



Sharon Flyer

A Message From The Admin. Team

Dear Families,

We had a very positive school opening this year. It was great to see so many parents and students out on *Meet the Staff* night. Our first *School Council* meeting is on October 8th. At that meeting we will select the Executive Members, brainstorm goals, discuss fundraising and budget items. We hope to see many parents out at this meeting and future meetings this school year. Thank you to this year's Executive Members: Carrie Drennan and Anna-Lisa Kinch, Chair; Cheryl Breckenridge, Treasurer; Leslie Shultz, Secretary.

Teachers and students have been working hard on classroom routines that facilitate both large and small group instruction. At times, students work independently to complete tasks. Our focus is on improving each student's achievement in written communication, reading comprehension and math literacy, while making learning engaging. You can support our efforts by learning about the curriculum expectations, reading the information that classroom teachers send home, and by looking at grade level exemplars and rubrics. The Ministry of Education website offers parents tips on how to help their child as well as information about the curriculum.

Communication is important to a successful year. If you have particular questions or concerns, contact your child's teacher. The administration team is available to discuss issues with you as well. Together we can work towards improving student achievement for each and every child.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in building a positive, inviting school climate.

Enjoy the Thanksgiving weekend and the time spent with family and friends. Remember to cherish the moments - there is so much we have to be thankful for!

Sincerely,

S. White and S. Gilbert



October, 2014

Sharon Public School
(905) 478-4952

Principal:
Mr. Steven White

Vice-Principal:
Mrs. Stephanie Gilbert

Superintendent:
Mr. Chris Sarellas
(905-895-5155)

Trustee:
Ms. Loreale Carruthers
(905-953-0562)

School Council Co-Chairs:
Carrie Drennan
Anna-Lisa Kinch

Upcoming

- Sept.29 - Oct. 3
Safety Awareness Week
- Oct. 8 - QSP Kick-Off
Assembly
- Oct. 8 - Council Meeting
- Oct. 13 - Thanksgiving
- Oct. 27 - PA Day
- Nov. 5 - Council Meeting
- Nov. 11 - Progress Reports
Sent Home
- November 12 - Photo
Re-Takes
- Nov. 13th and during the
morning of Nov. 14th
Student-Led Conferences
- Nov. 14 - PA Day

Character Matters!

October's Character Trait is: *Responsibility*

We are accountable for all our actions.

We follow through on our commitments.

Results of the 2013-2014 Provincial Assessments for the Primary and Junior Divisions

Last spring, Grade 3 and 6 students from across Ontario participated in an assessment of reading, writing, and mathematics. This assessment was conducted by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency whose mandate is to ensure greater accountability and help improve the quality of education. EQAO assessment data is used as a source of information to support the improvement of student learning. Improving student performance is a gradual process. Schools use the data to look for trends over time. Individual student reports have been sent home for Gr. 4 & Gr. 7 students. Parents of this year's assessment will receive information brochures in the spring about the upcoming assessment and how to support their child's success.

At a school level, we examine the results in order to determine areas of need and strengths. This information is discussed as a staff and used in our School Improvement Planning.

Library News

During the week of September 23rd, Sharon P.S. hosted a Scholastic Book Fair in our library. Thanks to your generous support, we raised \$1600 and are able to purchase several new books for our Library!!



Tory was our big winner at this year's Book Fair. Tory won \$25.00 worth of books for herself and another \$25.00 for Mr. Baxter's class. Congratulations! Many other students also won prizes and posters. We wish to thank students and parents for supporting our Book Fair. Thank you to Mrs. Galpin for organizing this year's Book Fair!

Safe Arrival Program

Every morning, our secretaries contact the parents of students who are absent from school and for whom we have had no prior notification. If you know that your child is going to be absent for a medical appointment etc., please contact the school by note or phone call THE DAY BEFORE. This reduces the number of calls to parents the secretaries have to make each morning. If your child becomes ill overnight, please leave a message on the answering machine which is turned on at 4:00 p.m. each day. Please note that if we are unable to reach a parent for safe arrival, we will then call the emergency contact person(s) you have listed on your emergency form. Please ensure that the information you provide for the person(s) for emergency contact is always up-to-date. In the event that we cannot reach a parent or an emergency contact in trying to locate an absent student, **policy dictates that we contact the police**. Thank you for your diligence in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. White or Mrs. Gilbert.



Costume Parade and Classroom Activities

On Friday, October 31st, Grades JK-3 will be parading through the halls at approximately 9:15 a.m. Please remember that when planning your child's Halloween costume, **replica weapons** are not permitted at school.



Individual teachers will send home newsletters or information about their own classes' participation in Halloween activities.



Safety Week at Sharon P.S.

During September, the staff and students have been reviewing and practicing safety procedures. Throughout this school year, we will continue to have drills to practice procedures so that students are prepared. We will have a fire drill and a lockdown practice drill this week.

All of our students participated in bus evacuation training on September 17th.



QSP Magazine Campaign

Our QSP Magazine Campaign kick-off assembly is October 8th at 9:30 am. The order package will be coming home shortly in order for you to order all of your favourite magazines for your family and friends!

Terry Fox Run

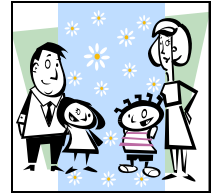
Our annual Terry Fox Run was held on September 24th. We would like to extend a special thanks to all of our students and families who supported this wonderful cause.

We raised close to \$400.00 through our Toonies for Terry drive for cancer research!! Our students were enthusiastic supporters of the event.



Meet the Staff Night

We would like to thank all families for their participation in our recent Meet the Staff night. It was a wonderful evening and provided an opportunity for parents to chat with their child's teacher, Educational Assistants and visit the classroom. We hope that families enjoyed their evening. We would like to thank our School Council for organizing this event and to Ms. Bountas for the Pizza. We encourage all of our families to continue to come out for school events.



SCHOOL WEBSITE

The Sharon Public School Website will be updated on a constant basis. It is an excellent communication tool for students and parents. Please make sure that you check the site for new updates. Newsletters are posted to the site monthly.

www.sharon.ps.@yrdsb.ca



Sharon School Choir Joins the Upper Canada Chordsmen!

On Saturday October 4th our own Sharon School Choir will be the guest artists at the Upper Canada Chordsmen's Concert at Sharon Hope United Church. Last May, the Sharon Choir participated in the Choirs Canada Festival at River Walk Commons in Newmarket. The Upper Canada Chordsmen, who were themselves guest artists at the Festival, heard our choir and were so impressed that they invited the Sharon Choir to be the guest performers at their own concert in October. This is quite an honour for our Choir. We are all very proud of our Sharon School Choir!

Procedures For Visitors And Volunteers

ALL VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS must report to the office and sign in. If you are picking up your child from school early please wait at the office while Mrs. Giles or Mrs. Smylie calls your child from class. It is imperative that you wear a visitor's or volunteer's badge which is available in the office.

If you know anyone going to do the police screening, you may want to pass along the following information:

1. The police headquarters is located at the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville (at hwy. 48 off of Stouffville Road)
111 Sandiford Dr., Stouffville.
2. Two pieces of ID are required. They will not accept an Ontario photo health card as ID.
3. There is a \$20 charge to run the police check.

For further information please call 800-866-5423 ext. 6781.



Sharon Eco Skyhawks Team



Well the Eco Team is up and running with an overwhelming 106 students signing up.

This year we will have our 4 committee's setup: Energy Conservation, Waste Minimization, School Ground Greening and Environmental Stewardship.

We will also be adding Eco Reps for each classroom; with the older students mentoring the younger students.

We have defined some goals we would like to accomplish this year:

- To try and receive GOLD certification for a 4th straight year.
- Installation of a Water Bottle Filling Station.
- Improve our school yard greening.
- Design and publish a Cook Book of Healthy food choices for our families.
- Have an ECO Science Fair for our students and families.
- Continue our "NO IDLING AT SHARON P.S. Campaign".

If there are any Parents/Guardians that would like to be part of our school's ECO TEAM, please contact Mr. O'Neil or Mrs. Bechberger.



Sharon Public School Eco Team Cookbook

We have been given a grant from Metro to design and publish a cook book focusing on healthy eating. If you are interested in submitting a recipe to be included in our first ever SPS Cookbook, please email the recipe to debra.bechberger@yrdsb.ca

Safe Student Drop-Off and Parking

We have made some changes to our parking lot to try and accommodate your occasional need to drop off or pick up your child. We now have a loop that allows you to safely deliver or pick up your child on property (see map) Please do not expect your child to walk through the parking lot alone to your waiting vehicle. Remember all pedestrians and buses have the right of way to cars. Our parking lot is not a place to be in a rush. Please consider parking on Col. Wayling Blvd and using the crosswalk with Mr. Bot, our crossing guard.

The south access to our parking lot is now an exit and entrance.

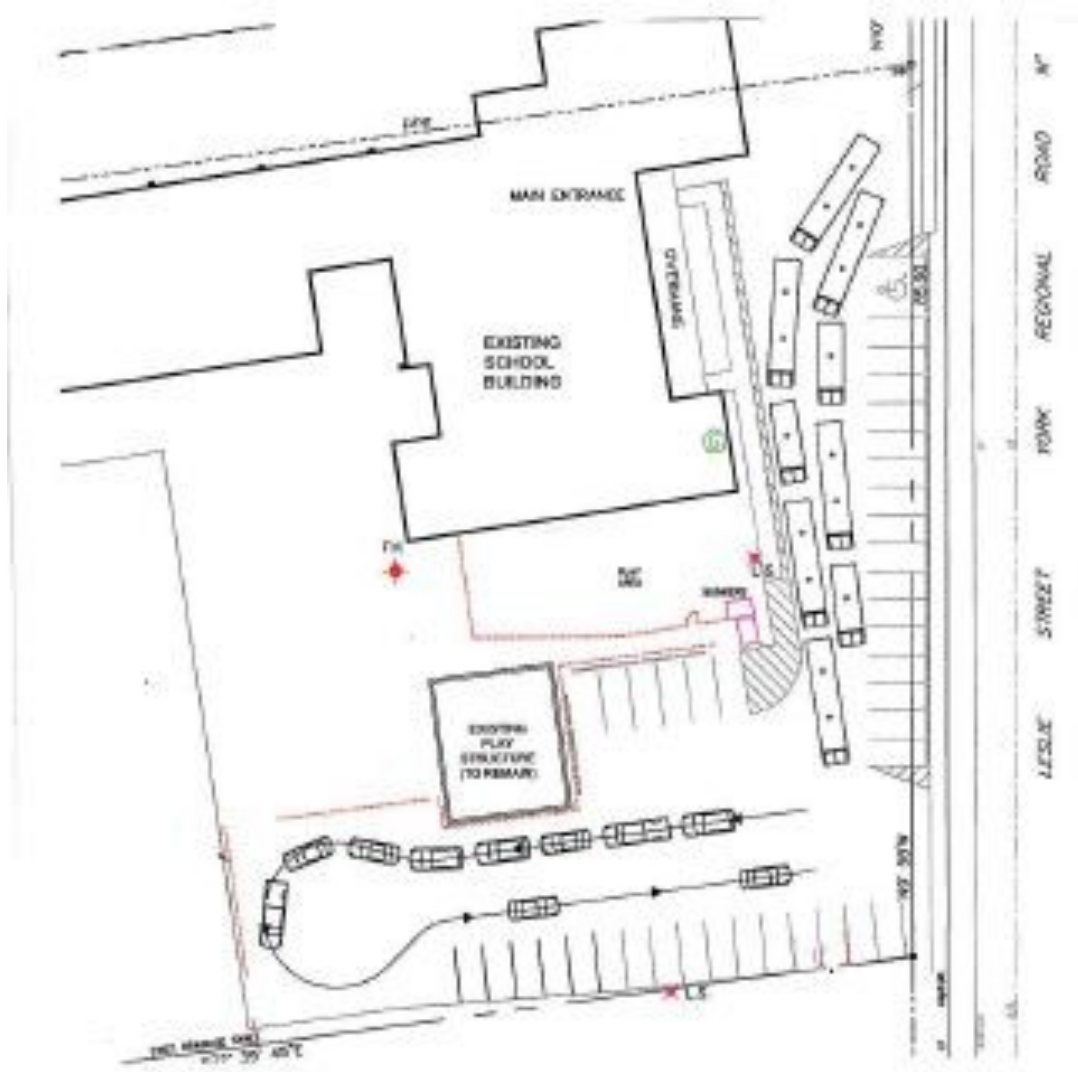
Thank you to the many walkers, scooters, skateboarders & cyclists and Parents who now use the lights and crossing guard.

