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SWO Newsletter – SCDSB May information May 2023

Character attribute for the month of May

Respect - we treat ourselves, others and the environment with consideration and dignity.

More information about character education can be found here: scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

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

As you prepare your school's newsletter package, please review the [Days of Observance \(NM1\)](#). Please include what is relevant to your school community in your May newsletter package. To further share these dates with your school community, you can now link directly to the SCDSB Days of Observance on the SCDSB website: <https://bit.ly/3Ln2Mfb>.

Keep connected with our school and with the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Here are some ways to do that:

- Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at scdsb.on.ca.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).

Feedback, recovery and improvement days (for secondary only)

At the end of each semester, all secondary schools will run feedback, recovery, and improvement days for students. Culminating assessments such as portfolios, essays, examinations, and interviews will take place during instructional days and will be returned to students with feedback.

The last day of regular instruction for students in semester two is Friday, June 23. The period from Monday, June 26 to Wednesday, June 28 is reserved for students to receive feedback from an assessment, to rescue or recover a credit, or to improve on an area of missed expectations. Teachers and support staff will communicate with students who will benefit most from attending this opportunity; however, all students will be invited to attend. There will be no new instruction these days. Feedback, recovery, and improvement days are an opportunity for students to work closely with their teacher if they require feedback, credit recovery, or an opportunity to improve on an area of missed expectations.

Permits for Maple Ridge Secondary School turf field (for Maple Ridge SS and feeder schools only)

The artificial turf field/running track at Maple Ridge Secondary School is anticipated to be available for community groups who obtain a permit for use of the facilities after-hours beginning on May 1, 2023.

The facility will be available for community use permits from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Monday to Friday starting May 1, 2023, and from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm starting June 1, 2023. Availability for weekend and summer requests will be assessed on an individual basis.

Community groups will be required to sign an agreement and obtain a permit for use of the facility. Rental rates and policies will be re-evaluated on a regular basis and are subject to change. Community groups who are interested in renting the artificial turf field/track can submit a permit request online.

Please visit the Community Use of Schools page on the school board website for more details:

https://www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community_use_of_schools.

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. The remaining session is:

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

Elementary summer learning programs in the SCDSB

The SCDSB continues to support student achievement and well-being throughout the summer months by providing a range of elementary summer learning programs. This summer, the SCDSB is offering programs that will focus on reading (Grades 1-3), math (Grades 4-8), multilingual learners (Grades 4-8), as well as students with learning disabilities who use assistive technology at school (Grades 4-8). The programs will be delivered through both a virtual synchronous learning format and in-person, and take place from July 10 to 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. daily. In-person programs take place at Terry Fox Elementary School in Barrie.

Interested families are asked to contact their children's school principal for further details and registration information. Registration is completed through the SCDSB's public website starting Monday, May 1. Deadline to register is Friday, May 19.

Registration now open for summer eLearning!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school courses in July 2023 for current high school students or adult learners who are interested in earning a new credit or upgrading a previous mark. Students can advance online learning skills, earn missed credits, or fast-track preparation for graduation or post-secondary in just four weeks. eLearning is fully supported by certified teachers who are available electronically daily.

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at <http://thelearningcentres.com>.

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: scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Kindergarten orientation sessions happening soon

Kindergarten orientation sessions will be held throughout the SCDSB in the spring of 2023. These sessions provide families the opportunity to engage with their school community as their children prepare to enter school. Learn more about these sessions and find out when your child's school is holding theirs on the Kindergarten orientation page of the SCDSB website: scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten/kindergarten_orientation.

Licensed summer 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 over the summer holidays. 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

at scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

The Simcoe County EarlyON Child and Family Centres have locations throughout Simcoe County. These centres offer a variety of services, including programs that help prepare children and parents/guardians for kindergarten.

Programming will be offered in the spring of 2023. Check with your local EarlyON provider for dates and times. <https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>

Before and after school programs for the 2023-24 school year

Register now for before and after school programs for the 2023-24 school year. Please contact the child care operator at your child's school directly to discuss fees and to register. More information and contact numbers can be found at scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after.

Complete your diploma and get a head start on your career in healthcare in the SCDSB's PSW program!

Did you know that the SCDSB's Learning Centre offers an accredited personal support worker (PSW) program? Individuals interested in a career in healthcare can earn 7.5 credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and a PSW certificate upon completion of the program!

Applications are now open online for PSW programs beginning in September 2023 in Barrie, North Simcoe (Midland), and Orillia. To apply, visit thelearningcentres.com and watch the mandatory virtual information session video. This video includes important information about the PSW program and the application process. Applicants will also be required to complete an online PSW Literacy Assessment. Register for the assessment using the 'Assessment Registration Form'.

Registration for September 2023 closes July 7 at 12 p.m. Have questions or need more information? Contact the Learning Centres at psw@scdsb.on.ca.

Adult English as a Second Language Program

Looking to improve your English skills? Join our Adult English as a Second Language Program (ESL) classes to improve your listening and speaking skills through class discussions and presentations. Develop your English skills to advance in your current job or open the door to new employment opportunities. Learn more about your local community and explore Canadian culture and history. Adult ESL classes are offered year-round with a continuous intake.

To register for the program, please contact the Barrie Learning Centre at 705-725-8360 ext. 45151, or email ganderson@scdsb.on.ca.

**Please note all students starting ESL for the first time must be assessed prior to starting the class. Fees apply for visitors to Canada and work/study permit holders.*

Mental Health Week 2023

Join us for Mental Health Week May 1 to 7 by shining a spotlight on how mental health care can be expressed and nurtured (through self-care strategies, art, music, sport etc.). At the SCDSB we are committed to the mental health and well-being of every student and will be shining a spotlight on how mental health is supported in our school communities by sharing on social media using the hashtags #MyStory, #MentalHealthWeek, and #ShineGreen, and tagging @scdsb_mhwb, @scdsb_schools, and @SMHO_SMSO.

Reading with Sora

Sora is the SCDSB's digital ebook library which is available to all students from K-12. Each year, Sora has a collection of diverse ebooks and audiobooks (juvenile to young adult) curated into a collection called Sora Sweet Reads. From May 15 until Aug. 28, students may access these books using either the Sora app or by using the desktop version: <https://soraapp.com/welcome/login/202712>. The best part of this collection is that each title is simultaneous use, meaning that there are unlimited copies available so there are no holds on the titles! Simply use your school Google login and password to access the library. We hope that this collection will encourage students to stay engaged in reading even when the weather gets warmer. Happy reading!

Four finger affirmations coping strategy

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

This month's strategy is four finger affirmations. Parents/guardians can guide their child to think positively in the face of stress or challenges by using affirmations to promote confidence, a growth mindset, self-regulation, and resiliency. To practice four finger affirmations at home, work with your child to generate four words that make them feel calm and

confident. For example, "I am loved today" or "breathe, listen, smile, love." Explain that each word will match a finger on their hand. Have them say the words (affirmation) aloud or in their head and connect each finger with their thumb. Tell your child they can repeat this as many times as they like, to themselves or out loud.

Consider practicing four finger affirmations at home with your child at a time of day that will be most helpful for them. Find more easy and fun mental health activities to do at home here: <https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/>.

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

Making 'cents' of financial literacy

All students need the skills and knowledge to take responsibility for managing their personal financial well-being with confidence, competence, and a critical and compassionate awareness of the world around them. In the 2020 math curriculum, there is focus on financial literacy learning in Grades 1 to 8, including understanding the value and use of money over time, how to manage financial well-being and the value of budgeting.

Students build their skills and knowledge about the value and use of money, how decisions impact personal finances, as well as develop consumer and civic awareness.

Students will:

- Learn how to manage finances responsibly, such as creating a budget to help save enough money to buy something they want such as a book, toy, or video game
- Begin to develop a greater awareness as consumers and contributors in the local and broader economic system

Wondering how you can support the development of your child's financial literacy skills at home? Check out some of these great tips and resources!

Tips:

- Find daily, real-world opportunities to talk about money in the contexts of earning, saving, spending, and giving
- Consider the financial habits you want to instill in your child, and talk about them
- Involve your child in making decisions about purchases for household items, and compare the costs of different items (e.g., we need to save money to repave the driveway so we're going to cut down on spending, do you have any ideas?)

Resources:

- Peter Pig's Money Counter, Practicalmoneyskills.ca
- Financial Literacy Rocks, financialliteracy.rocks/financial-literacy-for-kids

Reporting immunizations

Parents/guardians are responsible for reporting their child's immunizations to public health to keep records up-to-date per standards of the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) (ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900645) and the Child Care and Early Years Act (ontario.ca/laws/regulation/150137#BK46). Please note, health care providers in Ontario do not automatically report immunizations to their local public health unit. Reporting and viewing immunizations is easy and can be done online.

To book a clinic appointment to receive a vaccine, visit: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization/Clinics-and-Programs/Routine-Immunization-Clinics. For more information or questions, you can call Health Connection at 705-721-7520, or toll-free at 1-877-721-7520.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

