

WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAM AND LITTERLESS LUNCH

Steele St. Public School continues to demonstrate respect for our environment by promoting waste reduction and litter less lunches. Our policy is that unconsumed lunch items and wrappings will go home at the end of the school day for disposal. We do not have the option of composting the uneaten food at the school. Organic materials may be disposed of in the green bins and organic composters that the City of Barrie has provided free of charge to each home.

The sorting and recycling of many students' lunch wrappings and cans is a task that becomes time consuming and unmanageable at school with so many students. With each student bringing home items for recycling, the load is lightened by sharing the responsibility among each family. Last year, many parents were surprised to see what portions of lunch items were not consumed and it led to improved choices in type and amounts of food sent to school. This resulted in reduced waste.

The key to success appears to be washable containers for each food/drink item. Small plastic flip top drink containers, plastic sandwich containers and plastic dessert containers facilitate the "send home the lunch garbage" program **without spillage**. Placing your child's name on each container with permanent marker reduces risk of loss. If your child's name is not on the containers we will attempt to do that with our permanent markers.

We appreciate your support as we work together to encourage students to save their environment

NUT FREE

Steele Street continues to provide a nut-free environment to reduce the risk of serious allergic reactions. We appreciate your vigilance in checking product ingredients. Recommended alternatives for peanut butter are "No Nuts" available at Foodland or health food stores and "Soya Nut Butter" available at Zehrs.

SABRINA'S LAW

Sabrina's Law is an Act to protect anaphylactic pupils and is currently in effect at all schools in Ontario. As part of Sabrina's Law there is a requirement that every school principal develop an individual plan for each pupil who has an anaphylactic allergy. In order to protect students within our school community to the best of our ability it is critical for parents of children with an anaphylactic allergy to do the following:

Inform the school principal of your child's allergies

Work with the school to complete an Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan which has child's photograph, allergy information, contact information and emergency plan

Provide a medic alert bracelet for your child to wear at all times

Encourage your child to keep an epinephrine auto-injector (Epi pen) on their person when age appropriate

Provide an up to date/non expired epinephrine auto-injector (Epi pen) that may be kept in the office or in a mutually agreed upon location within the school. Parents should keep a log of expiry

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

All medication must be kept in the office for safety reasons. As well, for the medication to be administered the office staff requires a completed medical form that includes a doctor's signature. These forms were sent home last Spring, however, should you require a new form please drop by the office. Please be aware the office will not administer medication without a signed form.

STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS

Next week you will receive a Student Information Verification Form for each child in your family. This is the most current information we have on file. Please check the form carefully, make any necessary changes, sign it and **RETURN IT PROMPTLY** (even if it is correct) with your signature in the required places.

Thank you, this is VERY IMPORTANT!

SAFE ARRIVAL

Safe Arrival forms were sent home the first day. Please fill these out and return them to the school as soon as possible. **We'd appreciate the forms being returned whether you are participating in the program or not.**

If your child is not going to be attending school, please call and notify the school by 8:15am that morning and by 12:05 p.m. for an afternoon absence. It is important to report all absences. For non-bus students, parents must call on snow days. Please note: an answering machine is on nightly

Safe Arrival operates through the main school number. **728-9292 Following an absence, a note should be sent stating the reason for the absence.**

PARENT/STUDENT COMMUNICATION

Please keep phone messages to the school for your child to a minimum. If you are changing arrangements for your child for that day make sure they know of them before leaving for school. **Sometimes it is impossible for our office to relay a message to a student during class.** This also applies to constant phone calls home when students forget homework or lunches. We understand there are exceptions and/or emergencies.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS—VOLUNTEER SCREENING

Criminal Record Check Forms are available in the office. If you would like to volunteer in our school and you are new to our school and haven't filled out the form, you must drop by the office to fill out the correct form.

If you were a volunteer last year you need to complete Annual Declaration Form, also available at the office.

Both of these forms will be available at our meet greet on Sept 15th.

It is a requirement that all volunteers that work at our school must go through an orientation and screening process before approval to volunteer at our school is granted. Please fill out the Volunteer form that was included with the newsletter and send it to the school as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. Ms. Linton will contact you with the screening date.

LOST AND FOUND

Our Lost and Found items are located in the alcove down the hall from the office and in the primary hallway. We end up with several large bags of items that are donated to charity if they are unclaimed. We empty the Lost and Found on a regular basis to make room for new items, so please check these items regularly and advise your child(ren) to do so as well. If possible put your child's name on their clothing so when found can be returned them. Thank you!



Communications Resources for the 2011-2012 School Year

Over the summer, the SCDSB Communications Department worked on updating communications resources for you.

Some key resource areas for parents include:

- General school information: <http://scdsb.on.ca/parents-corner/general-school-information/>
- Frequently Asked Questions <http://scdsb.on.ca/about-us/faq/>
- School Calendars: <http://scdsb.on.ca/schools/school-calendars/>
- School Search: <http://scdsb.on.ca/schools/school-search/>
- Student Transportation information: <http://scdsb.on.ca/schools/student-transportation/>
- Parent eBulletin - *Bringing School Home*: <http://scdsb.on.ca/parents-corner/parent-ebulletin/>

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are always looking for new members for our School Council. If you would like to become involved, please complete the nomination form, attached to this newsletter . If we have more nominations than positions available we will have an election. Information about this will be sent out in a separate notice. Nomination forms must be returned to the school by Sept 17th. Our first meeting will be on Monday, September 26th at 6pm.

All parents are welcome to attend any meeting of the School Council. Please consider coming out to our school council meetings Everyone is welcome!

STUDENT PUNCTUALITY

The 8:30 bell is a warning bell. Students are to line up on their designated class line and teachers will admit them promptly at 8:35.

Students are considered late if they are not in class by the 8:40.

Late students need to visit the office to obtain a late slip. Lateness negatively affects the late student, the teacher, the other students in the class and the office staff. Please make every effort to encourage your child to be on time for school.

Junior /Intermediate -CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING CLUB

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING CLUB: The Steele St. Running Club is open to ALL students who are 9-13+ years of age in 2011 (Grade 4 – 8). This is a great way to get in shape for other sports and to improve overall fitness. All you need is a good pair of running shoes, running attire (no jeans). Parents are welcome to join us. Please arrange for rides home. We will pick a team in early October for upcoming meets.

Practices begin Friday September 9th at 7:50 am

Up Coming Meets:

Kids of Steele Invitational Run	Barrie Northeast Regional Cross Country
Oct 5th	Oct 12th
Sunnidale Park	Sunnidale Park
Afternoon	All Day

TERRY FOX RUN

This year, the tradition continues. Steele Street Public School once again will participate in and support Terry's "Marathon of Hope". Our school event will be on Wednesday, Sept. 28th 2011. To date Steele St. School has raised \$130,000.00 to support the Terry Fox Foundation. Our goal is to raise over \$7,000 this year for the Terry Fox Foundation.

You can have family and friends donate at this site:

<http://www.terryfox.org/SchoolRun/index.html>

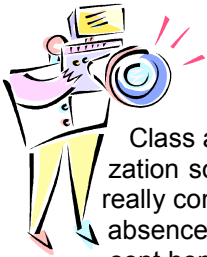
We will be sending pledge forms and information home next week.

Friday September 16th at 2:15pm Michelle Mink will present a Kick-off Assembly for the Terry Fox School Run.

Let's make this the best run ever!

You Thank you to our co-ordinators: Ms Sanford, Mrs Currie, Ms Galloway, Mrs MacPherson and Mrs McLaughlin.

SCHOOL PHOTOS



Monday, October 11th : JK/SKB and Grades 1 to 3
Tuesday, October 12th : JK/SKA and Grades 4 to 8

Class and individual photos will be taken by Life Touch. Picture Day requires a great deal of organization so please try to avoid scheduling appointments on these days as late arrivals or early leaves really complicate the scheduling of over 380 individual photos as well as class pictures. (Unavoidable absences are accommodated by retakes on a later date). Soon after the photos are taken proofs are sent home for you to select your favourite pose and order the package desired and send the payment in the envelope provided. Delivery is expected prior to Christmas.

GIFTED SCREENING

Some children who display an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support in order to reach their education potential.

In consultation with parents, the school staff determines who these students are through the gifted screening process.

The gifted screening process consists of three components:

1. A Teacher Rating Scale
2. A Parent Questionnaire
3. Standardized test results (usually the Otis Lennon School Ability Test)

Parents of a student who will be in or above Grade 3 in the next school year, who wish the school to consider their child for screening are asked to contact **Ms. Galloway** before September 16th, 2011.

FOOD PROGRAM

Again, this year, we plan to offer pizza and Sub days for our students. With the funds raised from the food program, we are able to fund:

- School Trips
- Sports programs
- Agendas
- Author visits
- Plants for our Garden Club
- Technology

Our Pizza days will begin on Friday October 7th. This year we will continue to offer a healthier menu to our Steel St. students, with a multi crust pizza, a healthy desert and 100% apple juice. Order forms will be sent home Sept 20th and 21st. They must be return by Sept 28th no later than 8:45 am. Late forms will not be accepted. Please remember to have both your child's first and last name on the order form along with the teacher's name. If you are able to help please contact Darlene Lock our Steele St. Pizza organizer or leave a message at our office. Your support is greatly appreciated.

SEPTEMBER – SAFE SCHOOLS!

The school, parents, and community must work together to support students make positive choices. Together we need to stop the bullying that is already happening and prevent students who bully or those who are targets, from starting down that road.

Your children will have questions about bullying. Talk to your school about resources.

Check it out: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/safeschools.html

Stand Up – Reach Out – Tell Someone

LIBRARY NEWS

Steele Street website address: <http://sst.scdsb.on.ca/>

Please browse the website for school newsletters, school activities and sports, educational links and general information about Steele Street Public School and our community.

Zehrs Receipts: Please continue to send in your Zehrs tape receipts from any store in Ontario. Our library receives \$1.00 for every \$450.00 in receipts. Last year we received \$1551.00 from Zehrs to be used for authors and special presentations in the library.

A special guest speaker, Dr. Eva Olsson, will be presenting to the intermediate students in November. <http://evaolsson.ca/Splash.aspx>

Campbell Soup Labels: Please send in Campbell Soup Labels to the library. Check out the following web link for more information <http://www.labelsforeducation.ca/>

A listing of Campbell product labels to save can be found at: http://www.labelsforeducation.ca/english/eligible_exp.asp

Volunteers in the library: We need volunteers to do various jobs in the library one morning or afternoon a week. We also need volunteers for book fairs and the Terry Fox Run. If you are interested in assisting in the library, please call Miss Sanford or drop in for a visit at the school.

Barrie Public Library

<http://www.library.barrie.on.ca/main.html>

Be sure to visit the Barrie Public Library this year. Did you know a new library branch will be opening in the south end this fall?

Battle of the Books Reading club will begin in late October. Start reading the books for the battle in May.

http://www.library.barrie.on.ca/children/programmes/bob_by_category.htm

VESSY BULBS

Get Your Gardens Growing!

The grade 7's at Steele Street will be starting a 2-week Vesey Bulb fundraiser to raise money for their trip to Kandalore this October. Beginning September 15th order forms will be available both in the office and from the grade 7 students. This is a great way to put a little "Spring" in your garden this fall.

Thank you for your assistance,
Mr. Herbst
Mr. Kelly
The Grade 7 Students at Steele Street

START THE YEAR OFF WITH NEW HEALTHY HABITS!

