



FOREST HILL P.S.

Lisa Cooke
Principal
Kim Campbell
Acting Principal

16 Doran Road
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

SEPTEMBER 2021

IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES

27th – Oct. 1st – Anti-Bullying Week
28th – Elementary Turn-Around Day
28th – 30th – Terry Fox Class Run(s)
29th – Rowan’s Law Day: Concussion Awareness
30th – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
(Orange Shirt Day)

Some Important Upcoming Dates

Oct. 5th – School Council Meeting - 7:00 (Zoom)
Oct. 11th – Thanksgiving Day – No school
Oct. 22nd – PA Day – No school
Nov. 7th – Daylight saving time ends at 2 AM (turn
clocks back 1 hour)
Nov. 12th – PA Day – No school
Dec. 20th to 31st – Holiday Break – School closed

PA Days & Holidays

PA: Oct. 22nd, Nov. 12th, Jan. 28th, June 3rd, June 29th
Holidays: Oct. 11th, Dec. 20th to 31st, Feb. 21st,
Mar. 14th to 18th, Apr. 15th, Apr. 18th, May 23rd

children that they can obtain a mask from the office if they lose theirs during the course of the day. Just a few reminders: if

your child is away for any reason, please call into the safe arrival line (705-721-8300 press 1) and give a reason. This will avoid you receiving an automated message and needing to call the school later. We have a very busy ‘kiss ‘n ride’ in the morning. To keep this moving smoothly we have a couple of parent volunteers who will open your car door and your child may exit. Please **remain in your vehicle**, where possible, so we can keep the traffic moving. If your child requires assistance with a car seat, please exit your vehicle to do so.

If your children are walkers or you drop them off on the road, please remind them to walk on the sidewalk and not through the cars at the kiss ‘n ride. This is very important as it poses a dangerous safety issue. As a reminder, our water fountains are not in use, only our water filling stations are available. Please put your child’s name on their water bottle. This is a reminder to all parents except kindergarten parents, that the school yard is off limits during the pandemic. Thank you again for your cooperation. Let’s have a fantastic year!

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.

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE



Welcome back Forest Hill families. It was so exciting to see all your children being dropped off or getting off the bus ready to start a fresh

year of learning, within the school building.

I realize the online learning was very challenging for some families to help facilitate, and I want to thank you tremendously for your perseverance and effort last year. We have had a smooth transition back to “in-school learning” and students have been very cooperative in following protocols. Please remind your

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

Ken Wilson (VP)
Kim Campbell (Principal ROC)

Police Presence

Those parents who drive their children to school will probably notice a police officer on the property occasionally. The officer will be addressing distracted driving, such as dogs in the front seat, use of cell phones, eating, etc. He will also be looking for use of seat belts. We want our Kiss 'n Ride to be as safe as possible and appreciate the support of Police Services.

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. When approaching the Kiss 'n Ride please ensure your child is ready to exit your vehicle. Should your child need additional help to get out of a difficult seat belt, booster seat or 5-point harness car seat, you are welcome to exit your vehicle, masked and ready to assist. Otherwise, please remain in your vehicle and the Kiss 'n Ride parent volunteers will usher your children along. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter – please always use caution ... safety is first and foremost!

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 regarding busing, please do not hesitate to contact the Vice Principal, Ken Wilson, at kiwilson@scdsb.on.ca or by calling the school office.

BUS CANCELLATIONS

There may be occasions when the buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, but the school remains open for student learning. If your child normally rides the bus and the buses are cancelled, you do not need to call Safe Arrival. All other walking students that are absent must have a parent call Safe Arrival to record your child's absence. If you decide to drop off a bus student when buses are cancelled, you must make arrangements to have your child picked up at the end of the day. Visit <http://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca> for up-to-date bus information.

2021/22 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.



2021/22 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 a Zoom meet on Tuesday, October 5th at 7:00 PM. New members are always welcome! Membership Nomination forms will be emailed to all families 14 days prior to the first meeting where elections will take place. 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 are posted 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.

STAFFING UPDATE

We are happy to welcome several staff members, both new and returning:

Ken Wilson – Vice-Principal

LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome back! I am looking forward to an exciting year in our school Library! If you are doing some fall cleaning, keep your eyes open for any school library books and return them to the school for others to enjoy. Our school's **Scholastic Virtual Book Fair** starts next week! It will be open from September 20th to 26th. Let's continue to give our students access to the books they want to read! We are excited to provide this opportunity for families to shop together, from the comfort of home. Your investment in your reader also helps our whole school. All purchases earn Rewards that can be redeemed for books and Education Resources for our school's classrooms and library. When it's time to shop, visit our school's **Virtual Book Fair** site using this link: <https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5163164>

Before our Fair begins, click the link to:

- **SAVE** it to your browser
- **WATCH** videos of popular new titles
- **PREVIEW** our Featured Books

Happy Reading!



GIFTED SCREENING PROCESS

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability, require additional program support to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction and through providing program extensions and enrichment. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate and challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular classroom or in gifted classroom placements.

Parents/guardians of a student who will be in or above Grade 3 in this school year, who wish to nominate their child for gifted screening, are asked to contact Mme Woodhouse-McKay or Mrs. Callan as soon as possible.

Students may be nominated by either a teacher or parent/guardian.

MORNING SUPERVISION

For the safety of all 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. Kindergarten 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.

Late students are required to sign in at the office and receive a late slip before going to class. If your child/ren is being picked up early, please communicate with the teacher in the morning; it's also a great idea to let us know in the office in the event that the teacher is absent.

Please ring the bell when you come to pick up; we will have your child signed out in the office by one of the office staff before being dismissed. There will be no pick-up of students after 3:15 PM as the teachers are busy getting all students ready for dismissal and sharing important end-of-day information.

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.**

Extra Clean Clothes

We do not have extra clean/dry clothes at the office. We encourage parents of primary students to ensure they have a back-up set of clothing kept in their backpack or in a large Ziploc bag on their coat hooks.

25th ANNUAL TERRY FOX RUN

Welcome back!

This year's Terry Fox Class Run days are set for September 28th, 29th, and 30th. Each individual class will be running for Terry Fox, so stay tuned for more details from your classroom teacher on the exact date for your child.

ONLINE FUNDRAISING FOR TERRY

Check out the Forest Hill fundraising link: <http://www.terryfox.ca/ForestHillPSMIdhurst>. You can set up your own fundraising page as well under the school's link.

TERRY FOX T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE!

Our 2021 Terry Fox t-shirt is available for sale and your purchases are added to our school's fundraising total! To place a school merchandise order, please check your School Cash online account for more information. Costs are \$20 for adult sizes, and \$15 for youth sizes. The deadline for ordering t-shirts is Monday, September 20th, 2021.



The 2021 design celebrates Terry's maternal grandmother's heritage – a collaboration between the Fox Family and Metis Nation BC – with traditional Metis floral beading representing the flowers that grow on his ancestors' land. Our mission and message "Try Like Terry" is shared in English, French, and the Metis traditional language Michif.

Thank you for your support and commitment to continue Terry's legacy! We look forward to another amazing year of

PICTURE DAY

This has been put on hold until we can have guests in the building.

SEPTEMBER IS DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

Dyslexia is a learning disorder that involves difficulty reading due to problems identifying speech sounds and learning how they relate to letters and words (decoding). Also called reading disability, dyslexia affects areas of the brain that process language.

People with dyslexia have normal intelligence and usually have normal vision. Most children with dyslexia can succeed in school with tutoring or a specialized education program. Emotional support also plays an important role.

Though there's no cure for dyslexia, early assessment and intervention result in the best outcome. Sometimes dyslexia goes undiagnosed for years and isn't recognized until adulthood, but it's never too late to seek help.

Symptoms

Signs of dyslexia can be difficult to recognize before your child enters school, but some early clues may indicate a problem. Once your child reaches school age, your child's teacher may be the first to notice a problem. Severity varies, but the condition often becomes apparent as a child starts learning to read.

Before school

Signs that a young child may be at risk of dyslexia include:

- Late talking
- Learning new words slowly
- Problems forming words correctly, such as reversing sounds in words or confusing words that sound alike
- Problems remembering or naming letters, numbers, and colors
- Difficulty learning nursery rhymes or playing rhyming games

School age

Once your child is in school, dyslexia signs and symptoms may become more apparent, including:

- Reading well below the expected level for age
- Problems processing and understanding what he or she hears
- Difficulty finding the right word or forming answers to questions
- Problems remembering the sequence of things
- Difficulty seeing (and occasionally hearing) similarities and differences in letters and words
- Inability to sound out the pronunciation of an unfamiliar word
- Difficulty spelling
- Spending an unusually long time completing tasks that involve reading or writing
- Avoiding activities that involve reading

Teens and adults

Dyslexia signs in teens and adults are like those in children. Some common dyslexia

signs and symptoms in teens and adults include:

- Difficulty reading, including reading aloud
- Slow and labor-intensive reading and writing
- Problems spelling
- Avoiding activities that involve reading
- Mispronouncing names or words, or problems retrieving words
- Trouble understanding jokes or expressions that have a meaning not easily understood from the specific words (idioms), such as "piece of cake" meaning "easy"
- Spending an unusually long time completing tasks that involve reading or writing
- Difficulty summarizing a story
- Trouble learning a foreign language
- Difficulty memorizing
- Difficulty doing math problems

When to see a doctor

Though most children are ready to learn reading by kindergarten or first grade, children with dyslexia often can't grasp the basics of reading by that time. Talk with your doctor if your child's reading level is below what's expected for his or her age or if you notice other signs of dyslexia.

When dyslexia goes undiagnosed and untreated, childhood reading difficulties continue into adulthood.

Causes

Dyslexia tends to run in families. It appears to be linked to certain genes that affect how the brain processes reading and language, as well as risk factors in the environment.

ANAPHYLACTIC STUDENTS AT OUR SCHOOL

It is vitally important that we have the cooperation of all students and parents in maintaining a safe environment for the many students in our school who have allergies to peanut and tree nut products. To some of our students, this is a life-threatening issue. Those with a severe allergy can be sent into anaphylactic shock from the smell of peanut butter, or through the touching of a desk or door handle on which there is a trace of peanut/nut oil. Please keep all students safe by sending your child with peanut/nut free snacks and lunch.

NEWS FROM SCDSB

Safety measures in schools

We want to assure you that the health and well-being of our students and staff remains our top priority. We are in regular contact with our local health authority, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), and we continue to take their direction on all matters related to COVID-19. Please visit the COVID-19 Return to School page on the SMDHU website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org for additional information.

The following health and safety measures will be implemented in our schools.

Masking:

- Students from Kindergarten (JK and SK) through Grade 12 will be required to wear masks while indoors.
- Staff will be required to wear masks while indoors.

Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols:

- Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom for student and teacher use.
- Students will receive training on proper hand hygiene including instructions on hand washing and sanitizing.

Ventilation

- Standalone high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter units will be placed in all schools without mechanical ventilation.
- HEPA filter units will be placed in all standalone Kindergarten classrooms.

Enhanced Cleaning:

- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting at least twice a day of frequently touched surfaces and shared resources such as doorknobs, light switches, toilets and faucet handles.
- Buses will be sanitized twice daily with frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces.

Physical Distancing:

- Directional arrows and signage will be utilized in schools to support physical distancing measures.
- Schools will have designated entry and exit doors and staggered entry and exit times.
- Acrylic shielding will remain installed in school offices.

Self-assessment

All students and staff will be 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/self-assessment/>.

No visitor access

As we transition into the return to school routine this fall, following the direction from our local health authority, the SMDHU, visitors are not permitted within SCDSB schools at this time. Parents/guardians may ring the doorbell at elementary schools to receive assistance. Parents/guardians will be asked to call the school's main office at secondary schools to receive assistance. School main office phone numbers will be posted on the doors of school buildings.

Instructions for when children become sick at school

Parents/guardians will be asked to provide multiple contacts who will be available to pick up their child(ren) in the event that they become ill while at school. Children who become ill while at school will not be able to travel on a bus home for the protection of the other riders.

Keep connected with our school and with the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at our school and at the 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 is 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](https://www.instagram.com/scdsb)).

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](https://www.main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at [simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](https://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

Procedures help keep our school safe

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; and,
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations.

Parents/guardians 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 temporarily.
- 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/guardians 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/guardians will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.

When parents/guardians are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents/guardians 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/guardian care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Please note the following:

- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** and wait for assistance. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, so please be patient.**

- Staff must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents/guardians 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**

STANDARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND PERMISSION FORM/STUDENT INFORMATION COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY APPROPRIATE USE AGREEMENT 2021-2022

The 2021-2022 Standard Acknowledgment and Permission Form and Student Information Computing Technology Appropriate Use Agreement are required forms for all Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students.

The forms have been made available electronically through School Cash Online. School Cash Online is our preferred method for forms. If you are unable to submit these forms electronically, please contact the office for paper copies of the forms.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE 2021-2022

Student injuries at school during school events, extra-curricular activities (e.g. athletics, clubs, etc.) and out-of-province/out-of-country trips are not covered by the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen.

A variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices can be found through either:

StudyInsured at <https://www.insuremykids.com> or by calling 1-833-560-0527.

Insure my Kids at www.insuremykids.com or by calling 1-8900-463-5437.

Participation in extra-curricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, etc. AND/OR OUT-OF-PROVINCE/OUT-OF-COUNTRY TRIPS REQUIRE THE PURCHASE OF THIS INSURANCE, OR OTHER EXTENDED HEALTH AND DENTAL COVERAGE.

Student accident insurance packages will be sent home with students.

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/elementary/dress_code. If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact your school principal.

School bus 'Bus Tag' program helps students get to and from school safely

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus 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/guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour coded bus tag with the assigned p.m. route number, to be attached to the student's backpack, and 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 and click on the 'Safety' tab.

Character Attribute for the month of September

Caring - we show kindness towards each other.

More information about Character Education can be found here:

www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

Significant days, holy days, holidays and heritage recognition occurring in the month of September

September: Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

10th: World Suicide Prevention Day

September 27th to October 1st: National Reconciliation Week

29th: Terry Fox National School Run Day

29th: Rowan's Law Day

30th: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)