



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**

OCTOBER 2023

IMPORTANT OCTOBER DATES

PA DAYS & HOLIDAYS

1st to 31st

2SLGBTQIA+ History Month

Autism Awareness Month Canada

Dyslexia Awareness Month Canada

German Heritage Month

Islamic Heritage Month

Latin American Heritage Month

Women's History Month

6th – Elmvale Fall Fair trip Grades 1 through 8

8th to 14th – National Fire Prevention Week

10th – World Mental Health Day

11th – Cross Country Regionals @ Sunnidale Park

13th – Terry Fox Run 2:00 – 3:00

16th to 20th – National School Bus Safety Week

18th – Cross Country race at Mount St. Louis

Moonstone

18th & 19th – Caribou Contest #1

19th – School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

23rd to 29th – Canadian Down Syndrome Week

26th – Picture Day

29th – Pavarana (Buddhism)

31st – Primary Fall Fair

31st – Orange & Black Day

Nov. 5th – Daylight Saving Time Ends at 2:00 a.m.

Nov. 21st – French Immersion Info Night – 6:00 p.m.

Nov. 27th – Class Photos

PA: Oct. 20th, Nov. 17th, Jan. 26th, Apr. 26th, June 7th,
June 30th

Holidays: Oct. 9th, Dec. 25th to Jan. 5th, Feb. 19th,
Mar 11th to 15th, Mar. 29th, Apr. 1st, May 20th,
Last day of school – June 27th

arriving to school on time, returning our start up paperwork (student verification sheets, medical plans, etc.) and involvement in school council. Your assistance in running our school is much appreciated and helps us keep all our students safe.

Thank you to our staff members who volunteer their time to run extracurricular activities. It's great to see students involved in cross country, volleyball, basketball, and our GSA. More activities will be offered as the year progresses when there is a staff member who is willing and able to coach. Thank you to parents for ensuring students get here early if they have morning practices!

Thank you to our volunteers who run our hot lunch program, Kiss 'n Ride, and support in classrooms and on field trips. We really appreciate your support!

Parents' Guide to Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting

Parents/guardians play a crucial role in their child's education. Assessment, evaluation, and reporting are integral parts of a student's education, providing valuable insights into their progress, strengths, and areas for improvement. The Parents' Guide to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting is designed to equip parents/guardians with the knowledge and understanding needed to navigate the world of assessment, evaluation, and reporting and to effectively and empower them to actively engage in their child's educational journey. Please

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We are thrilled that all our students have settled into their learning spaces and are well on their way to mastering a variety of curriculum expectations. Additionally, we are very pleased with our families who have been wonderful partners in many ways:

ensure you share this document with school staff and in your October Newsletter, as it will be posted on the SCDSB Public Website, shared with the Board of Trustees, and then circulated to the Parent Involvement Committee.

Please use this link to access the Parent's Guide to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcdnsm5-ss14.sharpschool.com%2FUserFiles%2FServers%2FServer_210898%2FFile%2FSecondary%2FParents-Guide-to-Assessment.pdf&data=05%7C01%7CLJankowski%40scdsb.on.ca%7C46cce677b2444197447a08dbb8853ccb%7C573d7e64d5434fd8b3da0c64adc4eb35%7C1%7C0%7C638306654600068609%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlIjoIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dm3KqjJ0f05N8kuFEsiHp6xTZWmtwevxuWHntE0Aq3Q%3D&reserved

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month

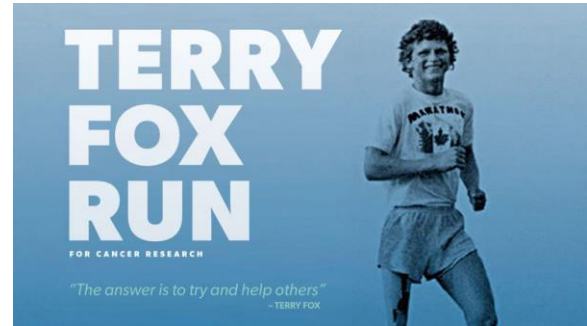
From the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity

Dyslexia is an unexpected difficulty in reading in relation to an individual's higher level of intelligence. While those with dyslexia are slow readers, they also, paradoxically, are often very fast and creative thinkers. Dyslexia is a difficulty appreciating the individual sounds in spoken language. It affects a person's ability to rapidly retrieve the word he or she wants to say, to isolate the sounds within a spoken word and then to attach the appropriate letter to the sound. Those with dyslexia struggle to read fluently, spell words correctly and to learn a second language. Dyslexia is not reversing letters. Some of the most successful people in their fields have dyslexia, including well known writers and artists, brilliant scientists, doctors and attorneys, and government and business leaders. Dyslexia is life-long, affecting 20 percent of the population and representing 80-90 percent of all those with learning disabilities.

Early identification of dyslexia should be

followed by evidence-based interventions and accommodations. Supportive dyslexia-embracing school environments should help students understand that their dyslexia has nothing to do with intelligence and should empower them to realize their potential. We should recognize and embrace those with dyslexia as often among the most intelligent and creative members of society.

ANNUAL TERRY FOX SCHOOL RUN



The Forest Hill 2023 Terry Fox Run will be held on Friday, October 13th at 2:00-3:00. To donate, check out the Forest Hill fundraising link at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/ForestHillPSMidhurst>. You can even set up your own fundraising page under the school's link!

Big thanks to everyone who already purchased a 2023 Terry Fox t-shirt. All money raised in sales has been added to our school fundraising total.

Thank you for your support and commitment to continue Terry's legacy. We look forward to another amazing year of fundraising for Terry Fox!

Mme Stainton

CROSS COUNTRY



Cross country season has begun! It has been so wonderful to see over 140 Forest Hill students out running on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 8:15 a.m. The first meet will take place at Sunnidale Park on Wednesday, October 11th. We wish all our runners the best of luck!

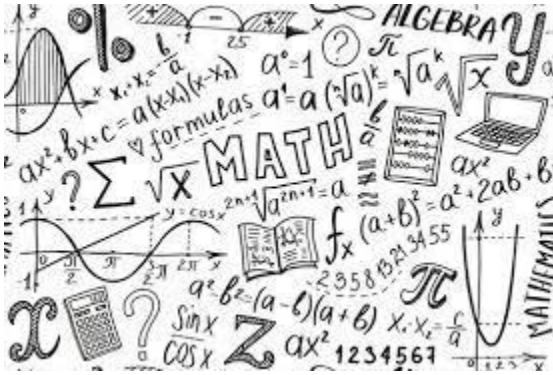
Mrs. Wilson, Ms. McLaren, and Ms. Blue

HALLOWE'EN



Hallowe'en at Forest Hill will continue to be Black and Orange with no costumes. Staff will have curriculum-based activities for the students, respecting various beliefs around this tradition.

Caribou Math Contest



The Caribou Math Contest is a world-wide online math contest that is held 6 times in the school year. Contests are offered for Grades 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8. The first contest of the year is scheduled for October 18 & 19. Participating teachers will provide students time during the school day to complete the contest.

Once students receive their access code, it will be valid for the entire school year. Students will have access to the interactive math games that are available on the Caribou Contest website: www.cariboutests.com. Before each contest date, teachers will be notified of which interactive game will be one of the questions on the upcoming contest. Students are encouraged to use their access code to log on and practice the interactive game before the contest date. The interactive games page is always unavailable starting the Tuesday directly preceding the contest dates.

The Caribou Cup is the series of ALL the Caribou Contests in one school year. Each student's ranking in the Caribou Cup is determined by their performance in their

best 5 out of 6 contests through the school year. Good luck, Thunderbirds!

SUPERVISION AND ROUTINES

For the safety of all our students, please **do not** drop your child/ren off or have them arrive before 8:55 a.m. as there is no outdoor supervision until that time.

