



September 2015

Message from Principal: Arlene Knights ☺

We at Elizabeth Simcoe hope all our families had a wonderful summer. We hope you are all enjoying the changes in routine that accompany the changing of the seasons and the beginning of school. We have experienced a terrific start to the school year. In addition, our staff have already been very hard at work both in their classes and assisting with our students' transition to a new school year, a new grade and perhaps a new teacher. Every child has a unique experience when beginning a new school year. The vast majority of our students adjust quickly to the changes. Adjustments for students in a new grade or students new to our school may take a little longer. When we all work together as a positive and productive team, usually transition challenges dissipate in good time for the vast majority of our students. It is indeed a very exciting time in a child's life.

We begin our year full of enthusiasm and a great deal of confidence knowing when our staff and our parents work together in a positive and productive manner with each other we shine, and the greatest benefits are directed towards our children. When we model for our children stellar teamwork, and good will between home and school, the enrichment that such positive synergy creates has countless benefits for our shared work together and most of all for your children!

Each year at this time the newsletter reviews policies and procedures that are extremely important for our families. The first newsletter includes a lot of information on the school's procedures. All of these procedures are based on TDSB's Policies and Procedures. Please keep this letter on hand to assist you throughout the school year.

Refugee Crisis Appeal!

As part of the tdsbCARES programme Elizabeth Simcoe will be having a Tweek Tuesday on Tuesday, September 29. Money will be accepted all next week.

"Since the start of this year, it is estimated more than 350,000 refugees and migrants have entered Europe to escape war. Some have travelled weeks to reach safety and others have been turned away. Some died on the way. Many refugees and migrants are in need of food, water and first aid."

One of Elizabeth Simcoe's foundational pillars is Social Justice. Together we can step up and help them!

The Elizabeth Simcoe Signal

Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. P.S.
166 Sylvan Avenue
Scarborough, Ontario
M1E 1A3



Your Community



Toy/Device Policy

The school staff would appreciate if all toys/devices stay at home. This is not to spoil your child's fun but to protect their personal property which the school cannot be responsible for if it arrives at school. When toys like roller blades, skate boards or electronic devices arrive at school they may not be used appropriately and/or are the cause of disputes and/or are misplaced. Many of these toys are expensive and if they go missing raise other concerns. Thus, please leave toys (including collectable cards), electronic devices (i.e. - iPods, MP3 players, cell phones, etc.) at home. **Lost or stolen articles are not the responsibility of the school to replace.**

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.

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 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 of 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.

Lockdown and Fire Drills

At the beginning of each school year, our students and staff prepare for the year ahead by establishing the foundations for a successful year. One of the ways we know we can help students be successful is to create a safe environment in which to learn. Though no one ever wants to see an emergency happen at a school, it's important for school staff to be equipped to deal with those situations, should these occur.

The safety of students and staff is a top priority at our school and to that end, as with all emergency drills, it is essential that we are prepared and understand the importance of procedures that will help ensure the safety of everyone in our school.

The TDSB has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans that include steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, how staff will get students away from possible dangers, and how students' families will be contacted.

One aspect of emergency preparedness is the lockdown drill and fire drill. All schools are required to conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills and six fire drills each school year. Lockdown drills, like fire drills, are an essential component to ensuring student and staff safety. It is important that all staff and students are prepared and know how to respond in cases of emergencies. The drills last approximately 5 minutes and ensure plans are effective and can also systematically identify any safety concerns.

Communication is also very important in any emergency situation. The emergency contact information kept on file is important in helping this happen. It lists the people who can pick up a student from the school. If you have not yet provided this information to the office or have updates to the information on file, please make sure our office staff have that information as soon as possible.

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 used for this purpose. It is extremely dangerous. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping our students safe.

Volunteers at the School

We know by utilizing the talents and energies of all staff and parent volunteers we will create an empowering synergy that will reap huge benefits for our children's 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. It may not be in your child's class depending on the needs of the school. 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 in September or early October. 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.

Agendas & School Calendars

Each child from grade one to grade six will receive a school agenda to assist with their organization and to provide families with important information regarding the school. The cost of these two items is \$10.00. Please send the money to your child's teacher. Your child will not receive the agenda until we receive the money. However, it is important to note that no child will be denied these learning tools for financial reasons. Please speak to your child's teacher if there is a financial concern. This information is kept confidential.

Code of Behaviour

One of the Toronto District School Board's mission statements is to provide learning environments which are safe, nurturing, positive and respectful. The TDSB Safe School Policy and procedures help us in our school to build a safe and caring school community.

Our School's "Code of Behaviour" adheres to the Safe Schools Policy. The Code of Behaviour establishes expectations for student behavior, and consequences for inappropriate behaviours, utilizing a progressive approach to consequences and applying mitigating factors for each situation.

This policy responds to inappropriate behaviour with the goal that the child learns through their mistakes by planning alternative responses to encourage improved behaviour for the next time. Most infractions can be handled through classroom interventions. More serious infractions will be referred to Mrs. Knights in the office.

Elizabeth Simcoe students are expected to behave in a respectful and responsible manner. Students are expected to resolve conflicts without the use of force of any kind, with mutual respect, and they should seek advice from a teacher or supervisor. "Use words to solve problems" is a guiding principle for our students. Your support of the school's efforts is an extremely important aspect for your child and all our students and is greatly appreciated by our staff.

More information about the Toronto District School Board behaviour policy and suspension policy are included in the front pages of the School's agendas. These codes will be administered strictly to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students and staff.

Visiting the School

Elizabeth Simcoe welcomes and values visitors and volunteers in our school. All volunteers and visitors must sign in at the office and receive a visitor badge. Visitors in the building without a badge will be stopped and asked to return to the office to sign in and receive a badge. This procedure is not optional. Our visitors must comply with Board Policy and procedures so that we can ensure the safety of our children by knowing who is in the building. It is important for us to identify those in the building and particularly if there is an emergency and the school requires evacuation, as in a fire drill. We appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

When it is absolutely necessary for you to drop off a lunch or homework, you must report to the office on your arrival and drop the items there. This will ensure that sustained student focus and learning are not lost with interruptions in classes. We also hope to minimize these interruptions for office staff by careful planning at home. If you want to talk to the teacher regarding your child do not simply show up at the door. Please phone the school and make an appointment with the teacher to ensure a focused and productive discussion.

All discussions with Simcoe staff must be respectful. There is a Board Code of Conduct for adults that Simcoe strictly adheres to, to ensure respectful communication between adults.

Nut Alert

The school has a number of students with severe allergies to nuts and nut products. These allergies are potentially life threatening; even the smell of nut products can trigger a severe life threatening reaction. As a result any foods containing nuts or nut products are not allowed at school. Please read labels carefully. Students must not share any food or beverages at school. We all need to be vigilant in order to ensure that no child is put at risk due to a food allergy. We must avoid a potential tragedy at all costs. We can do this by working together and by being sensitive to the needs of all our students. Once again we are encouraging our students to draw posters about our policy so we may post them in the lunch room and around the school. Completed posters can be dropped by the office anytime in the next couple of weeks.

Children with severe allergies are required to wear an epi-pen in a pouch at all times at school. Please provide the office with a second epi-pen.

Individual Anaphylaxis Plans

Our school works closely with our parents to develop an individual safety plan for each of our anaphylaxis students. The plan is based on the TDSB Anaphylaxis procedure and the Elizabeth Simcoe Anaphylaxis procedure. A plan must be developed for each child who has a life threatening allergy.

It is the responsibility of the parent to make the school aware of a life threatening allergy at the time of registration and make an appointment with the school to initiate the original plan or to make changes to the plan from one year to the next. Please call the office for more information or an appointment if needed. All medical forms are required by the Board to be filled out annually.

Lunchtime Activities (Kid's Fun Factory)

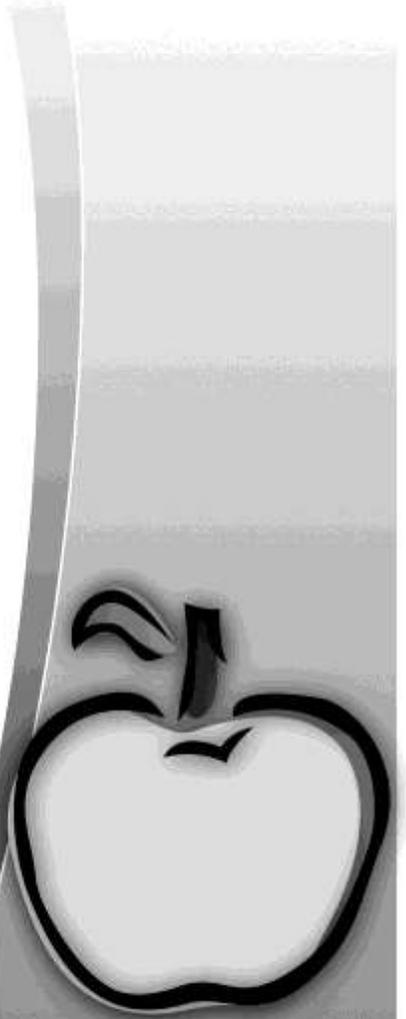
Space Adventure

If you are interested in having your child join this lunchtime activity it will run on Tuesdays starting October 13, for eight weeks. If your child did not receive this information please have them come to the office and ask for a form.

This opportunity is for primary students.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 2 - Picture Day



Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. P.S.
166 Sylvan Avenue
Scarborough, Ontario M1E 1A3

Arlene Knights, Principal
Main Office, 416-396-6220
Kerry-Lynn Stadnyk, Superintendent
Jerry Chadwick, Trustee
Email:

ElizabethSimcoePSJr@tdsb.on.ca
School Website: elizabethsimcoe.ca
Toronto District School Board
Website: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca>