



# Tosorontio Times

DEC 2023

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](mailto:tosorontio@scdsb.on.ca)

Mr. Akram Shehata, Principal

Ms. Andrea Evans, Vice Principal

## The Character Attributes for December are...

### Empathy, Kindness & Humility



We strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others

We are friendly, generous, and considerate.

We elevate others, practice gratitude, and acknowledge our limitations.



### Please, no nuts!

We request your understanding and co-operation in our need to continue to make our school safe in order to assist students who have a potentially fatal allergy to nuts.

Please send lunches and snacks with students that are nut free.

Thank you for your co-operation.

### Reporting Absences

If your student is going to be late or absent please call our Safe Arrival Line at **1-888-885-8065** before 8:30 a.m. or email [tosattendance@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:tosattendance@scdsb.on.ca)  
Thank you for your cooperation.



### Late Arrival & Early Dismissal Reminder

If your child arrives late to school or if you are picking your child up early, please remember to sign them in and/or out in the attendance book by the front door. Thank you!



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## Important Dates

- Dec. 5: Photo Retakes- Edge Imaging
- Dec. 7: Poinsettia Pick Up for those who ordered  
MacMillans Pick Up  
Drop & Shop Movie Night:  
(see School Cash Online for details)
- Dec. 12: Last day for Lions Hamper donations
- Dec. 15: Character Ed Assembly for Nov. & Dec. character traits
  - K-3: 11:45 a.m.
  - 4-8: 2:10 p.m.
- Dec. 20: Seasonal Music Presentation (snowdate Dec. 21)
  - see flyer on page 6 for more details
- Dec. 22: Spirit Day! Comfy Clothing Day
- Dec. 25-Jan. 5: Winter Break

Looking ahead...

- Jan. 8: Welcome Back!
- Jan. 8: School Council meeting @ 6p.m. in library
- Jan. 12: Deadline to purchase Barrie Colts tickets
- Jan. 24: Bell Let's Talk Day
- Jan. 25: Spirit Day! Wear your favourite team colours or jersey
- Jan. 25: TOS goes to see the Barrie Colts
- Jan. 26: PA Day



