



Commander Community Connection

FRIDAY, January 12th, 2024

Important School-Wide Upcoming Dates			
MON	Jan. 15	DAY 1	
TUES	Jan. 16	DAY 2	Mr. Sub Hot Lunch - pre-orders through on LunchBox
WED	Jan.. 17	DAY 3	Zucca's Hot lunch - pre-orders through LunchBox
THURS	Jan. 18	DAY 4	Little Caesar's Pizza Hot Lunch - Pre-orders on LunchBox Grade 4's (Harding/Katz) trip to Scalon Creek
FRI	Jan. 19	DAY 5	Kernels Popcorn for Sale during 1st break - \$2 (Pre-orders available on LunchBox also) Grade 4's (Adams) trip to Scalon Creek

Important Future Dates:

- Jan. 26th - PA Day - No School for students
- Jan. 31st - Grade 5 - MacLaren Art Gallery Visit (Hicks and Webb)
- Feb. 1st - Grade 5/6 - MacLaren Art Gallery Visit (A. Jones)
- Feb. 5th - School Council Meeting 6:00 pm - Multi-purpose Room
- Feb. 13th - Afrobeats Dance - Intermediates
- Feb. 16th - Term 1 Report Cards go home
- Feb. 19th - Family Day - No School
- Feb. 21st - Graduation Photos
- Feb. 27th - Character Assembly
- Mar. 4th - School Council Meeting - 6:00 pm - Multi-purpose Room
- Mar. 5th - Grade 3's MacLaren Art Gallery Visit
- Mar. 11th - 15th - March Break - No School

LIVE! on School Cash Online

<https://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com>

Item	Who does it apply to?	Deadline (11:59pm)
<i>Kernels Popcorn Pre-Orders from Feb 2nd - March 8</i>	<i>All Students</i>	<i>January 22nd 2024</i>
<i>Grade 4 Scanlon Creek Field Trip - Thursday January 18th and Friday January 19th 2024</i>	<i>All Grade 4 Students</i>	<i>January 17th 2024</i>
<i>McLaren Art Centre Grade 5 Jan 31st and Feb 1st</i>	<i>All Grade 5 Students</i>	<i>January 30th 2024</i>



Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

We would like to thank all the families who generously donated to our Tree of Warmth and the Food Bank. Our donations were greatly appreciated and well received.



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School Musical Rehearsals

Rehearsals for our school musical will continue on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week. Please be reminded all students must be picked up at the front door by **4:45 pm sharp**. Please check the Google Classroom for your child's individual rehearsal schedule.



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for September 2024 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 2024? If so, we invite you to register your child for Kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

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.



January PA Day

Please note that **Friday, Jan. 26** is a PA Day for elementary SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2023-24 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information:

www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar.

Educators will be working to complete the first provincial report card which will reflect students' achievement of curriculum expectations introduced and developed from September to January/February of the school year, as well as students' development of the learning skills and work habits during that period. This process includes both evaluation and reporting.

Elementary report cards will go home to parents/guardians on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024.

Racism, Bias or Hate

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. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools to learn more.



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The SCDSB's Human Rights and Equity Office (HREO) has an advisory titled *Prohibiting the Use of the N-word*. Please take a moment to review this advisory with your child(ren) by visiting the HREO page on the SCDSB website <https://tinyurl.com/3jsvhan6>.

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.

Inclement Weather Days

We are a walking school and open for business as usual on all inclement weather days. Regular programming is maintained at CHPS. For students at schools with bussing, please see below.

Please note that APM A3020 – Inclement Weather, 3.1.2 states that “parents/guardians are to be reminded, in writing at appropriate times (October and January) each school year, that it is their responsibility to decide whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.”

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.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the **SOUTH 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 Consortium 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](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>.

School playground structures are closed for the winter

Every winter, school playground structures are closed. Students are made aware of this during school hours through announcements and staff reminders during breaks. This may not be well known throughout the community, despite signs indicating that playground structures are a winter hazard and are closed. The Canadian Standards Association regulations make recommendations for the depth of ground cover required to minimize injuries (e.g., sand, pea gravel, or wood chips). These surfaces cannot be maintained when the ground freezes. Injuries from falling would be more significant on frozen ground. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen.





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://cdnsm5-ss14.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_210898/File/Secondary/Parents-Guide-to-Assessment.pdf.

Reporting achievement in Language

Student achievement in language will be reported as one overall grade or mark on the term one report card. The mark will reflect a student's integrated learning across the four strands:

- Strand A - Literacy Connections and Applications
- Strand B - Foundations of Language
- Strand C - Comprehension; Understanding and Responding to Texts
- Strand D - Composition; Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

The grade will be accompanied by supporting comments that will indicate the student's strengths, describe growth in learning, and identify next steps for improvement.

For more information regarding the revised Language curriculum, visit www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/key-changes-language to view a guide for parents/guardians on the Ministry of Education website.

Mental Health Promotion Strategy of the Month - *2 x 10 Connecting*

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 *2 x 10 Connecting*. This practice helps to build rapport and the relationship between a caring adult and student, and to let the student see they are genuinely cared about as a person.

To practice *2x10 Connecting* at home, find a consistent time each day to spend two minutes talking to your child about anything they would like to talk about for a period of 10 days. If you have more than one child, switch who spends that time talking with you every 10 days or find different times in the day to spend 2 minutes with each child.

Find more information to support your child's mental health here:

<https://smho-smso.ca/parents-and-caregivers/>.

Special Education Supports

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 information series. During the 2023-24 school year, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/guardians in learning more about programs, supports, and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs.

Transition planning

Feb. 13

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Reading strategies

March 19

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Supporting students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

April 16

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Every day mental health strategies

May 14

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:

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

2x10 Connecting resources:

Elementary - <https://smho-smso.ca/emhc/self-awareness-and-sense-of-identity/mattering/2-x-10/>

Secondary -

<https://smho-smso.ca/emhcsecondary/healthy-relationship-skills/being-a-good-friend/connecting/>

Follow the Mental Health and Well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

Parent/guardian Self-care

As parents and caregivers, it is important that we take time to check in with ourselves. When you are feeling stressed or overwhelmed, take time for yourself, even if it is just a few minutes. Working through your own feelings will make it easier for you to support and reassure your child.

Self-care does not need to be complicated. Take a few minutes to do something you enjoy, connect with a friend, or move your body. It is not selfish, it is self-preservation.

For more information, call *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.