



Tosorontio Times

7016 County Rd. 13
Everett, ON, L0M 1J0
Phone (705)435-6023
Safe Arrival: 1-888-885-8065
Fax (705) 435-5274
Email: tosorontio@scdsb.on.ca

APRIL 2024

Mr. Akram Shehata, Principal

Ms. Andrea Evans, Vice Principal

The Character Attributes for April are...

Optimism & Wisdom



We maintain a positive attitude and have hope for the future.

We know that with hard work and dedication will come knowledge.

Safe Arrival Program Reminder

Our Safe Arrival Program is vital to the safety of all of our students. Please remember to call the Safe Arrival Line if your child will be late or absent from school. To report an absence or late arrival, call **1-888-885-8065** to leave a message or email tosattendance@scdsb.on.ca. Include the student's name, teacher, reason for absence and expected date of return in your message. This service is available 24 hours a day for your convenience. If your child is absent and no message has been left with Safe Arrival, parents, guardians and emergency contacts will be called until we reach someone who can verify your child's absence. The first call will be made by an automated phone service. Automated calls will be sent to the home phone number and cell number (if available) for the first parent/guardian listed in your child's file. **The automated call will ask you to call our safe arrival line back.** If we don't hear from you in 15 minutes, we will start to call other contacts, starting with other parents/guardians on file followed by the emergency contacts.

West Jet Raffle

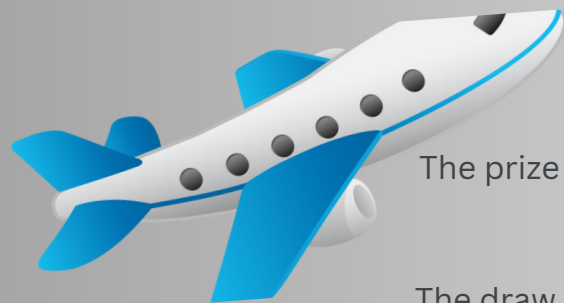
The West Jet Raffle Fundraiser is back for 2024!

The prize is one round trip flight for two guests to any regularly scheduled and marketed West Jet destination.

Tickets are \$10 each.

The draw will be held at the Spring Fair on May 15 at 6pm. You do not need to be at the fair to win.

Let your friends and family know so we can make this fundraiser a success!





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- Apr. 1: Easter Monday (no school)
- Apr. 8: PA DAY (no school)
- Apr. 9: School Council Meeting @ 6pm in library
- Apr. 10: International Day of Pink (wear pink)
- Apr. 12: Kick Off Assembly for Jump Rope for Heart
- Apr. 15-30: Jump Rope for Heart Fundraising
- Apr. 22: Earth Day
- Apr. 24: Neon Day (wear neon colours)

LOOKING AHEAD...

- May 6: Music Monday
- May 6: School Council Meeting @ 6pm in library
- May 8: Track & Field @ Tosorontio (grades 4-8)- rain date May 10
- May 15: Spring Fair
- May 16: Kindergarten Orientation (4-5p.m.)
- May 20: Victoria Day (no school)
- May 31: Career Day (dress up as what you would like to be when you are older)

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HAPPY Easter	1 EASTER MONDAY	2 Day 3 World Autism Awareness Day -wear blue	3 Day 4	4 Day 5	5 Day 1	6
7	8 PA Day No School	9 Day 3	10 Day 4 International Day of Pink -wear pink	11 Day 5	12 Day 1 Jump Rope for Heart Kick-Off Assembly	13
14	15 Day 2 Jump Rope for Heart -fundraising begins	16 Day 3	17 Day 4	18 Day 5	19 Day 1	20
21	22 Day 2 EARTH DAY	23 Day 3	24 Day 4 Neon Day -wear neon colours	25 Day 5	26 Day 2	27
28	29 Day 1	30 Day 2 Jump Rope for Heart -fundraising ends				

LOOKING AHEAD...

- May 6: School Council Meeting @ 6pm
- May 6: Music Monday
- May 6-10: Education Week
- May 6-12: Children's Mental Health Week
- May 8: Track & Field @ Tosorontio (grades 4-8)- rain date May 10
- May 15: Spring Fair
- May 16: Kindergarten Orientation (4-5p.m.)
- May 20: Victoria Day (no school)
- May 31: Career Day (dress up as what you would like to be when you are older)

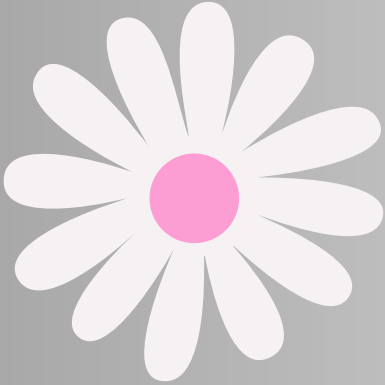


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Spring Fling... Looking for Vendors



Mark your calendars for Tosorontio's Spring Fling being held
Wednesday, May 15th from 5:00-7:30 p.m.

New this year is a Vendors Market. Limited spots available. Cost is \$30 for a 6ft table and we are asking for a donation of a door prize for the end of the night. Limited electrical spots available. If you are interested in being a vendor please contact Terri-Lyn at tlhaufe@yahoo.ca.

Jump Rope For Heart

The Jump Rope for Heart Assembly will be held on Friday, April 12th.
Fundraising runs from April 15-April 30th.
Jump Rope for Heart will be held on June 14th.



Wasteless Wednesdays

To celebrate Earth Day this month, Tosorontio's Green Team would like to encourage our school community to participate in Wasteless Wednesdays.



On Wednesdays (and everyday if we can!) we will try to reduce the amount of waste that our school is generating by packing our lunches and snacks in reusable containers. Please help our school community in reducing the amount of garbage we are creating by joining us in this Wasteless Wednesday challenge until the end of the school year!

Dogs on School Property

For the safety of all staff, students, and visitors, dogs (with the exception of service animals) are not permitted on school property at all SCDSB schools.





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Please Turn Off Your Car While You Wait



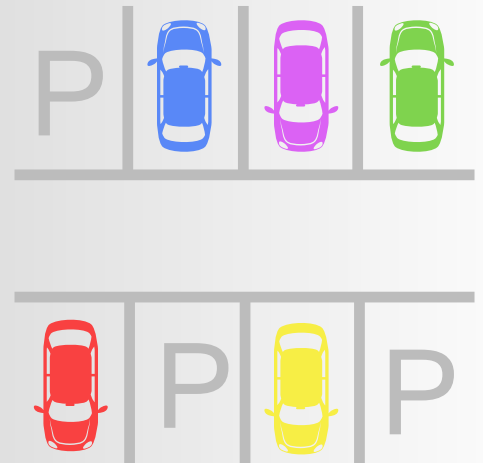
Parents and guardians are reminded to please turn your engine off when dropping off or picking up your child(ren) from school. Idling cars release exhaust that is harmful to the environment, our health and the health of our students. It's good to get into the habit of turning your car off any time you're stopped and in park for more than 60 seconds. Thank you for doing your part to keep our kids and our environment healthy! For more information to keep you and your family healthy, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

School Council Meeting Update

The next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9 at 6PM. Please forward agenda items to Chairperson, Devon Altena via the school office.

Parking Lot Update

Drivers using the parking lot are reminded to drive slowly and carefully, watch for students and adults moving between vehicles and respect the support provided from adult supervisors in the parking lot area. When waiting in the parking lot area, please continue to watch for our school buses and be prepared to let them into the parking lot promptly for pick up and drop off of our students. We continue to require your partnership in the parking lot to maintain the safety of our students.



Head Lice Screenings

Parents/guardians are reminded to continue to check their child(ren) regularly for the presence of lice or eggs. Should any be found, we would appreciate being notified at the school. We will keep such information confidential but we will then send a general notice home with affected classes of students as a reminder for parents to be even more diligent when checking their child(ren).



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PA Day April 8

Due to the solar eclipse set to occur in our region, the Simcoe County District School Board has made the decision to move the elementary school PA Day originally scheduled for April 26, 2024 to April 8, 2024.

Monday, April 8 is a PA Day for elementary 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 April 8 PA Day:

April 8, 2024

Length: Full-day

Topic: Curriculum content, student mental health and well-being, skilled trades and apprenticeships

Host: Simcoe County District School Board

Presenters/Facilitators: Combination of administrator-facilitated and self-directed learning modules planned by central staff

All educators will engage in professional learning with a focus on mental health promotion and literacy planning for students. Educators will learn about Wayfinder, a sequenced guide that offers a variety of mental health lessons and activities organized by grade. Included are core mental health literacy lessons, lessons linked to HPE curriculum, learning activities, and tools to support and consolidate student learning. Professional learning for grades 7 and 8 teachers will include a specific focus on the implementation of the mandatory grade 7 and 8 mental health literacy modules. All educators will also learn about strategies to support students who are dysregulated in the regular classroom.

Kindergarten educators will work collaboratively to use the data from the early reading screener to determine and plan next steps for small group reading instruction. They will also explore the new Kindergarten Math Course of Study instruction and assessment resources and create plans for an upcoming topic of study that is responsive to the needs and interests of their students.

Grade 1 to 3 educators will learn about the revised Social Studies curriculum related to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Peoples. They will review the Indigenous Education Department online resources, learn about the Human Library available for all SCDSB teachers, and plan a cross-curricular literacy lesson which embeds the new social studies content. They will also engage in self-directed learning about math content knowledge for teaching planned by the district math team. This learning will focus on strategies for teaching number and algebra.

Grade 4 to 6 educators will analyze and use their classroom reading data to determine and plan next steps for literacy instruction. They will also engage in self-directed math content knowledge for teaching learning planned by the district math team. This learning will focus on strategies for teaching number and algebra.

Grade 7 and 8 educators will learn about each of the SCDSB programs offered to students which may lead to a career in the skilled trades including: OYAP, Co-operative Education, SHSM, SWAC, and Dual Credit. Educators will also engage in case studies on the topic of skilled trades pathways and then discuss in whole group sessions. School administrators will facilitate this centrally planned learning experience. They will also engage in self-directed learning about math content knowledge for teaching planned by the district math team. This learning will focus on strategies for teaching number and algebra.



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Safety and Security of Items at School

We wish to remind all students and parents that all valuable and/or treasured items should be left at home for safe keeping. Those items may include (but are not limited to) iPods, iPads, MP3 players, computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), tape recorders, video-recorders or digital audio-recorders, cameras, handheld electronic games, toys, expensive watches and jewellery. Cell phones are discouraged, but if parents believe that they are necessary for their child, students are to ensure that all cell phones are shut off, out of sight and not used on school property throughout the entire school instructional day, unless authorized by the teacher or staff member before use for educational purposes. The school cannot be responsible for any such items. Students should avoid bringing large sums of money to school.

Indigenous Leadership and Career Pathways Event Hosted by the SCDSB

Are you a SCDSB staff member, graduating student, or member of the public who is of Indigenous ancestry? Are you looking to learn more about leadership opportunities and career pathways at the SCDSB?

Join us on May 2 from 4:30 – 7 p.m. at the SCDSB Education Centre in Midhurst to:

- Learn about the various career opportunities within the SCDSB, the required education and skills, and how to apply.
- Discover the various pathways to leadership within the SCDSB.
- Network with SCDSB staff from the Indigenous Education department and community partners.

To register, visit: <https://bit.ly/InspiringIndigenousLeaders>

Celebrating Poetry

April is poetry month, a chance for students to celebrate a love of language through an appreciation of poetry. Students of all ages enjoy the lyrical, rhythmic qualities of poetry making it a wonderful choice for at home reading. Poems provide an excellent opportunity for students to practice reading aloud, developing fluency and expression. For ideas and resources please visit the resources for families page on the SCDSB website:

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



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Grade 8 Transition to Secondary School

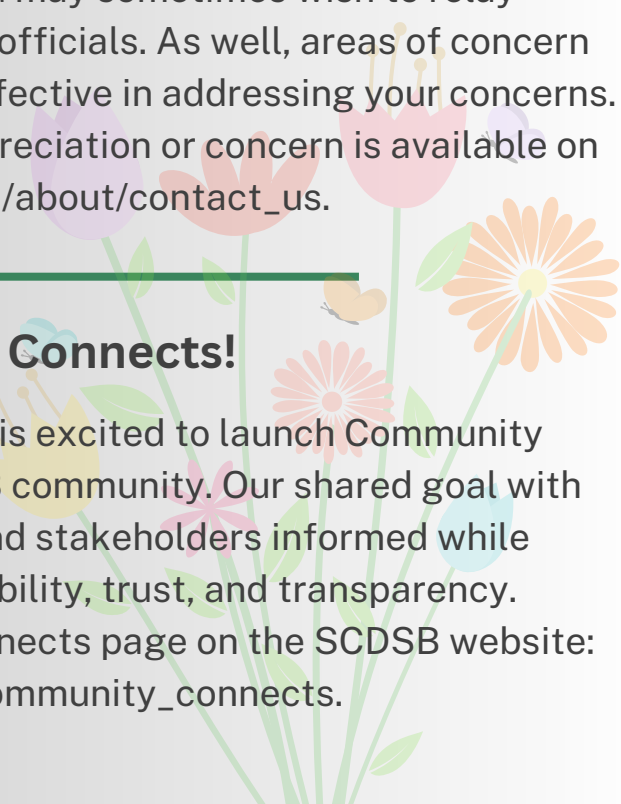
As students progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared which eases each student's transition to secondary school. Sharing this information also improves our ability to program effectively to benefit all students. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes is authorized under the Education Act. Please note that all information used for the transition process is limited, secure and protected at all times. Please contact Matthew Webbe, Superintendent of Education, if you would like more information about the transition process at Banting Memorial High School or Greg Jacobs, Superintendent of Education, about the transition process at Nottawasaga Pines Secondary School.

How to Communicate Your Appreciation or Concern

At the SCDSB, we believe that open communication strengthens important relationships between families, schools, and communities. You may sometimes wish to relay appreciation or positive feedback to school or board officials. As well, areas of concern may arise, and our staff will strive to be helpful and effective in addressing your concerns. Further information on how to communicate your appreciation or concern is available on the SCDSB website: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/contact_us.

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.





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Kindergarten Registration for September 2024 is Open!

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2020? If so, it's time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Simcoe County's public schools are registering children for Kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year. The registration process is online!

Visit https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten for more information.

Required registration documents, include birthdate documentation and proof of address.

Kindergarten Orientation

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/kindergarten.

Subscribe to Kindergarten Connections!

Kindergarten orientation sessions will be held throughout the SCDSB in the spring of 2024. These sessions provide families with the opportunity to engage with their school community as their children prepare to enter school. Learn more about the sessions and find out when your child's school is holding theirs:

www.scdsb.on.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=210982&pageId=8385299.

Join the SCDSB on Facebook Live to Learn About All Things Kindergarten!

Do you have a child who is turning four in 2024? Are you interested in learning about Kindergarten in the SCDSB? On Tuesday, April 16 from 7 to 7:30 p.m., members of the SCDSB's Early Years team are hosting a virtual information session via Facebook Live.

The session will highlight important information parents/guardians need to know about Kindergarten in the SCDSB, including details on transitions for students with special education needs.

To virtually attend the presentation, visit the SCDSB Facebook page at 7 p.m. on April 16. To get a head start on learning about Kindergarten in the SCDSB, watch last year's information session:

<https://fb.watch/qM3niHW7IE/>.



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Is Your Child Starting JK or SK in September?

The Simcoe County EarlyON Child and Family Centres are excited to offer in-person and virtual programs that help prepare children and parents for Kindergarten. Parents/guardians and children will have the opportunity to interact together in a variety of school readiness activities.

These programs will look at and discuss: How Does Learning Happen, Self Regulation, Social Skills, and How to Get Ready to Start School. To register for a program in your area visit: www.earlyonsimcoenorth.ca/GRFK.

SCDSB Equity Advisory Committee Seeks Parent/Guardian Members

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is committed to identifying and removing barriers within our system to ensure that all students and staff are offered supportive, inclusive, and respectful learning and working environments. To support this work, the SCDSB has an Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) comprised of parents/guardians, trustees, students, community partner organizations or associations, and board staff.

The SCDSB is seeking new parent/guardian members for the EAC. Applications are open until May 20, 2024.

Applicants must:

- be a parent/guardian of a current SCDSB student
- be from a community that has traditionally experienced barriers to equal access, opportunities, and resources
- reside in Simcoe County
- not be an employee of the SCDSB

The role of the EAC is to work in partnership with the SCDSB on the review, development, implementation, and monitoring of initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The EAC supports members of the SCDSB community and encourages equitable outcomes, sense of belonging, student achievement, and well-being, in alignment with the SCDSB Strategic Priorities.

Apply to be a parent/guardian member of the EAC by visiting the following link:
https://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion.



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Registration Now Open for Summer eLearning!

Create flexibility in your timetable and earn a credit! The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school eLearning courses in July 2024 for current high school students or adult learners who are interested in creating flexibility in their schedule, 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.

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

The SCDSB also supports secondary students in participating in a variety of EDUTravel credit programs in July and August. 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, visit: www.edutravelforcredit.com.

Grade 8 students – Register Now for Summer eLearning!

Earn a reach-ahead credit with summer eLearning in the SCDSB! The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school eLearning courses in July 2024. Current Grade 8 students are invited to complete a reach-ahead credit, creating flexibility in their high school timetables! For summer 2024, courses available to students entering Grade 9 are:

- CGC1D - Issues in Canadian Geograph
- PAF10 – Healthy Living and Personal Fitness Activities
- CHV20 & GLC20 – Grade 10 Civics and Careers
- CHC2P – Grade 10 Applied - Canadian History since WWI
- CHC2D – Grade 10 Academic - Canadian History since WWI

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 www.thelearningcentres.com/programs/summer_school.



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Summer Learning Programs in the SCDSB

The SCDSB continues to support student achievement and well-being throughout the summer months by providing a range of elementary summer learning programs. This summer, the SCDSB is offering programs that will focus on reading (Grades 1-3), math (Grades 4-8), multilingual learners (Grades 1-8), and students with learning disabilities who use assistive technology at school (Grades 4-8). The programs will be delivered through both a virtual synchronous learning format (Google Classroom) and in-person (Terry Fox Elementary School). The programs will run from July 8-26 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. daily.

Interested families are asked to contact their children's school for further details and registration information. Registration is completed through the SCDSB website (www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/summer_learning) beginning on Monday, April 29. The deadline to register is Friday, May 17.

Looking for ways to support your child in learning math? Check out the SCDSB's new Math at Home resource!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is committed to supporting students in understanding and doing mathematics. The SCDSB has developed the Math at Home resource, a compilation of family-friendly, accessible, and engaging math resources and tools designed to engage families in supporting their children's learning.

The Math at Home page on the SCDSB website, available at www.scdsb.on.ca/MathAtHome, includes a variety of math games, number talks, problem solving opportunities, and practice tasks for students from pre-Kindergarten to Grade 10. Families will learn about how to support the development of positive math mindsets in their children and discover activities with connections to math in the world. The resource also includes a variety of print and digital resources for students and their families





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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.

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.

Helping Students Stay Safe Online

The Internet is a wonderful research, homework and communication tool for children. It can also present a host of risks. When you talk to your children about online safety, you help prepare them for the dangers they might encounter online. Here are some cyber-safety tips that can help to ensure a positive online experience for your children:

- put the family computer in a visible space in the home
- inform your children about the dangers of sharing personal information online
- install software that limits the websites your children can visit
- set a clear limit on daily Internet time
- keep devices, like smartphones and tablets, out of bedrooms





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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.

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.

April CyberAwareness Topic: Safe Gaming and the Metaverse

In today's digital landscape, safe gaming practices and understanding the metaverse are crucial for families to navigate the digital world securely. Understanding safe gaming practices protects personal information, while metaverse awareness helps prevent identity risks.

Parents/guardians play a vital role in guiding their children's online experiences.

Access the cyber awareness tip sheet for April to stay informed about this month's theme and explore additional resources: https://ecno.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/ECNO-CAM-Calendar-23-Aug3023_SafeGamingMetaverse.pdf.

Stay informed to help provide a safer online gaming environment for your children!



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Your Child's Immunization Record

The Ontario Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires the health unit to have up-to-date immunization records for all students attending school. According to ISPA (2014), students are required to be vaccinated against the following diseases:

1. Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio, and Pertussis (whooping cough)
2. Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (must have two doses after first birthday)
3. Meningococcal Disease (must have one dose after first birthday and Men-C-ACYW in Grade 7)
4. Varicella (chickenpox, only required for those born 2010 and after)

The health unit does not receive immunization information directly from doctor's offices. Please contact the health unit each time your child receives a vaccine from their health care provider.

What you can do:

- Check your child's yellow immunization card.
- Contact your child's healthcare provider to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations.
- Visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization/Report-an-immunization to enter the complete record, or fax a completed record to 705-726-3962.

For more information visit the health unit school immunization page:
www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Foster Families

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.





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Mental Health Promotion Strategy of the Month -Just Notice

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 Notice. This strategy helps children and youth develop the skills to ground themselves. Grounding is a way to focus your attention to the sensations you are experiencing in this moment. It is good to practice at any time but especially helpful when emotions or thoughts are stressful.

To practice Just Notice at home, together with your child, model this grounding practice by verbally sharing the following:

- Notice five things you can see.
- Notice four things you can hear.
- Notice three things you can feel/touch.
- Notice two things you can smell.
- Notice one thing you can taste.

This exercise can be done inside or outside. Consider pairing Just Notice with this forest visualization video to help guide and ignite their five senses: www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0PO2xo7I9g&t=9s.

See the Student Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) elementary (smho-smso.ca/online-resources/sel-posters/) and secondary (smho-smso.ca/online-resources/sel-posters-for-secondary/) social-emotional learning poster series for Just Notice that can be used at home.

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