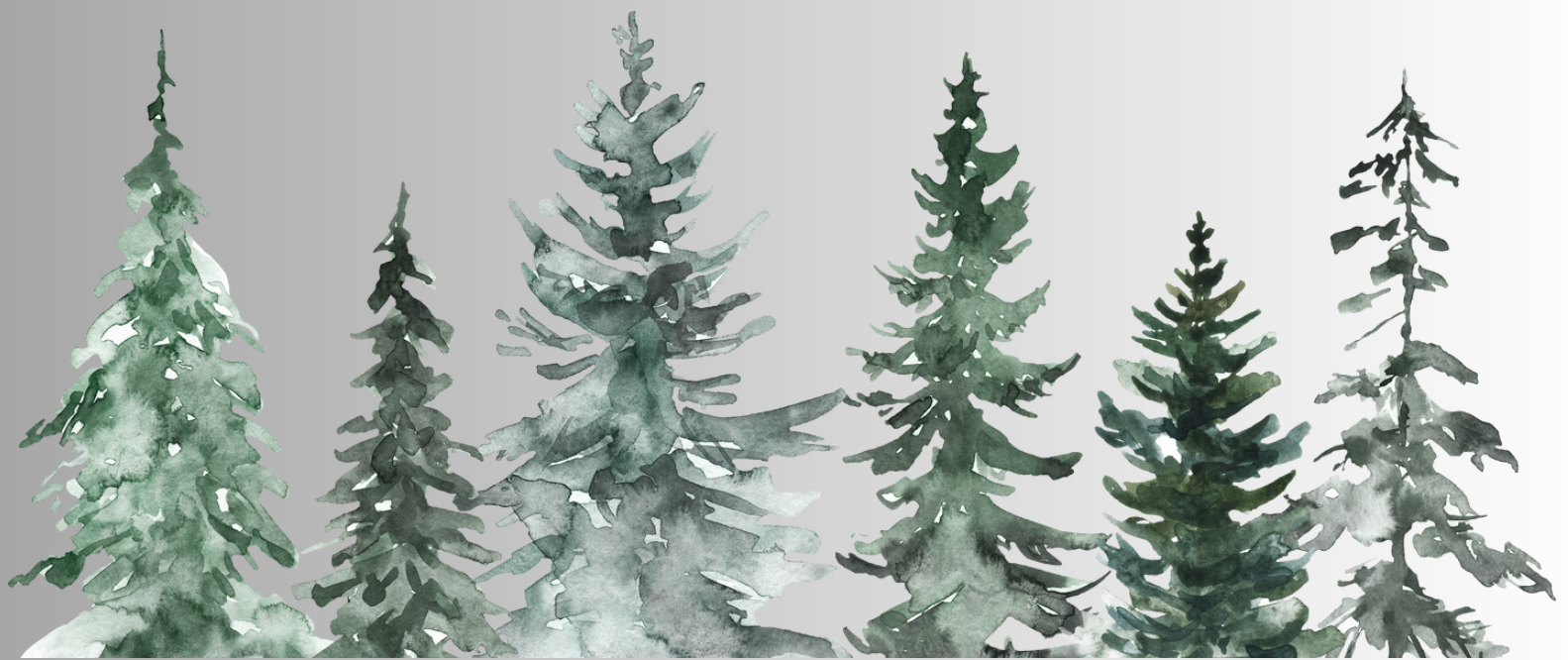
# Tosoronto Times

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## DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <small>Day 5</small>	2
3	4 <small>Day 1</small>	5 <small>Day 2</small> Photo Retake Day	6 <small>Day 3</small>	7 <small>Day 4</small> Movie Night MacMillans P/U Poinsettia P/U	8 <small>Day 5</small>	9
10	11 <small>Day 1</small>	12 <small>Day 2</small> Last day for Lion's Hamper Challenge	13 <small>Day 3</small>	14 <small>Day 4</small>	15 <small>Day 5</small> Character Ed. Assembly K-3 11:45 am 4-8 2:10pm	16
17	18 <small>Day 1</small>	19 <small>Day 2</small>	20 <small>Day 3</small> Seasonal Music Presentation	21 <small>Day 4</small>	22 <small>Day 5</small> Comfy Clothing Day	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>Winter Break! Have a safe holiday!</b>						
31	<p><b>Looking ahead:</b>            Jan. 8: Welcome Back!            Jan. 8: School Council meeting @ 6p.m. in library            Jan. 12: Deadline to purchase Barrie Colts tickets            Jan. 25: TOS goes to the Barrie Colts</p>					





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**Thursday** TOSORONTIO GOES TO THE COLTS GAME

**JAN  
25**



# HOCKEY

**Barrie Colts**



**Owen Sound  
Attack**

School Cash Online for Purchases

\$25.00 a ticket

Last Day to get Tickets will be January 12th 2024



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## Lion's Hamper Challenge

We kicked off our annual Lions Club Food Drive Challenge at Tosorontio on Fri., Nov. 24th!

The food drive will continue until **Tue., Dec. 12th** when the Lions Club comes to pick up our donations. With the support and generosity of our local communities and The Alliston Lions Club, over 171 local families and upwards of 231 children received food and basic necessities in 2022. It is anticipated the need will be greater this holiday season. Each year, staff and students graciously accept the challenge of collecting 100 items per class and are assigned items based on need- please see the notice sent via School Messenger on Nov. 23. for your student's class challenge item. Tosorontio Central collected over 2000 items in 2022!

Let's show our Big Hearts  
and surpass this number for 2023!





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*Tosorontio Central Public School's*  
**DECEMBER SEASONAL  
MUSICAL PRESENTATION**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023

9:30 AM PRESENTATION  
FOR THE FOLLOWING  
CLASSROOMS

MRS. CURRY/MRS. FACHNIE, MRS. LAUBE, MRS. SUTTON,  
MS. CRUICKSHANK, MRS. MILLAR, MR. WEATHERALL/MS. ALATI,  
MR. SOERS, MR. CAIN, MR. HOLDEN

11:45 AM PRESENTATION  
FOR THE FOLLOWING  
CLASSROOMS

MRS. BECK/MS. O'LEARY, MS. TOMPKINS/MRS. TELLIER,  
MRS. DE BOER/MRS. MOULTON, MRS. TUPLING,  
MS. CRUICKSHANK, MRS. CARTER, MRS. PASCUZZO,  
MS. LOGIE, MRS. REEVES, MS. PARSONS

SNOW DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023





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## Inclement Weather and Bus Cancellation Information Reminder

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.”

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Our school is in the **SOUTH** 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>.

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## Inclement Weather Days

On inclement weather days when buses are cancelled, our automated system will call the home and cell number of the first parent on file for all students who are not at school. On these days, the message will ask you to call us back **only if** your child should be at school.

If we don't hear from you, we will assume you are aware your child is absent





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## Dress for the Winter

Now that winter weather is upon us, students and parent/guardian(s) are reminded that boots, winter jackets/snow pants, mitts/gloves and hats will ensure that students can enjoy the outdoor recess breaks each day. Please label all items of students' clothing with their name. Especially for younger students, an extra pair of mitts/gloves and socks tucked into their backpack will keep students comfortable.

## Indoor Shoes Reminder

Students and parents are reminded to help keep our school clean by ensuring that students have indoor shoes to wear inside the school.



## Parking Lot Update

Now that colder, snowier weather is here, all drivers using the parking lot are reminded to exercise extra care and caution. For the safety of all our students, drivers are asked to leave extra distance between vehicles on slippery road surfaces. Watch for small students who may be hidden by piles of snow or other vehicles. Please ensure that you respect the assistance of the adult supervisors who are there to support the safety of all students. Students must cross the parking lot with an accompanying adult.







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## Music Corner

Do you want to keep up your child's musical skills over the long break?

Look up CHROME MUSIC LAB for a free hands-on music education website that works well on all devices.

If your child is loving music and wants to pursue it outside of school, I am happy to share my email below. If you have any questions about how to further your child's musical education, feel free to reach out to [lsimms@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:lsimms@scdsb.on.ca)

*L. Simms- Music Teacher, Tosorontio Central P.S*

This Fall, primary classes have been composing music and playing rhythm instruments and handbells. All classes will be performing a simple song onstage to celebrate the upcoming season. More information will follow!

## School Cash Online - Forms

Tosorontio families have the opportunity to complete required forms and pay school fees online. Please take time now to register. Once you are registered online, you will receive emails about upcoming events/forms to complete.

To Register Online:

**Step 1:** Go to the following web site:

<https://simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com>

**Step 2:** Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and follow the steps.

**Step 3:** After you receive the confirmation email, please select the 'click here' option, login and add each of your children to your household account.

## Ensure Your Contact Information is Up-to-Date

Every September we send home a Student Information Verification Form that includes the information we have in our database about your child. We use the parent/guardian and emergency contact information from this form for the Safe Arrival Program.

It's important that you check this form carefully and mark any changes before signing it and returning it to the school.

If you need to change contact information at any point throughout the year, please contact us. We'll ask you to provide a written note with the updates.



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## **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>.

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## **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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after).

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## **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 e-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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten).



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## High school information events for Grade 8 students

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will take place in person this winter! Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Learn about courses offered, as well as information about teams and clubs. Please visit the SCDSB website at [www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning\\_for\\_high\\_school](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning_for_high_school) to find details on your high school's info night, and contact the school directly for more information.

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## Grade 1 French Immersion Information

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 French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

**The SCDSB board-wide electronic applications for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will open Friday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15.**

Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system. To learn more, visit the SCDSB website:

<https://www.scdsb.on.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=210982&pageId=12587752>.

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## 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](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community_connects).

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## 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>

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## How is your infant, toddler, or preschool child developing?

Is your child meeting their milestones? Age-appropriate speech and language skills are critical to your child's ability to read, write, and be successful in school as well as to their ability to engage with their peers. Free services are available to support you with your child's development. Preschool speech and language programs are located across the County of Simcoe. Call (705) 739-5696 or 1-800-675-1979 to complete a developmental screen. The earlier we work together the better!

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## Is Bedtime Stressing You Out?

Kids need 10-12 hours of sleep every night but sometimes getting them to bed can be challenging. You can help create a regular sleep schedule for your child by setting a clear bedtime and sticking to the same time every night. Start getting ready an hour before bed; turn off the TV, computers, and phones. Spend quality time talking or reading stories to help them unwind. Agree on how many you'll read before you start! Keep their room dark, cool, and quiet - a nightlight is fine. Remember, making sure your child gets enough rest will help improve their mood, behaviour, and ability to learn.

For more bedtime tips, contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a public health nurse.

Visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) for more information.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

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## **Math @Home Parent and 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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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>.



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## 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.

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## Head Lice Treatment and Prevention

Anyone can get head lice. Having head lice does not mean a person is unclean or lives in a dirty home. While they are a nuisance, head lice do not spread disease or cause illness.

Head lice spreads easily, especially where people are in close contact and are very common among school-aged children or children in childcare.

Head lice spreads through direct hair-to-hair contact or indirectly by sharing hats, combs, hairbrushes, and headphones. To help prevent the spread of head lice, it's important to educate students about avoiding head-to-head contact and discourage sharing combs, hairbrushes, tuques, hats, or hair accessories.

Parents/guardians, caregivers, and families can visit <https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/PP2B/RaisingChildren/YourGrowingChild/HeadLice> for more information about head lice treatment and prevention. Or call Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 to speak to a public health nurse.

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

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## **Did you know it's illegal to vape or smoke anywhere on school property, inside the school or outside within 20m of school property, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year?**

The law applies to everyone on school property, students, staff, and visitors. It also means it is illegal to vape or smoke on school athletic fields during afterhours activities or vape or smoke in school washrooms. There is a fine of \$305 for vaping or smoking on school property.

But why do youth vape at school? Vapes contain nicotine, which is a highly addictive drug. Nicotine addiction is extremely powerful, develops quickly, and youth may not realize they are addicted. Once addicted, they need nicotine regularly or they will experience withdrawal, making it hard to get through the school day. Help them take back control – there are supports to help youth quit! Talk to your child about vaping, they listen more than you think.

Learn more at [NotAnExperiment.ca/parents](https://www.notanexperiment.ca/parents)

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

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## **Programs Available Through the SCDSB's Adult and Continuing Education Learning Centres**

The Simcoe County District School Board's Adult and Continuing Education department offers a variety of programming including day school, night school, summer school, correspondence, and co-op. Courses may be online, hybrid, or in-person and are based on sufficient enrollment.

For current high school students, we offer travel for credit, summer school, and night school programs. For adults, we offer credit courses towards completion of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) including credits granted for prior learning and experiences (PLAR). In support of many of the adult learners in our communities, we also offer non-credit classes in English as a second language (ESL) and literacy and essential skills (LES) both of which can support learners towards paths of employment, continued education, and citizenship.

Please visit us at [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) to learn more.

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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.

**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](http://www.pineriverinstitute.com).

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## **Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions is seeking compassionate and skilled professionals with specialized experience to apply to become foster care providers**

The goal of this program is to meet the needs of youth through a therapeutically supported parenting approach within a structured environment, where they are supported and guided by a multi-disciplinary treatment team. The youth will remain, or become connected to, their family/kin/community whenever possible. Treatment services will be individualized based on the needs of the youth, and the knowledge of those who know the youth best in collaboration with community partners. This will allow youth to reside in a family-based setting and remain in their home community of Simcoe Muskoka, staying connected to important relationships and supports that may already be in place.

The homes approved under this strategy are designed to create clinically informed care plans that will support the youth directly, in addition to the continued support of their care providers. Youth will be supported by a multi-disciplinary team and will be available to implement and design parenting and support to address the needs of the youth.

Compensation packages will be offered to experienced foster care providers, as well as clinical support to both care providers and youth.

If you or someone you know is looking for more information or would like to apply, contact Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions by email at [bruna.figliuzzi@familyconnexions.ca](mailto:bruna.figliuzzi@familyconnexions.ca) or call 705-716.4664.

*Information provided by Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions*

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## Mental Health Strategy of the Month - Emotion Charades

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 Emotion Charades. This practice helps students practice expressing emotions with their whole body and recognize body language and facial expressions in others. To practice Emotion Charades at home, on slips of paper, write or draw different feelings depending on the age of your child. For instance, happy, sad, angry, scared, worried, sleepy, frustrated, etc. Place the papers in a bowl/container. Then:

- Decide who will go first. Have that person pick a piece of paper from the bowl.
- Have them read the feeling to themselves, or, if needed, help your child read the feeling.
- Now they will act out the feeling without words while the other players try to guess what it is.
- Once someone gets the right answer, it's the next person's turn to pick a piece of paper and act out the feeling.

This is a fun activity that everyone in the family can play!

Emotion Charades link to School Mental Health Ontario parent sheet:

<https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/>

Find more information to support your child's mental health here:

<https://smho-smso.ca/parents-and-caregivers/>

Emotion Charades: Elementary - <https://smho-smso.ca/emhc/identification-and-management-of-emotions/recognizing/emotion-charades/>

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

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HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!

The staff of Tosorontio Central Public School wish all families a safe and happy holiday season.

