

TRILLIUM WOODS E. S.

January 2024

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Welcome back! We are excited to be back learning together and look forward to an exciting 2024. As we move through the last few winter months we continue to strongly encourage students and families to check the weather before leaving for school. A warm morning may change to a snowy afternoon and we want to ensure that everyone can enjoy recess, outdoor learning and DPA in comfort. Making sure that an extra pair of socks and mitts are in your students' bag is always a good idea.

This year our grade 7 & 8 student leaders are participating in several projects with a continued focus on Belonging. We have added a commitment to engaging in environmental education. We are working on certification for both OPHEA Healthy schools and ECO schools. These student leaders are joined by dozens of student volunteers working around the school to support primary classrooms during lunch, primary students at recess, Safety Patrollers at our Kiss n Ride and PRIDE crosswalk as well as our green team, tech teams, and announcement teams.

Our school is fortunate to have such a committed group of students who are willing to give up their own time to support each other.

Please continue to read the Friday Blast each week as it contains relevant and current information you need to know. Information can also be found on our school website trw.scdsb.on.ca

Mr. Disu, Principal and Mrs. Collingbourne, Vice-Principal

Empathy and Encouragement

Empathy is something you can feel good about. An example of empathy is when you throw someone a surprise party, you feel their happiness. Another example of showing empathy would be when someone trips, you can almost feel their pain. Having empathy is important, because if someone is feeling down, you want to know how to cheer them up. Empathy is there, right inside of your heart, so don't be shy to show it!

By Nivedya from the creative writing club (gr. 4)

Library News

Welcome back!!

I hope everyone had a restful holiday full of reading!

Are you trying to start your new year with a little housekeeping? Trying to get rid of things? If you have any used books that you are willing to donate to our used book sale, please send them anytime to the library. The used book sale will take place the week of January 29th.

I have been busy cataloging many new books for our library, both fiction and non-fiction. We have also received the Forest of Reading books. The primary students will be participating in the Blue Spruce program in the library starting at the end of the month. They will be able to vote for their favourite books in April. Our Battle of the Books team in conjunction with the Barrie Public Library will also be starting this month.

Stay tuned for information on our annual post office that will occur at the beginning of February!

Read, Read, Read!!!

Mrs. Marling

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Trillium Tuesdays—Wear school spirit wear or school colours (burgundy, black, white)

January Character Trait: Honesty/Truth

January 17—January 19	Dairy Presentation
January 22	11:00-12:40 Gr. 8s Course Selection with Bear Creek
January 23	Grs 5-8 "Student Digital Well-Being & Intelligence" presentation
January 25	Backwards Day
January 26	PA Day (no school)
January 30	Grad Photo day
January 29-February 2	Used Book Sale
February 12-13	SMDHU Dental Unit JK-8

Intermediate Boys Volleyball

Mr. and Mrs. Robertson would like to congratulate the intermediate boys' volleyball team on a very fun season of volleyball filled with incredible growth! Many team members had never played on a volleyball team before! Over the season, the boys represented Trillium Woods in a positive and respectful way, always showing great sportsmanship and character when representing our school. Congratulations to the following Tornadoes who were part of this year's team: Dillon, Liam, Timur, Tyson, Jack, Phoenix, Jacob, Max V., Aiden, Jake, Max W., Nicholas and Serhii.



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.

The students in Mr. Gross and Ms. Chant's grade four classes visited Roberta Place to spread some holiday cheer this final week ahead of the school holidays. The students worked hard creating crafts and personalized cards for each of the residents. The students dressed in festive attire and jingled bells while they entertained the seniors with a selection of holiday favourites. The seniors were DELIGHTED with this visit and we look forward to making this an annual tradition with our classes.

Merry Christmas!

Happy Diwali!

Happy Hanukkah!

Happy Kwanzaa!

Happy Holidays to everyone!

Mr. Gross and Ms. Chant

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.

January PA Day

Please note that Friday, Jan. 26 is a PA Day for elementary SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2023-24 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information:

www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar.

Below is a summary of the activities planned for the January 26 PA Day:

Length: Full day

Topic: Evaluation and reporting

Host: Simcoe County District School Board

Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): Not applicable

Educators will be working to complete the first provincial report card which will reflect students' achievement of curriculum expectations introduced and developed from September to January/February of the school year, as well as students' development of the learning skills and work habits during that period. This process includes both evaluation and reporting.

Elementary report cards will go home to parents/guardians on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024.

This November and December, the grade 1 students in Mrs. Gogolin's class worked with their grade 7 and 8 learning buddies in Mrs. Robertson's class to create holiday cards for seniors in our community. After several weeks of hard work and fun, the classes were able to create more than 170 cards that were delivered to seniors at The Barrievue by Mrs. Gogolin, and to Roberta Place staff by the two classes. Thanks for showing such great Tornado character, grade 1s, 7s and 8s!



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>.

Parent/guardian self-care

As parents and caregivers, it is important that we take time to check in with ourselves. When you are feeling stressed or overwhelmed, take time for yourself, even if it is just a few minutes. Working through your own feelings will make it easier for you to support and reassure your child.

Self-care does not need to be complicated. Take a few minutes to do something you enjoy, connect with a friend, or move your body. It is not selfish, it is self-preservation.

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.

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.

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.



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.

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.



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.



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 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 Transportation on Twitter [@SCSTC_SchoolBus](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other school information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here:

<https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

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.

