



# NEW LOWELL CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

5197 County Road 9, New Lowell, Ontario L0M 1N0

Phone 705-424-0991/Fax 424-0012

*Ms. Angela Cook, Principal*

*Mrs. Jane Anderson, SASE*

## SEPTEMBER 2017



I would like to welcome our students and families back to another school year at New Lowell Central Public School. We are thrilled to see many of our students returning to us and wish a warm welcome to all of our new families this year. Our monthly newsletters will continue, our Twitter account is updated regularly, our website is available and of course, you are always welcome to communicate through your child's agenda, phone call or email. I look forward to seeing everyone at our meet the Teacher BBQ on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Parents are encouraged to have a voice in our fundraising and event decisions by joining our School Council. Our first meeting is Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in our library. I'm looking forward to an eventful year, keeping our students active and engaged throughout their school day. *Mrs. Cook*

### STAFFING 2017 -- 2018

**Please note there may be changes due to student enrolment, commencing the week of September 25th.**

### The following is the current staff for September 2017:

Principal:	Ms. A. Cook
Secretary:	Mrs. J. Anderson
Custodian:	Mrs. S. McQuay
Custodian:	Mr. C. Milligan
JK/SK:	Mrs. H. Wiederer
	Mrs. M. Coghill
JK/SK:	Mrs. T. Haufe
	Mrs. S. Modrits
Grade 1/2	Ms. J. Bumstead
	Ms. C. Huggett
Grade 1/2	Ms. M. Doka
Grade 3	Ms. K. Young
Grade 3/4	Mr. G. Daniels
Grade 4/5	Mrs. S. Kimberley
Grade 5/6	Mr. D. Battaglia
Grade 7	Mr. B. McCann
Grade 8	Ms. N. Wismayer
French:	Ms. J. Crowston
Special Education:	Mrs. M. Hartman
	Mr. K. Leal
Library:	Ms. G. Hartley

Planning Time:	Mr. K. Leal
Educational Assistants:	Mrs. A. Spears
	Ms. A. Davies
	Ms. J. Herrington

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 18:	School Council Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
September 28:	Meet the Teacher BBQ 5-7 pm
September 29:	Terry Fox Run
October 13:	Picture Day
November 16:	Retake Picture Day

### OFFICE HOURS

Just a reminder that our office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### FRONT DOORS WILL BE LOCKED DURING SCHOOL DAY CONTINUES

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place designed to keep our school safe. Our front door will continue to be locked during the school day. All other school doors are also locked. To access the building, visitors will need to press the intercom button at the front door.

Staff in the office will let visitors into the school. This will help us ensure that all visitors sign in at the office. Please understand that staff may not be available to answer the door immediately. This same feature is in place at all SCDSB elementary schools. It's important for you to know that we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe. If you have any questions about safety procedures, as always, please contact the office.

## ATTENDANCE

Please, make every effort to ensure that your child(ren) attend school regularly and for the full school day. Students arriving late or leaving early miss out on important parts of the day. This also causes interruption/disruptions within the classrooms. We ask for your cooperation in these matters. Students who have many absences or lates will receive a letter from the office indicating the importance of regular and punctual attendance.

## BALANCED SCHOOL DAY

9:10

Entry Bell

9:10 – 10:50

First

Learning Block

10:50 – 11:30

Nutrition Break

11:30 – 1:10

Second

Learning Block

1:10 – 1:50

Nutrition Break

1:50 – 3:30

Third Learning Block

3:30

Dismissal

**\*students who go home for lunch may do so at the second Nutrition/Fitness Break with signed parent consent**

## 3:30 PM DISMISSAL

All students will be dismissed at the same time at the end of the day. Walking students are directed to exit traveling either East or West. Eastbound student walkers will walk up to the sidewalk and proceed to the East. Those traveling to the West will walk behind the gymnasium and travel up the West side of the building to the sidewalk. Bus students will leave together.

All parents/guardians of bussed students are encouraged to reinforce the importance of using the transportation provided to and from school. Parents picking up or dropping off students are gently reminded to please ensure they are not blocking our buses or moving when our buses are loading or unloading. Thanks for helping us ensure the safety of your children.

## CHARACTER EDUCATION

As part of our Board's Character Education Initiative we will be recognizing, encouraging and reinforcing the character attributes of good citizens. The 10 attributes identified by the Board include: Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Inclusiveness, Cooperation, Caring, Honesty, Integrity, Courage and Optimism. For the month of September we will focus on Caring as we start this school year. We look forward to your input and support as we continue this Character Education initiative.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS

Parents and guardians please note that a completed "Request for Administration of Medication" form is required each

school year before any medication may be administered by school staff.

***Please ensure that you contact the principal if your child requires medication or has severe allergies or medical life-threatening conditions.***

## NUT-FREE SCHOOL

New Lowell Central Public School is striving to be a nut-free school! Please ensure that lunches and snacks brought to school do not contain any traces of nuts. Thank you for your cooperation.

## PROCEDURES TO KEEP OUR SCHOOLS SAFE

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place designed 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

### ***Shelter in place***

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. During a shelter in place, activities will continue inside the school, but students and staff will not be allowed to leave the building. In some cases, the ventilation system may be shut off.

### ***Hold and secure***

A hold and secure is initiated when there is a situation taking place in the community that is not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. A hold and secure is usually initiated by police. During a hold and secure, activities continue inside the building, but all doors are locked and no one is allowed to enter or exit the school.

### ***Lockdown***

A lockdown is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. A lockdown can be initiated by police or by school staff. During a lockdown, students and staff will move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff will remain absolutely 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 the school. There will be a Designated Parent Information Site, which will be communicated through the school board social media sites ([www.facebook.com/SCDSB](http://www.facebook.com/SCDSB) and [www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](http://www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)), through local police and local media.

### ***Evacuation Plans***

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

#### ***Safe arrival system***

We ask all parents to contact us when their child will be absent from school. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, we call home to find out the reason for the absence.

#### ***First aid training and equipment***

At least two staff members in every school are trained in first aid and CPR. All Simcoe County District School Board schools are equipped with 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 that we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

#### **PLEASE! NO GLASS BOTTLES IN LUNCHES!**

A reminder to students and parents that all drinks brought in lunches should be in plastic containers or tetra-paks.

#### **BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Breakfast is an important part of every student's day. Many students arrive at school hungry and having missed this meal. Students need food to fuel their brains and help them focus and learn at school.

Did you know that the number of students that we feed at the New Lowell Central P.S. Breakfast Program has been increasing every year? We currently feed over 40 students breakfast every day. We also supply fresh fruit and healthy food to every classroom so that students never go hungry. We need your help! To make this program successful and accessible to all students we need parent/community volunteers!

If you have 20 minutes before school starts to spare, please consider volunteering for our Breakfast Program. Please contact the school if you are interested in volunteering. Please help us to continue to offer this program to our students!

#### **SABRINA'S LAW**

Sabrina's Law is an Act to protect anaphylactic pupils and is currently in effect at all schools in Ontario. As part of Sabrina's Law there is a requirement that every school principal develop an individual plan for each pupil who has an anaphylactic allergy. In order to protect students within our school community to the best of our ability it is critical for parents of children with an anaphylactic allergy to do the following:

- Inform the school principal of your child's allergies
- Provide an up to date/non expired epinephrine auto-injector (Epi pen) that may be kept in the office or in a mutually agreed upon location within the school. Parents should keep a log of expiry dates and replace outdated auto-injectors.
- Provide a medic alert bracelet for your child to wear at all times
- Encourage your child to keep an epinephrine auto-injector (Epi pen) on their person when age appropriate.
- Work with the school to complete an Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan which has child's photograph, allergy information, contact information and emergency plan.

We encourage all those within our school community to become familiar with signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and how to respond or access assistance in the event of an anaphylactic emergency. Together we can help create a safe and supportive learning environment for all our students.

#### **UPDATING STUDENT RECORDS**

To assist us in maintaining up-to-date student records, we will be sending home an "Information Update" sheet for each student and we ask that parents make changes with respect to:

- 1) phone numbers (home/work)
- 2) emergency names and numbers
- 3) medical information

These will be sent home later this month and it is important that they be returned to our school office as soon as possible.

#### **STUDENT AGENDAS**

This year, each student in JK – Gr. 8 has received a *Student Agenda Book* designed by the SCDSB. There is no cost to the students. Please review the valuable information in the front of the agenda with your student(s).



#### **LUNCH POLICY**

Bussed students are not permitted to leave school property during lunchtime unless accompanied by a parent. Students who walk to school (i.e. not identified as bus students) are able to go home for lunch at the second nutrition/fitness break.



### **PIZZA**

We will be starting our pizza program this Friday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. Price will be \$2 per slice. Money will be collected in the morning and pizza will be delivered at the second nutrition break at 1:10 p.m.



### **SCHOOL PICTURES**

Photographers will be in our school to photograph our students for all classes on Friday, October 13, 2017. Picture retake day is Thursday, November 16, 2017.

### **YEARBOOKS**

Yearbooks will hopefully be here by our back to school BBQ.

### **KEEP CONNECTED WITH YOUR SCHOOL AND THE SCDSB**

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and your school board, including possible labour situations. Please feel free to call the school at any time if you have questions or concerns.

- You can subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://nlo.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. When you fill out your email and click Subscribe, an email will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.
- For Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases and event information, visit the 'News' section under 'About Us' at the SCDSB's website: [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca). The SCDSB Education Centre can be reach at 705-734-6363.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB\_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb)
- New Lowell C.P.S. also has twitter (@nlo\_scdsb)
- Through SCDSB's *Sharing Simcoe* blog ([www.sharingsimcoe.com](http://www.sharingsimcoe.com)), we share stories of some of the amazing people involved in our schools. The blog features stories and tips from our own in-house experts and experts we work with in the community, as well as good news stories about our schools.

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at: [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). And remember to bookmark

the school bus information page at: [simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

### **SCHOOL BUS 'BUS TAG' PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS GET TO AND FROM SCHOOL SAFELY**

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bug 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 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 childcare centre to make sure they don't get on a bus in error. For more information, visit [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) and click on the "Safety" tab.

### **SEPTEMBER SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIP - SCHOOL BUSES ARE BACK ON THE ROAD**

As students return to school, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) reminds everyone that school buses are back on our roads. The majority of school buses in Simcoe County are on the road in the morning from 7 – 9:30 a.m. and again in the afternoon from 2 – 4:30 .m. As a reminder to drivers:

- Take caution – Be extra cautious in the vicinity of school buses and around school bus loading and unloading zones
- Be alert – Watch for school bus chrome yellow Colouring, flashing red lights and stop rms. Drivers travelling in both directions on a road without median must stop for a stopped school bus that has its upper red lights flashing
- Know the repercussions – Any driver that fails to stop for a school bus with its lights engaged is subject to a fine of up to \$2,000 and six demerit points for a first time offence
- Be empowered – Anyone who witnesses a driver failing to stop for a school bus can report the incident to police

Visit the SCSTC web site at [www.simcoecounty](http://www.simcoecounty) schoolbus.ca, click on the "Home" button and then the "Safety" tab for more information.

### **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE 2017-18**

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 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 of 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](http://www.insuremykids.com). Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities and out-of-province or out-of-country trips.

### **STUDENT DRESS CODE**

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](http://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.

### **PAY FOR FIELD TRIPS WITH SCHOOLCASH ONLINE**

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. We have it online for you! Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to [simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com](http://simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com) or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees".
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

It's safe, fast and convenient. Contact the office with any questions.

### **GIVING BACK TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY - VOLUNTEER IN OUR SCHOOL**

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our school a great place to learn and grow. We value and appreciate the support of our volunteers. There are many opportunities available, including school council, breakfast clubs, reading help, assisting in the classroom or library and much more. Everyone who volunteers in a school must have a criminal record check, which includes a Vulnerable Sector Screening. Please call or visit the school office for more information about opportunities available or if you'd like to volunteer!

### **SCHOOLS ARE 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca), click on 'Schools' and then 'Community Use of Schools.'

### **REMINDER FROM THE SIMCOE MUSKOKA DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT: PACKING 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/pits/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](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org)

### **VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOL**

Current volunteers who do not submit an Annual Offence Declaration for Volunteers on or before December 31, 2017, will be deleted from the database on January 1, 2018, and will have to submit a new Criminal Records Check and Vulnerable Sector Screen.

### **PARENT PORTAL GIVES PARENTS REAL-TIME ACCESS TO ATTENDANCE, GRADE INFORMATION**

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and grades and includes the option to sign up for email notifications. To access the parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's SCDSB Pupil ID Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID will be provided in a secure letter this fall with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, you can visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

### **REMINDER FROM THE HEALTH UNIT: SCHOOL GROUNDS ARE SMOKE FREE 24/7**

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 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

### **YOUR CHILD CAN LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE FOR FREE THIS FALL IN BARRIE AND BRADFORD**

The SCDSB offers children in Grades 1 to 8 an opportunity to learn and/or maintain a language other than French or English. Whether you enroll your children in this program to learn a new language, understand a new culture or to extend their knowledge of their first language, every student can benefit from this program. The Barrie learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) is offering Arabic, Russian, Mandarin, Korean, German, Spanish and Ukrainian. The Bradford learning Centre (157 Holland St. E. Suite 200) is offering Arabic, Tamil, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. The course takes place Saturday mornings, 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 16. There is no charge for this program. Most classes fill quickly on a first come, first served basis. Register your child by visiting [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) and clicking on "Elementary Student".

### **THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR NIGHT SCHOOL**

Night School courses for 2017-18 start Tuesday, Sept. 12 for semester one and Tues. Feb. 13 for semester two. Courses run on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Barrie Learning Centre, 320 Bayfield Street in Barrie. Each course offers a hybrid of in-class and online learning. For a list of available courses and to register, visit: [www.thelearningcentres.com/adult-student/night-school](http://www.thelearningcentres.com/adult-student/night-school).

### **CAREER CENTRE PROVIDES JOB SEARCH HELP FOR FREE**

Are you looking for work? Would you like help with your job search at no cost to you? The Career Centre is available to help. Visit [www.barriecareercentre.com](http://www.barriecareercentre.com) for more information.

### **TERRY FOX RUN**

The Terry Fox run will be held at the school on Friday, September 29 from 2 – 3 p.m. Parents are welcome to join. We will be running around the school again this year. Pledge forms will be sent home soon. Our school's goal is \$3000. When we raise \$500, Mrs. Davies will dye a section of her hair blue! If we reach \$1500, Mrs. Davies will dye all her hair blue! The student that raises the most money will have a silly string fight with a staff member. If we reach our goal of \$3000 some staff will paint their faces for the day! Make sure to bring in your pledges and help in the fight against cancer.

You won't believe what girls in Guiding do today – from eco-activities, sports and camping, to fashion design, cooking, advocacy and community service projects. Most of all girls have a blast!

BROWNIES for ages 7 – 8, GUIDES for ages 9 – 11, PATHFINDERS for ages 12 – 14 & RANGERS ages 15 - 18 (Contact: Tammy 705-796-0767/nlbrownies@gmail.com) Weekly meetings held from September to June. Spaces are limited so register on-line today @ [www.girlguides.ca](http://www.girlguides.ca)! Financial assistance is available for registration fee and cost of uniform. For more information contact Girl Guides of Canada 877-323-4545 Ext. #5131.

An Information/Registration Night will be held at the New Lowell United Church on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**GUIDING IS THE PLACE FOR TODAY'S GIRLS!**