



Minesing Central Public School

7 Huron St. Minesing, ON L9X 1J2

705-728-1944

Administrative Team: Sonia Kadela, Principal

Carol Timpano, Vice Principal

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Newsletter #2

**Commit to Character Trait for October is Cooperation.
We work together towards shared goals and purposes.**

Oct. 2016

MINESING CENTRAL IS ONLINE—<http://min.scdsb.on.ca>

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

What a great start to the school year we have had! Students are rested and eager to learn and staff members are refreshed and already jumping into new projects and activities with our learners! We are all looking forward to our annual Terry Fox Run on September 29th which will start with a character assembly with students wearing their house colours. Thanks are due to our dedicated staff and parent volunteers who make all of these events possible. We could not do it without you!

We will be re-organizing our classes at Minesing on September 27th, as will many schools within our school board and province. Each year, our school starts off with a certain number of classes and teachers—these numbers are based on estimates made the previous spring about how many students will be enrolled during the next school year.

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education has class size goals that all school boards are required to meet. When the Simcoe County District School Board organized its schools in the spring, they adhered to this ministry expectation.

Each September, the board compares actual enrolment numbers to the numbers projected by the board in the spring. At times it is necessary to re-organize classes.

After re-organization, some students may move to another class in order to balance class sizes. If your child is affected by the change, you will receive a letter with details following re-organization on September 27th.

I understand that many parents have concerns about these changes, but please rest assured that in all of our classes, teachers differentiate the instruction, assessment and expectations based on each student's

individual strengths, needs and interests. Please read the enclosed 'Parent's Guide to a Combined Grade Classroom' in this newsletter. We have worked diligently as a staff to organize classes to both comply with the maximum class sizes and to meet the needs of each child.

Please understand that we are taking all steps to minimize disruption and to make this transition as smooth as possible for each student.

Yours truly,
Sonia Kadela

A Parent's Guide to a Combined Grade Classroom

Your child is learning in a combined grade classroom. This information is designed to help you understand how this type of classroom works and answer questions you may have.

Schools group students from two grades in one classroom to balance class sizes across the school. Combined grade classes are not new—they have always been a common part of the school experience. Teachers are highly trained to balance individual learning needs.

Walk into any classroom, and you will find children at various stages of social, physical and intellectual development. No two children are exactly the same, even if they're the same age. Each child has unique learning needs—strengths and areas that need improvement. Learning styles and preferences are unique to each student. That's true of same-grade classrooms, just like combined grade groups.

Teachers are highly trained to adjust the learning program in the classroom to the needs of each student's individual learning needs. In combined

grade classes, teachers use these same strategies to teach the curriculum for both grades.

Teachers use a variety of strategies to balance the needs of both grades.

Students in a combined grade class follow curriculum expectations for their specific grade. Just as in same-grade classes, teachers in combined grades use a wide range of teaching strategies to make sure they cover all of the curriculum expectations. Children in combined grade classes will spend time learning as a whole class, in small groups and individually. Sometimes they will be grouped based on a specific task and other times the teacher will group them based on their learning needs.

In many areas of the Ontario curriculum, the overall expectations do not change from one grade to the next, but students learn the skill with a greater level of complexity as they progress from grade to grade. In a combined grade 3/4 class, all of the students would spend time reading to improve their comprehension. The grade 3 students would be learning to restate important ideas from a text, while the grade 4 students would be learning to make an outline of a section of reading. The same students might then do a writing assignment. The grade 3s would be expected to use joining words to combine simple sentences, while the grade 4s would be required to use sentences of different lengths and complexity.

The teacher may have the whole class participate in a common activity, followed by small group or individual work on grade-specific curriculum expectations. For example, in a grade 1/2 combined grade class, when teaching the life systems strand of science, the teacher might start by showing a video about a specific animal. The grade 1 students would do a follow-up activity to identify the characteristics and needs of living things, while the grade 2 students would focus on growth and change in animals.

Students are not always learning new information or concepts—they also need to review, consolidate and refine their learning and build on previous learning to do a more complex task. In a grade 5/6 combined grade math class, for example, the teacher might review the concept of place value with the whole class. Then the students would work on the grade-specific expectations. Grade 5 students would be practicing math problems with place values up to 100,000 and decimals to hundredths, while grade 6 students would work on problems with place values up to 1,000,000 and decimals to thousandths. Or if working on measurement, the whole class might work on an activity requiring them to estimate, measure and record perimeter and area of various items. The grade 6s would need to demonstrate a greater level of

accuracy, based on the curriculum expectations, than the grade 5's.

Even in subjects, such as social studies and science, that have different topics to cover in different grades, the curriculum expectations in each grade are not just about the facts students are expected to learn. There are many common skills for students to learn, such as research, scientific inquiry, experimentation and problem solving. The teacher might present research skills to the whole class, and then assign grade-specific research projects.

At other times, the teacher will present two different lessons to the students, based on the different curriculum for the two grades. While working with one grade level of students, the teacher will have the other students do individual or group projects or work in learning centres in the classroom. Studies show that students in combined grade classes learn as well as other students.

You may be concerned about how well your child will learn in a combined grade class. Years of research show that students in combined grades do just as well academically as students in single-grade classes. In fact, some students actually do better in language and reading.

You may also wonder about the emotional impact on your child—will your child receive the same amount of individual attention from the teacher in a combined grade as in a single-grade class? It's important to understand that the needs of the students in the class, not the grade structure, determine the amount of time the teacher has to spend with each individual student.

Students in combined classes often do better emotionally and socially. Combined grade classes have been found to foster greater independence, better social skills and increased motivation to learn. In our experience, parents may be concerned when their child is first placed in a combined grade class, but once they become familiar with the concept, they feel more comfortable, and they're pleased with their child's progress and school experience as the year progresses.

Help your child succeed in a combined grade class
You're important to your child's success—whether in a combined grade or in a same-grade class. The more you know about your child's education, the more you will be able to help your child learn and succeed. Here are some ways you can support your child's learning.

* Become familiar with the curriculum for your child's grade. You can find it on the Ministry of Education website at www.edu.gov.on.ca.

* Read information from your child's teacher and school. Ask your child to tell you about schoolwork that is brought home. Talk with your child about her school experience.

* Communicate with your child's teacher about his individual learning needs. If you have questions, talk to the teacher about the strategies that are being used to cover the combined grade curriculum.

* Connect with the school. Attend parent information nights and other school events. Volunteer at the school if you have the time. Attend a school council meeting.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MESSAGE

Hope everyone has settled into routine now that September is almost behind us. As always, we are looking for volunteers to help us with our lunch programs. If you are in the school one morning helping your child's classroom, why not give school council another 15 minutes after from 1pm until 1:15pm. All monies fundraised from our lunch programs go directly back to your child's school. Please contact the school if you are able to help.

Our fundraising plan directs the funds we raise towards specific purposes. We will continue to support our school athletics as well as the purchase of technology, classroom and library resources for our children, and we are excited this year to direct specific fundraisers towards 'transforming learning spaces'. Please come to our Pizza Q on October 5th, during Meet the Teacher night, to learn more about this exciting Minesing initiative!

We would like to highlight again this year that council helps fund our athletics program. The monies raised each year (and for many years past) are used for tournament fees, uniforms, referee fees and supply teacher costs for our coaches who need coverage at the school when away with their teams. As SCDSB policy states that fees are not to be charged to elementary students to participate in extra-curricular sports, it is expected that the support of athletics be through our fundraising plan as well as our school budget. Another way for parents to contribute to Minesing's great sports teams is through voluntary contributions. If there is any family that would be interested in giving a monetary donation specific to athletics, any would be greatly appreciated. Please be sure to contact the office.

Hope you can join us at our next council meeting on Wednesday, November 2nd at 6:30pm in the library. Everyone welcome!!!

Sincerely,
Tara Marshall-Sutton and Lori Closs-Philips

SCDSB NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

We need your help developing the new strategic plan for the Simcoe County District School Board. The purpose of a strategic plan is to set goals and directions that will guide the work of our organization and help us realize our vision of a community of learners achieving full potential.

We want to know:

- * What does the SCDSB do already to help us realize our vision of a community of learners achieving full potential?
- * What is the most important thing that we can begin to do to help us realize our vision?
- * What role do you think SCDSB schools play or should play in your community?

Get involved: * Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/difference to take our survey and complete the "Where should we invest?" activity to help identify priority areas.

* Follow our @scdsb_schools Twitter account and join our #SCDSBDifference Twitter chat to share your ideas on Thurs., Oct. 6 at 8 p.m.

Other consultation activities:

- * We had/will have community outreach booths at Collingwood Downtown Farmers' Market (Sept. 17), Orillia Downtown Farmers' Market (Sept. 24) and Alliston Downtown Farmers' Market (Oct. 1).
- * We are conducting on-the-spot interviews with parents and students at select schools across Simcoe County.
- * We've invited randomly selected representatives from various stakeholder groups to workshops on Oct. 4 at the Education Centre.

We'll use the input to identify the key areas stakeholders think the SCDSB should focus on. We will also review research on effective practices in education, our own data and the expectations we receive from the Ministry of Education. This information will help the Board of Trustees set our priorities. The strategic plan will outline how— together—we inspire and empower learning for life.

MANDATORY VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

Thank you to all who volunteered this past year! We will be holding one more volunteer training session on October 12th at 5:30 pm.

All volunteers must attend one volunteer session each school year. Please call the office to register. In order to volunteer, you must have a Criminal Record Check completed and returned to the office. There is a waiting period before you are on the approved list. If you already have a current CRC, you only need to complete an Offence Declaration form each year by October 15, 2016. Please see office.

SAFE ARRIVAL

Please remember it is **your** responsibility to call the school to report your child's absence or late arrival. Messages can be left on the Safe Arrival line anytime by calling 705-728-1944 and then press 1.

MEET THE TEACHER

Please save the date of Wednesday, October 5th from 5 to 7 pm for our Meet the Teacher night. We will be having our "Pizza-Q" again this year. Pre-ordered pizza slices and water will be served from 5-6:00 pm, with proceeds going to School Council. Please have your pizza orders in by Sept. 29th. Students will take parents to their classrooms from 6-7:00 pm.

MINESING SCHOOL LUNCH/MILK PROGRAMS

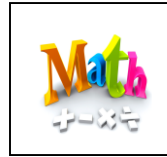
Our school lunch and milk programs will be starting soon. Watch for more information.

2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

This year's school calendar can be found on the Simcoe County District School Board's website at www.scdsb.on.ca under 'Schools' – 'School Year Calendars.' Key dates include:

- The Holiday Break is December 26, 2016 to January 6, 2017.
- March Break is March 13 to 17, 2017.

MATH CORNER



Enjoy learning together!

You are an important partner in your child's mathematics education. When you find ways to engage your child in thinking and talking about mathematics, you are providing an

important key for unlocking his or her future success. Today, essential skills include:

- *critical thinking
- *problem solving
- *reasoning ability
- *ability to communicate mathematically

They are brought into play as you engage your child in rich activities that connect to real life experiences. Learn more at Ontario.ca Top Tips for Parents/Guardians

TERRY FOX RUN



Once again, the staff and students at Minesing Central Public School will be participating in the annual Terry Fox Run/Walk on Thursday, September 29th. The event will take place at 2:00pm -feel free to come out

and join us!

Students are asked to wear their house colours, appropriate footwear and be dressed to take part in outdoor, physical activity. If the weather doesn't cooperate, our rain date is the next day. This year, we are accepting donations through our online portal at www.terryfox.ca/MinesingCentralPSMinesing, or by completing the pledge sheets and returning them to the school. Let's honour Terry's legacy and work together to help beat cancer!

BRADFORD GREENHOUSE FUNDRAISER

Our Bradford Greenhouse fundraiser continues until Oct. 15th. When shopping there, you just have to tell the cashier, **prior to inputting the sale,** that you want your sale to benefit



Minesing Central School. Our school will be given a portion of all sales in the form of a gift card for the purchase of Bradford Greenhouse products for school improvements and special events. Thank you for your support.

BARRIE COLTS FUNDRAISER



Have a fun night out and support Minesing Central while you're doing it! Join us for a Barrie Colts Game on Saturday, Oct. 29th, 2016 at the Barrie Molson Centre. Game time is

7:00 pm. Tickets are \$20.00 each and \$6.00 from each ticket sold will be given back to Minesing Central for fundraising initiatives.

Tickets will be sold through School Cash Online. A letter will be sent home with students the first week of October.

EAT WELL TO EXCEL

Eat Well to Excel, the Simcoe County nutrition program for school-age children, is a non-profit organization that supports volunteer run breakfast clubs, nutritious snacks, and lunch programs in Simcoe County. It helps provide children with nutritious foods, and encourage lifelong, healthy eating habits through nutrition-related education in schools and in the community.



At Minesing, we submit our statistics to the program each month and our funding is based on the number of students serviced. Funds are used to purchase non-perishable snacks for our classrooms and fresh fruit accessible to all K-8 students in the office.

This fall, we will be enjoying apples donated from Kennedy Apple Orchards in Nottawa and Avalon Orchards in Innisfil. We welcome donations from our school community for Eat Well to Excel.



Items may include:
-multigrain cheerios, granola (nut free)
-Nutri-Grain cereal bars
-cran-raisins, raisins, other "veggie" or "real fruit"

-apple juice or orange juice drinking boxes
-grocery gift cards
-plastic spoons, snack baggies



We all need to nourish our bodies for our best learning. If you can help out with a donation, please contact Carol Timpano, ctimpano@scdsb.on.ca or call the school.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country trips) are not covered by the School Board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen. It is essential that all students participating in extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage for all instances and injury. The Simcoe County District School Board has selected the "Insure My Kids" program through Old Republic Canada as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider with regards to purchasing student accident insurance coverage for the upcoming school year. The coverage is for 24 hours a day. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com.

GREEN INITIATIVE

Minesing Central is Going Paperless!



We're Online!

<http://min.scdsb.on.ca>

We are still working towards going paper free. All newsletters will be emailed directly to you. They can also be found on our website. Go to the above website to register. Click on subscribe at the top of the page and you're all set. You will receive an alert when the latest newsletter has been posted. Newsletters typically go out at the end of each month.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school. Parents can pay online for lunches, school trips and other items. Parents who sign up will receive a notification when a new item becomes available for purchase. Items are personalized to each student. Parents use a secure online account to process payments, and can either make a one-time payment for each item as it occurs, or load money to carry a balance in the account to make payments in the future. To create an online account, go to simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com. Letters were recently sent home with instructions and your child's ID # for sign-up. Please contact the school office with any questions.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



Walking or cycling to school is a great way to help your child get the 60 minutes of recommended daily physical activity. It also teaches them to be aware of their

own safety, builds responsibility and independence, and helps them to feel more connected to the community.

More walkers also means less car traffic around our school, which will help keep students safe and improve outdoor air quality too. Committing to even one day a week of walking or cycling to school can make a big difference! To find out more, visit www.saferoutestoschool.ca.

KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE

The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- * talking to them about the situations below
- * reminding them that emergencies are rare
- * telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations.



Parents should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- * Shelter in place is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off.
- * A hold and secure is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- * A lockdown is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown

situation, police ask that parents do not go to or call the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites (www.facebook.com/SCDSB and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (www.scdsb.on.ca), through local police and local media.

* All schools have evacuation plans in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. Each school has an evacuation site. Ours is Minesing United Church on George Johnston Road. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.

* Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the intercom system to enter the building. Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, please be patient. All visitors, including school volunteers, are required to sign in at the school office and wear visitor identification. Please do not go directly to classrooms or past the office without checking in.

* Volunteers must complete a criminal record check and be added to the approved volunteer list before having contact with students.

* At least two staff members in every school are trained in first aid and CPR. All Simcoe County District School Board schools have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

When parents are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

STUDENT DRESS CODE



The SCDSB is introducing a new student dress code this school year. The dress code was developed in consultation with staff and students. Students are expected to

respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive, and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at www.scdsb.on.ca. If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact the principal or the SCDSB Equity and Inclusive Education Team at 705-728-7570.

BUS TAG PROGRAM

The Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent or guardian at their afternoon bus stop.



The program provides a colour coded Bus Tag with the assigned p.m. route number to be attached to the student's backpack and a colour coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the Bus Tag is matched to. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site daycare to make sure they don't get on a bus in error. For more information, visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the 'Safety' tab.

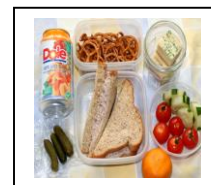
SCHOOL GROUNDS SMOKE FREE

Protect yourself and your children from the health hazards of secondhand smoke. Remember, it is against the law to smoke ANYWHERE on school property at ANY TIME. This includes smoking in your vehicle while picking up or dropping off students. It is also against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco in a vehicle carrying anyone under age 16. The fine for ignoring the law is \$250. For more information contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

PACK A HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH

A school lunch should give children the energy and nutrients they need to be ready to learn, be more alert and perform better at school. When planning lunches keep these tips in mind:

* Include one serving from at least three of the four food groups from Canada's Food Guide



* Rather than buying pre-made lunch kits, make your own healthy lunch kit with divided containers and small 'bite-sized' cheese cubes, left over chicken chunks, veggie sticks or fruit slices

* Get your kids to eat more veggies! Send cucumber coins, zucchini sticks and pepper strips with dip

* Fill whole wheat or multi grain wrap/pitas/tortilla shells with your child's favourite foods such as hummus and grated carrot or sliced turkey with honey mustard.

* Water is the best option for hydration

Looking for more information to help keep you and your family healthy? Call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 to speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Schools Available for Community Use

Through our Community Use of Schools program, almost all of our schools are available outside of school hours for not-for-profit community groups. Our gyms, fields, auditoriums and classrooms are available for your sporting events, concerts, recitals and more.



You can apply online. A Permit Clerk will process the application and advise if the facility is available at the requested time. Once an application is approved, a rental contract will be issued and the applicant will be invoiced. For more information, visit www.scdsb.on.ca, click on 'Schools' and then 'Community Use of Schools.'

YMCA Child Care at

Minesing Central Public School

YMCA Child Care gives your child the opportunity to learn, grow, make new friends, try new activities and have fun! The YMCA at Minesing Central School hours of operation are from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Meals and Snacks provided. Drop by for a visit!



For more information about the YMCA programs at Minesing please contact:
YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka 705.725.5453
sue_mcallister@ymca.ca

What's Happening at the Minesing Library

Hours: Tuesday: 1-7
Thursday: 1-5
Friday: 9-5
(705) 722-6440

Storytime: Friday October 14th & 28th at 10:30, storytime for preschool children to 5 years of age. Come for stories, songs & a craft!

Ontario Early Years: OEY will visit the Minesing Library on Friday, October 7th and 21st from 10:30-11:30 for children 0-6 years of age. This is a free program.

Monster Craft and Snack: Friday, October 7th at 3:45pm – 4:45pm for a monster themed craft! The cost is \$3 and is for ages 5+. Please sign up for this program.

Halloween Party: Friday, October 28th from 6:30pm – 7:30pm at the Minesing Library, come out in your costume for an hour of fun at our Halloween party! We will be playing games, crafts and of course, eating candy! For ages 5+. Please sign up for this program.

***Watch our website and Facebook page for other upcoming programs!**



OCTOBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Gr.7 Wye Marsh	4 1:20 pm X-Country Practice OPP Kids Gr. 6 9:20	5 X-Country Practice 3:30-4:30 Meet the Teacher - Pizza-Q 5:00-7:00pm	6 X-Country Practice 1:20 pm	7 MADD Assembly Gr. 7&8 2:00 pm Gr.1-6 Elmvale Fall Fair
10 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL	11 Chef Suzanne Gr.6 FSL	12 - Chef Suzanne Gr.5 & 7 FSL -X-Country Practice 3:30-4:30 -Volunteer Training 5:30 pm -School Council 6:30 pm	13	14
17	18 Earth Rangers Gr. 1-6 9:30 am	19 PICTURE DAY	20	21 P.A. DAY
24	25 OPP Kids Gr. 6 9:20	26 Ukelele Club Begins 3:30-4:30	27	28 (Barrie Colts Game Fundraiser for Minesing Central Oct. 29 th at 7pm)
31 Halloween				

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