

APRIL 2024

Angus Morrison Elementary School



HOME OF THE
DRAGONS!

91 Simcoe Street, Angus, ON, L0M 1B5

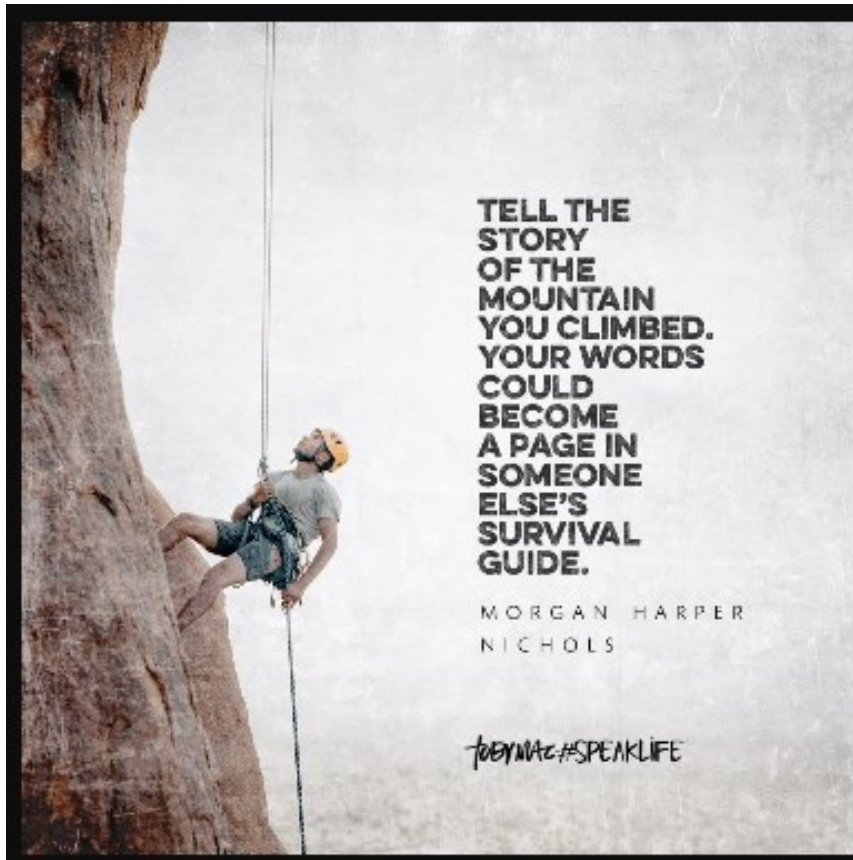
Phone: 705-424-5701 Fax: 705-424-0086

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Mrs. Suzanne Laybolt, Principal

Mrs. Beattie, Vice Principal



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Important Dates And Events For April

April 8 - PA Day

April 9 - Grad Picture Retakes

May 30 - AMES Fun Fair

[Days of Awareness Click Here](#)

[2023-2024 School Year Calendar](#)



"Where
flowers bloom,
so does hope."

—LADY BIRD JOHNSON

RS

School Council

SAVE THE DATE!

Angus Morrison Elementary

FUN FAIR

May 30th • 4-7:30pm

at Angus Morrison Elementary

\$5 per family

Dogs on Property

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

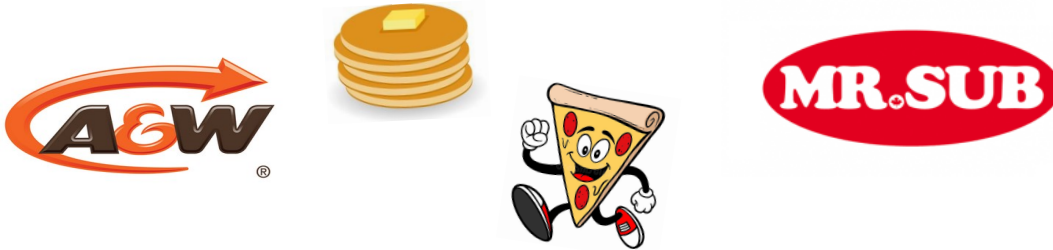




The School Cash Online program is used by the SCDSB for online forms and/or to collect school funds. Parents/guardians can select to receive email notification when a new item becomes available. Items are personalized to each student. Payment can be made by credit card, electronic cheque or using visa/debit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

****A&W available to order now!****



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: www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community_connects.

SCDSB
COMMUNITY
Connects
NEWSLETTER



Subscribe Now

April PA Day



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.

How SCDSB Support Students With Special Needs

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.

April PA Day Summary

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.

YouthReach

Every child should have the opportunity to participate in programs such as dance, music, and sports – but we know not all families can afford the registration fees. YouthReach is a Simcoe County based charity that helps provide kids with the opportunity to get involved in the programs they want to participate in. For more information and to apply visit: www.youthreach.ca.

Information provided by YouthReach

youthreach
reshaping futures



♥ Welcome to
Kindergarten

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 online 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 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/planningforschool/kindergarten.

Kindergarten Orientation

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.

May 15th @ 5pm

May 15th @ 5pm



**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/>



Child Care Programs Available On PA Days and Holidays

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. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register. For more information and contact numbers, please visit:

<https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planningforschool/childcarebeforeafter>.

