



Megan Francis
Principal

FOREST HILL P.S.

16 Doran Road
Midhurst, ON L9X 1L4
Safe Arrival 1-888-885-8065
School Website: <http://for.scdsb.on.ca>

Ken Wilson
Vice-Principal

BUS CANCELLATION/SCHOOL
CLOSURE: CENTRAL SIMCOE

SEPTEMBER 2023

IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES

4th – Labour Day – No school
5th – First Day of School, including SK
7th – First Day of School, including JK
15th – 17th – Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)
20th – Rowan’s Law Day: Concussion Awareness
21st – Harvestide/Mabon/Fall Equinox (Wicca)
21st – International Day of Peace
22nd – PA Day – No school
23rd – International Day of Sign Languages
24th – 25th – Yom Kippur (Judaism)
25th – Franco-Ontarian Day
25th - 30th – National Truth and Reconciliation Week
27th – Elementary Turn-Around Day
September 1st – 30th – Childhood Cancer Awareness
Terry Fox Run – TBD

Some Important Upcoming Dates

Oct. 2nd - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
(Orange Shirt Day)
Oct. 9th – Thanksgiving Day – No school
Oct. 20th – PA Day – No school
Nov. 5th – Daylight saving time ends at 2 AM
(turn clocks back 1 hour to 1:00 AM)
Nov. 9th – Progress Reports go home
Nov. 15th – Gr. 7 Immunizations
Nov. 17th – PA Day – No school
Nov. 19th to 25th – Bullying Awareness
and Prevention Week
Dec. 25th to Jan. 5th – Holiday Break
– School closed
May 16th – Gr. 7 Immunizations

PA Days & Holidays

PA: Sept. 22nd, Oct. 20th, Nov. 17th, Jan. 26th,
Apr. 26th, June 7th, June 28th
Holidays: Oct. 9th, Dec. 25th – 29th, Jan. 1st – 5th,
Feb. 19th, Mar. 11th – 15th, Mar. 29th, Apr. 1st,
May 20th

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



We are very happy to welcome our students back to school. We have missed you! Please be patient with us as we settle into routines and work to ensure the safety and well-being of your child.

If you need to speak to a staff member, please call or email them. Staff on the yard who are supervising students need to focus on the students in their care, so will not be available to discuss your child at that time. We are looking forward to an in-person open house later this fall to connect with families.

Look for our Week at a Glance emails, which are also posted on our website, for the most current information about school events. If you are not receiving these, please call the office to ensure we have an email address for you on file.



CLASS PLACEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

On the first day of school in September, staff will be on the yard in grade groupings, by division. Grades 1 – 8 will be at the track area. Kindergarten will be on the kindergarten tarmac.

Grade numbers will be posted on the respective yards: students should gather near that number, where a teacher will be waiting with their class list. After the bell rings, the teacher will read off their class list and will bring their class into the classroom as a group. In case of rain, primary students will be brought into the library, junior students will be brought into the gym, and intermediate students will be brought into the intermediate hallway. Class lists will be read out loud in those locations. Our administrators, Mrs. Francis or Mr. Wilson, teacher librarian, planning time teachers and Special Education Resource Teachers and Education Assistants will all have lists for every class to support any student who may need assistance.

At the end of the first day, your child will bring home a letter with contact information for their teacher. A reminder that all placements are tentative until turnaround day at the end of September. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding regarding this procedure.

Families of Kindergarten students will be contacted by email the last week of August about placement. If your child is in kindergarten and you have not heard from your teacher by Friday, September 1st, please contact the office.

Cell Phone Use



Last year many families and students heard from Paul Davis about internet safety and cell phone use. Forest Hill implemented a school cell phone policy which will be continuing this year.

If students bring a personal device to school, they will not have access to them during the school day. Devices will be securely stored in students' homeroom or in the office at the beginning of the day and will be returned at the end of the school day. All communication between students and parents/guardians MUST take place through the office. If you need to send a time-sensitive message to your child, please call the office and the message will be relayed to your child.

We feel it is imperative to limit cell phone use during the school day to provide a safe learning environment that is free of distractions to student learning and social development. We thank you for your understanding.

SAFETY AND REMINDERS

If your children are walkers or you drop them off on the road, please remind them to walk on the sidewalk and not through the cars at the kiss 'n ride. This is very important as it poses a dangerous safety issue.

We have a very busy 'kiss 'n ride' in the morning. To keep this moving smoothly we have a couple of parent volunteers who will open your car door and your child may exit. Please **remain in your vehicle**, where possible, so we can keep the traffic moving. If your child requires assistance with a car seat, please exit your vehicle to do so. If your children are walkers or you drop them off on the road, please remind them to walk on the sidewalk and not through the cars at the kiss 'n ride. This is very important as it poses a dangerous safety issue.

If your child is away for any reason, please call the safe arrival line at the new number: 1-888-885-8065 and state a reason for absence and when they might return. This will avoid you receiving an automated message and needing to call the school later.

Our water fountains are in use and our water filling stations remain available. Please put your child's name on their water bottle.

We look forward to a very positive and productive year together!

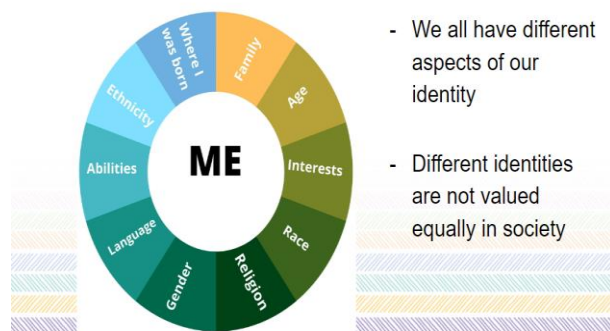
Ken Wilson (VP)
Megan Francis (Principal)

SCDSB'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The SCDSB's Strategic Priorities are Well Being, Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Diversity, Equity and Inclusive and Community. As part of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusive priority, we are committed to reflecting the diverse identities of our student population, staff, and local community. The identity wheels (see the diagrams below) are used in all classrooms as a strategy to support student connections to their own identity and the identities of others. Your child's teacher may invite you to share anything about your child's identity that you feel would support their learning throughout the year. Thank you for working with us as partners to support your child's learning.

K – Grade 5:

Who we are impacts how we see the world and how the world sees us



Grade 6 – 8:



BUSING INFO/UPDATE

As we start a new school year, we thought it would be a good time to remind parents/guardians and students of a few regulations that families may, or may not, be aware of. Bus students are only permitted to ride their assigned bus to and from school. We can ***no longer*** allow students to ride another bus to a friend or relative's house or to another stop for any reason. Any changes to bus stop information are to be completed through the office and will have to be a permanent change, not just an occasional need. Only bus students are permitted to use the daily transportation; students who are classified as walkers are not permitted to ride a bus to or from school. Field trips would, of course, be the exception. If you have any questions or concerns regarding busing, please do not hesitate to contact the Vice Principal, Ken Wilson, at kiwilson@scdsb.on.ca or by calling the school office.

BUS CANCELLATIONS



There may be occasions when the buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, but the school remains open for student learning.

If your child normally rides the bus and the buses are cancelled, you do not need to call Safe Arrival. All other walking students that are absent must have a parent call Safe Arrival to record your child's absence. If you decide to drop off a bus student when buses are cancelled, you must make arrangements to have your child picked up at the end of the day. Visit <http://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca> for up-to-date bus information.

2023/24 NEWSLETTERS

We will continue to send monthly newsletters electronically. If you do not have an email address, please be sure to visit our website at www.for.scdsb.on.ca; newsletters are uploaded monthly.



2023/24 SCHOOL COUNCIL AND VOLUNTEERING AT FOREST HILL

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Welcome back to another year with the Forest Hill Parent Council.

New members are always welcome! Membership Nomination forms will be emailed to all families 14 days prior to the first meeting where elections will take place. Returning members also need to complete one of those forms each year to ensure up to date information is on file. The date and time of the first meeting will be communicated in the next 2 weeks.

