



# The Sandhills Scoop



- Friday, Sept.25.....Spirit Day – wear blue and yellow!
- Monday, October 5.....Picture Day
- Monday, October 5.....School Council Meeting & Election, 6:30 in Library
- Monday, October 5.....Say Hi Week
- Monday, October 12.....Thanksgiving Day (No School)
- Monday, November 2.....Photo Re-takes
- Friday, Nov.13 .....PD Day (No School)

## From the Office



September is certainly a highly anticipated time of year as everyone is happy to get back into routines, see "old" friends and make new ones. Thank you to our custodial team of Mr. McVeigh, Mr. Martin and Mr. Hodrea who worked hard over the summer to make sure the school was "just like new" clean. Thank your to our teachers who spent a great deal of time getting their classrooms ready to be welcoming and optimal learning environments for their students. Thank you to our office staff who put in extra hours to ensure all of our students were accounted for and in the right places at the right times. And finally thank you to Della Sousa and our School Council for overseeing and coordinating the development of our greening/natural playground over the summer. During the first week of school, staff and students assembled in our gym to review our Sandhills guide (look for the "How We Shine" section in this newsletter). They were introduced to a "cast of characters" who represented each letter of our guide and

reminded students what our expectations are for everyone at Sandhills.

In the month of October, Mrs. Hristov and I will be visiting classes to reacquaint ourselves with the students. We are both looking forward to learning from our students.

We welcome all our returning "Suns" and the many new families that have joined our Sandhills community! Please feel free to drop in and introduce yourself.

Sincerely,  
*Silvana Hoxha - Principal*  
*Christine Hristov - Vice-Principal*

## Welcome!

A very warm welcome goes out to our newest staff members who have joined our team this year:

- Mrs. B. Beach      Teacher - Planning time
- Mrs. M. Coveny    Teacher - JK/SK
- Ms. A. MacLean    E.C.E.
- Mme P. MacLean   Teacher - Grade 5/6F.I.
- Mrs. K. McLeod    E.A.

We are also very fortunate to welcome back one of our music teachers Mrs. Sanders and our E.A. Mrs. S. Unsal-Aranton.

We say goodbye for now Mr. McVeigh and welcome Mr. G. Van Dommelen to our Custodial staff.

## Emergency Drills



Every school is required to practice three fire drills in the fall term and three drills in the spring. We will begin our fire drills in the coming weeks. All schools are also required to have a lockdown drill. The lockdown is put into place when there is a threat to personal safety inside or outside of the school. The drill involves an announcement that there is a lockdown and teachers are required to ensure that students are in rooms, doors are locked, hallway windows are covered and students remain quiet. Office staff will then go around the school to ensure that doors have been locked and students are in classrooms. Teachers will be discussing the lockdown procedure and practicing this with students before the drill occurs. The third drill we are required to do is a tornado drill which we will be doing in the new year.

## Stay in Touch with Teachers

Staying in touch with Sandhills staff is as easy as picking up your phone and using the board voice-mail system. Each staff member other than administration and office staff has his/her own personal contact number where you can leave a message. **Please dial 519-570-8125 and then the teacher's extension number plus the # key.** Please record your child/children's classroom teacher numbers in their planners or somewhere readily available to you when needed. Staff will return your calls at their earliest convenience.



**This is NOT to be used for attendance.**

Name	Position	Ext.
J. Aravandino	Teacher - Gr. 1/2	7545
B. Arndt	Teacher - Gr. 3/4	8494
B. Beach	Teacher - Planning Time	2840
E. Bell	Educational Assistant	9557
J. Bible	Teacher - JK/SK	7535
B. Bissell	Teacher -Gr. 5/6 F.I.	9496
M. Brush	E. C. E.	8071
M. Bryant	Educational Assistant	8273
C. Charles	Teacher - Gr. 1 F. I.	7521

A. Churchill	Teacher - JK/SK	6409
M. Coveny	Teacher - JK/SK	2535
J. Dirstein	Educational Assistant	7549
K. Dozois	Teacher - Gr. 2	6589
N. Dykstra	Teacher - Gr. 4/5	7537
K. Ellig	E. C. E.	8081
D. Epp	Teacher - Junior French	7538
N. Fisher	E. C. E.	4056
S. Generoux	Teacher - Gr. 3/4	6215
D. Gillies	Teacher - Gr. 3	7558
C. Grant	Teacher - Gr. 5/6 FI	7411
A. Harper	Teacher - Planning Time	2904
B. Hilliard	Teacher - Gr. 3/4	7536
P. Hodrea	Custodian	7700
J. Hyde	Teacher - Gr. 2 FI	8588
D. Jamieson	Teacher - Music	7554
D. Johnston	Teacher - Gr. 5/6	7550
L. Jones	Educational Assistant	9831
A. Kruger	Teacher - Primary French	7540
A. Krupicz	Teacher - Gr.3	7551
K. Ludolph	Educational Assistant	9343
A. MacLean	E. C. E.	9898
E. MacNaughton	E. C. E.	8667
P. MacLean	Teacher - Gr. 5/6 F.I.	2941
S. Manning	Teacher - Gr. 5	8988
L. Marek	Educational Assistant	7775
M. Martin	Custodian	8519
K. McLeod	Educational Assistant	9378
C. McPhee	Teacher - Gr. 4/5	7555
A. McRae	Teacher - JK/SK	8559
K. McVeigh	Head Custodian	6898
C. Millest	Teacher - Gr. 6	7559
D. Milton	Teacher - Gr. 1	9047
S. Porteous	Teacher - Gr. 3	6699
M. Raghunandan	E. C. E.	9860
D. Rath	Teacher - Gr. 2 FI	7062
S. Reekie	Library Clerk	6488
S. Rice	E. C. E.	9907
A. Robbins-Shoniker	S. E. R. T.	8755
T. Sanders	Teacher - Music	9384
L. Schaefer	Teacher - Gr. 3 F.I.	4933
M. Seaman	Teacher - Gr. 1/2	5919
N. Stewart	Teacher - Gr. 4FI	9283
P. Sudds	Teacher - Gr. 1	8672
K. Swanson	Teacher - Gr. 6	7557
V. Tang	Teacher - Gr. 1 FI	7209
S. Unsal-Aranton	E. A.	6922
D. Wamsley	Educational Assistant	8515
D. Wellhauser	Teacher - JK/SK	6662
K. Weltz	Teacher - Gr. 1 FI	7377
P. Wood	C. Y. W.	9506
J. Wu	Teacher - ESL	8880

**Attendance 519-570-8125 X3041 #**

**!!You can call 24 hours a day!!**

**Consistent attendance is important** to your child's overall progress while continued absence undermines the benefits a school experience can

provide. If your child must be absent from school, please contact the school's attendance line at **519-570-8125 X3041** and **press the # sign**, give the student's name, classroom teacher and reason for absence. Persistent lateness or absences may result in discussions, consultations or involvement with the school.

## Sandhills Hours for 2015 - 2016

Playground Supervision 8:20 - 8:35 a.m.

School Day Begins: 8:35 a.m.

First Nutrition Break: 10:35 - 11:15 a.m.

Second Nutrition Break: 12:45- 1:25 p.m.

School Day Ends: 2:55 p.m.



## How We Shine

**S**afety comes first

**A**ct appropriately

**N**urture nature

**D**o our best

**H**elp each other

**I**nclude everyone

**L**ove learning

**L**ive above the line

**S**how respect



## Nutrition Breaks

The Balanced School Day means students have the opportunity to eat twice during the day and play outside twice. Please help your children prepare nutritious snacks for these breaks. Children will eat their food in the classroom - **no food is to be taken to the playground.** Children are also asked to **take all dry garbage from their lunch home for disposal.**



We suggest food be packed in reusable containers to limit garbage. These containers can also be used to take home uneaten food giving parents an opportunity to see what their children are eating and what is being left. Please remember to pack spoons and forks in lunch kits too!



## Safety Patrols



Welcome back to last year's Safety Patrollers and welcome to our newest members. Sandhills Safety Patrollers have already begun their duties and received training. They monitor the crosswalk in front of the school as well as in the Kindergarten area.

We also have Patrollers who ride the Kindergarten bus to help our tiniest students come to school and get home safely.

Parents and students, please always follow the instruction of your Safety Patroller when they are on duty. They want you all to be safe, and as such they may seem over cautious, but they are taking all necessary precautions to keep themselves and YOU safe.

Please feel free to say Thank you to your Patrol Team member as you cross. They stand there in rain, cold and soon snow, to be a responsible leader for us here at Sandhills.

Mrs. Hristov

## Student Medication

If your child has any health issues that the school needs to be aware of please speak to a secretary or administrator. Medication must come to the office in the original container provided by the doctor. Any students with an anaphylactic condition that requires an EPI-PEN please bring the completed forms and an EPI-PEN to the school. Your child's EPI-PEN should be carried in a fanny pack and worn by the student. One will also be kept safe in the office. We are asking each parent with a student carrying an EPI-PEN to purchase a fanny pack as soon as possible. Thank you for allowing us to fully support your child by returning the information promptly.



## Library News



The library is open for business with a great number of new books for all ages! Please check out the Library Learning Commons online for a tremendous assortment of websites geared for our primary and junior students! E-books are also available for downloading. Chances are parents will enjoy the Library Learning Commons just as much as their children! Also we'd like you to please consider this friendly reminder to send your children to school with a plastic bag to transport their library books from school to home. It's a featured request every year but as in past years, too many books have been damaged due to leaky juice boxes, water bottles and lunches. Thank you and keep on reading!



## Strong Start Volunteers Needed



Sandhills runs a very effective and very helpful program for our youngest readers called Strong Start. Funded by the Lyle S. Hallman Foundation, Strong Start consists of 4 strands of reading for a child to work through. We have a very dedicated team of parent volunteers who work with students on a regular basis giving them that extra help they need to reach their reading potential. Volunteers quickly see how their time and commitment truly make a difference a child's life. If you are interested, please contact Amber Artinger at [artinger@bell.net](mailto:artinger@bell.net)



## Greening Committee



If you haven't been to the back school yard lately, may we suggest you take a walk by the Kindergarten area on the forest-side of the yard. You will be thrilled and impressed by the natural playground, outdoor classroom and the Tranquility Garden in the far corner. It's an incredible addition to our school

and the children are looking forward to putting it to good use!  
And speaking of greening, the Scoop will be following the Sandhills Guide to "Nurture Nature".



We're going ELECTRONIC! All future Scoops will be available online (the school website - <http://shl.wrdsb.ca> and Twitter) unless the following SCOOP FORM is detached and returned.

Thank you!

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## SCOOP FORM

The \_\_\_\_\_ Family would prefer to  
Family name  
have a paper copy of the Scoop sent home with  
their oldest/only child \_\_\_\_\_ in  
Child's name  
Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ classroom.  
Teacher's name

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## School Council

The next School Council meeting will be held on Monday October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Library. Elections for the positions of chair, secretary and treasurer will take place that evening. Please find attached to this newsletter a Nomination Form. If you are interested in an elected position, please ensure that the nomination form is returned to the office by October 1<sup>st</sup> and that you attend the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is not necessary to hand in a form if you would simply like to come to the meeting. Council members have contributed greatly to the overall climate of Sandhills School from fundraising for playground restoration and improvement to A/V enhancements in the gym as well as many other initiatives over the years. If you would like to serve on the Council please consider joining us October 5<sup>th</sup>.





## **SANDHILLS SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION INFORMATION**

### **What are the roles and responsibilities of a School Council?**

Ontario Ministry of Education and Training states that School Council will provide advice to the principal and, where appropriate, to the school board on any of the matters described below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• local school calendar</li><li>• school code of student behaviour</li><li>• the responses to achievement in provincial and board assessment programs</li><li>• curriculum and program goals and priorities</li><li>• preparation of the school profile</li><li>• school budget priorities, including local improvement plans</li><li>• development, implementation and review board policies at local level</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• school budget priorities, including local improvement plans</li><li>• school community communication strategies</li><li>• extra-curricular activities</li><li>• school based service and community partnership related to social, health, recreational and nutrition programs</li><li>• community use of school facilities</li><li>• local co-ordinator of services for children and youth</li></ul>
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### **Does the School Council have any additional responsibilities?**

The School Council shall also establish its goals, priorities and procedures; hold a minimum of 4 meetings per year, communicate regularly with parents and other members of the community to seek their views and preferences with regard to matters being addressed by council, and report on the activities of the council to the school community. All meetings are open to the members of the school community.

### **How can a parent/guardian become a member of the Sandhills School Council?**

Included in this information letter is a nomination form. Please complete it and return it to the school by

October 1, 2015. If elections are necessary, they will be held **October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** at the School Council Meeting held in the school's library. If the number of nominees is equal to or less than the number of vacancies, then the nominees will be acclaimed. The term of office is for one year beginning September 2015. Specific positions are open for nomination and are listed on this form below.

### **How does School Council function?**

School Council is a collaborative partnership among parents, the community and the school to discuss school-based initiatives that focus on providing the best possible service to the entire school community. School Council can consist of the principal, the VP, one non-teaching staff, 1 teaching staff, 1 community representative and up to 15 parent members. There can also be an executive consisting of 2 co-chairs or 1 chair, a treasurer, and a secretary. School Council meetings are open to everyone. If voting on issues is necessary, only those members in attendance that have been elected to the Council have a vote.

Agenda items can be presented to Council by any parent. There will be a timeline to submit your items to either the principal or the (co-) chairs so that there is significant time to publicize the upcoming agenda. Items will be publicized before they are discussed at meetings in order to ensure proper notification of information. Agendas will be posted at the school. Agenda items focus on student learning and issues relevant to the Sandhills School Community within the Council's mandate (i.e. school environment, program/curriculum, communication, parent education initiatives, fundraising, etc.). The School Council will operate in a manner that is welcoming, non-judgmental, based on open discussion, and uses consensus, collaboration and compromise for decision-making. For further information contact Silvana Hoxha, principal at the school or Della Sousa at 519-220-9285 (Council Chair 2014-5)

**School Council Nomination Form** *Please return form to the school's office by October 1, 2015*

I am interested in a position on the Sandhills School Council.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I am an employee of the Waterloo Region District School Board  Yes  No

I would be interested in serving as a:  voting parent representative  chair

co-chair  secretary  treasurer  community representative

Candidate's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_