



Lisa Cooke  
Principal

# FOREST HILL P.S.

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

Perry Iacobellis  
Vice-Principal

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

**JANUARY 2021**

### **IMPORTANT JANUARY DATES**

- Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> Barrie North Collegiate Grade 8 Virtual Open House
- Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> Pirate Day
- Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> Family Literacy Day
- Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> Forest Hill Thunderbird Spirit Day
- Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> PA Day – No school
- Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> Bell Let's Talk Day

### **SOME IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

- Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> World Cancer Day – Wear blue and orange
- Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> Family Day – No school
- Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> Pink Shirt Day

### **PA DAYS & HOLIDAYS**

Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>, May 24<sup>th</sup> June 4<sup>th</sup>, June 30<sup>th</sup>

### **MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION**



We would like to take this time to wish all of our families a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!** Welcome to 2021, and welcome back to Forest Hill P.S. We hope that all of you had a safe and happy holiday.

Our school start in 2021 looks a little different than we may have wanted, but that is ok. We understand the difficulties and inconveniences that online learning poses for our parents, guardians, students and staff. As an administrative team, we appreciate all of the hard work that our Forest Hill community, both in and out of the school, put into supporting our students when the school year deviates from the norm.

Another great piece of being a member of the Forest Hill community is that all of us recognize that when we work as a team, your children/our students benefit the most. When we pull together, when we stick together, and when we collaborate we create the conditions under which our kids/students maximize their learning opportunities, no matter the form they take. So, thank you for your sacrifices, thank you for your resiliency and thank you for your efforts. We both recognize and acknowledge that we cannot do this without you.

With the New Year, comes the promise of hope. We hope that things will get better, and we are optimistic that gradually, over time, at some point, this pandemic will end. With that hope, comes the promise of the return to more familiar routines that we are all anxiously waiting for.

While we wait, and while we hope, we take the opportunity to pass the skills on to our students that help make us successful. The opportunity we are referring to is the opportunity to show our students how to persevere, how to hang on to hope, how to stay committed to our team goals for the common good of our Forest Hill community, and to encourage positive growth in the kids we support, even when things are tough.

As we move forward into 2021, we ask again for more of the enduring patience you have shown, and for your continued collaborative support to help us maintain Forest Hill as a happy and safe school for your child to attend.

We look forward to seeing our students again soon.

Be well.

### **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.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://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.

### **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.

## 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. 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.

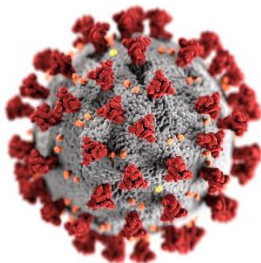
## COVID-19 SELF-ASSESSMENT



All students and staff will be expected to self-screen prior to attending school each day, using a self-assessment

tool provided by the SMDHU. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit our school website [Forest Hill Public School](#).

## COVID INCREASING



Covid is rising, even in our area, and we are asking that we all be as vigilant as possible to ensure everyone's safety. If 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 are posting 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 has also resulted in all staff wearing their shields for an added layer of protection. We are doing our best to keep things open and working 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>

## 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/#](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.**

## **SPIRIT WEAR!**



On January 28<sup>th</sup> we will be having a Forest Hill School Spirit Day where students can wear their Thunderbird gear!

Did you know Forest Hill has Spirit Wear that can be ordered online and shipped right to your home! Our Spirit Wear company, Entripy, offers a large variety of designs that can be completely customized to your preference. This includes a variety of clothing options and colours, brand names, different logo locations, adding your child's first and/or last name, and more. Purchases are made directly from the Forest Hill Entripy website, and items are delivered right to your door. Our school will receive a kick-back once orders reach the \$1000 mark! Place your order today and show your Thunderbird pride! To order and create your customized design, please visit our Entripy shop at: <https://foresthillps.entripyshops.com/>

## **JANUARY SPIRIT DAYS**



creative!

We have 2 exciting days planned for January!!

Please join us for Pirate Day on Friday January 15<sup>th</sup> and Forest Hill Thunderbirds Spirit Day on Thursday January 28<sup>th</sup>.

We are excited to see the students have fun and be

## **CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY**

**Honesty** - we behave in a sincere, trustworthy and truthful manner.

More information about character education can be found here:

[www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](http://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](http://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. Watch for specific information as well as below:

## **GRADE 8 VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE FOR BARRIE NORTH COLLEGIATE ON JANUARY 14TH**

Please see the attached flyer for information for grade 8 students planning on attending Barrie North Collegiate [Open House BNC invitation 2021.pdf](#)



## **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/french\\_as\\_a\\_second\\_language](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/program_options/french_as_a_second_language).

### **GET INTO CODING!**



Interested in exploring coding with your child at

home? There are several user-friendly programs that make coding fun, accessible and easy to discover! [Code.org](http://Code.org) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools, and increasing the engagement of young women and marginalized students. They offer easily accessible coding projects, lessons and experiences for students to create and alter code.

Visit this website for Hour of Code tutorials (<https://studio.code.org/courses>) or try some of the ones we recommend below!

- Dance Party - <https://studio.code.org/s/dance-2019/stage/1/puzzle/1>
- Minecraft Voyage Aquatic - <https://studio.code.org/s/aquatic/stage/1/puzzle/1>
- Flappy Code - <https://studio.code.org/flappy/1>
- Classic Maze - <https://studio.code.org/hoc/1>

**Scratch Junior** ([www.scratchjr.org/](http://www.scratchjr.org/)) - With the ScratchJr iPad app, young children (ages 5-7) can program their own interactive stories and games. In the process, they learn to solve problems, design projects and express themselves creatively on the computer.

**Scratch** (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>) - Scratch is a web-based tool where you can program your own interactive stories, games, and animations and share your creations with others in the online community. Scratch includes easy to follow tutorials, and endless project ideas to get your young coder creating and exploring the world of code.

Check out some of the great Scratch Tutorials (<https://scratch.mit.edu/ideas>) or try some of the ones we recommend below!

- Animate your Name - <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462492913/editor>
- Make a Chase Game - <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462493493/editor>
- Create a Story - <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462493360/editor>

### **SCHOOL PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES ARE CLOSED FOR THE WINTER**

Every winter, school playground structures are closed.

Students are made aware of this during school hours through announcements and staff reminders during breaks. This may not be well known throughout the community, despite signs indicating that playground structures are a winter hazard and are closed. The Canadian Standards Association regulations make recommendations for the depth of ground cover (e.g. sand, pea gravel or wood chips) required to minimize injuries. These surfaces cannot be maintained when the ground freezes. Injuries from falling would be more significant on frozen ground. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen.



**BRUSH AS A TEAM UNTIL AGE 8**

Baby teeth are important, and kids under age 8 still need help from an adult to brush. Help your child to brush their teeth twice a day for two minutes using a pea-sized amount of fluoridated toothpaste.



Before school and before bed are two great times to get into the habit of brushing. Cavities can be painful and can lead to infection, so be sure to get any toothaches checked by a dental professional.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit offers some free dental services for children and teens. Contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

**JOIN US FOR SOME TIME WELL SPENT**



The SCDSB acknowledges the existence of systemic racism in society, and the importance of

addressing it. We share responsibility in standing up against racism, hate and oppression of all kinds. One of the SCDSB's [Strategic Priorities](#) is Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Our focus continues to be educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism, and on working to create and maintain safe spaces within our schools and broader communities.

Our work within the pillar of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion stems from the fundamental principle that every student should have the opportunity to experience academic success and personal well-being regardless of their identity. With that in mind, the SCDSB Equity, Diversity and Inclusion department developed a video series focused on addressing the impacts of all forms of racism. Interviews with experts in the field, members of local and national community organizations, parents/guardians, staff and trustees have been recorded and shared with staff and with the public through our social media channels. To watch, visit the SCDSB

YouTube channel at: [www.youtube.com/SimcoeCountyDSB](https://www.youtube.com/SimcoeCountyDSB) and select the Time Well Spent playlist. For more information about the SCDSB's commitment to equity and inclusion, please visit the equity and inclusion page of our website at: [https://scdsb.on.ca/about/equity\\_and\\_inclusion](https://scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion).

**IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CONNECTION**

Young people are more likely to grow up successfully when they have close connections with the important adults in their lives.



Through these connections, young people discover who they are, what they are capable of and how to make a positive contribution in their community. Here are some ways to help keep your relationship with your child strong:

- *Show me that I matter to you. Encourage my efforts, and believe in me*
- *Push me to keep getting better. Expect my best, while helping me learn from mistakes*
- *Help me complete tasks and achieve goals. Stand up for me when I need it*
- *Treat me with respect and give me a say. Take me seriously and treat me fairly*
- *Connect me with people and places that broaden my world. Inspire me about my future.*

Looking for more parenting support? Speak with a public health nurse by calling 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

**NEW YEAR, NEW GOALS FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!**



The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to start thinking about setting new goals. Bringing the whole family together for a

new year goal-setting session not only provides an opportunity to discuss the importance of exercise and a healthy diet with your children –

it also gives you the chance to brainstorm on working towards a shared goal.

Here are some small steps to set your family up for success in the new year:

**Play together.** Spend time outside playing together as often as possible. Spending time outdoors improves your mood and helps you get an extra dose of vitamin D. Go for a walk, build a snow fort or go tobogganing – fun for the whole family!

**Pencil it in.** Add physical activity or play time to the calendar, with the same commitment as other important meetings. Schedule an evening family walk or a [virtual family fitness class](#) from your living room – seeing it on the calendar will help motivate your family to stay on track.

**Set goals.** Set a goal that you can achieve together as a family, like trying one new activity each week, or walking for 30 minutes a few times a week. Having a reward, like a family movie night, when you reach your goal will encourage the whole family to participate and make reaching the goal even more fun.

The YMCA offers a variety of family programs - with registered activities like open gym, family swim and the Y kids' program, the Y offers plenty of great opportunities to be active with your family in a safe environment. For more information on booking a visit to your YMCA, visit [ymcasm.ca/FAQ](http://ymcasm.ca/FAQ). If you are looking for activities to do in the comfort of your home, [YMCAHome.ca](http://YMCAHome.ca) has a variety of free, virtual fitness classes and family-friendly workouts. Wishing you a safe and healthy 2021!

*Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka*