



# FOREST HILL P.S.

Megan Francis  
Principal

16 Doran Road  
Midhurst, ON L9X 1L4  
Safe Arrival 705-721-8300 Ext. 1  
School Website: <http://for.scdsb.on.ca>

Ken Wilson  
Vice-Principal

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

**FEBRUARY 2023**

## **IMPORTANT FEBRUARY & MARCH DATES**

Black History Month

7<sup>th</sup> – Grade 8 Grad Photos

10<sup>th</sup> – Forest Hill Public Speaking – Int

13<sup>th</sup> – Forest Hill Public Speaking - Jr

11<sup>th</sup> – Camp and Vendor Fair 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> – Caribou Contest

16<sup>th</sup> – Eastview Gr. 8 Open House 6:30 PM

17<sup>th</sup> – Report Cards go home

20<sup>th</sup> – Family Day – No school

22<sup>nd</sup> – Pink Shirt Day

March – Round 3 popcorn sales open

Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> – Paul Davis presentation to parents  
at Terry Fox @ 6 PM

Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> – Dance-a-thon

### **PA DAYS & HOLIDAYS**

PA: April 28<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 30<sup>th</sup>

Holidays: Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>,  
Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL DATES**

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6:00 - Library

June 5<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 - Library

Happy February! This month marks the official halfway point of the school year. This very important event allows us to pause and reflect on how your child has grown in the first half of the year. Next week you will be receiving a report card for your child. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the progress they have made! Should you have questions regarding the progress of your child at this point in the year, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.

Building success for your child is a team effort and it is at this point that we need to step back and re-evaluate the plan of action for your child. Please take this opportunity to contact your child's teacher with any questions regarding your child's success, and do not hesitate to contact the office with any concerns or questions.

Happy February and keep warm,

Megan

## **MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION**



## **SCHOOL COUNCIL FUNDRAISING REQUEST**

Help support literacy for *all* students at Forest Hill Public School, especially (but not only) those who struggle to read. Donations will be used to purchase literacy resources that are recommended by the School Council and that align with the Ontario Human Rights Commission's *Right to Read* report.

If you are interested in making an online donation, you will log into your School Cash Online account and click on the "Make a Donation" button to launch the donation portal. You will then be able to choose your gift amount, select our school, and an initiative that you would like to support. There is a specific Literacy option you can choose if you wish. Donations received for the general Initiative will be allocated at the discretion of the principal based on the needs of the school. Lastly, you will have the option to send a message to the school board. Once you add it to your cart you can proceed to the cart and complete your transaction. Tax receipts are issued for donations regardless of denomination, upon completion of transaction. We thank you in advance for your support of our school!

### ***Communication to families regarding inclement weather days***

#### **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](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.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 SCDSB hub [Brightspace by D2L]) and continue with academic programming. It is always a family decision whether 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 for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay

notifications here:

<https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

Please note that athletic practices/events and food orders are cancelled on inclement weather days.

### ***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).

Visit our school's website by at <http://for.scdsb.on.ca>.

### ***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! We will be calling contacts for students with an unexplained absence.

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.

### ***Supporting All Readers at Home***



Supporting reading at home can be rewarding, but also challenging. Students may excel at reading, but some may require

extra support, whether it be extra practice, or trying different strategies to help address a learning disability. There are various resources online where parents can access tools to help their child decode words, build fluency and encourage active reading overall.

[All About Reading](#) not only provides resources to support decoding strategies, but also provides parents with a readiness checklist so that they can see what level their child is at.

[Raz-Kids](#) has levelled readers and is a program that is familiar to a lot of primary aged students. Some will have an account through school, but individual annual memberships are also available for purchase.

[Teach Your Monster to Read](#) is a game that focuses on sounds and words to support early readers and is available as an app on Android and Apple devices.

[Watermelon Works](#) is a company that supports learners, including those with dyslexia, to develop skills to support decoding and comprehension in French. More information and the creator's contact information is available through the website.

[The International Dyslexia Association of Ontario](#) has numerous resources to support your learners. While their focus is dyslexia, a lot of their supports and resources can be applicable to a variety of different learners, and they offer webinars that discuss various topics, including the most recent seminar entitled [Race, Class and Reading: Disrupting the Pedagogy of Low Expectations](#). Supporting all readers is something that takes collaboration and knowing where to find resources. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### **ANOTHER REMINDER TO PLEASE LABEL ALL CHILD'S BELONGINGS**



We have an excessive amount of found clothing! Labeling your child's items is more important than ever right now. Mabel's labels can help us out with this. They make fun, functional and durable labels for all of

your kid's items. To order labels go to their website

[https://mabelslabels.ca/en\\_CA/fundraising/support/#](https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/#). Please label everything your child brings to school. This includes backpacks, lunchboxes, and all clothing including jackets, boots, hats, etc.

### **BASKETBALL**

The Boy's Intermediate Basketball Team has begun their season. Good luck to the team! Ms. Blue was so thrilled to see so many boys interested in playing this year that she has created an Open Gym activity on Friday mornings from 8-9 am for any Intermediate boy who would like to come and play and strengthen their skills (weather permitting).

### **FOREST HILL PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Forest Hill Public Speaking  
Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, Intermediates 1<sup>st</sup> block  
Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, Junior 2<sup>nd</sup> block

\*Diversity Equality & Inclusion Focus\*

**Character attribute for the month of February: Inclusiveness:**



We include everyone in what we do and value their contributions. More information about character education can be found here:

[www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education).

**Notice to students and parents/guardians of students regarding out-of-area-requests**

Under Simcoe County District School Board procedures (APM A7000 – School Attendance Areas), it is possible for students to apply for and receive permission to attend an out-of-attendance-area school. Students will be permitted to continue in attendance as long as there are pupil places available. They may be required to return to their home school or transfer to another school when the capacity of the school they are attending has been reached and space is required for students residing within the designated attendance areas. An approval may be revoked at any time by the superintendent of education, after consultation with the receiving school principal, for reasons related to the student's behaviour, attendance, actions or inactions. Transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the out-of-attendance-area student and/or parent/guardian.

**Black History Month**



The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) recognizes and celebrates Black History Month every February. The SCDSB

is committed to improving equity of access & opportunity for Black students, staff, and parents/guardians, to creating a safe and caring learning environment that promotes the human rights of staff, students, and parent/guardians. The initiatives undertaken by the SCDSB have been embedded in teaching and learning at all school levels, and centrally, for Black History Month and throughout the year. Follow the SCDSB on social media to see how schools are recognizing Black History Month.

**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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten).

**Early learning and child care** 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 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>.

**Child care programs available on PA days, holidays and March Break**

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 March Break (Mar. 13 to 17). Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register. For more information and contact numbers, please visit:

### **SCDSB Character Education program**

Our SCDSB Character Education program was developed over 20 years ago. As a school board, we are moving forward to update the SCDSB Character Education program, along with the attributes. The intended implementation date for our new Character Education program will be September 2023. To make this successful, it is imperative that everyone has an opportunity to have a voice. Currently, we are eliciting student voice from our elementary and secondary students and understanding the important partnership with parents/guardians; we are asking if you could take a moment to fill out the below survey.

The survey opens on Feb. 6 and will remain open until Feb. 10:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M2BF38X>.

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

Mental health and well-being continue 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, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities.

There are five webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents, guardians and other caregivers during this school year. The remaining sessions include:

Feb. 9, 2023 Guide to Attuned Limit Setting  
March 2, 2023 Emotional Regulation for Kids & Adults  
April 27, 2023 The Biology of Stress

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).

### **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 sessions include

#### **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](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions).

### **SCDSB Anti-sex Trafficking Protocol and resources for parents/guardians**

In 2021-22, the Ministry of Education directed Ontario school boards to develop an anti-sex trafficking protocol that was tailored to the needs of their community. The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has developed a protocol and relevant training and resources for staff, students and parents/guardians. The focus of the SCDSB's protocol and resources is to protect students and empower school communities to play a key role in fighting sex trafficking and keeping children and youth safe from sexual exploitation.

More information, including a link to the SCDSB Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol and associated resources, is available on the SCDSB website:  
[www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe\\_schools/anti-sex\\_trafficking\\_protocol](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools/anti-sex_trafficking_protocol)

### **Evaluating early literacy**

The Ministry of Education has directed all Ontario school boards to begin implementing the recommendations outlined in the Right to Read Inquiry. As a result, primary educators are shifting from using leveled texts for reading instruction as they encourage reliance on guessing strategies to solve unknown words. Instead, educators are beginning to use a scope and sequence to systematically teach phonemic awareness (awareness of the sounds in words) and phonics (understanding of the letters that represent sounds). Students may apply the phonics skills they have learned by reading 'decodable' or 'phonetically controlled' texts.

As a result, educators are moving away from using PM Benchmarks and moving towards assessments that measure foundational reading skills. For example, in Grade 1, educators will be observing a child's ability to identify the sounds they hear in a word, identify the letter(s) that represent the sound, and their ability to blend the sounds together to decode (read) the word and encode (write) the word. In later primary, educators will be observing a child's understanding of more complex letter/sound relationships such as prefixes and suffixes.

Educators will also consider a child's achievement in reading fluency, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension when assigning a report card grade for reading.

To support your child at home, the following documents provide activities that may help foster these foundational skills:

#### **1. Phonological Awareness Activities for Families**

<https://bit.ly/3WVsexb>

#### **2. Supporting Reading Development at Home**

<https://bit.ly/3X3wB9w>

**Math games at home** Playing math games at home is a great way to reinforce math concepts that students learn at school. The YouTube channel MMMathMania has a large number of videos of math games that can be played using paper, dice, and/or playing cards.

Check out the channel at:

[www.youtube.com/@mmmathmaniamathgamesmore3985](http://www.youtube.com/@mmmathmaniamathgamesmore3985) or search MMMathMania on YouTube.

**Exercising together can make your family stronger and healthier** Families that exercise together get stronger in more ways than one. Getting your daily dose of exercise not only helps to prevent health risks, it builds strong muscles and bones, develops positive body image, supports mental health, and strengthens the family bond. With so many great reasons to get moving, why aren't Canadians doing it more often? One of the most common barriers reported is time. This is also one of the biggest roadblocks to spending quality time together as a family. With Family Day just around the corner, why not plan a weekend of activities that gets the whole family out and moving! Here are some tips to help make family fitness fun for everyone.

### ***CATCH UP WITH JANKOWSKI***

Sharing my passion for cooking and baking. Does your family love Taco Tuesday? Would you like to be able to pronounce the ingredients in your taco seasoning?

<https://www.spendwithpennies.com/taco-seasoning-recipe/>



*"When you are with a group of people,  
Take a look around and notice  
Who might feel left out and include  
them in the conversation.*

*BE AN INCLUDER*

*You might be doing more than  
Brightening someone's day;  
You might be helping to heal a raw,  
tender place in them."*

- By Lisa McCrohan

