From the Desk of Mr. Peck

Happy New Year everyone. I hope your Holiday Season was a joyous one and that you had some time with family and some time to relax too. I also hope that your upcoming VISA or Mastercard bill will be manageable. I was happy that you kept your kids for a couple of weeks, but I’m glad to see them back well-rested, healthy and ready to learn.

Parking and Drop Off – Again!

Each home in our school community should have received a phone message and/or email message from Mrs. Golding which went something like this:

As many of you begin a new year of dropping off and picking up students, we wish to inform you that we have exhausted our means of communicating regarding parking in and around our drop off areas. The Town of Bradford will soon be ticketing cars parked illegally. The rules are for the safety of your child; your child’s safety is far more important than anyone’s convenience. You may park on the road or in the east parking lot.

Please follow the instructions on the signs placed on the island each morning. Drive very slowly and be sure to pull up as far as possible, even if at the moment your car is the only car. It only takes seconds for cars to back up into the street.

Do not under any circumstances park at the island or across from the island. Both areas are no parking zones; if you park here you risk being ticketed, but more importantly, you reduce safety for our students.

At the end of the school day, if you remain in your vehicle, you may wait at the island.

Thank you for your cooperation.

At least one school in Bradford has closed their parking and drop off areas during “rush hour”. We do not wish to do that. Nor do we wish to see your car ticketed. However, we still have parents who are jeopardizing student safety by parking in areas where they should not be parking. The layout and design of our parking area is not the best, but it’s all we have to work with. Please remember that there are entrances to school property off some adjoining streets, and that you are welcome to drop your child off as early as 8:40 am. That’s when staff members are on duty to supervise.

From the Desk of Mrs. Golding

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and a great start to 2013! This month, I would like to share some thoughts about school attendance.

Did You Know…?

- Patterns of attendance are established during the early years of schooling
There is a direct relationship between attendance and achievement. Research shows that students who are in school the majority of the time do better on standardized tests. Studies also show that students who are absent more often score lower.

Being late for school also affects student learning. If a child is just 10 minutes late for class every day, they will miss over 30 hours of instruction over the course of the school year.

Poor attendance makes it difficult for students to form positive peer relationships.

Many students are able to copy notes and catch up on homework, but they can never get back what is most important: the discussion that goes on in class that gives meaning to their learning.

Students that have learning difficulties are put at even greater risk when they miss school frequently.

Children in their early school years who miss out on learning basic skills often experience school difficulties later on.

Statistics also show that students who are frequently absent from school earn less money as adults, have a higher representation in the justice system, experience higher rates of homelessness and higher rates of teen pregnancy.

What Can Parents Do…?

Talk with your child about why it is important to attend school regularly.

As much as possible, try to avoid scheduling appointments and trips during school hours.

Make sure that your child stays healthy by eating properly, exercising and getting enough sleep.

Show your child why education is important; give specific examples of how education can help them in their life.

Lead by example; if children see their parents missing work frequently, they may expect to be able to do the same thing.

If your child is having a specific issue at school that is causing them to not want to attend, be sure to speak to school staff as soon as possible so they can work with you to solve the problem.

Remember, Attendance Matters!

Bus Cancellation Notification Process

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium posts all information regarding cancelled buses at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. The Transportation Consortium also directly notifies media early on the mornings when school buses are cancelled. The message that schools are OPEN FOR LEARNING on bus cancellation days will continue to be emphasized. To reduce confusion and the volume of messages, bus cancellation and school event cancellation notices will not be posted on or distributed from www.scdsb.on.ca (info@scdsb.on.ca). A direct link to www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca is also posted on the homepage of www.scdsb.on.ca.

Holiday Concerts at W. H. Day

Thank you to the many parents who came out to one or more of our daytime holiday concerts. The teachers and students appreciated your support. It was great to see the gym full of enthusiastic kids and parents celebrating Christmas together.
Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child who will be 4 years old by December 31, 2013, then they are eligible to register for their first year of kindergarten. Please call the school to arrange an appointment for registration. Registration will take place during the week of January 28. Remember: W. H. Day is a Full Day Kindergarten site.

Our Australian Connection

We welcome Miss Seccombe to our school. Miss Seccombe comes to us from Australia; she is on an exchange with Mrs. Hicks. We guess that Mrs. Hicks is enjoying Australian weather more than Miss Seccombe is enjoying our weather. What she doesn’t know is that it’s actually quite mild for January. We look forward to working and learning together.

Staff and other Changes

We also welcome Mrs. Hendery (Davies at one time) back to grade 4. She will be sharing one of our grade 4 classes with Ms. Vesa. We also welcome ten teacher candidates and 2 ECE candidates to our school. They are completing placements here and we are happy they can learn with us. Both they and the students in our school benefit.

Safe Arrival

We are in need of Safe Arrival volunteers to help with this important task each morning. If you are able to volunteer for an hour or so one morning a week, it would be greatly appreciated. Please call the office for further information. Thanks.

Also, if your child is going to be absent, please send in a note the day before, or in the case of unforeseen illness, be sure to call the school and leave a message on Safe Arrival.

Character Recognition

The Simcoe County District School Board, through the Character Development Project Team, recognizes students, staff and volunteers who demonstrate good character at the annual Character Recognition Awards Evening. Each year nominations from schools, the Education Centre and the community are received highlighting the good character of our community members. From the nominations, 100 students, staff and volunteers are invited to the Education Centre to represent all the nominees in a celebration of all those who exemplify the SCDSB Commit to Character focus. The recognition process begins on January 14, 2013, and ends on February 22, 2013. The form is available on the SCDSB website under Character Education and can be dropped off to Mrs. Golding in the office to be sent to the board.

Canadian Tire Money and Campbell Soup Labels

Both of the above can be sent to the school and are used by us to purchase playground equipment for students to use at recess. Please have your child give these to the office staff if you would like to donate.
Important Dates

January 16      School Council Meeting, our library at 7:00 pm
January 18, February 1, 8, 15, 22  Grade 4 swimming lessons
January 21      Moving Arts activities
January 24      Extended French and French Immersion Intake Meeting at 7:00 pm in our gym. NOTE: this meeting is for parents of students in grade 4 (grade 4 students are welcome to attend with their parents) who are interested in grade 5 Extended French for September 2013, OR for parents of SK students who are interested in French Immersion for September 2013. Both programs will be offered at W. H. Day pending sufficient enrollment.

LAST MINUTE NOTICE: Mr. Peck was just outside on duty at 3:15 pm. Not even ONE car parked across from the island or at the island! Thank you so much parents.