All interested parents/guardians are welcome to attend and participate in any meeting without becoming a member. All agendas, meeting minutes and the Annual Report are posted on the School Council page of the Forest Hill Website.

Any questions regarding Council meetings or membership should be directed to the Council Chair at councilchairfor@scdsb.on.ca.

STAFFING UPDATE

We are happy to welcome several staff members, both new and returning:

Stacey Collins, Gr. 4
Avneet Dhillon, JK/SK
Kelly Johnson is now Kelly Douglas
Nicola Raven, JK/SK
Tara Vyse, Gr. 4/5
Amanda Reilly, PT
Megan Ginger, SERT
Kris Odette, SERT
Kim Emslie, PT (for Trisha Bates)
Christy Hails, DECE
Melisa Moore, DECE

We would like to extend a fond farewell to Lisa Browning, Jill Woods, and Diane McCabe as they begin the next chapter of their lives ... RETIREMENT! Enjoy! And a sad 'so long' to Vanessa Stones and Andrea Callan as they move on to a school closer to home, Huronia Centennial E.S. Good luck to you both -- you will be greatly missed!

LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome back! I am looking forward to an exciting year in our school Library! If you are doing some fall cleaning, keep your eyes open for any school library books and return them to the school for others to enjoy.



MORNING SUPERVISION

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.

SAFE ARRIVAL



Please note that the safe arrival number has been changed to reflect the new automated system for all SCDSB schools (1-888-885-

8065). Please ensure that you call safe arrival if your child/ren is/are absent or will be late.

Late students are required to sign in at the office and receive a late slip before going to class. If your child/ren is being picked up early, please communicate with the teacher in the morning; it's also a great idea to let us know in the office in the event that the teacher is absent.

Please ring the bell when you come to pick up; we ask that you come into the office to sign your child out in the binder. *There will be no pick-up of students after 3:15 PM as the teachers are busy getting all students ready for dismissal and sharing important end-of-day information.*

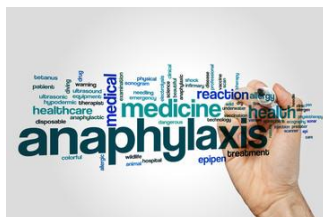
END-OF-DAY ROUTINES

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.**

Extra Clean Clothes

We do not have extra clean/dry clothes at the office. We encourage parents of primary students to ensure they have a back-up set of clothing kept in their backpack or in a large Ziploc bag on their coat hooks.

ANAPHYLACTIC STUDENTS AT OUR SCHOOL



It is vitally important that we have the cooperation of all

students and parents in maintaining a safe environment for the many students in our school who have allergies to peanut and tree nut products. To some of our students, this is a life-threatening issue. Those with a severe allergy can be sent into anaphylactic shock from the smell of peanut butter, or through the touching of a desk or door handle on which there is a trace of peanut/nut oil. Please keep all students safe by sending your child with peanut/nut free snacks and lunch.

Stuff the Truck

The Springwater Firefighters will be out collecting donations for the Elmvale & District Food Bank on Wednesday, September 20th beginning at 6:00pm. We will drive through Anten Mills, Elmvale, Hillsdale, Midhurst, Minesing, Phelpston and Snow Valley to collect donations left at the end of driveways. Same as last year, for the route in Midhurst we are adding Community Collection Points (CCPs) for those in the community not on the route who still wish to donate. We ask that you place your donations at the CCPs by 6:00pm. Our first CCP is Forest Hill Public School followed by Cherry Park and then Green Pine Park.

Attached is the route for Midhurst.



NEWS FROM SCDSB

SCDSB launches updated character education program for 2023-24 school year

This year the SCDSB will begin implementation of the updated character education program. Rather than focus on one attribute each month, the program has been changed to reflect that character is a

fluid concept that includes a variety of attributes.

The updated character attributes are:

Bravery	Helpfulness	Listening	Responsibility
Caring	Honesty	Love	Trustworthiness
Compassion	Humility	Loyalty	Truth
Cooperation	Inclusiveness	Optimism	Sharing
Courage	Integrity	Perseverance	Wisdom
Empathy	Kindness	Respect	

For more information on the updated character education program, visit the character education page on the SCDSB website:

www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education.

