



GATOR NEWS

January 2021

goo.scdsb.on.ca

827 9th Line
Innisfil, ON L9S 1A6
goo.scdsb.on.ca

Phone: (705) 436-3600

Safe arrival—PRESS 1

Fax: (705) 436-1868

Sean Cappadocia
Principal

Heather Owen
Vice-Principal

CENTRAL Weather Zone

IMPORTANT DATES:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Jan 4 | First Day Back |
| Jan 27 | Family Literacy Day |
| Jan 27 | International Holocaust Remembrance Day |
| Jan 29 | PA Day |
| Jan 29 | Bell Let's Talk Day |

Get Bus notifications right to your cell phone or email.



Subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here:

<https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions>

GPS is a SCENT FREE and NUT FREE school

Please remember to wear proper footwear at all times.

To whom or to what do you listen? Do you listen to the self care voice that tells you to eat your broccoli, or the stress craving that tells you to eat the chocolate? Do you listen to the advertisers who tell you that you need/deserve/must have the latest . . . Do you listen to your boss? Do you listen to your mother? Do you listen to your kids? I have been challenged lately to do just that. Our latest school climate survey said that only 23% of students feel their voice is heard at school. I want to improve that number. I have been visiting classes to just chat with our students about school, how they feel about school, what we can all do to make it even better. I invite you to join me on this journey. Our newsletter will begin to feature a column written by students. The first is in this newsletter. We may not always agree with our kids but let us at least let them know that they are heard. Whichever voices predominate for you in this hectic season, I wish you peace and joy and a few moments of blessed silence. Happy holidays, Merry Christmas and a very happy 2021
From the desk of Mrs. Owen

Dear Parents and Guardians, it has come to our attention that safety protocols on busses have not been followed. Please remind your children that for grade 4 and up it is mandatory to wear your mask during school hours and on busses, and for your safety and the safety of others students should always stay in their assigned seats. From the students of Ms. McEachern's class

Attendance on Inclement Weather Days

With the inclement weather approaching, parents please note the following:

If your child is eligible for a bus – please do not call safe arrival – your child will automatically be marked absent due to weather

If your child is a walker – please remember to call safe arrival before 9:20 if your child will be absent or late – please include the reason for the absence

If you receive a safe arrival call, please do not call the school unless you believe your child should be at school. Please note this only applies to inclement weather days.

Thank you for your assistance!

Notes from the Office

- Teach your child good work habits by having them arrive at school on time. **Classes start at 9:20am. Students arriving after 9:20 must sign in at the office.**
- Our school dismissal time is 3:40pm. We appreciate all your efforts in making appointments after school hours.
- **If you need to pick up your child(ren) early, please send a note to their teacher in the morning so that they can make arrangements to have your child in the office.**
- **We kindly ask that you send lunches with your child in the morning.**
- Just a reminder to parents and students, use of personal electronic devices during class time is not permitted, unless the teacher has given permission for use of electronics in the classroom. If you need to reach your child during the school day, please call the office and not the student.
- Please note that WHEELIE shoes are NOT ALLOWED to be worn at school.
- Please note that proper indoor and outdoor shoes must be worn by students at all times.

If Busses are cancelled:

When the school board cancels busses for our area—**CENTRAL ZONE**- the school is open for students to attend. We ask that you please send your child(ren) to school on these days provided they can travel safely to and from our building. Valuable instruction and learning continue to take place during these inclement weather days.

Please remember to call the safe arrival line if your child is staying home.

Please note that Fun Lunch does not run on inclement weather days, and will be rescheduled to the next available day.

SAFE ARRIVAL CALL—PLEASE NOTE

If you receive the safe arrival call, please call the school back ONLY if your child SHOULD be here.

Inclement weather day absences do not count towards the student absence total.

Reporting Student ABSENCES and LATES

Please remember to call the **Safe Arrival Line BEFORE 9:20 AM** when your child is away or will be late.



705-436-3600, PRESS #1 to leave a message. **Please speak clearly and spell last name for clarification.**

COVID 19 ASSESMENT

Must be completed every day by staff and students. Please go to goo.scdsb.on.ca or www.simcoemuskoahealth.org

Parking Lot

Our parking lot is closed to personal vehicles from **9:00 to 9:20 a.m. and 3:40 to 4:00 p.m. daily.**

Students may continue to walk onto school property using the sidewalks and cross walk.

The two accessibility parking spots will remain open for the public.



School Day Schedule

Supervision Begins	9:05 am
Warning Bell	9:17 am
School Starts	9:20 am
Class Time	9:20-11:00 am
Recess/Snack Time	11:00-11:40 am
Class Time	11:40-1:20 pm
Recess/Lunch	1:20-2:00 pm
Class Time	2:00-3:40 pm
Dismissal:	3:40 pm

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

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 <https://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/>. Our school is in the Central Weather 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, either Desire2Learn (D2L) or 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 for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

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.

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.

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

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 the SMDHU website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.



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

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 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.

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

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** is a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools and increasing participation by young women and students from other underrepresented groups. 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/) - 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.

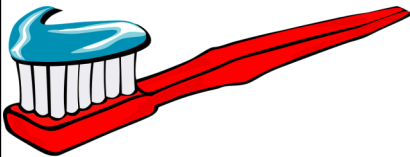
Scratch (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>) - Scratch is a web-based tool where you can program your own interactive stories, games, and animations and share your creations with others in the online community. Scratch includes easy to follow tutorials, and endless project ideas to get your young coder creating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



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.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

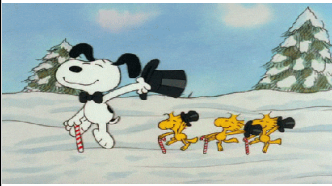
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New year, new goals for the entire family!

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. If you are looking for activities to do in the comfort of your home, 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