

Parent eBulletin – *Bringing School Home* March 2010 edition



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 are registering their children 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. 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, 2010.

Simcoe County's public schools are registering children for Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes for the 2010-2011 school year. Contact your local public school for registration information. Contact information for SCDSB schools can be found on our website at: <http://scdsb.on.ca/schools/school-directory-elementary/>, attendance area maps can be accessed using our school search at <http://scdsb.on.ca/schools/school-search/>.

What documents do we need for registration?

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

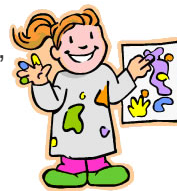
- Birthdate Documentation: Proof of birthdate (original Canadian birth certificate, Certificate of Canadian Citizenship, Canadian Passport, Permanent Resident Card/Record of Landing, or Statement of Live Birth – long version).

- 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.

How will the new full-day learning for four- and five-year-olds (Early Learning Program) work?

The Ministry of Education recently announced plans for the implementation of full-day early learning for four- and five-year-olds. The Early Learning Program (ELP) will be introduced in selected schools in the 2010-2011 school year, and will be phased in gradually each year with the goal of having all Ontario publicly-funded schools offer full-day Kindergarten by the 2015-2016 school year.

The following SCDSB schools have been selected for the ELP for 2010-2011:

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

For schools that are not selected for the first phase of the ELP implementation, full-day alternate day Kindergarten will continue to operate as it currently does at your local public school. It is expected the entire SCDSB will offer the ELP by the fall of 2015. In the meantime, all schools will continue to offer exceptional learning opportunities for students in all Kindergarten programs.

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

What other information is available to help me learn more about Kindergarten in the SCDSB?

The Kindergarten page on the SCDSB [website](#) contains all of the above information.

As well, students from Barrie North Collegiate have helped to produce a new Kindergarten video – the video can be accessed by clicking on the following page:

<http://scdsb.on.ca/schools/kindergarten-registration/kindergarten-video/>.

[Click here](#) to access a PDF version of our parent information booklet 'Welcome to a Wonderful Journey of Learning.'

Mark Your Calendars!



The **2nd Annual Circle of Learning Conference for Parents** is scheduled to take place at the SCDSB Education Centre on **Saturday, April 17, 2010**. The SCDSB Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is currently planning the event. [Click here](#) for more details.

This **FREE** event features workshops, keynote presentations, lunch, and much more!

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 recently released [SCDSB Annual Report 2008-2009](#), entitled "Sharpening the Focus in Learning, Teaching and Leading."

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

- **Helping Your Child Do Mathematics**

A Guide for Parents Kindergarten to Grade 6 (PDF document):

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNum.html>

- **Helping Your Child With Reading and Writing**

A Guide for Parents Kindergarten to Grade 6 (PDF document):

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideLit.html>

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Early learning experiences are crucial to the future well-being of children, and establish the foundation for the acquisition of knowledge and skills that will affect later learning and behaviour . . . Children thrive within classrooms that meet their physical and developmental needs and that provide a secure, respectful, and nurturing environment."

~ From the Ministry of Education's "The 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.