

INNISDALE SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Events:

January 8th – Welcome Back!

January 10th – Grade 8 Night 6:00pm-7:30pm

January 9 – 30th – Textile Waste Fundraiser

January 26th - Once Upon a Time Banquet -
5:00pm-8:00pm

February 5th – School Council meeting at 6:00pm

February 20th & 21st – Grad Photo Retake Days

School Council meeting:

**Join us on Monday, February 5, 2024,
at 6:00pm in the library. All are
welcome.**

You can email Chair Aldouri at
councilchairiss@scdsb.on.ca

OUR TEAM

Julie Rennison
Principal

Allison Reid
Vice-Principal

Daryl O'Brien
Vice-Principal

CONTACT INFORMATION

705-726-2552
innisdale@scdsb.on.ca
Attendance Reporting
issattendance@scdsb.on.ca
1-888-885-8065

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Period 1	8:00 – 9:15am
Period 2	9:20 – 10:40am
Lunch	10:40 – 11:40am
Period 3	11:40am – 12:55pm
Period 4	1:00 – 2:15pm

Environmental Action at Innisdale

Innisdale is excited to announce that Environmental Sustainability and Outdoor Learning goals have now been added to our School Action Plan. Innisdale has also created an EcoCode as part of the requirements for Eco Schools Canada Certification. Our new working EcoCode is as follows:

Innisdale is committed to being an environmentally sustainable school and promoting environmental stewardship. We will accomplish this by working as a school to perform actions and initiatives from EcoSchools Canada and working toward achieving Platinum Certification each year. By working together to complete actions, we plan to increase Innisdale's environmental sustainability and increase environmental literacy, awareness, stewardship and leadership.

We will educate ourselves and others about the environment and how we impact it by integrating environmental and outdoor learning into courses, finding ways to reduce our impact on the environment, and inspiring students and staff to help make a positive change on how the environment is treated in the future.



SWIMMING

Congratulations to the ISS swim team for bringing home 17 podium finishes at this years GBSSA finals.

Good luck to all 13 swimmers at OFSAA in March.

Textile Waste Fundraiser

Every year 92 billion kilograms of textile waste is produced globally which not only takes up precious land by adding to landfills but produces greenhouse gases and pollutes soils and groundwater as they slowly break down. Only 20% of our textile waste is properly collected, and we at Innisdale would like to improve this statistic.

This January Innisdale will be running a textile waste collection drive with Kidney Clothes to raise funds for our environmental initiatives, support Canadians affected by kidney disease, and help divert textile waste from going to the landfill.

From January 9th to 30th textiles can be dropped off outside the main office or in boxes distributed to classrooms. Throughout the rest of the 2023-2024 school year, students, parents, and community members are invited to continue the drive by dropping off textiles at 570 Bryne Dr Unit J from Monday to Friday 9am-4pm labelled with our school's name and proceeds will continue to support Innisdale's environmental initiatives.

What items will be accepted?

- Any season, any size of clothing
- Blankets, curtains, sheets, and towels
- Hats, mitts, and scarfs
- Shoes and boots and coats
- Yarn and wool
- Ties, purses, backpacks, and sleeping bags.

*We will accept ripped or worn out items for recycling as long as they **are clean, dry, and free of contaminants**



Days of Awareness:

Please review the Days of Awareness (NM1) at www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion.

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://cdnsm5-ss14.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_210898/File/Secondary/Parents-Guide-to-Assessment.pdf.

Join us at our Once Upon a Time Banquet:

Innisdale is excited to announce the Once Upon A Time Banquet to all staff, students and their families. On January 19th, 2024, from 5:00-8:00pm the Innisdale hospitality class will be hosting a beautiful Disney themed dinner for all who attend to enjoy. The event costs \$20 per person and will include prizes, delicious food, and will be a fun night out for all. All the money made from this event will go towards supporting the Innisdale hospitality class, and all meals served will be beautifully plated each incorporating a Disney movie theme: including Princess and the Frog, Tangled, Encanto, Snow White, Ratatouille, Cinderella, CoCo, Beauty and the Beast and Brave. Please come to this event and support our Hospitality Program!



Debate Team:

Innisdale's debate team has had an exciting first semester. Last month, eight of our debaters competed in the Xerxes Cup high school debate tournament at Carleton University. Congratulations to Leine McKeown and Isabel Johnston for making the semifinals.

In December, the team competed in the Ontario Student Debating Union Simcoe-Muskoka regional tournament. Congratulations for the first-place finish and to Leine McKeown and Isabel Johnston for their fifth-place finish. In January, the team will compete in online tournaments hosted by the University of Toronto's Hart House debating union and by Berkeley High School in California. Then it's off to provincials in February. Congratulations, team!

Communication to families regarding inclement weather days

Please note that APM A3020 – Inclement Weather, 3.1.2 states that "parents/guardians are to be reminded, in writing at appropriate times (October and January) each school year, that it is their responsibility to decide whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions."

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 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](#) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

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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.

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 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/earlyonsimcoe>.

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!

Licensed Winter Break school-age childcare programs

Childcare programs for children in kindergarten to Grade 6 are provided by independent, third-party child care operators in some SCDSB schools. To support your childcare needs, some operators offer childcare on PA days and holidays including over the Winter Break and March Break. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the childcare 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.

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.

Feedback, recovery, and improvement days

At the end of each semester, all secondary schools will run feedback, recovery, and improvement days for students. Culminating assessments such as portfolios, essays, examinations, and interviews will take place during instructional days and will be returned to students with feedback.

The last day of regular instruction for students in semester one is Monday, Jan. 29, 2024. The period from Tuesday, Jan. 30 to Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, is reserved for students who require an opportunity to receive feedback from an assessment, to rescue or recover a credit, or to improve on an area of missed expectations. Teachers and support staff will communicate with students who will benefit most from attending this opportunity; however, all students will be invited to attend. There will be no new instruction these days. Feedback, recovery, and improvement days

are an opportunity for students to work closely with their teacher if they require feedback, credit recovery, or an opportunity to improve on an area of missed expectations.

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. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools to learn more.

The SCDSB's Human Rights and Equity Office (HREO) has an advisory titled *Prohibiting the Use of the N-word*. Please take a moment to review this advisory with your child(ren) by visiting the HREO page on the SCDSB website <https://tinyurl.com/3jsvhan6>.

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.

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>.

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.

Transition planning

Feb. 13

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Reading strategies

March 19

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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.

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:

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.

Reporting achievement in language

Student achievement in language will be reported as one overall grade or mark on the term one report card. The mark will reflect a student's integrated learning across the four strands:

- Strand A - Literacy Connections and Applications
- Strand B - Foundations of Language
- Strand C - Comprehension; Understanding and Responding to Texts
- Strand D - Composition; Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

The grade will be accompanied by supporting comments that will indicate the student's strengths, describe growth in learning, and identify next steps for improvement.

For more information regarding the revised Language curriculum, visit www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/key-changes-language to view a guide for parents/guardians on the Ministry of Education website.

Mental health promotion strategy of the month - 2 x 10 Connecting

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 *2 x 10 Connecting*. This practice helps to build rapport and the relationship between a caring adult and student, and to let the student see they are genuinely cared about as a person.

To practice *2x10 Connecting* at home, find a consistent time each day to spend two minutes talking to your child about anything they would like to talk about for a period of 10 days. If you have more than one child, switch who spends that time talking with you every 10 days or find different times in the day to spend 2 minutes with each child.

Find more information to support your child's mental health here: <https://smho-smso.ca/parents-and-caregivers/>.

2x10 Connecting resources:

Elementary - <https://smho-smso.ca/emhc/self-awareness-and-sense-of-identity/mattering/2-x-10/>

Secondary - <https://smho-smso.ca/emhcsecondary/healthy-relationship-skills/being-a-good-friend/connecting/>

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

Keeping your information private

As parents/guardians, we work to support our children's well-being and to protect them from harm. At a time when internet use can pose risk to our children, how can we support them in keeping their information private and secure when using social media, games, and/or other digital apps? Each month we will highlight one cyber awareness topic to support parents/guardians with the information and tools they need to navigate these topics with their children.

January's theme is *Keeping your information private*. For helpful tips related to managing your child's privacy and security settings on mobile devices, read through the info sheet from the Educational Collaborative Network of Ontario (ECNO) by visiting https://ecno.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/ECNO-CAM-Calendar-23-Aug3023_KeepInformationPrivate.pdf. For

additional activities and information, please refer to the Digital Citizenship resources for parents/guardians that are available on the SCDSB website https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools (see button for Mental Health & Well-being in Online Environments).

Stay healthy this school year

COVID and other respiratory infections can spread easily from person to person. These germs can spread quickly when someone coughs or sneezes directly on another person, or when germs land on hard surfaces like doorknobs, desks, and keyboards and then are touched by someone else. These germs can then enter the body through the eyes, nose, or mouth.

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick and stop the spread of germs is wash your hands. Wash with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds (or try singing Happy Birthday twice). If your hands are not visibly dirty you can use alcohol-based hand sanitizer for 15 seconds. Also, make sure you are up to date with your immunizations, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home if you are sick. Teach your kids to do the same!

For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this school year, contact *Health Connection* at 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

The importance of an open door

Teens who have positive communication with their parents and caregivers feel better about themselves and do better at school and in life.

- Ask your teen about what's going on in their life, and how they feel about things.
- Allow them to express their worries and fears without being judged.
- Try to see things from their perspective.
- When your teen confides in you, tell them you appreciate their trust.
- Work together to find solutions to problems, letting them decide what they feel would work best for them.

For more information, call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.