

# INNISDALE SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



*Welcome Back!*

## *Principal's Message:*

We are so happy to welcome our students back to school. I hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable summer break! Education is a shared partnership among staff, families, and community. With that, I encourage you to become involved with our school. Communication between school and home is crucial, and we are here to support you every step of the way. All parents and guardians are encouraged to take note of the upcoming school council nominations and meeting dates (more information below). We'd love to have you join us! Our staff are enthusiastic and are committed to providing students with education and support that meets their needs.

Your input is valued and your communication with the school is always appreciated. I want to express my gratitude in advance for your trust, partnership, and dedication to your child's education.

Together, let's make 2023-2024 an amazing year!

*Julie Rennison  
Principal*

## OUR TEAM

JULIE RENNISON  
Principal

ALLISON REID  
Vice-Principal

DARYL O'BRIEN  
Vice-Principal

## CONTACT INFORMATION

705-726-2552  
[nnisdaless@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:nnisdaless@scdsb.on.ca)  
Attendance Reporting:  
[issattendance@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:issattendance@scdsb.on.ca)  
1-888-885-8065

## SCHOOL SCHEDULE

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

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## *Events and Detail:*

### September 11 - **Picture Day**

Students will be photographed at the school.  
Students must be photographed to receive a student card ID.  
Students will be called down to the small gym, alphabetically, by grade starting at 8:00 am.  
Be sure to bring your best smiles.

### September 22 – P.A. Day. **School Closed**

September 29 – **Orange Shirt Day at Innisdale!** All students are encouraged to wear orange in support of National Day of Truth & Reconciliation.

September 30 – **Orange Shirt Day**  
National Day of Truth & Reconciliation

### October 9 – Thanksgiving Day. **School Closed**

### **Look for these important documents this week and next week!**

Student Verification Forms – Paper copies went home  
Student Medical & Plan of Care documentation – By email  
Permissions & Acknowledgements – Done on School Cash Online  
Student Technology Agreement – Done on School Cash Online

### **Did you know?**

Parents can have access to their student's attendance information and report cards if the student is under the age of 18. If you don't have access to the parent portal, please contact the office.

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## *Athletic Society - Spirit Wear:*

Order your ISS Spirit wear and clothing items now! Select the link below to access our Innisdale E-store. Order and pay online. Items will be shipped to Innisdale the week of October 16th. Do not delay. Order now while quantities last. The E-store closes September 27th. <https://innisdale-2023.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

### **Grade 11/12 Volunteer Recruitment Letter - Grade 9 Welcome Day - Shear Park**

Are you in Grade 11 and 12 and do you want to help to make Innisdale's Grade 9 Welcome Day on September 20th at Shear Park, the best ever? Let's show our newest Invaders how awesome it is to be part of the Innisdale family, ignite our House Rivalry through games and challenges, while you have the chance to contribute to our school community in positive and life changing ways! Talk to Ms. Broley, Madame Ffrench, Ms. Parnell, or Ms. Forder for more information or check out the posters outside of rooms 147 and 204 for how to connect to the planning team. The time is now for senior students to get involved!

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## Grade 9 Welcome Day 2023 - Newsletter

Welcome to Innisdale Grade 9s! To celebrate our newest Invaders, all Grade 9 students will have the opportunity to participate in Grade 9 Welcome Day on Wednesday September 20th (rain date Thursday September 21st).

The Grade 9 cohort will gear up in our House T-shirts in the morning after you have been sorted into either the house of the Dragons, Lions, Kraken or Wolves, and we will walk to Shear Park where we face a variety games and challenges between houses, and have a pizza lunch before walking back to Innisdale.

Permission forms and all other information will be sent out via Cash Online. Please don't delay. Reserve your spot for this epic Innisdale tradition! If you have any questions, please email Ms. Broley at [nbroley@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:nbroley@scdsb.on.ca).

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### *Reporting Attendance:*

**New absence reporting system for SCDSB schools – call 1-888-885-8065 to report an absence.**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is implementing a new absence reporting system at secondary schools. This system will support us in continuing to improve our home-to-school communication process and streamline absence reporting. **To report a student's absence, call 1-888-885-8065.** Callers will be prompted to identify the school before leaving a message. Parents should include the student's name, teachers' name, dates, and reason for the absence. If you have questions about the new system, please contact the school office.

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### *Staying Connected with Innisdale:*

**Keep connected with our school and with the SCDSB**

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Here are some ways to do that:

Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at [scdsb.on.ca](https://scdsb.on.ca).

Follow the SCDSB on X (@SCDSB\_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).

Follow Innisdale on X (@InnisdaleSchool) and <https://iss.scdsb.on.ca/>

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### *Student Handbook:*

**SCDSB 2023-24 Student Handbook**

The SCDSB student handbook contains a variety of information that the SCDSB is required to share with all students and families. This September, schools will be distributing the student handbooks to all families via email. The SCDSB 2023-24 Student Handbook can also be found on the SCDSB website at [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent) and on school websites under students. If you have questions, please contact the school.

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### *Character Education Program:*

**SCDSB launches updated character education program for 2023-24 school year**

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This year the SCDSB will begin implementation of the updated character education program. Rather than focus on one attribute each month, the program has been changed to reflect that character is a fluid concept that includes a variety of attributes.

The updated character attributes are:

Bravery	Helpfulness	Listening	Responsibility
Caring	Honesty	Love	Trustworthiness
Compassion	Humility	Loyalty	Truth
Cooperation	Inclusiveness	Optimism	Sharing
Courage	Integrity	Perseverance	Wisdom
Empathy	Kindness	Respect	

For more information on the updated character education program, visit the character education page on the SCDSB website:

[www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education)

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### *Days of Awareness:*

Please review the Days of Awareness (NM1) at [www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity\\_and\\_inclusion](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion).

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### *Student Accident Insurance 2023-24*

Student injuries at school during school events, extra-curricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, etc.) and out-of-province/out-of-country trips are not covered by the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen.

A variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices can be found through either:

- StudyInsured at [www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com](http://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com) or by calling 1-833-560-0527; or,
- Insure my Kids through at [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com) or by calling 1-800-463-5437.

Participation in extra-curricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, etc.) and/or out-of-province/ out-of-country trips require the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage.

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### *More Helpful Resources for you:*

#### **September PA Day**

Please note that Friday, Sept. 22 is a PA Day for all SCDSB students.

Below is a summary of the activities planned for the Sept. 22 PA Day:

<b>Length:</b>	Full day
<b>Topic:</b>	Reading and Literacy, Social Studies, Assessment
<b>Host:</b>	Simcoe County District School Board
<b>Presenter(s)/facilitator(s):</b>	School board staff and school administrators

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Educators will participate in person to review the newly revised Language Curriculum, *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language, 2023*, and new de-streamed *English, Grade 9, and Français, 9e année* courses and explore resources to support their implementation with students. Through group discussions and hands-on activities, elementary educators will learn about early reading instruction and the use of screening tools to help ensure that students with reading difficulties are identified and supported early. They will also explore and plan for literacy instruction across the curriculum, including the new Holocaust Education curriculum in Grade 6. Secondary educators will also engage in assessment activities and the collaborative planning of student tasks and opportunities to inform both course instruction and evaluation.

### **Annual notice to adult students or parent(s)/guardian(s) of students under the age of 16**

A completed Student Medical Form (FORM A1420 - 1) is required each school year, or when a medical need is identified, or when the student transfers to another school, in order to authorize medical response plan development and the administration of prescribed medication to students who require it during school hours, or when the medication and/or dosage requirements change. Specific to asthma, every student is now permitted to carry their asthma medication if the student has their parent's/guardian's permission. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are responsible for ensuring that a current, completed Student Medical Form is on file at the school. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are also to complete a Plan of Care for students with prevalent medical conditions such as anaphylaxis, asthma, type 1 diabetes, or epilepsy/seizure disorder.

Some students may experience severe life-threatening allergic reactions to bees, hornets, wasps, or other flying insect stings or to certain foods or food ingredients such as peanuts. The best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure for these students is to respectfully ask parent(s)/guardian(s) to avoid sending peanut butter or products with peanuts and/or tree nuts listed in the ingredients to school. For students with life-threatening allergies, it is recommended that two doses of an epinephrine auto-injector are available on site at school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions you may have.

### **Standard acknowledgment and permission form/student information computing technology appropriate use agreement 2023-24**

The 2023-24 Standard Acknowledgment and Permission Form and Student Information Computing Technology Appropriate Use Agreement are required forms for all Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students. The forms have been made available electronically through School Cash Online until Oct. 16. School Cash Online is our preferred method for forms. If you are unable to submit these forms electronically, please contact the office for paper copies.

### **Volunteering in schools during the 2023-24 school year**

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our schools great places to learn and grow. We value and appreciate the support of our volunteers.

Please contact your local school's office if you are interested in volunteering and would like to know more about the opportunities available.

To become a volunteer in a Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) school, you must complete accessibility training and submit a current (dated within six months) Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC). Schools require all VSCs to be in their original form and emailed directly to the school for processing. Please note, volunteers are unable to upload VSCs directly to the volunteer portal. Each potential volunteer must create an account within the volunteer portal. Please remember to choose the school you wish to volunteer with.

If you do not have a computer or require assistance, please contact the school.

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## Current volunteers

Current approved volunteers must keep their Community Apps account/Volunteer Portal information up-to-date with email address changes. Communication is sent throughout the year to the provided email address with respect to timelines, necessary requirements, etc. regarding your volunteer status. Instructions on how to change your email address in Community Apps can be found [here](#). Updating your email address in your Community Apps account will automatically update your email address in your Volunteer Portal.

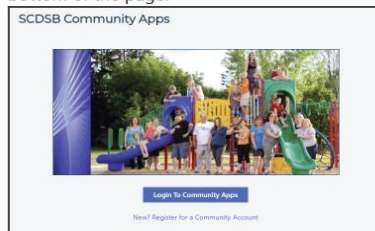
If you are also a parent, check out our [Parent Portal](#).

### How to access the Volunteer Portal

Click this [SCDSB Community Apps link](#) or find the link on the volunteer page of your schools website, under the Parents menu.

If you have previously registered a Community Account, click the **Login To Community Apps** button, and login with your username and password.

If you do **not** have an account, click the **New? Register for new Community Account** link at the bottom of the page.



**REMINDER:** Each volunteer will have to have their own community apps account. Each community apps account is created with a separate email address.

- Complete an annual offence declaration through the SCDSB Community Apps – Volunteers page for up to four years to continue volunteering.
- Submit a new VSC at the beginning of the fifth year.
- Be responsible for the cost of the VSC.
- Be responsible to the principal and work under the supervision of teaching staff.
- Work co-operatively as part of a team to support and supplement school programs.
- Respect the confidentiality of the relationship to the school, ensuring that staff issues and student work and behaviour issues are held in confidence.
- Adhere to established SCDSB and school procedures.
- Communicate regularly with staff.
- Be prompt, dependable and regular in attendance, and give advance notice to teachers when unable to attend.

## Procedures help keep our school safe

We have several procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations

Parents/guardians should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

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- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off temporarily.
  - A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all exterior doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
  - A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Interior doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents/guardians do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites ([www.facebook.com/SCDSB](http://www.facebook.com/SCDSB) and [www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](http://www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)), through local police and local media.
  - All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents/guardians will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.

When parents/guardians are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow directions from school staff, police, fire, and/or emergency personnel. Parents/guardians may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent/guardian care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Please note the following:

- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** and wait for assistance. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, so please be patient.**
- Staff must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents/guardians of elementary students to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All SCDSB schools have **automated external defibrillators (AEDs)**.

### **Student dress code**

Our board's dress code is one way that we embed the principles set out in the SCDSB and Ministry of Education documents, Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario, and Equity and Inclusive Education to ensure safe, inclusive and equitable learning environments for all of our students. In SCDSB schools, we believe that students should be able to learn in a safe and caring space that is free of bias and discrimination. When making choices about what to wear to school, we respect your individuality. To ensure that our learning environments are safe and respectful spaces, our board has consulted with students and staff to develop a set of shared standards for student dress.

The SCDSB dress code is available on the SCDSB website at [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress\\_code](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code). If you have questions about the dress code, contact your school principal.

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## *School Council Nominations for 2023-2024 School Year:*

Each Year, parents of our school are given the opportunity to nominate themselves to be candidates for our Innisdale Secondary School Council. The role of the School Council is outlined in the Ontario Education Act – Ontario Regulation 612/00 – School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees. A School Council is a committee made up of elected parents/guardians, community representatives, staff, and sometimes students who help to provide the community voice and parent/guardian perspective on important school topics such as fundraising plans, field trips, and community events. School Council is a good way for parents/guardians to get involved in their child/children's education while playing an important role in the partnership between home and school. Council meets a minimum of 4 times per school year. These meetings typically average 1-2 hours in length and take place during evening hours.

On the next page of this newsletter, you will find two documents (Appendix A & Appendix B):

- 1) **School Council Nomination Form** - this is the form that you must complete and submit to the school office, completed with your information details no later than **Monday, September 25th, 2023 at 4 p.m.** if you wish to nominate yourself to be a member of council. Depending upon the number of nomination forms, we may be required to have an election (if this is required, more information will be forwarded). \* Appendix A
  
- 2) **Roles and Responsibilities of a School Council Member** - this document briefly outlines the roles and responsibilities that individuals take on when they are elected or acclaimed to a position on council. \* Appendix B

Thank you for your time to consider joining our School Council. Currently, our first meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 2nd, 2023, from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.** in our library. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [jrennison@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:jrennison@scdsb.on.ca). Please click on link below to review APM7200 – School Council.  
<https://www.scdsb.on.ca/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=4976724>

Please see the next page for School/Parent Council nomination form.



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**SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT/GUARDIAN CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM**  
**Nominations are due to school administration by:**  
**\_\_\_\_\_ (time) on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Name

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (name and date of birth)  
who is currently registered at this school.

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the school council. I understand the role and responsibilities of a member of the school council as described on the reverse side of this form.

I understand that as a school council member, my contact information including email address will be shared with school council members for the sole purpose of open and transparent communication amongst council members and that it shall not be used for any other purpose.

I understand that employees of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) cannot run as parent/guardian representatives for school councils if they are employed at the school. If they are employed elsewhere in the board, they can run providing they inform their school community of their employment.

Candidate's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received by \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Nomination Form Receipt**

The nomination form for parent/guardian representative on the School Council for

\_\_\_\_\_ has been received.

*School*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*School Official*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*