September PA Day

Please note that Friday, Sept. 22 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 Sept. 22 PA Day:

Length: Full day
Topic: Reading and Literacy, Social Studies, Assessment
Host: Simcoe County District School Board
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): School board staff and school administrators

Educators will participate in person to review the newly revised Language Curriculum, *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language, 2023*, and new destreamed *English, Grade 9, and Français, 9e année* courses and explore resources to support their implementation with students. Through group discussions and hands-on activities, elementary educators will learn about early reading instruction and the use of screening tools to help ensure that students with reading difficulties are identified and supported early. They will

also explore and plan for literacy instruction across the curriculum, including the new Holocaust Education curriculum in Grade 6. Secondary educators will also engage in assessment activities and the collaborative planning of student tasks and opportunities to inform both course instruction and evaluation.

New Safe Arrival system for SCDSB schools – call 1-888-885-8065 to report an absence

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has a new Safe Arrival system at elementary schools. This system will support us in continuing to improve our home-to-school communication process and streamline absence reporting. **To report a student absence, call 1-888-885-8065.** Callers will be prompted to identify the school before leaving a message. Parents should include the student's name, teachers' name, dates, and reason for the absence. When schools do not hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, the school will call home to find out the reason for the absence. If you have questions about the new system, please contact the school office.

Universal Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) screening process

The OLSAT is a standardized group test of ability. The results of this test will help us gain a better understanding of students' areas of relative strength and needs as related to their verbal and non-verbal abilities so that we can plan our programs and supports accordingly. Results may also be used to inform identification (e.g., Intellectual: Gifted).

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction, and through providing program extensions and enrichment. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate, and

challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular classroom or in an elementary gifted classroom placement.

A consent form examining the universal OLSAT screening process in greater detail will be sent to parent(s)/ guardian(s) of students in Grade 3 via School Cash Online in September. If you require further information about the universal OLSAT screening process, please contact the school.

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](https://www.scdsb.on.ca).
- Follow the SCDSB on X (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).
- Follow Forest Hill on X (@Forest Hill PS).

School council nominations for 2023-24 school year

School council is a committee made up of elected parents/guardians, community representatives, staff, and sometimes students that help to provide the community voice and parent/guardian perspective on important school topics. School council is a good way for parents/guardians to get involved in their child/children's education while playing an important role in the partnership between home and school.

School council nominations take place every fall. If you are interested, please watch your email for upcoming communication and for more information visit

www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent/school_councils.

Annual notice to adult students or parent(s)/guardian(s) of students under the age of 16

A completed Student Medical Form (FORM A1420 - 1) is required each school year, or when a medical need is identified, or when the student transfers to another school, in order to authorize medical response plan development and the administration of prescribed medication to students who require it during school hours, or when the medication and/or dosage requirements change. Specific to asthma, every student is now permitted to carry their asthma medication if the student has their parent's/guardian's permission.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are responsible for ensuring that a current, completed Student Medical Form is on file at the school. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are also to complete a Plan of Care for students with prevalent medical conditions such as anaphylaxis, asthma, type 1 diabetes, or epilepsy/seizure disorder.

Some students may experience severe life-threatening allergic reactions to bees, hornet, wasp, or other flying insect stings or to certain foods or food ingredients such as peanuts. The best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure for these students is to respectfully ask parent(s)/guardian(s) to avoid sending peanut butter or products with peanuts and/or tree nuts listed in the ingredients to school. For students with life-threatening allergies, it is recommended that two doses of an epinephrine auto-injector are available on site at school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions you may have.

Standard acknowledgment and permission form/student information computing technology appropriate use agreement 2023-24

The 2023-24 Standard Acknowledgement and Permission Form and Student Information Computing Technology

Appropriate Use Agreement are required forms for all Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students. The forms have been made available electronically through School Cash Online until Oct. 16. School Cash Online is our preferred method for forms. If you are unable to submit these forms electronically, please contact the office for paper copies.

Student Accident Insurance 2023-24

Student injuries at school during school events, extra-curricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, etc.) and out-of-province/out-of-country trips are not covered by the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen. A variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices can be found through either:

- StudyInsured at www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com or by calling 1-833-560-0527; or,
- Insure my Kids through at www.insuremykids.com or by calling 1-800-463-5437.

Participation in extra-curricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, etc.) and/or out-of-province/ out-of-country trips require the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage.

Volunteering in schools during the 2023-24 school year

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our schools great places to learn and grow. We value and appreciate the support of our volunteers. Volunteers have various roles at our schools including:

- School event volunteer
- Hot lunch day organizers
- Field trip supervisors
- Classroom helpers

Please contact your local school's office if you are interested in volunteering and would like to know more about the opportunities available.

To become a volunteer in a Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) school, you must complete accessibility training and submit a current (dated within six months) Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC). Schools require all VSCs to be in their original form and emailed directly to the school for processing. Please note, volunteers are unable to upload VSCs directly to the volunteer portal. Each potential volunteer must create an account within the volunteer portal. Please remember to choose the school you wish to volunteer with.

If you do not have a computer or require assistance, please contact the school.

Current volunteers

Current approved volunteers must keep their Community Apps account/Volunteer Portal information up to date with email address changes. Communication is sent throughout the year to the provided email address with respect to timelines, necessary requirements, etc. regarding your volunteer status. Instructions on how to change your email address in Community Apps can be found [here](#). Updating your email address in your Community Apps account will automatically update your email address in your Volunteer Portal.



If you are also a parent, check out our [Parent Portal](#).

How to access the Volunteer Portal

Click this [SCDSB Community Apps](#) link or find the link on the volunteer page of your schools website, under the Parents menu.

If you have previously registered a Community Account, click the **Login To Community Apps** button, and login with your username and password.

If you do **not** have an account, click the **New? Register for new Community Account** link at the bottom of the page.



REMINDER: Each volunteer will have to have their own community apps account. Each community apps account is created with a separate email address.

- Complete an annual offence declaration through the SCDSB Community Apps – Volunteers page for up to four years to continue volunteering.
- Submit a new VSC at the beginning of the fifth year.
- Be responsible for the cost of the VSC.
- Be responsible to the principal and work under the supervision of teaching staff.
- Work co-operatively as part of a team to support and supplement school programs.
- Respect the confidentiality of the relationship to the school, ensuring that staff issues and student work and behaviour issues are held in confidence.
- Adhere to established SCDSB and school procedures.
- Communicate regularly with staff.
- Be prompt, dependable and regular in attendance, and give advance notice to teachers when unable to attend.

Procedures help keep our school safe

We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations.

Parents/guardians should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue

inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off temporarily.

- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all exterior doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident, or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Interior doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents/guardians do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites (www.facebook.com/SCDSB and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (www.scdsb.on.ca), through local police and local media.
- All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents/guardians will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.

When parents/guardians are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire, and/or emergency personnel. Parents/guardians may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent/guardian care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Please note the following:

- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** and wait for assistance. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, so please be patient.**
- Staff must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents/guardians of elementary students to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All SCDSB schools have **automated external defibrillators (AEDs)**.

Student dress code

Our board's dress code is one way that we embed the principles set out in the SCDSB

and Ministry of Education documents, Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario, and Equity and Inclusive Education to ensure safe, inclusive and equitable learning environments for all of our students. In SCDSB schools, we believe that students should be able to learn in a safe and caring space that is free of bias and discrimination. When making choices about what to wear to school, we respect your individuality. To ensure that our learning environments are safe and respectful spaces, our board has consulted with students and staff to develop a set of shared standards for student dress.

The SCDSB dress code is available on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code. If you have questions about the dress code, contact your school principal.

School bus 'Bus Tag' program helps students get to and from school safely

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school-identified students.



The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent/guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour coded bus tag with the assigned p.m. route number, to be attached to the student's backpack, and a colour-coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the bus tag is matched to. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site childcare centre to make sure they don't get on a bus in error.

For more information, visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca.