



FOREST HILL P.S.

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Principal

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Midhurst, ON L9X 1L4
Safe Arrival 705-721-8300 Ext. 1
School Website: <http://for.scdsb.on.ca>

Ken Wilson
Vice-Principal

BUS CANCELLATION/SCHOOL
CLOSURE: **CENTRAL SIMCOE**

DECEMBER 2021

IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES

Nov. 29th – Dec. 10th – Elmvale Food Bank Drive

Dec. 10th – LAST DAY for food donations

Dec. 20th – Dec. 31st – Winter Holidays

SOME UPCOMING SPIRIT DAYS

Dec. 3rd – Anything but a Backpack Day

Dec. 13th – Candy Cane Day (Red & White)

Dec. 14th – Holiday Sweater Day

Dec. 15th – Party Hat Day

Dec. 16th – Grinch Day

Dec. 17th – PJ Day

Jan. 14th – Beach Day

SOME IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 3rd – Return to school after winter holidays

Jan. 12th & 13th – Caribou Contest

Jan. 28th – PA Day – No school

ensuring that sick students stay home. We appreciate this! A few parents have asked about a cell phone policy. There is an Ontario policy regarding personal devices at school. We'd love your input regarding how we manage this at Forest Hill. Please complete the survey @ <https://forms.gle/vQD8fxhGQufDu2sQA>.

Over the break, be sure to make some time to engage in activities that you enjoy. We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year! Stay safe, be well, and happy holidays!

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND BUS CANCELLATION INFORMATION REMINDER

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at www.simcoecountybus.ca. Our school is in the Central Simcoe zone. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted. School staff are expected to plan for such emergencies in order to transition students who are unable to attend due to inclement weather, to their online platforms (Google Classroom and/or SCDSBhub [Brightspace by D2L]) and continue with academic programming. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



When I look out the window, it's clear that winter is already here! Some students have been really excited to have snow on the ground, which is great for creative building when the temperature is right. We have given numerous reminders about the importance of not throwing snow at school as we don't want to see anyone getting hurt. Thank you to our families who have been screening students every day and

The Consortium and bus operators try to make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and make every effort to post announcements before 7 a.m. Inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day. You can follow the Consortium on Twitter [@SCSTC_SchoolBus](#) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here:

<https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

ATTENDANCE ON INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS

Walker - If your student is a walker and will not be attending on an inclement weather day, please call the Safe Arrival line.

Bus Student (OPTED OUT) - If your students usually take the bus but have **opted out** of using bus transportation this year, please call Safe Arrival to notify us if your student will not be attending. This assists the office staff not having to manually phone you to follow up on the absence.

Bus Student - If your student utilizes bus transportation you DO NOT need to contact the school if your child is staying home on an inclement weather day. We will automatically assume that your student will be at home.

HONOURING COHORTS

Please ensure if you are picking up your children from the Kiss N' Ride area, that you do not walk along the sidewalk across the front of the building. With snow and student movement, it becomes very congested for loading buses. Walk along the side of the building, cross in front of the buses and use the new sidewalk along the full length of our property. Alternatively, use the sidewalk at the edge of our Kiss N' Ride driveway. Please do not walk on the road where possible due to dangerous driving conditions.

Continue to honour that students are not to be on property prior to 8:55 AM and parents are not permitted to pick up FDK students until 3:20 PM.

SAFE ARRIVAL



Please ensure that you call the safe arrival phone line (721-8300, press 1) if your student(s) is/are absent or will be late. Make certain that you ring the doorbell to sign your child in/out with the office to ensure your child's whereabouts is communicated clearly! We will be calling contacts for students with an unexplained absence.

Parents are asked to arrange appointments, transportation changes, and materials for drop off before school, as **classes will not be interrupted until the nutritional breaks at 10:50 & 1:10.** This is to protect instructional time. We appreciate your cooperation.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

The annual Forest Hill Holiday Food Drive has begun!!

This year we are trying "ITEM DAYS." On every day of our collection period, there has been a theme. Students have been encouraged to bring the highlighted item for that day, but any donation is welcome, any day.

Nov. 29 - Toilet paper, paper towels
Nov. 30 - pudding or gelatin mix, cake, cookie, brownie mixes (boxed is preferable)
Dec. 1 - Hygiene items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, baby wipes, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, etc.)
Dec. 2 - Hamburger or Tuna Helper
Dec. 3 - Soda crackers or snack crackers
Dec. 6 - Sidekicks or similar packaged side dish items
Dec. 7 - Cookies
Dec. 8 - Canned vegetables - green or yellow beans are popular
Dec. 9 - Canned stew
Dec. 10 - Canned soup - vegetable and cream of mushroom are popular
All items must be into the school by Friday, December 10th. Volunteers from the

Elmvale & District Food Bank will be coming to Forest Hill the next week to pick up the food items.

Please know that students are not being asked to go door-to-door to collect donations from neighbours and/or strangers. We realize that holiday time is approaching and families will give what they can, within their means. The area food banks that we coordinate with are so grateful for ANY donations that come their way. Thank you for your generosity in the past and in the future.

Some families prefer to send in a monetary donation to organizations. If you would like to make a donation to EITHER Barrie & District Christmas Cheer OR Elmvale & District Food Bank, a link to their fundraising web pages will be posted on the school website at the end of November. Thank you in advance for your generous support of these worthy causes.

CARIBOU CONTEST

The Caribou Math Contest is a world-wide online math contest that is held 6 times in the school year. Contests are offered for Grades 2, 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8. Forest Hill completed the second round during the second week of November. The top 3 finishers for each level are:
Grade 2: Julian Q, Ryan J., Ben H., & Theo P.
Grade 3/4: Julia K., Reid K., & Emma H.
Grade 5/6: Alora L., Bennett Y., & Callum S.
Grade 7/8: Katelyn B., Ewan V., & Issa B.

The Caribou Cup is the cumulative results of ALL the Caribou Contests in one school year. Each student's ranking in the Caribou Cup is determined by their performance in their best 5 out of 6 contests through the school year. The Caribou Cup standings after 2 contests are: Grade 2: Colton M., Julian Q., & Michaela W.; Grade 3/4: Julia K., Mitchell B., & Marcus N.; Grade 5/6: Alora L., Callum S., Bennett Y., Daniel D., & Lily P; Grade 7/8: Loghan M., Nathan M., & Magdalena Z. Updated rankings will be available in the February newsletter. The next Caribou

Contest is January 12 & 13. Good luck, Thunderbirds!

SCDSB NEWS

Daily COVID-19 self-assessment

All students and staff are required to complete the daily COVID-19 self-assessment prior to entering SCDSB schools and buildings, using the provincial self-assessment tool. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>.

Updates to the School Screening Tool for the 2021-22 school year - International travel

Recently, the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) was updated to reflect the return to school requirements for students who are returning from international travel. Individuals who are unvaccinated and returning from international travel may not attend school or child care for 14 days upon their return. For further clarity, while unvaccinated children and those under the age of 12 are exempt from federal quarantine if they travelled with a fully vaccinated companion, they may not attend school or child care for 14 days upon their return. Individuals with all other quarantine exemptions (e.g. travelling for cross-border custody arrangements, travelling for medical treatment) may continue to attend school or child care.

Considerations prior to travelling this winter

Is your family is thinking of travelling this winter? Here are some things to consider before you make the arrangements:

1. Learn about travel advisories related to COVID-19 where you are headed, before leaving - <https://bit.ly/3Czlk5I>
2. Be sure you understand how the Quarantine Act applies to travelers arriving back in Canada - <https://bit.ly/3HAIOft>

Students who have travelled outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days if they do not qualify for a federal quarantine travel exemption. Your child's ability to return to school after travel outside of Canada will depend on whether or not they are fully vaccinated. If they are fully vaccinated, they may be exempt from federal quarantine. If they are not fully vaccinated, they are not to attend school/child care for 14 days, even if they traveled with a vaccinated companion.

A reminder that all students must complete the [COVID-19 Screening Tool](#) before going to school each day. This includes questions related to travel and guidance for those who have travelled. More information can be found on the Government of Canada website: <https://bit.ly/3ctaLqa>.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Empathy - we strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others.



More information about character education can be found here:

www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

Standards of behaviour and consequences for student action related to racism, bias or hate

At the SCDSB, we are committed to maintaining safe, inviting and supportive school environments, and recognize that all students have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in our schools. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate.

