Principal’s News

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Classes have now settled from the class changes and students are into a regular routine. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

One of the articles in this newsletter is about Our School Improvement Plan. You will notice that our school focus is around improving mathematics achievement.

One way that you can help is to work on basic numeration facts with your child. This is just a small part of being successful in mathematics but when students know their math facts they will be able to tackle the multi step problem solving questions easier. Any help that you can provide your child with in this area is appreciated. This should not take the place of reading with your child each night!

Thank you,

Tom Dorsey

Remembrance Day Service

You are invited to attend our Remembrance Day Service on November 11th. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. The service is always a wonderful time as it is put on by some of the classes in our school. The service has been organized by Ms Jones and Ms MacDonald. The Remembrance Day service will be replacing the Monthly Assembly for November, which will return in December. If you get the opportunity to attend the Remembrance Day service you will not regret it.

Progress Report

Progress Reports will be going home on Friday, November 11th. The Ministry of Education has changed the first report card to a Progress Report. This report will not have grades or marks on it. It is intended to give parents an idea of how their child is doing and how they can help. You will receive the first report card in February and the second one in June. Teachers are in the process of setting up Student Involved Conferences with families to discuss student progress. Many of the conferences will be held on the evening of Thursday, November 17th and the morning of Friday, November 18th. Many parents signed up for their conferences at the Open House. If you did not, please call the school to arrange a conference with your child’s teacher.

If you haven’t heard about an interview time for your child by November 14th please call the school and let us know. The conference is a good time to find out how you can support your child’s learning at home.
NO HOMEWORK: TRY THIS!

Our school is working on improving our student’s basic number facts and we need your help. If your child doesn’t have homework please have them work on memorizing their basic number facts each night. It shouldn’t take more than 15 minutes but spending this time each night will make a huge difference in the speed that they will be able to complete math questions.

Some teachers are sending home math fact drill sheets but there are all kinds of websites that provide sheets and programs where students can work on their math facts. Just google “Math Facts” to find useful resources. Here is a link to something you can try today: http://www.math-drills.com

Grades 1  Addition and Subtraction Facts to 5+5
Grades 2  Addition and Subtraction Facts to 9+9
Grade 3  Addition/ Subtraction facts + Multiplication facts to 7x7
Grades 4-8 Multiplication facts to 9x9

PLEASE don’t forget that READING must take place on a nightly basis.

How involved should parents be in children’s homework?

Parents often wonder what role they play with respect to their child’s homework. Many parents become directly involved in helping complete their child’s homework while some will complete it for them. I have known some parents who have completed an assignment for their child and believe that they are helping their child. It is often obvious to the teacher how much of the assignment the child completed on their own. If there was parent involvement the teacher might not be able to mark it as it would not be a fair assessment of the child’s work. Please take the advice below of a professor from the University of Toronto.

“Think of yourself as a coach,” say parenting experts and researchers, “not the kind that barks from the sidelines, consumed with winning, but someone who provides the tools the desk, the pencils, the quiet space, the cheerers and the occasional suggestion—and knows once exhaustion sets in, when to close the books”.

Be at the elbow but don’t hold the pen,” says Linda Cameron, a professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and veteran teacher, who researches homework. (And admits to helping her own now-grown children a little too much on occasion.) “You can prompt, give them resources, give them snacks.”

And while parents need to curb the urge to give the answers, Dr. Cameron says, they should never send their child to school the next day without a note explaining why their homework isn’t done—don’t leave it up to your child to defend that unfinished essay. “I wrote many notes to school, saying we spent this much time on it and enough’s enough, we need family time,” she recalls.

The best assistance to children is setting clear rules about when and where homework should get done. “Be as specific as possible about what the procedures are every day,” another researcher says, but don’t give answers. “It’s better to leave it undone than to cheat.”

School Council News

Sunnybrae Parent Council: We have a great community here!

There are new Parent Council members this year, as well as a passionate group of veterans. With our fabulous leadership and staff at Sunnybrae, this council is poised to contribute greatly to our school, as it did last year. In our first meeting we set the fundraising plan, and started to discuss our goals for the year. In response to one early request, Parent Council was happy to sponsor a practice, an exhibition game and a tournament for the Sunnybrae Hockey Team! This is our first time supporting this group and we wish the Coach and Team great success!

Parent Council meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in the school library. If you have something you want to discuss, get it on the agenda by emailing Mr. Dorsey ahead of time. See you November 7th at the next meeting!

Pizza Day Change

Please note that during the week of November 14th—18th we will be having our pizza day on Thursday instead of Friday. Friday is a P.A. day for student involvement so we moved the Pizza Day to Thursday. This change is only for this week.

CRAZY HAIR/HAT DAY

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Do you know what time of year it is? It’s crazy hair and hat day! It’s 1 easy step: all you have to do is wear a wacky hat or create a CRAZY hairdo. The craziest, most creative hat or hairdo will get a prize! Oh, and don’t forget to bring a dollar towards shipping the Christmas shoeboxes. Any extra money will be given towards a “Free the Children” project.

By Amanda

Canadian Tire Money

Thank you to those who have sent in Canadian Tire money recently. Recently, we were able to purchase some basketballs for our playground almost entirely from the money. If you are able to, please continue to send in the extra Canadian Tire money.

Magazine Fundraiser

Thank you to all of the families who purchased magazines through QSP.

We are unsure as to how much was raised but intend to use it to help support a number of initiatives at our school. Your support is appreciated.

Bus Cancellations

This year’s bus cancellation notifications will be posted first at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca

Please visit this new website – and “Bookmark” it – before the snow starts to fly.
School Website

Please check out our website. The address is: http://Sunnybrae.edublogs.org/

WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT YOU USE THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AS YOUR HOMEPAGE.

You can get to all of the useful sites (including Google) that you need from our homepage and keep school information current.

Our policy is to never post student pictures or last names on our website.

Please take the time to check the site out!

Flag Football - Intramurals

Thirty intermediate students at Sunnybrae P.S. participated in an intramural Flag Football program this Fall which included many exhibition games and a staff vs. student spirit game. Some of those individuals played at the zone tournament on Oct. 13 with impressive plays and positive character on and off the field. Thank you to our coaching staff and supporters as our level of play has improved! Keep playing at recess!!! Go Bulldogs!

No Child Without

Medic Alert has developed a program, at no cost to parents, to protect children and provide schools with the help they need to address concerns about students living with chronic medical conditions, allergies or special needs at no cost to parents. This program is called No Child Without. This program blends in with the school’s safety plan and illustrates the importance of children’s health and safety in school. A child participating in this program will receive a membership to Medic Alert, a Medic Alert wallet card and a Medic Alert bracelet or necklace, and access to the 24 hour Medic Alert Hotline. No Child Without brochures can be obtained in the school office. Please note only students registered at Sunnybrae may participate.

Picture Retake Day: November 15th

School Improvement Plan

Our main area of focus this year in on improving student achievement in math. We plan to begin to do this with the following:

1. All classes have increased the number of minutes they teach math each day.
2. We are spending time (and hopefully you are as well) improving students basic numeration skills.
3. We are focusing more time on multi step math problems.

If you want further information regarding our School Improvement Plan please contact Mr. Dorsey.

Volunteers / Police Checks

Anyone wanting to volunteer at Sunnybrae must have a current police check. To obtain a police check you will need a letter from the school and a criminal background check application form. These application forms are obtained from and must be completed at the South Simcoe Police Services station (they can no longer be obtained from the school). The charge is $15.00. If you have already submitted a Police Check in previous years and have not completed an Offence Declaration form, you must do so no later than December 31, 2011. Otherwise, unfortunately you will have to complete a new Police Check.

New Pet Signs On Our Playground

We have had some people within our community walking their pets through our playground. Most clean up the mess their pet leaves but others don’t. Even when pet owners clean the mess it is impossible to remove it all. We have students that will roll, slide and play on the ground and could come in contact with what was left from the pet.

We are in the process of installing new NO DOGS ALLOWED signs at each of our entrances in the hope that this will deter people from walking their dogs on our playground.

Could you please refrain from walking your pets through the school playground so that we can prevent children from coming in contact with pet waste? Thank you for your cooperation.

Inclement Weather Information

Winter driving conditions can be challenging in Simcoe County and severe inclement weather sometimes requires the cancellation of school bus runs. Weather conditions are not always predictable and do not always follow a specific pattern. Decisions to cancel school bus runs are based on information from a number of sources before 6:00 a.m. that morning.

To limit bus cancellations if weather conditions warrant, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) has inclement Weather Zones. These four zone areas have been determined with consideration to weather patterns, school catchment areas, routes that cross over catchment areas and special needs transportation. The implementation of four weather zones—North, South, Central and West—will allow for partial cancellations. For example, when the weather in the Collingwood area is such that it is not safe for the buses to travel the roads, then buses in the West Weather Zone would be cancelled, while the buses in the remaining three zones would continue to run.

No school belongs in more than one zone. Zone designations are reviewed in the spring to ensure that schools have been categorized appropriately.

This year’s bus cancellation notifications will be posted first at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca

Please visit this new website – and “Bookmark” it – before the snow starts to fly.

Bus cancellation messages will be relayed in the following ways:

- If weather is severe in only part of the County, then the weather zones will come into effect. The media will announce: “All School Buses have been cancelled in (NAME OF ZONE) Weather Zone”.
- If weather is severe throughout the entire County of Simcoe, then the media will announce: “All School Buses in Simcoe County are cancelled”.

Please note: Schools are open for learning when buses are cancelled, unless stated otherwise.

Math Homework Help: Grade 7/8

Please read the flyer enclosed to find out about this new Homework Initiative for grade 7/8 students!
Card Contest Card Contest Winners!

Congratulations to those students that took their personal time to create and submit a card cover design for our school’s Thank You Stationary. This year’s card covers are great because they capture Sunnybrae’s spirit with images of the arts, athletics and character attributes! All entries were reproduced into card stock and each illustrator received a personal copy to keep! Power of One!

Cross Country Running

Congratulations to Sunnybrae’s Cross Country Runners. They had a fabulous year. Everyone worked very hard training for the Area and County meet. Three cheers for the grade 5 boys who won their age division. They brought home a pennant from the county meet which will be placed in the school gym. Super Job! Thank you to Mrs. Nichols, Mrs. Thatcher and Mrs. Lee for helping to coach and to the parents for supporting the team.

Innisfil Library Information

Breaking Dawn

Come ready for everything Edward, Bella and Jacob! Innisfil Public Library requests the honour of your presence at a celebration for the movie release Breaking Dawn. Countdown with us to the finale of the Twilight series. Twilight fans only!

Ages 10+ Registration required. Cost $2.00.
Lakeshore: Thursday, November 17, 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Dangerous Club Jr. (Ages 5–8)

Do you dare to join our after-school club with games and crafts for children 5–8 years old?
Lakeshore: Wednesday, 4:00–5:00 p.m.
Stroud: Thursday, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Thank You to the Innisfil Fire Department

On October 4th and 7th the Fire Department brought their safety trailer to Sunnybrae. Students from K to 3 all had an opportunity to learn about fire safety in the home. Here is some information that is important for parents to know.

- All students need to know their address
- All families need to have a meeting place outside the house.
- Practice the drills several times a year
All students were given a “Fire Safety Handbook”. Please refer to it for more safety tips.

Rubber Boots and Splash Pants

Has your child out grown their rubber boots, or splash pants? We are looking for gently used wet weather gear for our younger students to use on field trips when they haven’t brought their own. If you have any items that you wish to donate, please send them into school with your child. Thank you for your support.

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THANK YOU SUNNYBRAE!

You donated $450.85 by participating in the Pyjama Day Spirit Day. That is the biggest donation for a spirit day in recent history and will be enough to ship 64 Christmas shoeboxes to children in need. Thank you also for the many items that you have been bringing in to put into the shoeboxes! We will be packing the shoeboxes on November 2 at 3:30 in the library. Any parent who has a current police record check on file at the school office is welcome to join us that afternoon to help sort items, and pack shoeboxes.

Sincerely,
The Sunnybrae Global Action Committee

Identification Required

If you send someone to the office to pick up your child please ask them to bring identification as we plan to begin asking for identification before releasing the child. Thank you!

School Gates

Last year we had gates put on 3 of the entrances to the school yard. These gates help us to secure our playground so that the younger students have a more difficult time leaving the playground. We attempt to keep the gates closed at all times.

If you are bringing your child (ren) to school in the morning could you please ensure that the gate that you enter and exit through gets closed as you pass through it. Your cooperation is appreciated!

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Inserts

November Calendar
Mathematics Homework Help
Rainbows Program

Student Leaders take their Spirit Song and Dance to the Classrooms!

This term Sunnybrae is promoting our school-wide theme - Power of One! In conjunction with many great student initiatives happening, nine student leaders created and shared their spirit dance choreography with the entire school during the week of Oct 25th-28th. Thank you to the entire school for embracing this endeavour and making it a reality for Sunnybrae. The Power of One at Sunnybrae translates to “Team Sunnybrae for All”!