If you are aware that there will be a change to your child's end-of-day routine (being picked up instead of put on the bus, etc.), please be sure to advise the teacher by sending a note with your child. This information is important to us to ensure the safety of your child(ren.) Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please do your best to have your 'end of day plans' in place before the school day begins, and to **refrain from calling the office between 2:45 and 3:30 unless it is an emergency.**

Forest Hill Public School Shop



Welcome to the official online shopping portal for Forest Hill Public School. Enjoy browsing a wide selection of products from a variety of brands

that you can then customize with the approved logos and graphics found on the site. Display your pride in fantastic apparel customized entirely by you. Our site lets students, parents, fans, & staff choose from approved merchandise to fit their needs 24/7 with no minimum order quantities.

<https://foresthillsps.entriptyshops.com>

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on November 5th at 2:00 a.m. We will have an extra hour of daylight in the morning, and it will be darker an hour earlier in the evening!



CROSSING GUARD



As of Tuesday, October 10th, we will have a crossing guard on duty at the crosswalk on Doran Rd, close to the school, from 8:15 - 9:15 each morning, and again from 3:20 - 4:20 in the afternoon. Please say hello to Ruth and welcome her to our community.

SCDSB NEWS

October PA Day

Please note that Friday, Oct. 20 is a PA Day for all 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.

Below is a summary of the activities planned for the Oct. 20 PA Day:

Length: Full day

Topic: Health and Safety, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Mathematics

Host: Simcoe County District School Board

Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): School board staff and school administrators and school leads

Educators will participate in a half-day Health and Safety digital learning session focused on health and safety incident reporting and investigations with a particular emphasis on the essential aspect of workplace violence prevention. The session will equip staff with the knowledge and tools to report incidents effectively and

promptly, provide insights into the investigative and risk mitigation process, fostering transparency and accountability, and highlight the critical role staff play in preventing workplace injuries.

Educators will learn about Somali, Latino, South Asian, and African Black Indigenous heritage. They will collaboratively plan within grades and divisions. Through this, they will celebrate identities and create environments that foster well-being and sense of belonging.

Educators will choose learning related to the Knowledgehook digital math tool based on their readiness. Different learning pathways have been planned for new users, those with some experience, and those who are ready to extend their use of the math tool. All participants will learn about how to invite parents/guardians to view their child's progress. Additionally, educators will engage in High Impact Instructional Practices in Mathematics learning modules that align with their school's Achievement in Mathematics goal.

Communication to families regarding inclement weather days

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 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 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](#) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

School bus transportation information available from the SCSTC

In order to receive delay and cancellation notifications, families can check the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca or download the 'BusPlanner Delays' app from the Apple or Android app stores to receive delay notifications to their devices. Users would need to select Simcoe County STC as the transportation authority. The app will need to be forced closed, but you will be able to select your student(s) routes or school to receive delays.

The app will send a general notice for any cancellation in Simcoe County. You only need to know which 'zone' you're in, so you would know which one to look out for in the app. You can find your student's zone by visiting the School Bus Status page at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and clicking the dropdown for the area you live in.

School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place Oct. 16 to 20, 2023. Please visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for information on school bus safety and links to school bus safety resources. Oct. 19, 2023 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in the province of Ontario. It's a great opportunity for the school community to thank our bus drivers for all their hard work transporting students to and from school safely.

Get on the move

There are many benefits to walking or wheeling to school. Walking or wheeling to school reduces traffic, helps students establish healthy lifestyles, is better for the environment and enhances community safety. Wherever possible, we encourage students within walking zones to *get on the move* and walk or wheel to school. For more information please visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website here: bit.ly/3OC4CJ9

Upcoming in-person Grade 1 French Immersion information sessions

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 English and French.

Information sessions for families who are considering entry into Grade 1 FI for the 2024-25 school year will take place at Forest Hill Public School on Tuesday, November 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the Library, and online applications will open in December 2023.

Entry into the FI program will be determined through a digitally randomized lottery system. A link to access the Grade 1 FI online application form will be available on the SCDSB website starting at 9 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 1 until 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15. For more information regarding French Immersion, visit www.scdsb.on.ca, then

select 'elementary', and 'French as a Second Language'.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 8 to 14

This year, the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, 'Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™', works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking. For more information about Fire Prevention Week and this year's theme, along with a wealth of resources to help promote the campaign locally, visit fpw.org.

Information from the National Fire Protection Association website

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 via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

Licensed PA day and holiday 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, March Break, and during summer holidays. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register.

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

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 first session, *IEPs and school-based assessments – information for parents/caregivers*, will be held on Oct. 24 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This virtual presentation will include an opportunity for participants to share some of their questions regarding IEPs and special education programming.

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 upcoming sessions and how to register on the SCDSB website:

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

Have you met Sora?

Our digital ebook/audiobook collection contains over 4,000 titles waiting to be checked out by our SCDSB students. Students simply download the app, use their SCDSB login and start reading for free on their phone or tablet. The collection can be accessed at: meet.soraapp.com.

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, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities.

There are eight webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents/guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

Oct. 26, 2023	Understanding and managing screen time, part one - gaming edition
Nov. 9, 2023	Understanding and managing screen time, part two - social media edition
Nov. 30, 2023	Helping parents align
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.

Supporting your child with math

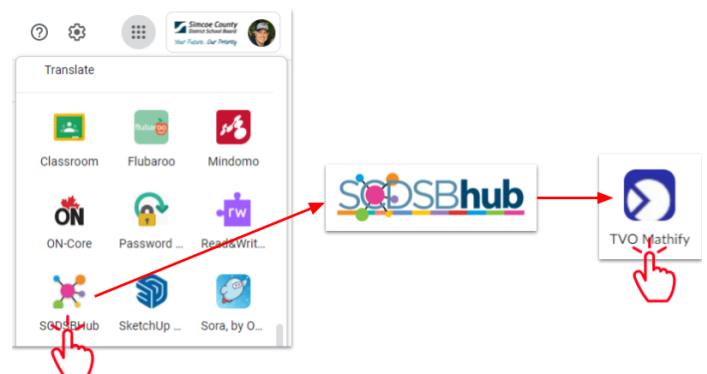
Are you curious about how you can support your child's growth as a mathematician? Visit the Parents Guide to Mathematics at

www.ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8, where you can find a summary of the knowledge and skills your child will be learning as they progress through the grades, information about how you can support your child's learning, and how the curriculum was developed.

TVO Mathify offers free 1:1 online Grade 4-12 math tutoring to SCDSB students. Connect with an Ontario Certified Teacher of your choice. It is anonymous and secure, and can be used from a phone, tablet, or computer. Math tutors are available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday to Friday, and 3:30 to 9 p.m. ET Sunday.

All SCDSB students from Grades 4-12 have been pre-registered for this amazing service. For quick access to TVO Mathify:

1. Find the link in your child's Google waffle to the SCDSBhub.
2. Look for the TVO Mathify icon on their dashboard.



Your child will not need to enter their OEN number or any identifying information when TVO Mathify is accessed through the SCDSBhub.

Revised 2023 Ontario Language Curriculum

Beginning this school year, all language programs for Grades 1-8 will be based on the expectations of the revised Ontario Language Curriculum. The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 to 8: Language, 2023 outlines the knowledge and skills required for effective reading and writing, listening, and speaking so students can succeed at school and beyond. The curriculum has

been revised partly in response to the recommendations outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Right to Read public inquiry report.

The 2023 curriculum now includes four strands:

1. Literacy Connections and Applications
2. Foundations of Language
3. Comprehension: Understanding and Responding to Texts
4. Composition: Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

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



Call it a pack
Call it a clan
Call it a family
Call it a fellowship

Whoever you are, wherever you are, you need one. A fun place to show up, and interact with like-minded people, a feel-good group. And if necessary, a safe place to fall and rest while we get back on our feet with silly smiles.

Credit Lana Stewart, Love Notes