

Stayer Collegiate Institute

Spartans Speak

February 8, 2014

Coming Events		Principal's Message
Feb 5	First day of Semester 2 for grades 9-12	Hello SCI Families: Both our second semester for high school students, and last term for elementary students, are off to fantastic starts. It's amazing to think we are more than half way through the school year already. Our grade 7's have just completed full days at the low ropes course at the SCDSB Education Centre! Many of our SHSM students are participating in experiential learning opportunities outside of the classroom, and our teams and clubs are again in full swing. It's wonderful to see all the smiles on faces when they return from these outstanding days. Course selection is well underway for next year as well. Please take a moment to discuss options with your student. Our guidance team is working with each grade to offer support as these choices are made. Choosing wisely now is crucial as student selection drives our timetable. As the days get longer and temperatures slowly rise, we gain energy and excitement for the months to come. I am looking forward to seeing our greenhouse full of beautiful seedlings soon, and continuing on the adventures all of our students are having. On behalf of all of the staff here, we wish you a warm and wonderful Family Day long weekend and a happy healthy month.
Feb 16	Report Cards go home for all students	
Feb 19	Family Day- school closed	Anne Tervit, Principal Stayer Collegiate Institute 705-428-2639, ext 42854 Follow Us: @StayerNC
Mar 9-17	Spring Break	
Mar 29	Good Friday-school closed	
Apr 1	Easter Monday-school closed	
Apr 26	PA Day- all grades	
Jun 26	Gr 8 Graduation @ 6pm	
Jun 27	Gr 12 Commencement @ 7pm	
For more important dates happening here at SCI, visit our website: https://scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent_portal/calendar		

Quick Links

What's Happening at SCI

SchoolCASH Online

Parent Portal

Report A Student Absence

Becoming a Spartan Volunteer

Report Bullying, Drug Use or Vandalism

We post our Announcements our website and Facebook every day!

SCDSB 2023-24 School Year Calendar

SCDSB Days of Awareness - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Subscribe To All SCDSB Media Releases

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Explore Ontario Colleges

Ontario Universities

Grade 7 Outdoor Fun

February is 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, positive identity affirming experiences and opportunities for Black students, staff, and parents/guardians, and to creating a safe and caring learning environment that promotes the human rights of students, staff, 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 and celebrating Black excellence.

THE ANNUAL BLACK STUDENT Conference

Play tribute to, celebrate, and bring awareness to Black Culture, Local Black artists, and entrepreneurs while providing opportunity for Simcoe County District School Board students and parents/guardians to network with local community partners and peers from across the county.

REGISTER NOW

Bear Creek Secondary School

FEB 15TH | 2024 | 5:30-8:30 PM

1. Shak's world "Shak's Declassified School Survival Guide"

2. Uplift Black Pathways to entrepreneurship

BLACK STUDENT CONFERENCE

BEAR CREEK SECONDARY SCHOOL

MARYANNE OKETCH
Poet laureate of TV show "Survivor"

CAMARA EDWARDS
Black Student Coach

ROXANN WHITTINGHAM
School Teacher

15TH February 2024

From 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Register Now!

Simcoe County District School Board

Brought to you by: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Special Education Supports for SCDSB Families

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

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://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

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 West 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>.

Safe Arrival & Absence Reporting System For SCDSB Schools

Call 1-888-885-8065 To Report An Absence

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has a Safe Arrival & Absence Reporting system for all schools. This system supports us in 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 at 705-428-2639.

Mental Health Promotion Strategy of the Month-Just Breathe

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 *Just Breathe*. The purpose of this strategy is to help students develop a mind/body connection, self-regulation, awareness of emotions, and resiliency by practising deep breathing.

To practice *Just Breathe* at home, follow these steps:
Place your hands flat on your stomach or pay attention to your stomach.
As you breathe deeply in through your nose, send this breath all the way to your stomach.
Feel your stomach expand and your hands move out.
Breathe out. Feel your stomach contract and your hands move in.
Repeat 5-6 times.

Practice deep belly breathing any time you feel stressed or upset. Find more information to support your child's mental health here: <https://smho-smso.ca/parents-and-caregivers/>.

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

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.

These webinars are specifically planned for parents/guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

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|----------------|------------------------------|
| 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.

Math@Home Parent & Caregiver Series

It's back! The SCDSB math team is pleased to offer three virtual sessions for parents and caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support children with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. The first 200 registrants will receive a Math @Home kit of resources to use at home. Participants must pre-register for each of the sessions.

Exploring the new SCDSB family math resources - Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, 7 to 8 p.m.
This session is for parents and caregivers. Join members of the SCDSB math team for a guided exploration of the new SCDSB family math resources. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the resources that are available to support their child's math learning at home. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length. During the final 15 minutes, the math team will be available to answer questions about the resources available.

Tips for engaging in math conversations with your child @Home - Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024, 7 to 8 p.m.
This session is for parents and caregivers and will explore opportunities to discuss math with their child(ren) at home. Participants will learn about how events such as shopping, preparing food, engaging in a building project, or going for a walk can be used as a starting point for math conversations, and will receive prompts to get the discussion rolling. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length. During the final 15 minutes, the math team will be available to answer questions about the session.

Games to support your child's math learning @Home - Thursday, April 4, 2024, 7 to 8 p.m.
This session is for parents, caregivers, and their children. Playing games at home is a great way to support child(ren)'s math development. In this session, several games will be explored, and participants will have the opportunity to try the games with their children during the session. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length followed by 15 additional minutes for further game play or to ask questions of our math facilitators. Bring your child(ren) and your math kit to this session!

