

## FRIDAY, December 1st, 2023

Important School-Wide Upcoming Dates			
<b>MON</b>	<b>Dec. 4</b>	<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>School Council Meeting - 6:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room</b>
<b>TUES</b>	<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>Mr. Sub Hot Lunch</b> - pre-orders through on LunchBox
<b>WED</b>	<b>Dec. 6</b>	<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>Zucca's Hot lunch</b> - pre-orders through LunchBox
<b>THURS</b>	<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>Tis the Season to be Freezin - Winter Concert - K - Grade 3 Classes 2:15 pm</b> - Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item for our Food Drive!
			<b>Little Caesar's Pizza Hot Lunch</b> - Pre-orders on LunchBox
<b>FRI</b>	<b>Dec. 8</b>	<b>DAY 5</b>	<b>Commander Spirit Day - Favourite Colour Day - Come dressed head to toe in your favourite colour.</b> <b>Grade 7 Vaccinations</b> <b>Kernels Popcorn for Sale during 1st break - \$2</b> (Pre-orders available on LunchBox also)

### Important Future Dates:

Dec. 15th - Hat and Scarf Day - Wear your favourite hat or scarf or combination!

Dec. 19th - Character Assemblies

Dec. 22 - Comfy Day - Come dressed in your favourite comfy clothes, sweatshirts, track pants, PJs and cozy wear!

Dec. 23 - January 7th - Winter Break

Jan. 8th - First Day of school for 2024

## LIVE! on School Cash Online

<https://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com>

Item	Who does it apply to?	Deadline (11:59pm)
<i>no items to report</i>	<i>no items to report</i>	<i>no items to report</i>



### Tree of Warmth

We will be collecting new gloves, hats, scarves for our tree of warmth. If you would like to donate any of these items please send them to school with your child and we will hang them on our tree of warmth in the front foyer. All sizes are welcome, for children and adults. We will be donating all items to surrounding shelters and families in need. Thank you in advance for your support and donations.

### Helping Hand Food Bank

From November 27th until December 19th we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Helping Hand Food bank. If you are able to donate any Non-Perishable food items for the Helping Hands Food Bank, please bring your donations to the office. We will be collecting the items around our Tree of Warmth. Thank you for your continued support! Every little bit helps!

### Lost and Found

We have many items in our Lost and Found pile. Please have a look at the photos to see if any of the items belong to your family. You are welcome to pick them up at any time. Classes will be checking the tables regularly. . Anything left unclaimed will be donated.

Please feel free to stop in and have a look before or after school hours or if you are attending our Winter Concert, we will have items on display then as well.

### Inclement Weather Days



Chris Hadfield PS is a 100% walking school. We have no buses assigned to us from the Bus Consortium. On days when our zone area has been issued bus cancellations for inclement weather for school buses servicing local schools in Bradford, CHPS is open for student learning and all hot lunch programs continue as normal. You are welcome to keep your child home if you choose to because of the inclement weather, but an absence will be noted. Please call the safe arrival line at 1-888-885-8065 or email the attendance email at [hadattendance@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:hadattendance@scdsb.on.ca) to report your child's absence and reasoning.

### 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 at [www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning\\_for\\_high\\_school](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning_for_high_school)

to find details on your high school's info night, and contact the school directly for more information.



### Parents' Guide to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Learn to navigate the world of assessment, evaluation, and reporting with this new guide for parents/guardians. Created to support parents'/guardians' understanding of assessment, this guide was designed to effectively empower you to actively engage in your child's educational journey. The guide has been posted to the Simcoe County District School Board's website and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

## Grade 1 French Immersion information

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.



**The SCDSB board-wide electronic applications for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will open Friday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15.** Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system. To learn more, visit the SCDSB website: <https://www.scdsb.on.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=210982&pageId=12587752>.

## Join us! A learning series for parents/guardians with Pine River Institute

Mental health and well-being continues to be a key strategic priority within the SCDSB. We are pleased to continue our partnership with the Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) to provide several curated learning sessions focused on student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families.

These webinars are specifically planned for parents/guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

Jan. 11, 2024	Sleep hygiene
Feb. 8, 2024	Self regulation for kids
Feb. 22, 2024	Self regulation for teens
March 28, 2024	Building parents' resiliency
April 18, 2024	Vaping, weed, and alcohol



We hope you save these dates in your calendar and join us for these learning opportunities. For more information and to register, please visit the SCDSB website: <https://bit.ly/3jGaC74>.

Pine River Institute is a live-in treatment centre and outdoor leadership experience for youth aged 13 to 19 struggling with addictive behaviours and often other mental health issues. Combining therapy with a fully-accredited education program, PRI reinforces the healthy life skills required for a successful future. CFI@PRI extends PRI's knowledge, experience and evidence-informed treatment approach to families and care providers in the community to support youth mental wellness and prevent the need for more intensive interventions. Learn more about PRI by visiting their website at [www.pineriverinstitute.com](http://www.pineriverinstitute.com).

## Subscribe to Community Connects!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is excited to launch Community Connects, a new bimonthly newsletter for the SCDSB community. Our shared goal with this new tool is to keep our community partners and stakeholders informed while nurturing relationships that are built on accountability, trust, and transparency.



To learn more and subscribe, visit the Community Connects page on the SCDSB website: [https://www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community\\_connects](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community_connects).

## Subscribe to Kindergarten Connections!



Will your child be turning four in 2024? If so, the SCDSB invites you to Kindergarten Connections! This is a monthly e-newsletter informing families of everything they need to know about preparing their child for school, as well as registering them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB. To learn more and subscribe, visit the Kindergarten page on the SCDSB website: [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/kindergarten](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten).



## EarlyON Child and Family Centres

The foundation for lifelong learning and health is built in the early years. EarlyON Child and Family Centres across Simcoe County offer programs for children prenatal to six years of age and their parents/guardians and caregivers. They offer access to play- and inquiry-based learning supported by *How Does Learning Happen?* Ontario's pedagogy for the early years, information on child development and developmental screening including Early Referral Identification Kits (ERIKs), parent/guardian education, referrals to community resources, nutrition information, and post-natal resources. Check with your local EarlyON provider: <https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>



## How is your infant, toddler, or preschool child developing?

Is your child meeting their milestones? Age-appropriate speech and language skills are critical to your child's ability to read, write, and be successful in school as well as to their ability to engage with their peers. Free services are available to support you with your child's development. Preschool speech and language programs are located across the County of Simcoe. Call 705-739-5696 or 1-800-675-1979 to complete a developmental screen. The earlier we work together the better!

## Licensed Winter Break school-age child care programs

Child care programs for children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are provided by independent, third-party child care operators in some SCDSB schools. To support your child care needs, some operators offer child care on PA days and holidays including over the Winter Break. Registration in advance is required.

Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register. More information and contact numbers can be found by visiting:

[www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/childcare\\_before\\_after](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after).

Winter Break



## Programs available through the SCDSB's Adult and Continuing Education

### Learning Centres

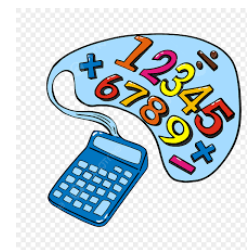


The Simcoe County District School Board's Adult and Continuing Education department offers a variety of programming including day school, night school, summer school, correspondence, and co-op. Courses may be online, hybrid, or in-person and are based on sufficient enrollment. For current high school students, we offer travel for credit, summer school, and night school programs. For adults, we offer credit courses towards completion of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) including credits granted for prior learning and experiences (PLAR). In support of many of the adult learners in our communities, we also offer non-credit classes in English as a second language (ESL) and literacy and essential skills (LES) both of which can support learners towards paths of employment, continued education, and citizenship.

Please visit us at [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) to learn more.

## Math @Home Parent and Caregiver Series

It's back! The SCDSB math team is pleased to offer three virtual sessions for parents and caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support children with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. The first 200 registrants will receive a Math @Home kit of resources to use at home. Participants must pre-register for each of the sessions.





# Commander Community Connection

## Exploring the new SCDSB family math resources

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, 7 to 8 p.m.

This session is for parents and caregivers. Join members of the SCDSB math team for a guided exploration of the new SCDSB family math resources. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the resources that are available to support their child's math learning at home. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length. During the final 15 minutes, the math team will be available to answer questions about the resources available.

## Tips for engaging in math conversations with your child @Home

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024, 7 to 8 p.m. This session is for parents and caregivers and will explore opportunities to discuss math with their child(ren) at home. Participants will learn about how events such as shopping, preparing food, engaging in a building project, or going for a walk can be used as a starting point for math conversations, and will receive prompts to get the discussion rolling. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length. During the final 15 minutes, the math team will be available to answer questions about the session.

## Games to support your child's math learning @Home

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 7 to 8 p.m. This session is for parents, caregivers, and their children. Playing games at home is a great way to support child(ren)'s math development. In this session, several games will be explored, and participants will have the opportunity to try the games with their children during the session. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length followed by 15 additional minutes for further game play or to ask questions of our math facilitators. Bring your child(ren) and your math kit to this session!

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a kit of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on the registration form. Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/24MathAtHome>. Find more information to support your child's mental health here: <https://smho-smsc.ca/parents-and-caregivers/>

## Head lice treatment and prevention

Anyone can get head lice. Having head lice does not mean a person is unclean or lives in a dirty home. While they are a nuisance, head lice do not spread disease or cause illness. Head lice spreads easily, especially where people are in close contact and are very common among school-aged children or children in childcare. Head lice spreads through direct hair-to-hair contact or indirectly by sharing hats, combs, hairbrushes, and headphones. To help prevent the spread of head lice, it's important to educate students about avoiding head-to-head contact and discourage sharing combs, hairbrushes, tuques, hats, or hair accessories.

Parents/guardians, caregivers, and families can visit

<https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/PP2B/RaisingChildren/YourGrowingChild/HeadLice> for more information about head lice treatment and prevention. Or call Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 to speak to a public health nurse.

## Is bedtime stressing you out?



Kids need 10-12 hours of sleep every night but sometimes getting them to bed can be challenging. You can help create a regular sleep schedule for your child by setting a clear bedtime and sticking to the same time every night. Start getting ready an hour before bed; turn off the TV, computers, and phones. Spend quality time talking or reading stories to help them unwind. Agree on how many you'll read before you start! Keep their room dark, cool, and quiet - a nightlight is fine. Remember, making sure your child gets enough rest will help improve their mood, behaviour, and ability to learn.

For more bedtime tips, contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a public health nurse. Visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) for more information.

## Did you know it's illegal to vape or smoke *anywhere* on school property, inside the school or outside within 20m of school property, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year?

The law applies to everyone on school property, students, staff, and visitors. It also means it is illegal to vape or smoke on school athletic fields during afterhours activities or vape or smoke in school washrooms. There is a fine of \$305 for vaping or smoking on school property.

*But why do youth vape at school?* Vapes contain nicotine, which is a highly addictive drug. Nicotine addiction is extremely powerful, develops quickly, and youth may not realize they are addicted. Once addicted, they need nicotine regularly or they will experience withdrawal, making it hard to get through the school day. Help them take back control – there are supports to help youth quit! Talk to your child about vaping, they listen more than you think. Learn more at [NotAnExperiment.ca/parents](http://NotAnExperiment.ca/parents).



## Mental health strategy of the month - Emotion Charades

Well-being is a Strategic Priority in the Simcoe County District School Board, and our mental health and well-being department provides monthly strategies to support student and family well-being.

This month's strategy is *Emotion Charades*. This practice helps students practice expressing emotions with their whole body and recognize body language and facial expressions in others. To practice *Emotion Charades* at home, on slips of paper, write or draw different feelings depending on the age of your child. For instance, happy, sad, angry, scared, worried, sleepy, frustrated, etc. Place the papers in a bowl/container.

Then:

- Decide who will go first. Have that person pick a piece of paper from the bowl.
- Have them read the feeling to themselves, or, if needed, help your child read the feeling.
- Now they will act out the feeling without words while the other players try to guess what it is.
- Once someone gets the right answer, it's the next person's turn to pick a piece of paper and act out the feeling.

This is a fun activity that everyone in the family can play!

*Emotion Charades* link to School Mental Health Ontario parent sheet:

<https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/>

## **Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions is seeking compassionate and skilled professionals with specialized experience to apply to become foster care providers**

The goal of this program is to meet the needs of youth through a therapeutically supported parenting approach within a structured environment, where they are supported and guided by a multi-disciplinary treatment team. The youth will remain, or become connected to, their family/kin/community whenever possible. Treatment services will be individualized based on the needs of the youth, and the knowledge of those who know the youth best in collaboration with community partners. This will allow youth to reside in a family-based setting and remain in their home community of Simcoe Muskoka, staying connected to important relationships and supports that may already be in place.



The homes approved under this strategy are designed to create clinically informed care plans that will support the youth directly, in addition to the continued support of their care providers. Youth will be supported by a multi-disciplinary team and will be available to implement and design parenting and support to address the needs of the youth. Compensation packages will be offered to experienced foster care providers, as well as clinical support to both care providers and youth. If you or someone you know is looking for more information or would like to apply, contact Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions by email at [bruna.figliuzzi@familyconnexions.ca](mailto:bruna.figliuzzi@familyconnexions.ca) or call 705-716.4664.

Information provided by Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions