

DECEMBER 2022

Angus Morrison Elementary School



HOME OF THE
DRAGONS!

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Mrs. Suzanne Laybolt, Principal

Mrs. Moxam, Vice Principal

December Character Trait: Empathy

True empathy
requires that you step outside
your own emotions
to view things entirely from
the perspective of
the other person.

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

Important Dates And Events For December

Class Photo and Picture Retake Day—December 7

AMES Subway Night—December 14

Winter Break—December 26-January 6



School Council

Declutter your life...
support your school!

AMES has partnered with Kidney Clothes to both raise money for the school and help you clean out your closets!

Kidney Clothes will be accepting clothing donations from AMES families and giving back part of the proceeds to the school.

See important details below!

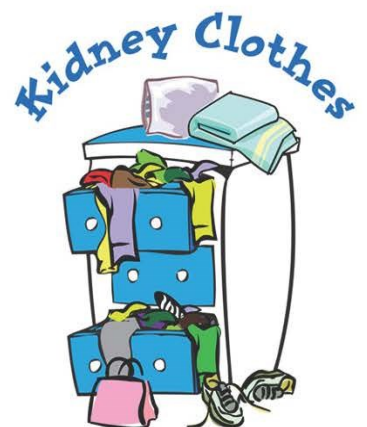
LOCATION: 570 Bryne Drive Unit J.

DROP OFF TIMES: Monday - Friday 9am-4pm only. If dropped off after hours, the school will not get credit.

LABELLING INSTRUCTIONS: All clothing bags **MUST** be labelled "Angus Morrison Elementary School" or the school will not get credit.



We can't
possibly make a
fundraiser any
easier.
Get decluttering!





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.

Please check for upcoming field trips

****Lunches Made Easy, Mr. Sub And Pizza Available To Order Now!****

Lunches will be cancelled on days that busses are cancelled due to snow



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.

Right To Read Inquiry Report

Beginning in 2019, the Ontario Human Rights Commission conducted a public inquiry into human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system. The report (www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report-), released this past spring, issued 157 recommendations. Among these recommendations is the need for an updated language curriculum that includes explicit, systematic, and direct instruction in foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding, and word reading proficiency. The Simcoe County District School Board is committed to shifting our instructional practices to align with these recommendations.

What does this mean for my child? Primary educators are shifting from using leveled texts as they encourage reliance on guessing strategies to solve unknown words. Instead, educators are beginning to use a scope and sequence to systematically teach phonemic awareness and phonics. Students may apply the phonics skills they have learned by reading 'decodable' or 'phonetically controlled' texts. As a result, educators are moving away from using PM Benchmarks and moving towards assessments that measure foundational reading skills. To support your child at home, the following documents provide activities that may help foster these foundational skills:

Phonological awareness activities for families

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrSSU-HhNzjSRv6_CKiJBue32B-n6ggy/view?usp=sharing

Supporting reading development at home

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12jf50KLLzZP9q82HN-w39jrHFgYEIf45/view?usp=sharing>

New Schools And Construction Projects

The Simcoe County District School Board has a variety of projects on the go, whether it's building new schools, renovating older schools, or completing additions on existing buildings. For more information about how new schools are planned and funded, visit the capital planning page on our website (www.scdsb.on.ca/about/capital_planning). If you are interested in information about recently completed projects, projects under construction and new projects, please visit the new schools page on our website (www.scdsb.on.ca/about/capital_planning/new_schools) or our Capital Priorities Overview (storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bbeca797d75f4aef933c79047ff2a28c).


Mrs. Brown's Library Corner



Hour of Code

Hour of Code activities to support Computer Education Week. If you are a parent of an Angus Morrison E.S.

Dragon working in computer programming, please let Mrs. Brown know if you would like to share your experience in this field with our students. Email me at glbrown@scdsb.on.ca



BOOK FAIR

Scholastic “Wild About Books” Book Fair

Many thanks to our Angus Morrison students, families and staff for supporting our in-person and online book fair. Thanks to all of your great shopping, we are able to bring so many brand new books into our library collection that everyone can share and enjoy!

Winner of the Family Event Draw (\$25.00 in books for student AND classroom) – Ethan H. and Mr. Duncan’s Gr. 5 and 6 Class

Winner of the Gummy Snakes - Declan W. from Mr. Swezey’s Gr. 5 Class (Declan guessed 137, there were 136!)

Winner of the Gund Giraffe – Elizabeth M. from Mr. Palmer’s Gr. 7 and 8 Class (Elizabeth guessed 265 spots and there were 265!)

Winners of the “Wild About Books” Dress Up Draws – Ziva from Mrs. Faith/Mrs. Richardson’s FDK Class and Jamieson M. from Ms. Pipe’s Gr. 2 Class

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 Thursday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16.** Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system. The designated Grade 1 FI site for our school is **Ferndale Woods ES**.

Adult English As A Second Language Program

Looking to improve your English skills? Join our adult English as a second language (ESL) classes to improve your listening and speaking skills through class discussions and presentations. Develop your English skills to advance in your current job or open the door to new employment opportunities. Learn more about your local community and explore Canadian culture and history. Adult ESL classes are offered year-round with a continuous intake. To register for the program, please contact the Barrie Learning Centre at 705-725-8360 ext. 45151, or email ganderson@scdsb.on.ca. **Please note all students starting ESL for the first time must be assessed prior to starting the class. Fees apply for visitors to Canada and work/study permit holders.*

Register Now For Night School (Semester Two)

Night school offers secondary school credits in a variety of subjects for students completing their Ontario Secondary School Diploma, and for students who are preparing for post-secondary education. Subjects include math, English, chemistry, biology, physics and social science. All night school courses this year are offered as teacher-led, synchronous online classes using Brightspace/D2L. Classes are held two nights per week from 6 to 9 p.m. on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule, with online student attendance being mandatory. Night school classes run given sufficient enrolment. Learn more at: www.thelearningcentres.com.

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 to find details on your high schools' info night, and contact the school directly for more information.

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, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities.

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

Dec. 8, 2022	How to Manage Another's Anxiety
Feb. 9, 2023	Guide to Attuned Limit Setting
March 2, 2023	Emotional Regulation for Kids and Adults
April 27, 2023	The Biology of Stress

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

Skilled Trades Virtual Event On Dec. 1st

Are you not fully sold on the skilled trades as a career? Not everyone is. On Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m., participants in *What our School Families Need to Know About Skilled Trades Careers* will learn about apprenticeship pathways and can hear how to best explore a career in the trades while still in high school. Parents/guardians and Grade 7 to 12 students can consider what one employment researcher has discovered about contradictory perspectives on skilled trades careers. He will share findings based on interviews with hundreds of tradespeople and reveal the results of surveying 500 parents/guardians. This interactive virtual evening, presented by the Simcoe County District School Board, will feature Dr. Jon Callegher, Executive Director at Job Talks, and will include information about apprenticeship, tech ed in our schools, cooperative education, and a question-and-answer segment. Participants can submit questions in advance here: <https://forms.gle/K1fHeartoGYnDd3u8>. To virtually attend the presentation, visit the SCDSB Facebook event page for more information: <https://fb.me/e/21YLL7Pw4>.

Ontario Ministry Of Education Tutoring Services

The Ontario Ministry of Education is supporting tutoring services in schools and in the community until the end of March 2023. Schools offering after school tutoring services will advertise this service directly to parents/guardians. Community tutoring agencies provide free of charge tutoring to Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students after hours in the community and online. Contact information for community tutoring agencies can be found at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring_programs. Tutoring is available to all SCDSB students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12. The SCDSB is also seeking members of the community to act as tutors in our schools during the school day. All candidates must apply through Apply to Education Posting #3361243. Candidates are required to be interviewed by SCDSB administration, provide professional references and complete a Vulnerable Sector Screen through their local police service. For more information, please email: tutoring@scdsb.on.ca.

Support Your Child's Mathematics Learning At Home

Looking for ways to support your child in their math learning at home? The Ministry of Education has a page with ideas on how to support your child and make math part of your day-to-day routine. There are general routines and grade-level ideas to explore. Learn more: www.ontario.ca/page/support-your-childs-math-learning.

Early Learning And Child Development

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!

The Season Of Giving

December marks the season of giving, and is a great time to teach your little ones about the benefits of giving back to their community and others. Many people think the only way to help their community or support their favourite charitable cause is with a financial donation – think again! While financial donations are integral to non-profits, there are many other ways that you and your family can give back, make a difference in your community, and have fun – all at the same time! Here are three ways your family can make a difference this giving season:

Volunteer as a family

Volunteering is a great way to teach kids about empathy and compassion. It shows them that a simple act can make a big difference, and helps them practice valuable life skills. Start small, like spending an hour helping a neighbour, and work your way up to bigger commitments, like going to a shelter or animal rescue once a week. Some families pick a favourite project and make it a yearly tradition, like filling gift baskets for seniors around the holidays. You're never too young to help others!

Get crafty for a cause

A fun way to get the whole family involved is to make arts and crafts to share with others. Many retirement homes and long-term care homes collect handmade cards, drawings, and crafts from the community to share with seniors during the holidays. This is a fun activity that lets kids be creative, and brings great joy to those receiving the handmade items.

Give old clothes or toys a second life

Have your kids outgrown any of the items they used to love? Consider giving gently worn clothing or used toys a second life by donating them to a local nonprofit. Many shelters that support struggling families, refugees, or immigrants rely on clothing and toy donations. Have your family collect any items they want to donate, and explain to your little ones that their once loved items will be going to a new home to bring joy to other children that need it. Basic items that many of us take for granted can make a huge difference in a person's life.

Local charities, like the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, run on the generous support of individuals and families like yours. If you'd like to learn more about the ways you can give back to the YMCA, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca. No matter how you decide to give back to your community, you and your family can feel good knowing you are making a positive difference in the lives of others. Your giving changes lives!

Content provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

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. The app will send a general notice for any cancellation in Simcoe County. You only need to know which 'zone' you're in, so you would know which one to look out for in the app. You can find your student's zone by visiting the School Bus Status page at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and clicking the dropdown for the area you live in.

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>.



December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WE ARE IN THE CENTRAL ZONE FOR ALL BUS CANCELLATIONS				1	2	3
4	5 Wreaths & Poinsettia Pick Up 3:30-5:00PM	6 MaLaren Art Kindies- in school Dec 6-7	7 Photo Retake & Class Photo day	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 AMES Subway Night 5-8PM NAPEL Night 5-7:30pm	15	16	17
18 	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 	26 	27	28 Winter Break No School Dec 26- Jan 6/23	29	30	31

Upcoming Dates To Remember

-Winter Break	December 26- January 6
-AMES Harvey's Night	January 17
-PA Day	January 27



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