



Lisa Cooke
Principal

FOREST HILL P.S.

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School Website: <http://for.scdsb.on.ca>

Perry Iacobellis
Vice-Principal

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

FEBRUARY 2021

IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES

- Month of February is Black History Month
- Feb. 2nd Groundhog Day
 - Feb. 4th World Cancer Day – Wear blue and orange
 - Feb. 10-11th Caribou Math Contest
 - Feb. 14th Valentine's Day
 - Feb. 15th Family Day – No school
 - Feb. 15th National Flag Day of Canada
 - Feb. 17th Learning mode changes begin
 - Feb. 17th National Random Acts of Kindness Day
 - Feb. 18th Virtual Grade 8 night for future Eastview students
 - Feb. 24th Anti-Bullying Day – Wear a Pink Shirt Day

SOME IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Mar. 12th Twin Day
- Mar. 15th -19th March Break – No school
- Mar. 26th Epilepsy Awareness – Wear purple

PA DAYS & HOLIDAYS

Apr. 2nd, Apr. 5th, May 24th June 4th, June 30th

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE



Many of us entered 2021 with renewed hope for normalcy to return to life. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of our students, staff, and families to stay at home and do our part to make the world a safer place, we hope to be back together sooner than later. Unfortunately, we have not experienced normalcy yet, but we do believe that in the next few months things will improve. We will keep everyone informed as new information is provided the week of February 8th regarding return to school timelines.

Despite us being apart, it is so amazing to visit classes virtually and see all the great learning that is happening! The staff have discovered many wonderful ways to engage your child(ren) in their virtual classroom and the community of learners is still strong. Spirit is still alive with our many pirates and those in Thunderbird attire in January. We have pink day this month so looking forward to seeing everyone make a stand for No Bullying! Also in February we are rejoicing, celebrating, thanking and remembering all the ways Black Canadians have inspired and impacted Canadian history and culture.

The results from our Caribou Math Contests continue to reach amazing heights with many students placing in the top 5 percent in SCDSB and one student placing 1st in the world out of 8109 students! Congratulations Thunderbirds

and get ready for the next contest on February 10 & 11.

On February 15th it is Family Day in Ontario. We have had the luxury to have more family time due to Covid but sometimes we need to work to make it quality time. We hope that you all plan something different/special for that weekend whether it be a special breakfast/meal, a family snow fort building event, taking the time to reach out to extended family virtually to connect, or playing a board game together. Family is so important and Family Day is to remind us all never to take it for granted! If you are taking a break from meal prep and ordering take out, please support our local small business like Pizza Palace and Mucho Burrito as they make our school better through fundraising.

Keep warm, stay home, continue to do the self-assessment daily even when at home, and ensure you are keeping up with Covid protocols to keep your family safe and to continue great habits for when we once again reunite!

LEARNING MODE CHANGES BEGIN FEBRUARY 17TH

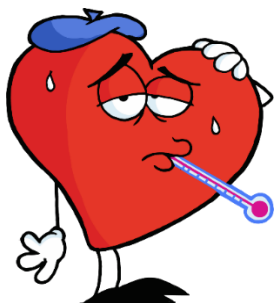


students to welcome your new classmates whether in Learn@Home or face to face.

For those families that complete the survey and were granted space your new classes will begin on Wednesday, February 17th. We ask all

ONCE WE REOPEN:

COVID-19 SELF-ASSESSMENT

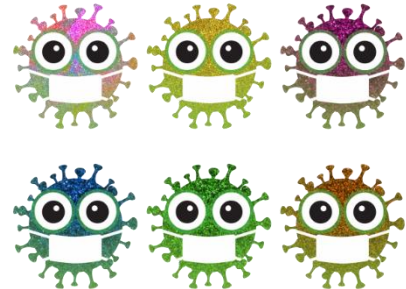


Although remote learning continues at this time all students and staff will still be expected to self-screen prior to signing on each day, using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU. Students or staff with symptoms

must stay home from school. Please ensure to take a covid test should the assessment indicates to do so. We want to ensure everyone is healthy when we open! To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit our school website [Forest Hill Public School](https://www.foresthillpublicschool.ca).

COVID INCREASING

Covid is still rising, even in our area, and we are asking that we all be as vigilant as possible to ensure



everyone's safety. Once we return to school and you hear about cases in the area and no message comes from the school, that means the SMDHU does not deem any risk to students other than those they have contacted directly to self-isolate. If we do have a need to isolate a class(es) and/or staff, an email will be sent to all impacted families, so you know the process. Students requiring isolation will seamlessly move to remote learning and their teacher will conduct class through Google Classroom. Those individuals that are in isolation due to out of school contacts, are to continue to learn through the Google Classroom as our teachers will continue to post materials daily. Please note that isolation means you cannot leave your home not even for a walk, a car ride, etc. so we all must ensure we are working hard to stay safe! Should the above occur, we will also send school based communication to all families so you are informed and not left guessing.

The increase in cases and risks will mean all staff will be wearing their shields or safety glasses for an added layer of protection. We will do our best to keep things open once we return and work to have your child(ren) feel safe and learning. Please do your part and conduct the self-assessment on your child daily -

<https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/COVID-/Return-to-school/covid-19-student-screening-tool.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

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, this applies to remote learning as well. 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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND BUS CANCELLATION INFORMATION REMINDER

Once school resumes all information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County



Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the Central Simcoe zone.

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.

This year, please note that students who are unable to attend school due to bus cancellations will be able to access learning materials on the digital learning platform assigned by their teacher in Google Classroom.

Students in the Learn@Home program will continue with regular programming as scheduled.

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

ATTENDANCE ON INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS



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

Bus Students (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 Students - 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.

FEBRUARY SPIRIT DAYS



We have 2 very exciting days planned for February!!

On Thursday

February 4th it is World Cancer Day, lets all wear blue and orange to raise awareness. Also on Wednesday February 24th lets come together and stand up against bullying! Show your love and support and wear a pink shirt for Anti-Bullying Day.

ANOTHER REMINDER TO PLEASE LABEL ALL CHILD'S BELONGINGS



We have an excessive amount of found clothing! Labeling your child's items is more important than ever right now. Mabel's labels can help us out with this. They make fun, functional and durable labels for all of your kids items. To order

labels go to their website https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/#. Please label everything your child brings to school. This includes backpacks, lunchboxes, and all clothing including jackets, boots, hats, etc.

It is important to note that due to Covid and safety, we do not have a Lost and Found that students can go through so we rely on the label found on items to give back to the child.

CHICKEN ON THE RUN FUNDRAISER

We are pleased to partner with Chicken on the Run, a locally owned and operated small business, to offer fresh and frozen high quality meats and prepared foods! They offer fresh chicken products, AAA steaks, chicken fingers, bacon, burgers, salmon, lasagna, and more! Forest Hill PS orders receive **FREE CONTACTLESS DELIVERY** to our families and friends with no minimum orders!



Please see the link below for details. [FHPS Chicken On The Run](#)

CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY



Inclusiveness: We include everyone in what we do and value their contributions. More information about Character Education can be found here: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 IS OPEN!

Kindergarten is the beginning of a wonderful journey of learning, and we want your child to begin their journey in a SCDSB



school! Do you have a child who is turning four in 2021? If so, we invite you to register your child for Kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten.

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENTS FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS



Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school

information events will happen virtually this winter. Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Different pathways and courses offered will be explained. Visit your school's website for more information.

See specific information below for those attending Eastview Secondary School in Grade 9:

EASTVIEW VIRTUAL INFORMATION EVENT FOR FUTURE STUDENTS



Please see the attached flyer for information for grade 8 students planning on attending

Eastview Secondary School. [Upcoming Virtual Grade 8 Night](#)

SCDSB TO OFFER GRADE 9 FRENCH IMMERSION BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2021

Starting in September 2021, The Simcoe County District School Board will begin to offer French Immersion (FI) courses to Grade 9 students. There are seven designated secondary school sites that will run FI programs. These sites are:

- **Banting Memorial High School (Alliston)**
- **Barrie North Collegiate (Barrie)**
- **Collingwood Collegiate (Collingwood)**
- **Georgian Bay District Secondary School (Midland)**
- **Innisdale Secondary School (Barrie)**

- **Nantyr Shores Secondary School (Alcona)**
- **Twin Lakes Secondary School (Orillia)**

Grade 9 students will take four courses in French: French language, Geography and Health and Physical Education, as well as an Arts course. By the end of Grade 12, students in the FI program will have taken 10 courses in French.

To learn more, including how to register and what school your child would attend, visit www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/program_options/fr ench as a second language.

KEEP CONNECTED WITH OUR SCHOOL WITH THE SCDB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Here are some ways to do that:



- Subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://for.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. Provide your email and click 'Subscribe'; a message 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.
- Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca .
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb). Also Forest Hill on Twitter @ForestHillPS include your school social media account information here if you have active accounts)

TRIPLE P COURSES FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO 12 YEARS

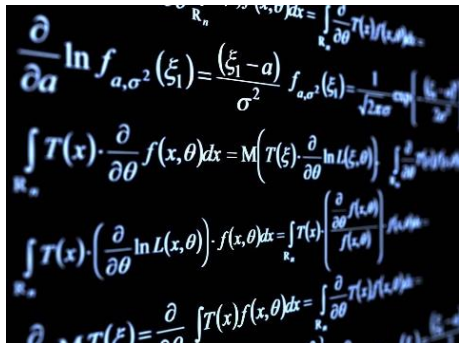


Because parents all have different needs, Triple P has many different ways to get positive parenting help. From one-off seminars to

ongoing courses, you choose what is best for you and your family.

It's about giving you just the right amount of help you need – enough, but not too much! For a list of upcoming virtual sessions, please visit: www.triple-parenting.ca/ont-en/find-help/find-a-session/

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD WITH MATH AND THESE LEARN@HOME TIPS



Looking for ways to support your child with math while they are learning

from home? Try these simple tips to help your child develop their understanding and skills as a mathematician.

- **Have manipulatives on hand** - Small objects like LEGO, bread tags, beans and coins make great manipulatives for counting, patterning and problem solving.
- **Provide scratch paper or white board** - Drawing a picture or model can help students represent their thinking and make sense of a problem. If they are feeling stuck, visualizing and drawing it out can help!
- **Ask questions** - When students are having difficulty with a problem, we want to help. Try using questions to support their thinking, rather than showing them the solution. Asking questions like What can you do next? Do you see any patterns? What can you draw to help you solve? Can you solve it another way? What do you know and what do you need to find out?

These questions will help your child develop their own ideas and build their understanding.

- **Find math everywhere and talk about it** - Whether you are headed out for a walk, baking or working on a building project, talk about the math involved. Estimation is a fundamental math skill we use daily and can easily be practiced at home. Ask questions like How many steps do you think it'll take to get to the stop sign? or How many teaspoons will we need if we double this recipe?
- **Have fun** - Math can be challenging, and challenges are fun! It's important to support children with maintaining a positive mindset about math, even when it's a challenge!

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19



During these challenging times, you may be worried about your child(ren)'s mental health and well-being. You may notice that they are anxious or unsettled and perhaps have told you that they are worried about someone in the family getting the virus. They may be confused about why usual activities are disrupted or may be disappointed to miss something that they were looking forward to. All of these things are very natural at this uncertain time.

Check out these resources at School Mental Health Ontario: [Parents and Families - COVID-19 - School Mental Health Ontario \(smho-smsso.ca\)](https://www.smho-smsso.ca/)

You can also visit the SCDSB mental health and well-being resource page: [Mental Health and Well-being Resources - Simcoe County District School Board \(scdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/)

TIPS TO KEEP KIDS ACTIVE



One of the most important things you can do for your child's physical and

mental health during this time is to keep them active. Here are three easy tips to help your kids stay healthy and active while learning from home:

Take movement breaks – Sitting for an extended period can be a challenge for children. It is important to take breaks when you can and to get up and move around. This will not only encourage physical activity throughout the day but will help refresh their mind and improve their focus.

Follow a schedule – Having a set schedule will make it easier to stay on track and creates a routine for children to follow. For older children, consider setting alarms. Add physical activity, like a [virtual gym class](#), to the schedule to ensure your child takes the time to get active.

Get active together - When you're active with your kids, it sends them an important message about healthy living. Get out for a walk, play outside or do a [family workout](#) from the comfort of your home. It's always more fun to exercise with a buddy!

Looking for resources to keep your children active? YGym offers free virtual physical activities from YMCA certified fitness instructors for children of varying ages and abilities. Visit YMCAHome.ca/YGym for free virtual activities for children and youth, anywhere, anytime! Activities are also available in French at YMCACHEZVOUS.COM/GymY.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka