



FOREST HILL P.S.

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Principal

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

JANUARY 2023

IMPORTANT JAN. & FEB. DATES

18th – Eastview Guidance visit Gr. 8
18th & 19th – Caribou Contest, Round 3
18th – Barrie North Grade 8 Open House
23rd – Concert Assembly
23rd – 2:00 - Winter Wonderland Open House
Kindies
24th – Wendy's Night fundraiser
31st – Parents Night Out – PJ Party Edition
Feb. 7th – Grade 8 Grad Photos
Feb. 15th & 16th – Caribou Contest
Feb. 16th – Eastview Gr. 8 Open House 6:30 PM
March – Round 3 popcorn sales open

PA DAYS & HOLIDAYS

PA: Jan. 27th, April 28th, June 2nd, June 30th
Holidays: Feb. 20th,
Mar. 13th to 17th, Apr. 7th, Apr. 10th, May 22nd

PARENT COUNCIL DATES

February 6th - 6:00 Library
April 3rd – 6:00 Library
June 5th – 6:00 Library



Basketball, Volleyball, Student Advisor and Yearbook teams, Lunch Monitors, Playground Leaders, Dance Club, Lego Club, Coding Club, GSA, Music Drop in, and Chess Club are just a few of the events that students have been involved in. Thank you to staff who volunteer many hours of their time to support our students in these activities!

Staff have been engaged in professional learning around Truth and Reconciliation, math, and early reading with a focus on phonemic and phonological awareness to support the recommendations in the Right to Read inquiry. This month our focus on professional learning is on integrating information on the achievements and contributions of inspirational Black Canadians into the curriculum.

We are looking forward to another assembly later this month. Parents are welcome to attend - watch for more information about this from classroom teachers!

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION



It was wonderful to welcome back our students this week! There was a buzz in the air about seeing friends and getting back into learning routines!

Students have been busy participating in a variety of activities in the school.

We hope to see you at our Wendy's Night fundraiser on January 24th!



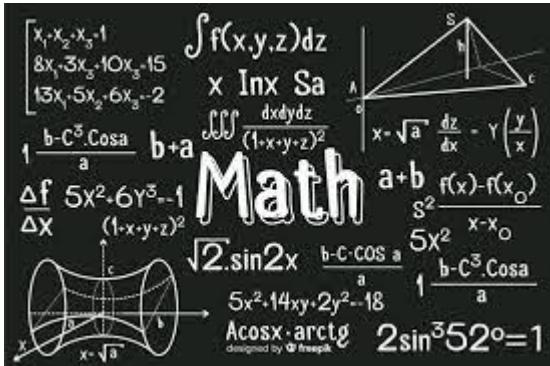
12 Days of Giving Food Drive



A heartfelt thank you to all the Forest Hill families and staff members who made our 12 Days of Giving Food Drive so successful! We collected a great variety of non-perishable food items and hygiene items which were donated to the Elmvale Food Bank. As usual the volunteers who came to pick up our donations were blown away by the dedication of our students to this cause.

Thank you one and all for your generous participation and for making our community a better place!

The Caribou Math 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. Contests have already been completed in October and November. The top 3 finishers for each group in the November contest were: Grade 2: Yvonne L., Luther H. & Addison D.; Grade 3/4: Paige W., Camden U., & Jonah R.; Grade 5/6: Alora L., Spencer T., & Bruce W. Grade 7/8: James B., Lewis E., Issa B., Willem K., & Sarah L.

The Caribou Cup is the series 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 3 contests is: Grade 2: Colton M., Julian Q, & Kaia B.; Grade 3/4: Michaela W., Tess R. &

Johnny Q; Grade 5/6: Daniel D., Ali M., Elise B. & Elisse M.; and Grade 7/8: Keele W., Gwen J., Lewis E. & Nathan M. The next Caribou Contest is January 18 & 19. Good luck, Thunderbirds!

School Council Update

The Forest Hill School Council is thrilled to be able to host events at the school once again. Please mark your calendars for the following events:

1. **Camp Fair: Saturday February 11th, 10am-2pm.** *Local camps will be available in the school gym with information about registration. We are looking for parents/caregivers/family members to help with this event. Please reach out if you are interested in helping out (you do not need to be a current member of school council or parent volunteer).*

We are looking for folks to help with planning before the event, as well as helpers on Friday, February 10th and Saturday, February 11th.

Please contact Bethany at bethanyjanette@outlook.com by January 13th to express your interest.

2. **Dance-a-thon: Save the date - Friday March 31st.** *More information to follow.*

Parents Night Out – PJ Party Edition

PARENTS NIGHT OUT ~ PJ Party Edition



Do you need a break? A night out to eat dinner like a real adult?

The Grade 8 class is at your service!

Who: K-6 Forest Hill students (the first 200 students)

What: Movie, includes a snack and a drink

Where: Forest Hill Public School

When: January 31, 2023; 6:00-8:30 pm (movie will not start before 6:20)

Cost: \$15 per student or \$10 each if there are more than 2 students attending in a family.

Attire: Your coziest comfy wear or pajamas! Each student is welcome to bring 1 pillow, blanket and stuffy, too!

This is a fundraising event for Grade 8 students and their end of year celebrations.

Concert Assembly

As mentioned in the Week immediately on Friday, students in grades 1 to 8 will be participating in an in-school concert assembly on January 23rd. Families are welcome to attend if you are able, but space is limited. Please check your child's Music Google Classroom or check with their homeroom teacher for their Classes' assembly time. The intention of this assembly is to showcase the work they have been doing in music to their peers, and to perform together with other classes.



CHARACTER TRAIT FOR 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.

Please note that Friday, January 27th is a PA Day for elementary SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2022-23 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar.

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.

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 SCSTC 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!

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.

SCDSB NEWS

Kindergarten registration for September 2023 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 2023? If so, we invite you to register your child for Kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Let's talk Kindergarten! Join the SCDSB for a live virtual info session on Jan. 24

Do you have a child who is turning four in 2023 and are interested in learning about Kindergarten in the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB)? Join us Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 7 to 7:30 p.m. for a virtual info session. This presentation will be hosted by members of the SCDSB's early years team, who will provide parents/guardians with important information they need to know about Kindergarten. More details regarding this event will be shared on the SCDSB

website and social media platforms in January.

Early learning and child care

The Simcoe County EarlyON Child and Family Centres are excited to offer programs that help prepare children and parents for Kindergarten. Programming will be offered in the spring of 2023. For more information and to find your local EarlyON provider, visit:

<https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>.

High school information events for Grade 8 students

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will take place in person this winter! Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Learn about courses offered, as well as information about teams and clubs. Please visit the SCDSB website to find details on your high schools' info night, and contact the school directly for more information.

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.

Interested in learning more about the ways that the SCDSB supports students with special education needs and their families? Join us for a virtual special education outreach series In

2023, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/caregivers in learning more about programs, supports and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs.

IEPs and school-based assessments – information for parents/caregivers Jan. 12 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Supporting students with autism spectrum disorder Feb. 14 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Supporting students as they transition into school, from one school to another, and from school upon graduation April 20 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Working with families to create safe and supportive environments for children who have experienced trauma May 9 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Participants are asked to register in advance. Information to access the sessions will be shared via email with individuals who have pre-registered. Learn more about each session and how to register on the SCDSB website at

www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions.

Ontario Ministry of Education tutoring services The Ontario Ministry of Education is supporting tutoring services in schools and in the community until the end of March 2023. Schools offering after school tutoring services will advertise this service directly to parents/guardians. Community

tutoring agencies provide free-of-charge tutoring to Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students after hours in the community and online. Contact information for community tutoring agencies can be found at

www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring_programs. Tutoring is available to all SCDSB students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12. The SCDSB is also seeking members of the community to act as tutors in our schools during the school day. All candidates must apply through Apply to Education Posting #3361243. Candidates are required to be interviewed by SCDSB administration, provide professional references, and complete a Vulnerable Sector Screen through their local police service. For more information, please email tutoring@scdsb.on.ca.