We want you to know that any incident of racism, bias or hate will not be tolerated. Any such incident is treated very seriously with immediate action and consequences in accordance with the requirements of the *Education Act*, and consistent with our values and obligations under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

Students who engage in acts of racism, bias or hate will face severe consequences as a result of their actions. Please take a moment to review the [SCDSB Code of Conduct](#) with your child(ren). The Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour and specifies consequences for student actions that do not comply with these standards.

We are dedicated to educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism. We continue to work with students, staff, parents/guardians and community partners to ensure that our schools are the safe places they are intended to be for all students.

Grade 1 French Immersion information

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

The SCDSB board-wide electronic application dates for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will be **Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021**, beginning at **9 a.m.** and ending at **4 p.m.** on **Friday, Dec. 17, 2021**. Consistent with last year's process, the online FI application process will be a randomized lottery system. To access the FI application form, visit: <https://bit.ly/3c0Md7K>

Change of Learning Mode Requests

As previously communicated to SCDSB families in May 2021, Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) elementary school families are being provided an additional opportunity to request a change in learning mode (In-Person or Learn@Home) for their child(ren), where available space exists for Term 2 (February 22 to June 30, 2022).

As you are aware, the Ministry of Education directed school boards to develop plans for the 2021-2022 school year that included both In-Person and Learn@Home options, as well as flexible and responsive options

should the need arise for schools to pivot based on local public health conditions. Operating successful instructional programs for both In-Person and Learn@Home programs requires considerable coordination and planning, taking into account multiple factors such as existing enrolment, school composition, continuity of cohorts and collective agreements.

While it is expected that the vast majority of elementary students will remain in their existing learning mode for the remainder of the school year, the SCDSB recognizes that individual situations may have changed; therefore, SCDSB families will be provided with the opportunity to request a change to their child(ren)'s mode of learning effective February 2022, where available space exists.

Families requesting a change of learning mode from Learn@Home to In-Person learning are asked to contact their child(ren)'s home school directly prior to December 10, 2021, to discuss whether space is available to accommodate their request.

Families requesting a change of learning mode from In-Person to Learn@Home are asked to complete an online request form. The online form will be emailed to families on Monday December 6 and be available from Monday December 6 at 9 a.m. and close Friday December 10 at 4 p.m. It will also be available on the SCDSB's public website (www.scdsb.on.ca).

The deadline to request a change of learning mode is December 10, 2021.

It is important to note, requests for a change of learning mode will only be accommodated where available space exists.

When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, as in previous years. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for your child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

The SCSTC and bus operators try to make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and make every effort to post announcements before 7 a.m. Inclement

weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day. You can follow the Consortium on Twitter [@SCSTC_SchoolBus](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here:

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Math @Home parent series

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey. The winners of the prizes will be notified in January. The SCDSB math department is offering three evening virtual sessions for caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support students with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. Participants will receive a math pack of resources to use at home, and must pre-register for each of the sessions by visiting this link:

<https://bit.ly/SCDSBMathAtHomeRegistration>.

Having fun with math facts @Home

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2022

7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore practical, intentional, and fun ways to practice math facts at home. Participants will leave with ideas, games, and activities to support their child in becoming fluent with their math facts.

Making math connections @Home

Thursday, March 24, 2022

7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore where we find numbers, patterns, measures, and shapes in our daily lives. Participants will learn about practical ways to help their child notice and wonder about the math in their world.

Problem solving @Home

Wednesday, April 26, 2022

7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore how to encourage children to be active thinkers and problem solvers, both in math and around the house. Participants will learn about how solving problems at home can help their children solve problems in math class.

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered

participants will receive a math @Home pack of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on the registration form.

Is it time for your child to have a dental check-up? Let us help!

The Oral Health Team at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is now available to provide a variety of dental health services for children and youth aged 0–17 at our various clinic locations. We can provide dental screenings, answer questions and guide you through the dental options that are available for your child through Healthy Smiles Ontario. If you don't have a dentist, we can provide you with options of dental offices that can help.

This is your personal invitation to contact us to discuss your child's dental needs and to ensure their dental concerns are addressed. For more information, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 705-721-7520 or toll free at 1-877-721-7520, ext. 5867.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

