



Codrington News

Peter McLean—Principal

April 2018

Spring has sprung...or at least we hope it has! Winter was great but I am looking forward to warmer weather and perhaps the odd game of golf. The atmosphere in the schoolyard has changed as students can be seen playing with soccer balls, skipping ropes, basketballs, tennis balls, and mud puddles! Speaking of mud puddles, please take the time to remind your son/daughter that we would like them to stay out of the mud as much as possible. Yes mud puddles are magnets for many children, but it can be very disruptive to your day to get a call requesting that you bring a change of clothes, not to mention all the dirt that gets dragged in from the students who are covered in mud. Your support with this matter will be gratefully appreciated.

Making a difference...I encourage you to make your voice heard! Attend School Council meetings at Codrington or whatever school(s) your other children may attend. You can share your wishes and opinions at these meetings.

Once again we are heading into the home stretch. Many activities are planned and are currently running at the school. Cardinal sports are in full swing with co-ed volleyball, junior basketball, intramurals, and track and field on the horizon. Finally, EQAO testing will be happening at the end of May. It is a busy time, yet a time with many positive opportunities for our students. Talk to your kids and encourage them to be active in school programs as well as work hard to be the best students they can be.

Hopefully the cold season is behind us and winter coats can be put away. I am sure one more storm is in the making but the light is definitely at the end of the tunnel. On behalf of the staff at Codrington we wish you warm thoughts and a Happy Spring.



Events at our school in celebration of International Day of Pink

Our school will be hosting several events during the week of April 9 to 13 in honour of the International Day of Pink, which is Wed. April 11. This day celebrates diversity and promotes standing up to bullying. It is a day of action that started in Nova Scotia when two straight high school students saw that a gay student wearing a pink shirt was bullied. The two students intervened, but wanted to do more. They purchased pink shirts and within a few days got everyone at school wearing pink, standing in solidarity for diversity and standing up against discrimination, gender-based bullying and homophobia. Our school will be recognizing Week of Pink by *giving informative announcements daily and encouraging all to wear Pink on Wednesday.*

Please turn off your car while you wait



A reminder to please turn your engine off when dropping off or picking up your child from school. Idling cars release exhaust that is harmful to the environment, our health and the health of our students. It's good to get into the habit of turning your car off any time you're stopped and in park for more than 60 seconds. Thank you for doing your part to keep our kids and our environment healthy! For more information to keep you and your family healthy, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

School Council

Spring is hopefully here to stay and we have a busy few months ahead!

- We hope everyone had a great Easter weekend- a big thank-you to our parent volunteers, Stacey C. and Carey F. for organizing our movie night to kick off the long weekend. The movie was well received and the students enjoyed the popcorn courtesy of the Uptown Theater- thanks to Ms. Redmond for organizing.
- Nicholyn Farm Fundraiser will launch **April 9th**- order forms will be sent home with your student. A great way to support local, purchasing farm fresh foods while raising money for our school.
- Save the date! **Tuesday, April 24th** from 4:30-6:30 pm is the Codrington Wendy's Night at the restaurant on Bayfield St. Dine in or take out and a percentage of the sales goes right back to our school- come see the staff in action behind the counter.
- Thanks to those who have generously donated silent auction items for the Fun Fair on June 8th. If you have an item or know of a local business who would be willing to donate please contact Virginia at vhmcooper@gmail.com to arrange pick up.
- Breakfast Club is looking for a new Coordinator for Sept! Role of coordinator is to organize volunteers, keep groceries stocked and some paperwork to keep track of spending and consumption each month. Breakfast Club is a valuable program to our school community and we need someone to take over this role so we can continue to provide a healthy start to the day for our students. If you have any questions please contact Jackie at: jackiesmyth47@gmail.com

Please join us for our next meeting on **Monday, April 9th at 6:30 pm**. Always welcoming new volunteers- please come join us!

Applications open for 2018-19 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants

Parents/guardians play a vital role in public education, and Ontario's Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants are designed to encourage parents'/guardians' involvement in their children's education to support student achievement and well-being. The 2018-19 PRO grant process has been announced and an online application is now available. PRO grants are provided to select applicants who develop projects, events or training in support of parent/guardian engagement. Applications are due by June 5. Find out more: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/.

Trauma & Loss: Creating School Communities of Well-being on April 14 in Barrie

Parents and/or community members are invited to attend *Trauma & Loss: Creating School Communities of Well-being* on Sat. April 14 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Bear Creek Secondary School, located at 110 Red Oak Dr. in Barrie. This conference is being funded through a Regional PRO grant from the Ontario Ministry of Education and is being presented by the Adoption Council of Ontario. This event is free to attend and lunch is provided. Limited child care is available for children aged three to 12 years. Register at www.adoption.on.ca/events. Questions? Contact pact@adoptontario.ca.



Identifying school-sponsored trips

All field trip information will be sent home on school and/or Simcoe County District School Board letterhead. This is the best way for parents/guardians to identify supervised and approved trips. There may have been times when community or external groups have organized trips that have been mistaken for school-sponsored field trips. Parents would be notified of individual circumstances if the school is aware that an external trip is being planned. When in doubt about any trip ask questions of the organizers, including "Who is sponsoring or in charge of this trip?", "Who will be supervising?" and "What are their qualifications?" You can also contact the school if you have any questions about a trip you see advertised that you think may not be school-sanctioned.

Hello Codrington Families!



The library is a busy place these days and it's going to get busier! The Forest of Reading Program continues to challenge students to read outside their comfort zone and THINK about what they are reading. The second Think Tac Toe projects are coming into the library and they are impressive. Students are showing their learning in creative ways, working both individually and in groups, and diving even deeper into their books.

Voting day is coming! On **April 24th** eligible students will get to choose which book they liked the best and put their ballot in the box. The Ontario Library Association will tally the votes from across the province to determine the winners in each category. Primary students will all vote in the Blue Spruce category, since we will have read all 10 books together in the library. In order for Junior and Intermediate students to be eligible to vote in a category, they must have read at least 5 books from that category and completed a classroom exit ticket for each book. Which book will your child choose?

Looking for something new to read over the summer? Luckily for you, we will have another Scholastic Book Fair! Students will have an opportunity to view the books on **Wednesday, May 9th** and to purchase books on **Thursday, May 10th**. The Book Fair will be open until 6:30 p.m. on both the Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Hope to see you there!

Keep on reading, Codrington!

Mme Knapp

Chess Club

- The Codrington Chess club has had a wonderful season. On March 1st we traveled to the board office to participate in our Area Chess tournament. Codrington students represented the school well and showed great sportsmanship. Five students earned a spot at the County Chess Tournament on April 5th.
- On April 4th, 18 students traveled to the Barrie Legion to participate in the Simcoe County Chess 'n Math Qualifying Tournament. Again our chess team represented Codrington well and showed great sportsmanship with several first and second place finishers. Good luck to Terrance, Aiden and Tomos at the Provincial Tournament. Thanks to all the parent drivers that made our participation possible. Congratulations to all chess club participants for a spectacular season, you should be very proud.

Mrs. Ellingson



Dates to Remember

April 16-20—Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 18—Grade 4/5—Toronto Science Centre

April 19—ECO team and Primaries—Landfill Site

April 20—Spring into Clean—yard clean up

April 23—Grade 7 vaccinations

April 27—PD Day—No School for students

Upcoming Events

A Book Fair and Shakespearean plays in May and Cuts for Cancer on June 20th



Bradford Greenhouses Fundraising Program:

Once again this year Codrington has been accepted to participate in this wonderful fundraiser from April 14th to October 14th, 2018. It so easy to help us with the fundraiser. When you purchase something from Bradford Greenhouses Garden Gallery and mention Codrington School at the check out a portion of the sales from your purchase comes back to the school in the form of a gift card in November. This enables us to purchase items for our school gardens to keep our yard looking beautiful.

Last year our rebate was \$312.55.

Thank you for your continued support!



YMCA Healthy Kids Day taking place on April 29

YMCAs across Canada are celebrating Healthy Kids Day on Sun. April 29. It's a national day dedicated to improving the health and well-being of kids. The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka is happy to host this FREE event for everyone in the community, offering fun and healthy activities for the entire family to enjoy. Across Canada, most children do not meet the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Rising rates of obesity and related chronic disease tell us that getting kids active should be a top priority for parents, schools, and all Canadians. With summer just around the corner, here are some practical tips on how to keep your kids active and healthy:

- Rather than heading out on a walk or jog solo, invite your kids to hop on their bicycles, skateboards and scooters and head out with you. You will come back energized and connected knowing that you've set a great example and spent quality time together. Everyone wins!
- Many communities have free or low-cost youth activities or programs at facilities such as pools, playgrounds, parks, sporting fields, community centres and the YMCA! Ask your child's teacher, contact your local municipality, search online or contact your local YMCA for upcoming events.
- Depending on the distance and safety factor, consider letting your children walk to school, the library, their friend's house or any other place you would normally drive them to. Some kids may be inspired by tracking their steps with a pedometer. Pedometers are relatively inexpensive and many libraries have them available on loan!

Join the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka on Healthy Kids Day and learn about healthy habits, connect with other parents and get the whole family active together under one roof. For schedules of activities and more information, please contact the YMCA in your community: www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

Parents invited to information session about special education

The SCDSB is hosting a series of information sessions for parents/guardians to learn about special education in the SCDSB, and how to support students with special education needs. The last session takes place this month:

April 16

Understanding Alternative/Non-Academic IEP Goals

The event takes place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the SCDSB Education Centre, located at 1170 Highway 26 in Midhurst. No registration required.

Stress: Our kids get it too!

Kids have stress, just like us. Stress is a normal part of life, but our bodies are only made to handle it for short amounts of time. Continued stress can cause feelings of pressure, anxiety and tiredness. It can make it hard for kids to focus in school and can cause them to become sick, get lower grades or make unhealthy choices. It's easy to mistake signs of stress for bad behaviour in your child. You can help them learn to manage stress by staying calm, showing love and talking openly about their feelings. Encourage them to try calming activities like deep breathing or doing something active. If the stress continues, be sure talk to your child's family doctor or health care provider. To speak with a public health nurse, contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit website for more information at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.



Register now for summer child care

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) supports your child care needs by offering full day child care programs in select schools across Simcoe County. Twenty schools offer child care programs for children from Junior Kindergarten age to 12 years of age. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to register. More information can be found on our website at www.scdsb.on.ca – click on 'Schools' then 'Before & After School Care.'