SEPTEMBER

As Canadians return to regular work and school routines this September, the Heart and Stroke Foundation would like to encourage you to kick it off in a healthy way. To help you get motivated, please read our columns on preparing heart-healthy dinners and committing to a regular physical activity program.

Be sure to try our delicious recipes, too.

Check it out: www.heartandstroke.ca

SNACK tip for after school: fruit kabobs with milk

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Every reasonable effort will be made by the principal of schools and school staff to keep all schools open each day for those students who are able to attend.

The Principal of each school shall arrange for suitable and appropriate learning activities for those students who are present. School staff are expected to plan for such emergencies in order to provide meaningful programmes for those students who are able to attend under inclement weather conditions.

For students who walk to school, it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to decide whether or not it is safe for a student to leave for school during severe weather conditions.

In cases where buses have been cancelled, it is the responsibility of parents/guardians of bussed students to decide whether or not students should set out for school or be driven to school.

If buses are cancelled in the morning, they are cancelled for the entire day and **will not run** in the afternoon.

Parents are reminded that when they have driven their child(ren) to school it is their responsibility to ensure that appropriate arrangements have been made to provide for their child's(rens) safe return home:

- ◆ At the end of the regular school day or
- ◆ During the school day if conditions worsen and it is necessary to close the school at any time before the end of the regular school day.

Where schools are open, students have the right to attend even though buses may not be running.

In cases of inclement weather, every reasonable attempt will be made to have announcements carried on ROCK 95 FM and B101 FM. Also check the board website www.scdsb.on.ca. We are the Central Weather Zone

In addition to morning announcements about bus cancellations or school closures, announcements would be carried over the radio if it became necessary to dispatch school buses prior to normal dismissal time. It is not always possible to contact parents in cases of early closure so **PLEASE ensure that your child knows what to do in this event.**



STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular athletics are not covered by the Board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen.

Due to recent injuries in Ontario during school sporting events and field trips, and the resulting legal claims, a risk exposure to school boards has been highlighted. It is essential that all those participating in out of school activities (for example, sports, and field trips) have adequate insurance coverage for all instances of injury.

The Simcoe County District School Board has selected Reliable Life Insurance Company as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider with regards to purchasing student accident insurance coverage for the upcoming school year. Reliable Life offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com.

Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular athletics and out-of-province or out-of-country field trips.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Many students from grade 7 & 8 have volunteered to become part of our School Ambassador program. These students will be participating in such leadership positions as Bus Patrollers, Office Helpers, Tour Guides, Morning Announcers, and Club/House League Co-ordinators. This program offers a great opportunity for students to gain leadership experience while providing an important service to the school. We are presently organizing and training the students who have volunteered for this program, and look forward to their participation in this exciting opportunity.

PARENT TIPS / EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Regular communication between school staff and parents is essential to the education of your child. Ongoing communication will allow us to best serve the needs of your child by allowing us to work together as a team to provide him or her with the best educational experience possible.

Such communication can take many forms. These may include:

- ◆ Telephone calls
- ◆ Person to person interviews
- ◆ Notes
- ◆ Using student agendas
- ◆ Think sheets
- ◆ Classroom or school newsletters
- ◆ E-mail

When you wish to speak to a staff member, please remember the following guidelines:

- 1) As when contacting any other professional (i.e. doctor, lawyer, accountant, etc.) it is necessary to make an appointment before meeting with a Steele Street staff member. This way, the teacher or other staff member can properly prepare for the meeting, and will be sure to be available. It is not appropriate to drop in without an appointment as you may be disrupting other work being done, or other meetings. Of course, in an emergency, all staff will do their best to make themselves available to you.
- 2) Prepare for interviews by writing down any concerns that you may have, and feel free to bring a list to the meeting. This way you will be certain to get the answers to any questions you may have.
- 3) If you wish to speak to a staff member over the phone, please contact the office and you will be informed if the person you wish to speak to is available, or you may be asked to leave a message for them. Please let our secretary know what time of day is best to contact you, and the telephone number where you can be reached. All staff members attempt to return calls as soon as they are able to do so.
- 4) From time to time, it is possible that you may have a disagreement with a staff member and wish to discuss it with them. Please attempt to initially discuss your disagreement directly with the staff member involved before involving others in the discussion. You will find that most disagreements can be settled more quickly if the people most directly involved are trying to solve the problem.
- 5) Please also be aware that all Steele Street staff will be very willing to discuss any disagreements with you in a calm and professional manner. All staff have been advised to end any meeting that involves raised voices or profanity, and reschedule the meeting for another time. We treat all members of our school community with respect, and expect the same in return.

QSP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our QSP Family Reading Magazine Program will be returning this FALL, so please save your magazine orders (new or renewals) and order them through our school program

We all benefit!

Our school earns profits through magazines people already purchase.

QSP prices are up to 85% off of newsstand prices. A single magazine can cost as little as \$1.00 per issue. That's a great investment in literacy!

Any reading material, including magazines, will encourage children to read and a parent who reads is a great role model!

Our kick off assembly is on September 26 at 12:15pm in the gym.

If you can't wait until our program starts, you can order early and still support our school by shopping online! It's easy...just visit www.QSP.ca.

BUS LOADING ZONE

Only school vehicles will be allowed into the parking lot between 8:10 & 8:35 a.m. and between 2:50 & 3:20 p.m. Private vehicles are **not** allowed to enter during bus loading times. Non-bussed students are prohibited from the bus loading zone.

Please avoid parking on Steel Street as this too is non-parking zone. You can park on either Cook or Rodney. **It is very dangerous to stop and let children off in this busy area.** Please be aware that several parents received substantial fines for stopping in the NO STOPPING ZONE on Steel Street in front of the school between the entry and exit driveways.

For safety reasons, students within our walking zone should not be riding on our busses without a courtesy form being completed. The bus company must know who is on the bus. You can contact Jacqueline Linton for further information.

SAFETY

Please remind your child to **WALK** his/her bike on school property. Skateboards, roller blades and scooters are **not** to be on school property during the school day

SCHOOL AGENDAS

Each student in grades 1 – 8 will be provided with an agenda. These have been paid for through fundraising initiatives organized by our hard working parents. The agenda is a wonderful vehicle for developing organizational skills. It is also a great communication tool which promotes home and school working together in partnership. Please review your child's agenda with him or her on a nightly basis.

EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is committed to an equitable education system that upholds and reflects the principles of fair and inclusive education. You may view the SCDSB's Equity and Inclusive Education policies and procedures at www.scdsb.on.ca (under the "Board Highlights" menu tab). These procedures include a Religious Accommodation Guideline which outlines individuals' rights and responsibilities and emphasizes the board's commitment to providing an environment that is inclusive and free of barriers based on creed or religion. Please contact your principal if you do not have access to the Internet and wish to obtain copies of this policy and procedures.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Grade 8 Female Students



The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will offer the HPV vaccine at no cost to all female students in Grade 8 at school clinics. The HPV vaccine is given in three doses; the first dose in the fall, the second dose in the winter, and the third dose in the spring. More information and a consent form for the HPV vaccine will be sent home in September. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Your Health Connection at (705) 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Hepatitis B (Hep B) vaccine for Grade 7 Students

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will offer the hepatitis B (Hep B) vaccine and the meningococcal conjugate ACWY (Men-C-ACWY) vaccine at no cost to all Grade 7 students at school clinics. The Hep B vaccine is given in two doses; the first dose in the fall and the second dose in the spring. The Men-C-ACWY vaccine is one dose and will be given in the winter. One consent form that is valid for both doses of Hep B vaccine and the Men-C-ACWY vaccine will be sent home in September. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Your Health Connection at (705) 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.