

DECEMBER 2021

Angus Morrison Elementary School



HOME OF THE
DRAGONS!

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Twitter @AngusMorrisonES

Mrs. Suzanne Laybolt, Principal

Mrs. Katherine Blayney, Vice Principal

December Character Trait: Empathy

Empathy is...

seeing with the eyes of another,
listening with the ears of another,
and feeling with the heart of another.

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Empathy - we strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others.

Important Dates And Events For December

School Council Virtual Meeting December 6

Harvey's/Swiss Chalet Night December 7

Spirit Week December 13-17

Winter Break December 20-31

School Returns—January 3

KINDNESS
is a gift
everyone can
afford to give.

UNKNOWN

STORIES by stori

SCDSB Code of Conduct

Standards of behaviour and consequences for student action related to racism, bias or hate At the SCDSB, we are committed to maintaining safe, inviting and supportive school environments, and recognize that all students have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in our schools. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate.

We want you to know that any incident of racism, bias or hate will not be tolerated. Any such incident is treated very seriously with immediate action and consequences in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act, and consistent with our values and obligations under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Students who engage in acts of racism, bias or hate will face severe consequences as a result of their actions. Please take a moment to review the SCDSB Code of Conduct with your child(ren). The Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour and specifies consequences for student actions that do not comply with these standards.

We are dedicated to educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism. We continue to work with students, staff, parents/guardians and community partners to ensure that our schools are the safe places they are intended to be for all students.



High School Information Events For Grade 8 Students

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will take place this winter. Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Different pathways and courses offered will be explained, as well as information about teams and clubs. Please visit your high school's website for more information.

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.

Historically, in-person Grade 1 FI Family Information Nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, due to restrictions on large group public gatherings, Family Information Nights will be held virtually by the Grade 1 FI sites.

The SCDSB board-wide electronic application dates for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will be **Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021**, beginning at **9 a.m.** and ending at **4 p.m.** on **Friday, Dec. 17, 2021**. [Consistent with last year's process, the online FI application process will be a randomized lottery system.](#)

Bienvenue Welcome



Important Reminders For Our Families

If your child is late, please come to the front doors and push the buzzer. We will meet your child at the front doors. **DO NOT WALK YOUR CHILD TO THEIR CLASSROOM.**

The yard is closed to the public. Do NOT walk your child to the portable, parents should always stay back from portable entrances (appointments with teachers can be made through the office but teachers are not available for impromptu conversations).

Students must not be dropped off or arrive at school before 9:00 am. Supervision starts 9:00 am. Walkers should arrive as close to the 9:15 bell as possible.

As always, a BIG thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Join Us! A Learning Series For Parents/Guardians

Mental health and well-being continues to be a key strategic priority within the SCDSB. We are pleased to announce a new three-year partnership with Pine River Institute (PRI). The Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) will provide several multi-part learning series focused on student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities.

There are **five webinars** in the learning series specifically planned for parents and guardians during this school year.

Nov. 23, 2021	Parenting for Positive Mental Health, Part One
Nov. 30, 2021	Parenting for Positive Mental Health, Part Two
Jan. 25, 2022	Understanding and Managing Screen Time
Mar 29, 2022	Connection and Empathy in Response to Behaviour
May 19, 2022	Understanding Addiction and Addictive Behaviours

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 mental health and well-being page on 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.



Pine River Institute

Time for your child to have a dental check-up? Let us help!



The Oral Health Team at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is now available to provide a variety of dental health services for children and youth aged 0–17 at our various clinic locations. We can provide dental screenings, answer questions and guide you through the dental options that are available for your child through Healthy Smiles Ontario. If you don't have a dentist, we can provide you with options of dental offices that can help.

This is your personal invitation to contact us to discuss your child's dental needs and to ensure their dental concerns are addressed. For more information, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 705-721-7520 or toll free at 1-877-721-7520, ext. 5867.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit



simcoe
muskoka
DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT



SchoolCash Online

The School Cash Online program is used by the SCDSB **for online forms** and/or to collect school funds. Parents/guardians can select to receive email notification when a new item becomes available. Items are personalized to each student. Payment can be made by credit card, electronic cheque or using visa/debit style card. To create an online account, go to <https://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com>.

Please complete the permissions and acknowledgements form on SchoolCash Online to allow your child(ren) to participate in activities such as community walks, safe arrival, etc.

Parking At Angus Morrison

Many of you aware of the congestion during pick up and drop off time. Safety is our primary concern.

Please follow these procedures during pick up and drop off times:

Consider parking on our side streets and walking from there.

Remind your child to cross the street at stop signs and use the newly installed crosswalks.

Our parking lots are closed from 9:00—9:30am and again in the afternoon from 3:15—3:45pm.

Be patient and allow our buses and school vans to pull in and out of their parking areas. **DO NOT** try to squeeze past or block their entry.

Grades 1-8 walkers, please enter and exit the school yard on Simcoe Street. Bussed students will enter and exit on Sydenham Street as well as the Kindergarten students. Parents, please try to follow these procedures as it helps tremendously to keep pick up and drop off times organized and running smoothly.

Thanks to all our families for your understanding and patience when using our parking lot/driveway to pick up and drop off students.

Winter Travel

Considerations prior to travelling this winter if your family is thinking of travelling this winter? Here are some things to consider before you make the arrangements:

1. Learn about travel advisories related to COVID-19 where you are headed, before leaving - <https://bit.ly/3Czlk5l>
2. Be sure you understand how the Quarantine Act applies to travelers arriving back in Canada - <https://bit.ly/3HAIOft>

COVID-19 School Screening Tool And Process

Each day, families are asked to ensure that their child(ren) complete the COVID-19 school screening tool prior to coming to school. Secondary school students are required to confirm with their teacher that the COVID-19 school screening tool has been completed at the beginning of each day.

In an effort to strengthen health and safety measures and help reduce the spread of COVID-19, the criteria in the provincial COVID-19 school screening tool has been updated by the Chief Medical Officer of Health. The updated provincial direction states that students and staff with any new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 (as indicated in the screening tool), even those with only one symptom, must stay home until:

- They receive a negative COVID-19 test result;
- They receive an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional; or,
- It has been 10 days since their symptom onset and they are feeling better.

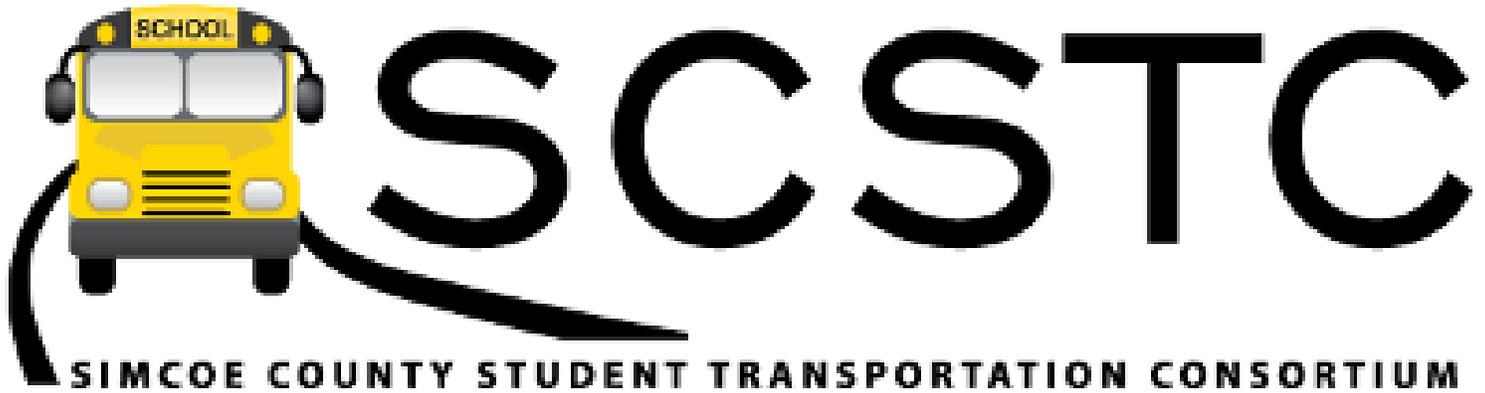
In addition, all asymptomatic household contacts of symptomatic individuals are required to quarantine until the symptomatic household member receives a negative COVID-19 test result or receives an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional.

The updated COVID-19 school screening tool is available on the Ontario government's website here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>.

A printable version of the COVID-19 school screening tool can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3ulap6V>. More information is also available on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/covid-19.

Updates To The School Screening Tool For International Travel

Recently, the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) was updated to reflect the return to school requirements for students who are returning from international travel. Individuals who are unvaccinated and returning from international travel, may not attend school or child care for 14 days upon their return. For further clarity, while unvaccinated children and those under the age of 12 are exempt from federal quarantine if they travelled with a fully vaccinated companion, **they may not attend school or child care for 14 days upon their return**. Individuals with all other quarantine exemptions (e.g. travelling for cross-border custody arrangements, travelling for medical treatment) may continue to attend school or child care.



Inclement Weather and Bus Cancellation Information Reminder

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the **CENTRAL** 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](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

School 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.



Change of Learning Mode Requests (Elementary)

As previously communicated to SCDSB families in May 2021, Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) elementary school families are being provided an additional opportunity to request a change in learning mode (In-Person or Learn@Home) for their child(ren), where available space exists for Term 2 (February 22 to June 30, 2022).

As you are aware, the Ministry of Education directed school boards to develop plans for the 2021-2022 school year that included both In-Person and Learn@Home options, as well as flexible and responsive options should the need arise for schools to pivot based on local public health conditions. Operating successful instructional programs for both In-Person and Learn@Home programs requires considerable coordination and planning, taking into account multiple factors such as existing enrolment, school composition, continuity of cohorts and collective agreements.

While it is expected that the vast majority of elementary students will remain in their existing learning mode for the remainder of the school year, the SCDSB recognizes that individual situations may have changed; therefore, SCDSB families will be provided with the opportunity to request a change to their child(ren)'s mode of learning effective February 2022, where available space exists.

Families requesting a change of learning mode from Learn@Home to In-Person learning are asked to contact their child(ren)'s home school directly prior to December 10, 2021, to discuss whether space is available to accommodate their request.

Families requesting a change of learning mode from In-Person to Learn@Home are asked to complete an online request form. The online form will be emailed to families on Monday December 6 and be available from Monday December 6 at 9 a.m. and close Friday December 10 at 4 p.m. It will also be available on the SCDSB's public website (www.scdsb.on.ca).

The deadline to request a change of learning mode is December 10, 2021.

It is important to note, requests for a change of learning mode will only be accommodated where available space exists.

mPower for Extra Practice

Math @Home parent series Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey. The winners of the prizes will be notified in January. The SCDSB math department is offering three evening virtual sessions for caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support students with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. Participants will receive a math pack of resources to use at home, and must pre-register for each of the sessions by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/SCDSBMathAtHomeRegistration>.

Having fun with math facts @Home Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2022 7 to 8 p.m. This session will explore practical, intentional, and fun ways to practice math facts at home. Participants will leave with ideas, games, and activities to support their child in becoming fluent with their math facts.

Making math connections @Home Thursday, March 24, 2022 7 to 8 p.m. This session will explore where we find numbers, patterns, measures, and shapes in our daily lives. Participants will learn about practical ways to help their child notice and wonder about the math in their world.

Problem solving @Home Wednesday, April 26, 2022 7 to 8 p.m. This session will explore how to encourage children to be active thinkers and problem solvers, both in math and around the house. Participants will learn about how solving problems at home can help their children solve problems in math class.

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a math @Home pack of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on the registration form.



Angus Food Bank

We will be collecting non-perishable food donations on Mon. Dec. 13th for the Angus Food Bank. Students can bring their donations Monday morning and place them in the bins outside the front of the school in the morning before or after first bell by 9:30 am

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WE ARE IN THE CENTRAL ZONE FOR ALL BUS CAN-			1 Sub Day	2	3	4
5	6 Virtual School Council Chanukah Ends	7 Harvey's/ Swiss Chalet Night	8 Sub Day	9	10	11
12 SPIRIT WEEK	13 Food Drive Dress Like your favourite Christmas Carol or Movie	14 Ugly Christmas Sweater Day	15 Sub Day Winter Wonderland Day (students dress up in wintry outfits)	16 Dress your Best Day	17 Pajama Day (Christmas pjs or any pjs)	18 SPIRIT WEEK
19	20 No School Dec 20th - Dec 31st				24	25 Christmas Day
26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30	31 Smiling faces return Jan 3rd!	

Upcoming Dates To Remember

Winter Break Dec. 20—31
 PA Day January 28
 Family Day February 21



(705) 424-5701 Phone
 Press "1" for Safe Arrival
 (705) 424-0086 Fax
 ang.scdsb.on.ca
 K. Micallef — SAS-E
 M. Walker — Clerk