Crossing guard times are;

8:15 am to 9:15 am

12:50 pm to 1:50 pm

3:15 pm to 4:15 pm



Healthy Schools

ACTIVE FAMILIES

Parents are influential role models. By embracing a healthier lifestyle, parents can be a positive role model for their family.

Did you know?

According to Canada's 2005 Physical Activity Monitor:

- ☼ Only 36% of parents regularly engage in physical activity with their children.
- ☼ 32% of parents report that they rarely or never play active games or sport with their kids.
- ☼ Parents are much less likely to be involved in activity with their children as they get older, despite the fact that parents remain important role models for adolescents.

How can parents get kids moving?

- ☼ Plan family physical activity that is fun and enjoyable for everyone. Make it social by inviting friends and neighbours.
- ☼ Start with activities your children like the most even if the activities don't require a lot of energy (like bowling), then gradually introduce higher energy activities.
- ☼ Get your children involved early in lifelong skills such as swimming, skating, dancing, hockey, soccer, cycling, baseball, tennis or martial arts.
- ☼ Provide toys that promote physical activity such as balls, skipping ropes, bikes, scooters, skateboards or in-line skates (don't forget the helmet and other protective gear!)
- ☼ Encourage a wide choice of activities beyond organized sports, such as washing the car, walking the dog, shovelling the driveway, gardening, raking leaves, vacuuming the carpet or sweeping the garage.
- ☼ Limit the time your children spend watching television, playing video games or surfing the Internet to 1 to 2 hours per day.
- ☼ Encourage your children to participate in team sports at school. Focus on the social 'fun' aspects of team sports and less on winning.
- ☼ Make physical activity a normal, pleasurable part of daily life, rather than a separate event that you always have to schedule.
- ☼ Teach your children about the benefits of being active, such as improved health, confidence, self-esteem and concentration. Physical activity helps build stronger muscles and bones and increases energy levels.
- ☼ Be positive, encouraging and have fun.

Source: Promoting a healthy weight in children, March 2006, York Region Health Services

It's time to remind children about being safe in our community.

With the start of another school year, it's a good time for parents to remind children about personal safety.

Here's what children need to know:

- Their name, age, telephone number, address, city and province. This can be done through rhyme or song.
- How to contact their parents at any time, by memorizing cell or work numbers.
- How and under what circumstances to call 911.
- To never approach or enter a stranger's vehicle. A responsible adult would never ask a child for directions or any other question for that matter.
- Make sure they know they have a right to say "no" to an adult, especially when the adult is asking them to do something they have been taught is wrong or feels uncomfortable. Reminding children of this right is important because children are taught from a young age to respect adults.
- To always tell parents where they will be and to never enter someone's home without their parent's permission.
- If home alone, never admit it when answering the phone. Never answer a knock at the door or speak through it. Adults can be very persuasive. Teach your child to call you if there is a knock at the door and if they fear for their safety, teach them to call 911. Make sure they know that police officers are there to help them and would not get mad if it were a false alarm.
- If they think they are being followed or are in danger they should run home or to a public place. If someone grabs them, they should try to get away, yelling and screaming while doing so.

It is important to play in safe areas, never take shortcuts and stick with a buddy whenever possible.

It is never too early or too late to teach children the importance of personal safety. Common sense, communication and consistency are the keys. Remind children to alert a responsible adult if something strange happens that makes them feel uncomfortable. Remember, crime prevention is everyone's responsibility.

It's time to remind children about walking to school safely

This is a good time for parents to remind their children about pedestrian safety. York Regional Police has provided the following safety tips on their website to help keep students safe on their way to and from school:

- Walk on available sidewalks
- Always cross at intersections
- Obey crossing guards
- Stop before stepping into roadway
- Be visible and indicate crossing intentions
- Look and listen for traffic in all directions
- Make eye contact with drivers
- Cross safely when the roadway is clear
- Walk. Do not run or cycle across roads
- If possible use the buddy system

For more information, visit www.yrp.ca.