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a kit of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on the registration form. Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/24MathAtHome>.

New Math at Home online resources for families

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) Math team is excited to launch Math at Home, an online resource for parents/caregivers of SCDSB students from ages 0-16. Math at Home provides the following information and resources to support math learning:

- Math games to play at home
- Links to digital math games
- Practice opportunities
- Real world math connections
- Math mindset

Math at Home will be updated monthly to include new math games, problems, and number talks. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/MathAtHome to begin supporting your child's math learning at home!

Registration is now open for summer e-Learning!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school courses in July 2024 (eLearning) and travel for credit courses in both July and August 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 https://www.thelearningcentres.com/programs/summer_school.

EDUTravel programs are offered in a variety of destinations including Canada, USA, and Europe. For more information including costs, destinations, credits, and dates of commitment, please visit: www.edutravelforcredit.com.

Summer e-Learning opportunities for Students entering Grade 9

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school eLearning courses in July 2024. Current Grade 8 students wishing to reach ahead and earn a credit before high school can now register through their elementary school principal. eLearning is fully supported by certified teachers who are available electronically daily. Available courses include:

- CGC1D – Grade 9 Geography
- PAF10 – Grade 9 Personal Fitness
- CHV2P & GLC2O – Grade 10 Civics and Careers
- CHC2P – Grade 10 Applied History
- CHC2D – Grade 10 Academic History

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centre website at www.thelearningcentres.com/programs/summer_school.

Developing Fluency through Repeated Reading

Fluency, the ability to read smoothly, accurately, and with expression, is a fundamental skill that significantly impacts a child's overall reading proficiency. When children read fluently, they can focus more on comprehension, understanding the meaning behind the words, rather than struggling with decoding.

Repeated reading is a highly effective strategy that involves a child reading the same text multiple times. This method aims to enhance fluency, comprehension, and overall reading proficiency. By revisiting a text, readers become more familiar with the words and structure, leading to increased speed and accuracy. Additionally, repeated reading allows children to focus on expression and intonation, promoting a more natural and engaging reading style. This approach is particularly beneficial for struggling readers, as it builds confidence and reinforces word recognition. As parents/guardians, incorporating repeated reading into your child's routine not only reinforces the joy of reading but also cultivates a strong foundation for improved fluency and comprehension skills over time.

Online Luring and Grooming

As part of our shared commitment to educating our students about digital citizenship and cyber awareness, this month we are highlighting online luring and grooming. The following info sheet has been created by the Educational Collaborative Network of Ontario (ECNO) to overview:

- What online luring and grooming is
- Commonly used tactics that online predators use
- Helpful tips to stay safe
- How to report if necessary

Info sheet: https://ecno.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/ECNO-CAM-Calendar-23-Aug3023_GroomingLuring.pdf

For additional activities and information, please refer to the digital citizenship resources for parents/guardians that are available on the Safe Schools page on the SCDSB website (www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools). The Ministry of Education has also provided information and resources in PPM 166 Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols: www.ontario.ca/document/education-ontario-policy-and-program-direction-policy-program-memorandum-166.

The Teenage Brain

Did you know that the teen brain is still developing until about the age of 25? The part of the brain that powers a teen's ability to think, plan, solve problems, make decisions, and control emotions is one of the last parts to mature. This may help explain certain teenage behaviour.

Because their brains are still developing, young people are at greater risk from the harmful effects of alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs.

Stay connected, keep talking with your teen, and be a good role model.

For more information, visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

Subscribe to Community Connects!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is excited to launch Community Connects, a new bimonthly newsletter for the SCDSB community. Our shared goal with this new tool is to keep our community partners and stakeholders informed while nurturing relationships that are built on accountability, trust, and transparency.

To learn more and subscribe, visit the Community Connects page on the SCDSB website: https://www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community_connects.

Creating Safe and Healthy Schools

A healthy school supports children to reach their full health and learning potential. There are many ways for you to get involved in creating a safe and healthy school for your child. Here are some ideas:

- Talk with your child about what they are learning at school and find ways to role model or reinforce the health messages at home.
- Stay informed about your child's school through the school website and social media platforms.
- Get to know your child's friends, other parents, and staff from the school and communicate often.
- Volunteer to participate on a committee that helps organize healthy activities for the school community. Contact your child's school or your local public health unit to get started.

Looking for more parenting support? Speak with a public health nurse by calling 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

Licensed Winter Break 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. 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 by visiting: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

The foundation for lifelong learning and health is built in the early years. EarlyON Child and Family Centres across Simcoe County offer programs for children prenatal to six years of age and their parents/guardians and caregivers. They offer access to play, and inquiry-based learning supported by *How Does Learning Happen?* Ontario's pedagogy for the early years, information on child development and developmental screening including Early Referral Identification Kits (ERIKs), parent/guardian education, referrals to community resources, nutrition information, and post-natal resources. Check with your local EarlyON provider: <https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>.

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.

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, or for more information visit: www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten

Subscribe to Kindergarten Connections!

Will your child be turning four in 2024? If so, the SCDSB invites you to Kindergarten Connections! This is a monthly 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.

Foster Families Needed in Your Community

Children in our community need you! We have an urgent need for foster homes in Simcoe Muskoka. We are looking for diverse foster care providers who understand children's needs. Our needs are diverse and range from babies to teens. Open your home to a child/youth and receive training, support, and between \$85 and \$155 per child and per day. Do you know anyone who may be interested? Visit <https://familyconnexions.ca/fosterconnexions/> to inquire, apply, and for more information. You may also call 705-726-6587 ext. 4.

Information provided by Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions.