in Simcoe County have developed a number of resources providing early learning activities for children, helpful links, and a list of suggested books and songs.
- An [activity calendar](#) produced by The Learning Partnership to help families get ready for their child's transition into Kindergarten.

LINKS

We invite you to visit www.scdsb.on.ca often for news, facts, school information, Board highlights and hundreds of other pages about Simcoe County's public education system. This month we are featuring our [Kindergarten video](#), produced by students from Barrie North Collegiate and the SCDSB Communications team. The video can also be accessed from our [Kindergarten](#) page.

Our Internet surfing this month leads to three resources from the Ministry of Education:

- Kindergarten curriculum information and resource documents can be accessed on the [Ministry of Education website](#).
- [Helping Your Child Do Mathematics](#) – A Guide for Parents Kindergarten to Grade 6
- [Helping Your Child With Reading and Writing](#) – A Guide for Parents Kindergarten to Grade 6

Quote of the month

“Full-day learning is part of our overall plan to help more children get a strong start in school, so they can go on to have successful, rewarding lives. By giving them more opportunities at a young age, we’re giving our children a brighter future.”

~ *Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education*

(from the Ministry's "Full-Day Early Learning – Kindergarten Program" document)

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.