Bite-sized math support at home Are you looking for a quick way to support your child in developing their numeracy skills? Here are two resources that provide math activities that can be done in 5 minutes or less!

1. mathbeforebed.com/ We know that daily reading at home supports your child's literacy development; the same is true with math! This website provides images that can be used as a quick number talk before bed. Ask your child: "how many do you see?" and "how do you know?" This website has content for students of all ages.

2. www.parentengagementmatters.ca/math-storytime

Math Storytime is a tablet-based app for ages 5-8 that contains stories about basic math concepts. The stories provide the opportunity for talking about math at home.

Foundational literacy skills - oral language Based on decades of research, we know the foundational literacy skills necessary for students to learn to read. Oral language is a natural process for us as humans, and our brain is wired for speaking and listening. As children interact with others, they acquire language skills, learning the pronunciation of words and their meaning. Oral language helps children learn the sound structure of language and build vocabulary and background

knowledge. Oral language is the foundation for reading and writing.

Here are some ways you can support oral language development with your child(ren) at home:

- Sharing oral stories
- Active, everyday conversations
- Listening games such as Simon Says
- Dramatic play where your child takes on imaginary roles
- Reading books together

Four ways to improve your child's study habits

As we welcome the new year, people often take this time to reflect and make resolutions to form good habits for the year ahead. For some, these resolutions are personal goals, like cooking more meals at home, or joining a local gym – but what about setting family goals? As a parent, you can help your children set goals that will help them succeed at school, such as improving study habits.

It is difficult to see your child struggle with their schoolwork, but with these tips, your child will be able to effectively use their study time to thrive in school this year. Even better, working on these habits now will set them up for success for years to come – both in school and in the workplace. Here are four ways you can help improve your child's study habits.

- 1. Eliminate distraction** Learning requires focus and concentration to be successful. Removing distractions from your child's learning space is crucial. Portable technology is the largest distraction when it comes to studying. While studying, try to choose a location outside of their study space where they can leave their phone or tablet to minimize distractions. Of course, there are other types of distractions as well, such as a nearby TV or other children. If possible, find a study location away from the home's

common space. Allow your child to turn on white noise or music if it helps them concentrate. It might aid in blocking out other obtrusive sounds so they can concentrate on their schoolwork.

- 2. Try alternatives to reading** It can get tiresome to read notes and textbooks to learn new information. Your child can only focus for so long before they begin to lose interest and tire of the subject. Try alternative strategies, such as creating flashcards, finding an informative video, listening to educational podcasts or audio books, or asking them to visualize a concept with a graphic or diagram. Kids learn in different ways. Find what works best for your child and use it to their advantage. Just be sure to keep the focus on studying and avoid the online distractions.

- 3. Give regular praise** Positive parenting and recognizing their accomplishments (both big and small) may be all the motivation they require to succeed. Let them know you appreciate all their effort and hard work. Make sure to celebrate effort over outcome to show your child that trying is the most important thing. Some great wins to celebrate include solving a tricky problem, reaching a reading or math goal, or finishing a project or assignment. Let them know you are proud of them and that they should be proud of themselves as well. They'll be eager to advance if you sometimes throw in a special treat or outing!

- 4. Find additional help when needed** Perhaps one of the biggest lessons for students to learn is not be afraid to ask for help when needed. However, as a parent, sometimes we don't have the knowledge or ability to provide the help they need when it comes to schooling. That's when it's important to seek additional help, such as a tutor. Tutors can provide professional, tailored help to students, whether it is with an entire subject or a concept within a subject. Tutors can help your child succeed in school, while giving you peace of mind that they are learning with a professional.

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has teamed up with the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka to launch the Y Achieve Tutoring program. This program provides free tutoring sessions outside of school hours, free of charge for any students who may be struggling. These sessions are open to students from Grades 6 to 12 attending a

school within the SCDSB, whether you have a YMCA membership or not. For more information, or to book a session online, please visit www.ymcasm.ca/tutoring or contact morgan.gillies@sm.ymca.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka