



Linda Blom
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

SEPTEMBER 2018

IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES

- 19th - Volunteer Orientation 2:30 PM
- 19th - Orchestra Meeting (Gr. 4 - 8 interested students) - Parents welcome 5 - 6 PM in Library
- 21st - Spaghetti Challenge - 2 PM
- 24th - Spaghetti Challenge Rain Date - 2 PM
- 25th - Elementary Turn-Around Day
- 26th - Rowan's Law Day: Concussion Awareness
- 27th - Terry Fox Run - 2 PM
- 28th - Terry Fox Run Rain Date - 2 PM

Some Important Upcoming Dates

- Oct. 1st - Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters - wear orange to school!
- Oct. 2nd - Volunteer Orientation 6 PM followed by School Council meeting
- Oct. 4th - Meet the Teacher/Open House 4:30 - 6 PM
- Oct. 8th - Thanksgiving Day - No school
- Oct. 10th - Cross-country Regionals @ Sunnidale
- Oct. 15th - Gr. 7 Immunizations
- Oct. 16th - Cross-country Counties @ Mt. St. Louis
- Oct. 22nd - PA Day - No school
- Oct. 23rd - Picture Day JK-Gr. 8
- Nov. 4th - Daylight saving time ends!
- Nov. 21st - Picture Retakes
- Nov. 23rd - PA Day - No school
- Dec. 24th - Jan. 4th - Holiday Break - School closed

with our students this year! Together, and with your help, we will strive towards excellence in all areas: character, curriculum, and positive contributions in all extra-curricular activities.

Please be sure to mark Thursday, October 4th, 4:30 - 6 PM on your calendars for our Meet the Teacher/Open House. We look forward to meeting our new families and visiting with our returning families at this special event.

Please note that all class placements are tentative. There may be a need for re-organization based on school enrollment. We will not be making any class changes at this time. We thank you for your patience and understanding at this time of the school year.

We look forward to a very positive and productive year together!

Perry Iacobellis (VP)
Linda Blom (Principal)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



The entire staff at Forest Hill is looking forward to working

BUS and KISS n' RIDE INFORMATION

Buses enter our parking lot at the far right driveway when you are facing the school, and parents enter at the left

entrance. Buses and parents all exit at the middle driveway, and buses have the right of way. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter - please use caution at all times...safety is first and foremost!

2018/19 NEWSLETTERS

We will continue to send monthly newsletters electronically. If you do not have an email address, please be sure to visit our website at www.for.scdsb.on.ca; newsletters are uploaded monthly.



2018/19 SCHOOL COUNCIL AND VOLUNTEERING AT FOREST HILL

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Welcome back to another year with the Forest Hill Parent Council.

The first meeting will be on Tuesday, October 2nd following the Volunteer Training at 6PM. (Approx. 7 PM in the school library). New members are always welcome! Membership Nomination forms will be available at the meeting or can be picked up in the school office. Returning members also need to complete one of those forms each year to ensure up to date information is on file.

All interested parents/guardians are welcome to attend and participate in any meeting without becoming a member. All agendas, meeting minutes and the Annual Report can be found on the School Council page of the Forest Hill Website.

Any questions regarding Council meetings or membership should be directed to the Council Chair at councilchairfor@scdsb.on.ca.

All volunteers (new and returning) must attend a Volunteer Training Session each year. There are two sessions scheduled: Wednesday, September 19th at 2:30 PM and Tuesday, October 2nd at 6 PM before the School Council meeting. At those sessions, there will be an opportunity to sign up for many of the ongoing volunteer opportunities, like the lunch programs, library, Kiss 'n Ride, scrapbooking, Grade 8 Grad Committee and Fundraising Committee.

Any questions regarding volunteer opportunities should be directed to the Volunteer Coordinator, Debra Kapy, at debra.kapy@gmail.com.

STAFFING UPDATE

We are happy to welcome the following new staff members:

Perry Iacobellis - Vice-Principal

Kristin Denize - Grade 6/7

Tricia Vermilyea - SASE

Kim Harvey - Custodian

BUSING INFO/UPDATE

As we start a new school year, we thought it would be a good time to remind parents/guardians and students of a few regulations that families may, or may not, be aware of. Bus students are only permitted to ride their assigned bus to and from school. We can **no longer** allow students to ride another bus to a friend or relative's house or to another stop for any reason. Any changes to bus stop information is to be completed through the office and will have to be a permanent change, not just an occasional need. Only bus students are permitted to use the daily transportation; students who are classified as walkers are not permitted to ride a bus to or from school.

Field trips would, of course, be the exception. If you have any questions or concerns in regard to busing, please do not hesitate to contact the Vice Principal, Perry Iacobellis, at piacobellis@scdsb.on.ca or by calling the school office.

LIBRARY NEWS

It is going to be a great year in our Library! Classes have already started to visit me and learn about digital citizenship and acceptable use of technology. *The Makerspace program is looking for donations of building and crafting supplies including duct tape, packing tape, Christmas tree lights, lids from dish soap and sports bottles, paper towel tubes, wrapping paper tubes, and corks. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.*

The Scholastic book fair is being held from Wednesday, October 3rd to Friday October 5th. This is a great way to add to our school library collection. I am currently looking for volunteers to help with the setup, packing up and selling of merchandise during school hours. If you would like to volunteer to help in the library or for the Scholastic book fair, please let me know. We'd love to have you!
Volunteers are needed; please contact Mrs. Kerry Morrow at 705-721-8300 or kmorrow@scdsb.on.ca if you can help out.

GIFTED SCREENING PROCESS

Some children who display an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential.

In consultation with parents, the school staff determines who these students are through the gifted screening process.

Parents of a student who will be in or above Grade 3 this year, who wish the school to consider their child for screening, are asked to contact Mrs. Woodhouse-McKay by **Friday, September 28th**.

The gifted screening process consists of three components:

1. a Teacher Rating Scale;
2. a Parent Questionnaire;
3. standardized test results (usually the Otis Lennon School Ability Test)

After signing a permission form, parents/legal guardian will complete the Parent Questionnaire. Information obtained from this questionnaire will help the school gain a better understanding of your child's early development as well as his/her strengths, interests, needs and abilities, which the standardized test may not identify. The teacher will complete a Rating Scale, which examines areas such as learning, motivation, creativity and leadership, which he/she has observed in the classroom. Group testing will be completed and the results will provide a standardized measure of school abilities. The information gathered from all three components will assist the school in programming for your child.

If you require information about the gifted screening process, please contact the school.

**WE CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT:
LITTERLESS LUNCHES**



At Forest Hill, we care about the environment, and this year we will be phasing in

litterless lunches. Please send a large Ziploc bag in your child's lunch kit, so they can bring home their garbage and recycling. Our goal is to reduce the amount of recycling and garbage that we process each day.

ORCHESTRA MEETING

Any students in Grades 4 - 8 who wish to join orchestra this year are encouraged to attend an information session on Wednesday, September 19th in the Library, from 5 - 6 PM. Important information for parents/guardians will also be presented. Returning members are encouraged to attend as well.

Pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether its lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.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.

HOT LUNCHES AND MILK PROGRAM



The Lunch programs will begin on Monday,

October 1st. We have confirmed Mr. Sub on Mondays, Hot Dogs on Tuesdays, Pasta on Wednesdays, Pizza on Thursdays, Burrito Fridays and milk every day. If students are absent, we do not issue refunds.

MORNING SUPERVISION

For the safety of all of our students, please **DO NOT** drop your child/ren off or have them arrive before 8:55 a.m. as there is no outdoor supervision until that time. Parents should not be on the yard after 9:00 a.m.

SAFE ARRIVAL



Please ensure that you call the safe arrival phone line (721-8300, press 1) if your child/ren is/are absent or will be late. Make certain that you sign your child in/out at the office to ensure your child's whereabouts is communicated clearly! We will be calling contacts for students with an unexplained absence, unless we are notified that you DO NOT wish to be in the Safe Arrival Program. Parents are asked to arrange appointments, transportation changes and material 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.

END-OF-DAY ROUTINES

If you are aware that there will be a change to your child's end-of-day routine (being picked up instead of put on the bus, etc.), please be sure to advise the teacher by sending a note with your child. This information is important to us to ensure the safety of your child/ren! Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please do your best to have your 'end of day plans' in place before the school day begins, and to **refrain from calling the office between 2:45 and 3:30 unless it is an emergency.**

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING



Cross country running has begun. Practice for Grades 4-8 will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8:15 AM sharp! We look forward to another great season of running and fun! Coaches this year are Ms. Blue and Mrs. Wilson and Mme Stainton.

2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

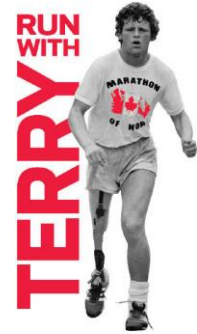


We ask parents to please refer to the 2018-19 School Year Calendar (which can be found on the front cover of your child/ren's agenda or on the SCDSB website), so that you are aware of the upcoming PA Days and various holidays throughout the school year. This will allow Parents/Guardians to plan daycare and vacations with ease.

25th ANNUAL TERRY FOX RUN

It is once again time for our annual Terry Fox Run in support of cancer research. Since 1993, our school community has raised over **\$148,000.00!**

The National School Run Day will be on Thursday, September 27th at Forest Hill from 2-3 p.m. Please feel free to join us that afternoon!



Pledge forms have been sent home with your child(ren) to collect funds. If you prefer, you can also donate online via the link located at the bottom of the pledge form - www.terryfox.org. Students can also set up their own fundraising page to support the Terry Fox Foundation.

Please keep funds collected *at home* until the week of the run, as this will greatly help reduce tracking.

Thank you for your support!

PICTURE DAY

Picture Day is October 23rd 2018. Practice your smile!

Picture Retakes will take place on Wednesday, November 21st.

NEWS FROM SCDSB

New Simcoe County District School Board website launched this summer

Visit www.scdsb.on.ca to check out our

brand new look! Our new website launched in July, providing users with an accessible experience that is mobile-friendly - it works well whether you're on a desktop computer, mobile phone or tablet. The new website also has improved search functionality and a special *SCDSBshines* section to highlight and celebrate the amazing accomplishments of our staff and students.

SCDSB Community Apps portal makes volunteering easy

The new SCDSB Community Apps website provides access to volunteer and community applications for our schools - you can register your child(ren) for school or apply to be a volunteer at your school. More functionality will be added in the future. You can create a "Community Account" to access these applications. Visit communityapps.scdsb.on.ca to learn more.

Keep connected with our school and with the SCDSB

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 Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca. The SCDSB Education Centre can be reached at 705-734-6363.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb). For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

Procedures help keep our school safe

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

Parents should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **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. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off.
- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all exterior doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Interior doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain 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. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites (www.facebook.com/SCDSB and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (www.scdsb.on.ca), through local police and local media.
- 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 to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.
- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** to enter the building. **Staff may not be**

available to answer the door immediately, please be patient. All visitors, including school volunteers, are required to **sign in** at the school office and wear **visitor identification**.

- Staff and volunteers must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All SCDSB schools have **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 we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Student Accident Insurance information for this school year

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. The SCDSB has selected the Insure my Kids program through Old Republic Canada as an option

for students/parents/guardians to consider. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com. Participation in extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs) or out-of-province/out-of-country trips requires the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage. Student accident insurance packages will be sent home with students.

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 sealed 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.

Eye See ... Eye Learn program offers free glasses for Junior Kindergarten students



The Eye See...Eye Learn program provides comprehensive eye exams

by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten (JK) students. The eye exams are covered under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) when parents show their child's health card. There is no out-of-pocket cost for the eye exam and if the child requires a pair of glasses, they will receive them free of charge courtesy of a participating optometrist. For more information, visit www.eyeseeeyelearn.ca.

**Simcoe Community Services'
Grandparent System support groups**

The Grandparent System Support Program (GSSP) was established in response to the increased needs and unique challenges experienced by grandparents with the sole responsibility of raising their grandchildren. Support Groups are available now in Barrie, Bradford, Orillia and Midland with plans for support groups in local communities across Simcoe County. Support groups provide a safe and confidential environment where grandparents can create relationships with others who understand and have lived experiences in similar situations. Grandparents can build on skills, resource share and network to build a community of support. For more information about the support group, meeting dates/times or if you have questions about the GSSP, contact gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca or 705-726-9082 x2321. Childminding and transportation assistance may be available.