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.

EarlyON Child And Family Centres

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.



Ontario



SCDSB Equity Advisory Committee

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.

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. www.scdsb.on.ca/about/contact_us

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.

The logo for EduTravel, featuring the word "EduTravel" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The "E" is significantly larger than the other letters, and the "u" is lowercase. The "T" is tall and narrow, and the "r" is lowercase. The "a" is lowercase and has a small dot above it. The "v" is lowercase and has a small dot above it. The "e" is lowercase and has a small dot above it. The "l" is lowercase and has a small dot above it.

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 Geography
- PAF1O - Healthy Living and Personal Fitness Activities
- CHC2D - Grade 10 Academic - Canadian History since WWI
- CHC2P - Grade 10 Applied - Canadian History since WWI
- CHV2O/GLC2O – Civics/Careers

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.

Collection And Use Of Personal Student Information

As students progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information which eases each student's transition to secondary school is shared. Sharing this information 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 Greg Jacobs, Superintendent of Education, if you would like more information about the

School Climate Survey

During the month of March, all students in Grades 4 to 12 were be asked to complete an anonymous and confidential online SCDSB School Climate Survey about their school experience. Not everyone has completed this yet.

Participants will not be asked to provide their name or any other identifying information because all surveys are anonymous. The survey results will provide valuable feedback to staff related to the SCDSB Strategic Priorities. Similar to prior SCDSB school climate surveys, the questions cover a range of topics, such as:

- excellence in teaching and learning;
- mental health and well-being;
- diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- community; and,
- experiences of school safety and bullying.

Student-Survey

A sample version of the student survey is available on the SCDSB website. The online survey is completed while students are at school and takes 15 minutes or less to complete.

We understand that some students in the SCDSB may not be able to complete their school climate survey on their own and may require the help of staff. A modified version of the survey is available for students who require this assistance to complete their survey.

Questions?

School staff will be available to answer any questions or concerns a student may have. Questions about the 2023-24 SCDSB School Climate Survey can also be directed to schoolclimate@scdsb.on.ca.

The information that is collected will be used to help guide our schools in creating and maintaining safe and supportive learning environments for all students. Thank you for your support!

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.

There are eight webinars specifically planned for parents/guardians and other caregivers during this school year. The remaining webinars are:

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.



Pine River Institute

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) www.smho-smso.ca/online-resources/sel-posters/ 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_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

Math @Home Parent And Caregiver Series

It's back! The SCDSB math team is pleased to offer virtual sessions for parents and caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions 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.

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. 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>.

If you couldn't attend the previous sessions, visit the Math at Home page on the SCDSB website to view past sessions: www.scdsb.on.ca/MathAtHome.

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.



Indigenous Leadership & Career Pathways

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>



April News in the Library/Learning Commons!

Happy Spring to our Angus Morrison Families!

Our Library/Learning Commons will be budding with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) Challenges using Dash and Dot robots, block coding, the Scratch coding platform and other building materials to solve design problems. We will be celebrating Poetry Month, researching about animals and continuing to support students as a multi-faith hub celebrating Pesach/Passover, Eid-u-Fiter, Sikh Heritage month, Vaisakhi/Baisakhi, Tamil New Year and other days of recognition such as Earth Day, Autism Awareness Day, World Book Day and International Day of

Mrs. Brown's Library Corner



Blue Spruce 2024 Update – Voting begins April 22 – April 30th

Our students from Kindergarten to Grade 4 are continuing to read the amazing Blue Spruce 2024 nominated

books and will be officially voting the week of April 22 . We can't wait to share our school results with you and to celebrate in May where we will learn about the official winner of Blue Spruce.

April is Poetry Month

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.

“The only thing you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.”

Yours in literacy....and beyond,

Mrs. Brown

April Cyber Awareness 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

Immunization Records

Your child's immunization record (elementary) 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.



**simcoe
muskoka**
DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

Drop Off/ Pick UP Procedures



If you are picking up your child for appointments during our nutrition/recess times, please expect delays as this is a very busy time for our office staff. Students are socializing during this time and may not hear their name being called over the intercom. This is also the case if students are busy playing outside. Please reference the website for our daily schedule @ <http://ang.scdsb.on.ca/>

Parking At Angus Morrison

Many of you are aware of the congestion during pick up and drop off times. 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/exit.

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 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.





Potential Student Transportation Delays

In order to receive delay and cancellation notifications, families can check the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca or download the 'BusPlanner Delays' app from the Apple or Android app stores to receive delay notifications to their devices. Users would need to select Simcoe County STC as the transportation authority. The app will need to be forced closed, but you will be able to select your student(s) routes or school to receive delays.

Inclement Weather And Bus Cancellation 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>.



APRIL



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 
7	8 PA DAY	9 Grad Picture Retakes	10	11	12	13
14	15 School Council Meeting 6:30PM-8PM	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Upcoming Dates To Remember

- PA Day April 8
- Grad Picture Retakes April 9
- Welcome to Kindergarten evening May 15



888-885-8065—Safe Arrival
 (705) 424-0086 Fax
ang.scdsb.on.ca
 K. Micallef — SAS-E
 M. Walker — Clerk
 S. Day — Clerk