



November 2015

**Message from Principal: Arlene Knights ☺**

The plethora of colours Mother Earth has been providing us these days is a glorious reminder to us all, of how wonderful it is to live in Canada, which has four beautiful seasons and remains strong and free. Elizabeth Simcoe has been very busy since the beginning of school, enjoying the change of seasons as another eventful term at school.

We enjoyed our annual Welcome Back BBQ on September 24<sup>th</sup>, where three quarters of our families attended, according to food orders. The fun filled event highlighted the positive and productive relationships we nurture and enjoy with our students, staff and parent community. This event was coordinated by Sheila McGovern and Lori Wilson, two of our fantastic parents. Thank you ladies so much for your assistance, organizing this fun event. By the look of all the smiles on everyone's faces they had a great time visiting, mingling and dancing. Thanks to the Aussie-X team that led the dancing. A fantastic time was had by all!

Aussie-X visited our school September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, during the instructional day and all our students had dance instruction, moving and grooving to the music all through the school. Thanks to our School Council for providing this opportunity for our students!

Our Cross Country season was phenomenal! We sent over 100 students to the Qualifier on October 9<sup>th</sup> at Thompson Park. Our students shone as they demonstrated stellar sportsmanship and impressive standings. The following week at the East Conference Finals, some of the highlights were the grade three and four girls' teams made it to third place and the Grade five boys were in first place and earned a banner for the school. There are thirteen students who will be going on to City Finals this Thursday, October, 22<sup>nd</sup>! Simcoe Shines!

In addition, a number of other teams have been on the go and participating in tournaments this season. These include two softball teams, a grade five and grade six boys' softball team, and a grade six touch football team. Our football team made the semi-finals and were eliminated in a very close game. Our softball teams also were amazing! One team finished third and the other in fourth place.

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I am very proud of the stellar sportsmanship that all our teams demonstrated. I am also very proud and appreciative to our stellar staff, who coached and supported our teams. Thanks to other staff who went on their lunch to cheer our teams on tournament days! Thanks also to many wonderful parents who drove kids, cheered them on and contributed snacks and juice! Simcoe Shines! What an amazing team we all make!

Primary and Jr. Choir have begun practices and will perform at our Remembrance Day service.

On November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. our school will stop and reflect on all the women and men who serve and have sacrificed in order to protect our freedom. Our service is open to our families and community! Donations for veterans will be collected starting November 2 – 12<sup>th</sup>. Please drop donations to the office or ask a child to drop it to the office! Lest we Forget!

Our Scare Hunger food drive was extremely successful! Well done! Simcoe Shines!

# The Elizabeth Simcoe Signal

Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. P.S.  
166 Sylvan Avenue  
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# Your Community



## Reporting Absenteeism

If a child must miss school due to illness or appointments, parents must telephone the school and inform the office staff of the absence. Please phone the school at (416)396-6220 and follow the prompts to leave the message. The TDSB has in place a "Safe Arrival Policy". If parents do not inform the school of their child's absence by telephone or note, we will make attempts to contact you to determine the reason for the absence through our Safe Arrival Program that is now an automated call-out system, the system will call your house first and then your cell phone until it gets picked up and the prompts are answered once this has started the school cannot stop the process.

Responsibility lies with our parents to inform the school.

## Lateness

Late students should sign in at the office before going to their class. Parents should not drop students to a classroom or pick up students from their class. It interrupts the class and student learning. Please drop off students at the office and likewise when picking up students early. Please ensure that when your child arrives at school in the morning he or she is fully prepared for the day. Please ensure they arrive on time with their recess snacks, homework, agenda, lunch if needed and any other materials they require for the day. Punctuality pays big dividends. Families that establish a routine at home that allows their child to be responsible for preparing their belongings and homework for school and ensure they arrive at school on time are benefiting their child's learning. Punctuality is a great life skill that all children can adopt in their formative years with immediate benefits that will last a life time.

Students who arrive late interrupt the teacher, fellow students, and their own learning. Children should be in the schoolyard a few minutes before the entry bell so they can begin the day's routine in a timely, calm and orderly fashion with their peers. Arriving on time also allows your child to benefit from information and instructions given first thing in the morning by their teacher, these are critical for a productive day.

## Picking Up & Dropping Off Children at School - Parking

Please remember when picking up and dropping off your child, you cannot stop or park near our bus zones. The west parking lot is also not to be used for this purpose. It is extremely dangerous. Thank you for your co-operation keeping our students safe.

## The Parent Concern Protocol

As we work together to assist our students sometimes parents have questions and concerns. The Board has a protocol that defines the appropriate forum for these inquiries. **If questions should arise please do not hesitate to contact in a respectful manner, through an appointment, teachers for classroom questions, coaches or teachers for clubs and teams.** If you have a question regarding a Board or school policy please feel free to contact the administrator. Please do not approach staff when they are with their classes, call and make an appointment. We are here to listen, provide information and clarify information for you. Most reasonable questions and concerns are answered and resolved quickly.

It is also important to note that **the Code of Conduct for adult communication always applies to this protocol.** Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

## Lice Brigade

We are looking for a few parents who would be willing to be trained by the public health nurse to check our students' heads three times a year for lice. It is not the most glorious volunteer jobs, but very important and greatly appreciated by all. It allows the school to curtail the spread of lice at Simcoe. If you are interested, please call the school and let us know you are willing to serve in this capacity.

We have one parent who has volunteered her time but we still need at least two more.

## Volunteers at the School

We know by utilizing the talents and energies of all staff and parent volunteers we create empowering synergy that will reap huge benefits for our childrens' learning and well being. We are truly committed to embracing positive and productive relationships with all our parents and truly welcome any kind of volunteer work that you can provide for the school.

The principal reserves the right to assign volunteers where the school would benefit most and parents are not always assigned to their child's classroom as a volunteer. We will find a productive assignment for all our volunteers and truly appreciate your time and talents.

Most teachers spend September establishing classroom routines and getting to know their students so most classroom volunteers will begin later. All regular classroom volunteers are required by the Toronto District School Board to have a Vulnerable Sector Screening completed in order to volunteer. The Police Check is paid by the volunteer. This policy is not optional and police reference checks must be completed. New volunteers please feel free to drop by the office for more information. You must complete the Annual Offense Declaration on the home page of the TDSB Web page if you are returning as a volunteer at Simcoe.

Parent Volunteers must adhere to the Code of Conduct at all times.

## Upcoming Events

- Nov. 5 - Photo re-take day
- Nov. 5 - School council mtg  
@6:30 in the library
- Nov. 11 - Remembrance day  
ceremony 10:30am
- Nov. 13 - P.A. day (no school)
- Nov. 20 - Pizza lunch



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Toronto District School Board

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