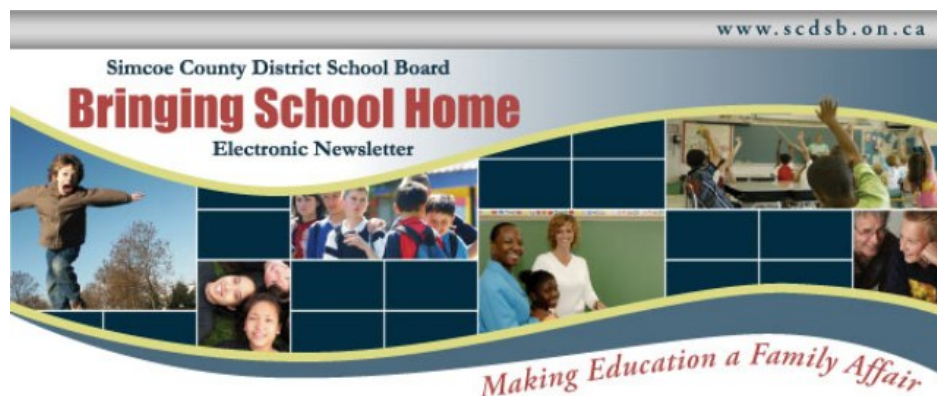


Parent eBulletin – *Bringing School Home* June 2011



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 emailed directly to their email accounts (readers may also unsubscribe at any time). Please click [here](#) to submit your comments and feedback.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

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



Making learning fun throughout the year is the key to getting kids to exercise their math and reading skills, even while on summer vacation. There are many ways for parents to inspire learning at home, on the road and at the cottage or campsite during vacation from the classroom. It's all about incorporating learning into daily life. The lessons can be amazing for children and parents.

These activities will keep a child's brain busy during summer vacation and help prepare them for their return to school in the fall.

Research a Favourite Topic

Every child has something that has fascinated them in school. Whether it is why rainbows exist, or how the pioneers survived our Canadian winters, children are naturally drawn to topics that interest them. Find out what your child is interested in and help them to learn more about it during summer vacation.

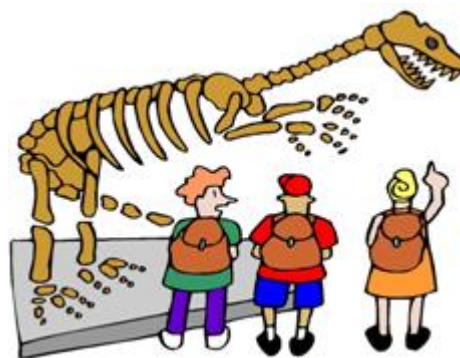
This can also be a great time to teach your child more about how to find information in books, encyclopedias and the Internet. Teach your child how to find reliable sources online. Take a trip to the local library and do some searches through the catalogue for appropriate books. These are skills they will carry with them into the next school year and beyond.

Mental Math at the Grocery Store

Why not use a trip to the grocery store to help your children understand the concept of money. One way to keep their minds active during summer vacation is to have competitions to see who can guess the grocery bill correctly. Have the children pay attention to everything you are putting in the cart and add it up in their heads as you go.

Visit Museums or Historical Sites

Summer vacation is a great time for trips to local museums or longer family vacations to historical sites. For fans of science, most cities have science museums with lots of kid-friendly hands-on activities. These activities will keep kids occupied for hours and are likely to spark further research into some of the topics. Art museums are also good cultural experiences for older children. Regardless of the site, these activities will keep your children thinking and learning during summer vacation.



Read Something Daily

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.
- Talk about what your children are reading and to tell them what you are reading. Tell them why you like a good book or talk about things you learned from a magazine article. They might start doing the same.
- Visit a local library and participate in summer programs for children.
- Don't forget to read in a shady spot in the great outdoors!

Play and free time

Remember, having unscheduled time and even being bored pushes 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. 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.



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

- Encourage children to be pen pals over the summer and provide postcards, paper, envelopes and stamps.
- Help 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 often for news, facts, school information, Board highlights, and hundreds of other pages about Simcoe County's public education system. Here are some helpful links on the SCDSB public website:



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/high-school-programs/summer-school/>.

Extended Day Program

The SCDSB is pleased to announce that all 20 schools providing full-day kindergarten in 2011-2012 will also offer families before- and after-school programs for elementary school-aged children. Registration is now open in all 20 schools, and program operation is subject to sufficient demand. For the fee schedule, the list of schools and contact information for registration, please [click here](#).

Here are some other helpful internet resources for summer learning:

Live Safe! Work Smart!

<http://www.livesafeworksmart.net/english/index.htm>

This website has important health and safety resources for students and teachers and the tips are very relevant for summer jobs, coop placements, community involvement activities, etc.

Ministry of Education - Read Every Day, Read Together, Make Reading Fun publication

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/read.pdf>

Parents are their children's first teacher. Reading is important to your child's development and his or her success and in life.

Ministry of Education – 10 Tips for Summer Learning Fun

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/tips/summerLearning.html>

Make the most of summer by having fun and learning too. Here are some simple, easy ideas that will reinforce what your children have been learning in school. There are also ways to learn different skills and try out new experiences.

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

NEW! We want your feedback on the Parent eBulletin!

Please click [here](#) to access a short survey on the value of this publication, and share your suggestions and feedback for future issues.

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.