

DECEMBER 2023

Angus Morrison Elementary School



HOME OF THE
DRAGONS!

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Mrs. Suzanne Laybolt, Principal

Mrs. Beattie, Vice Principal



"Kindness is like snow-
it beautifies everything
it covers."

—Kahlil Gibran

In This Issue

- School Cash Online
- High School Info for Grade 8
- Grade 1 French Immersion
- Mrs. Brown's Library Corner
- Parents' Guide to Assessment
- Mental health strategy of the month
- Smoke Free
- Programs Available Adult & Continuing Education

Important Dates And Events For December

Holiday Cheer—December 7th - 20th

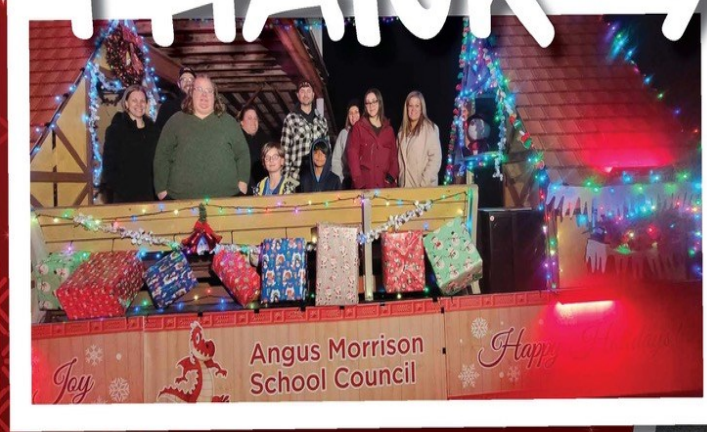
Nepal Day/Night — December 14th

Winter Break—December 24—January 5

Don't
stop
until
you're
proud

School Council

THANK YOU!!!



To all the wonderful volunteers and businesses/individuals who helped make the Angus Morrison School Council Santa Claus Parade Float such a success!!

INTERESTED IN JOINING SCHOOL COUNCIL AND/OR VOLUNTEERING??
WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!
EMAIL COUNCILCHAIRANG@SCDSB.ON.CA



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.



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

Email Notifications – School Cash Online & Lunchbox

For families no longer receiving emails from SchoolCash Online when new events, or fundraisers at the school are created. There was a government directive where companies are no longer allowed to “spam” families with unwanted emails. Because of this, parents now need to enable email notification to be sent from SchoolCash Online.

For parents to enable the notifications they **do not** have to delete their students and re-add them. Please have your parents complete the following steps should they choose to received email notifications.

1. Log into SchoolCash Online
2. Selected My Account on the right
3. Select Manage Email Notifications
4. Ensure there is a check mark in the “I want to receive notifications.....”
5. Then click change.

Parents will then start to receive email notifications from SchoolCash online. The same process will need to be done in Lunchbox to receive email.

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 school's info night, and contact the school directly 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.

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?>

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.

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.

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/>



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!

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.

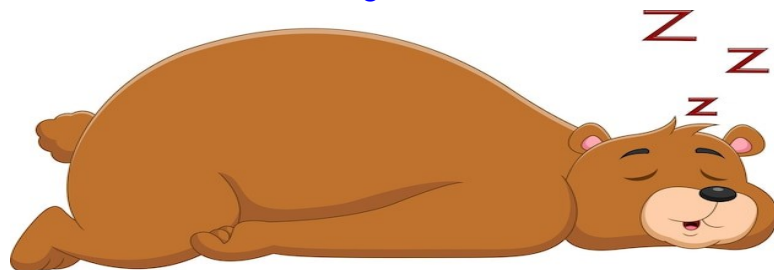
Parents/guardians, caregivers, and families can visit <https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/PP2B/RaisingChildren/YourGrowingChild/HeadLice> for more information about head lice treatment and prevention. Or call Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 to speak to a public health nurse.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

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 for more information.



*Information
provided by the
Simcoe Muskoka
District Health
Unit*

Mrs. Brown's Library Corner



Library/Learning Commons Update for December

Scholastic "Book Joy" Book Fair

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

Winner of the Family Event Draw (\$25.00 in books for student AND classroom):

Quinlynn K. and Ms. Blanchard/Mrs. Sharma's FDK Class

Winner of the Treat Bucket: Elijah from Madame Zwaigenbaum's Gr.6 Class (he guessed 176 treats, there were 177!)

"Book 'em: I Got Caught Reading" Book Fair Winners: Shazil from Mrs. Leach's Gr. 2 Class, Breanna from Madame Zwaigenbaum's Gr. 6 Class, and Abbie and Ella from Ms. Vasiliadis' Gr. 8 Class

Special shout out to all of our Gr. 8 student leaders who worked the book fair during the day and at night (Deebikaa, Christina, Katina and your family drivers!)

Next Book Fair: Education Week May 2024!

Coming Up in December:

Hour of Code and other coding activities to support **Computer Science Education Week Celebrations around the World** (Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Sanghamitta Day/Bodhi Day, Birthday of Iman Aga Khan, Winter Solstice etc)

Holiday Cheer to support our Angus Food Bank

Nepal Day and Night – Gr. 8 – stay tuned for more information to come!

Friendship/Kindness/Pay it Forward

Blue Spruce 2024 starts after the break! FDK to Grade 4 will be enjoying an amazing collection of diverse, equitable and inclusive books by Canadian authors and illustrators.

Happy Holidays and all the very best to you and yours!

Mrs. G. Brown, your AMES Teacher-Librarian

*A book is a gift you can
open again and again.*

—Garrison Keillor

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>.

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/>

Secondary - <https://smho-smso.ca/emhcsecondary/identification-and-management-of-emotions/recognizing/emotional-awareness/>

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

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.



Pine River Institute

Smoke Free 24hrs, 365 Days A Year

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 [No-tAnExperiment.ca/parents](#). *Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

Programs Available Adult & 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 to learn more.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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>.



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	6	7 Holiday Cheer Dec 7th—20th	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 NEPAL Night 5:30-7:00pm	15	16
17	18 Grade 8 Career Presentation	19	20 Last Day For Holiday Cheer	21 Winter Performances/ Sing a-long	22	23
24	25	26	27 Winter Break No School Dec 26- Jan 6/23	28	29	30
31						

<u>Upcoming Dates To Remember</u>	
-Winter Break	December 25- January 6
-PA Day	January 26
-March Break	March 11-15



(705) 424-5701 Phone
 1-888-885-8065 Safe Arrival
 (705) 424-0086 Fax
ang.scdsb.on.ca
 K. Micallef — SAS-E
 M. Walker — Clerk
 S. Day — Clerk