

# TRILLIUM WOODS E. S.

## September 2023

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**Principal**

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### WELCOME TO THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

I want to send a big welcome to all of our new and returning students. It has been great to see and hear the school building come alive with your arrival back to school. We are looking forward to a fantastic year as we see the return of our extra-curricular programs and field trips. Your child(ren)'s teacher(s) will be in touch with how you can best communicate with them and the school. In addition, please make sure to update your email address with the office so you don't miss updates from the school. Our Meet the Staff – Open House is scheduled for October 5 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Please join us then for a tour of your child(ren)'s classroom and the school. We hope to see you all then. Our School Council elections and inaugural meeting will be taking place on October 11 at 6 p.m. in the library. Nomination forms have been emailed to parents and are due back to the school by September 29 if you want a chance to join this awesome group. Thank you to all parents who have chosen to either walk or access the Kiss and Ride for adhering to our traffic flow rules and using the sidewalk/crosswalks while on school property. We'll continue to ensure the safety of all students at our school. Thanks again for a great start-up, and all the best for a great school year.  
Mr. Disu – Principal and Mrs. Collingbourne – Vice-Principal

### SCHOOL START AND END TIMES

8:25 AM	Supervision on the yard starts
8:40 AM	School day starts. Students must be in the school at that time.
10:20 AM-11:00 AM	First Nutrition/Recess
12:40 PM-1:20 PM	Second Nutrition/Recess
3:00 PM	End of the day, (Please note we do not provide after school supervision on the school yard. Students need to be picked up, or walk directly home)

### New Safe Arrival system for SCDSB schools – call 1-888-885-8065 to report an absence

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has a new Safe Arrival system at elementary schools. This system will support us in continuing to improve our home-to-school communication process and streamline absence reporting.



**To report a student 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. When schools do not hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, the school will call home to find out the reason for the absence. If you have questions about the new system, please contact the school office.

### September PA Day

Please note that Friday, Sept. 22 is a PA Day for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2023-24 School Year Calendar in this newsletter and on the SCDSB website for more information:

[www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/school\\_year\\_calendar](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar).



### UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Trillium Tuesdays	Wear Trillium Spirit Wear or school colours (black, burgundy white)
September 22	PD Day
September 27	School Turn Around Day
September 29	Orange Shirt Day— Whole School Activities/Walk
September 29	School Council Nominations forms due
October 2	School Photo Day
October 5	Meet the Staff 4:30—5:30 PM
October 6	Grade 7/8 Tree Top Trekking
October 9	Thanksgiving—School Closed
October 11	School Council Elections & Meeting 6-8 PM in the Library
October 24	Barrie Colts Assembly
November 14	Grade 7 Immunization Clinic

### CLASS PLACEMENTS

Like many schools, we expect to see a fluctuation in population. All class placements are tentative until the third week of September when the school board and Ministry of Education confirm the staffing assignment for the school. Please talk to your child about this. It's important for everyone to be prepared for change, just in case. If we do have to make changes, please know that a great deal of thought and planning goes into the changes, in an effort to minimize disruption to learning. As soon as we know the final class placements we will be sharing the information with you.

**We have a variety of new and returning staff this year. In the October newsletter we will share the names and teaching assignments of everyone so you can learn more about our incredible staff.**

### 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 handbook 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent) and on school websites under 'students'. If you have questions, please contact the school.


## School council nominations for 2023-24 school year



School council is a committee made up of elected parents/guardians, community representatives, staff, and sometimes students that help to provide the community voice and parent/guardian perspective on important school topics. 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.

PHOTO DAY

DATE: Monday, October 2, 2023



Green Apple School  
Photo Dates:

School Photo Day:  
Monday, October 2, 2023

Photo Retake Day:  
Thursday, November 2, 2023

Grad Photo Day:  
Tuesday, January 30, 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## School bus 'Bus Tag' program helps students get to and from school safely

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school-identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent/guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour coded bus tag with the assigned p.m. route number, to be attached to the student's backpack, and a colour-coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the bus tag is matched to. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site childcare centre to make sure they don't get on a bus in error.

For more information, visit [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca).



## 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 Mr. Disu.

## Procedures help keep our school safe

We have a number of 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:

- ◇ **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 direction 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)**.

## 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. Volunteers have various roles at our schools including:

- ◇ School event volunteer
- ◇ Hot lunch day organizers
- ◇ Field trip supervisors
- ◇ Classroom helpers

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.

### 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.

## 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.

## 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 **Monday, October 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.

## Universal Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) screening process

The OLSAT is a standardized group test of ability. The results of this test will help us gain a better understanding of students' areas of relative strength and needs as related to their verbal and non-verbal abilities so that we can plan our programs and supports accordingly. Results may also be used to inform identification (e.g., Intellectual: Gifted).

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction, and through providing program extensions and enrichment. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate, and challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular classroom or in an elementary gifted classroom placement.

A consent form examining the universal OLSAT screening process in greater detail will be sent to parent(s)/ guardian(s) of students in Grade 3 via School Cash Online in September. If you require further information about the universal OLSAT screening process, please contact the school.

## SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR

Our School Spirit Wear E-Store is now open until October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at midnight. Please click here for ordering details. <https://trilliumwoods-2023.itemorder.com/shop/home/>.

- There will be NO LATE ORDERS accepted after the closing date.
- The estimated ship date is the week of November 20th, 2023.
- Regardless of the order date before the store closes all orders are produced in BULK.
- Please note due to the custom nature of these products all sales are FINAL and no exchanges or returns will be granted.
- Regarding size charts - Unisex sizing can be found under Men's. Sample sizes will be available for you to try on during the Oct 5<sup>th</sup> Meet the Staff - Open House event.

# 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Please note: the 2023-24 School Year Calendar is subject to change.

SEPTEMBER 2023							OCTOBER 2023							NOVEMBER 2023							DECEMBER 2023							JANUARY 2024																																	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S																											
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FEBRUARY 2024							MARCH 2024							APRIL 2024							MAY 2024							JUNE 2024																																								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																		
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- **First Day of School**  
Sept. 5, 2023
- **First Day of Semester 2 (Secondary)**  
Feb. 5, 2024
- **PA Days for all students**  
2023: Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17  
2024: April 26, June 28
- **PA Days - Secondary only**  
2024: Feb. 2, June 27
- **PA Days - Elementary only**  
2024: Jan. 26, June 7
- **Elementary Reporting Schedule**  
2023: Nov. 9  
2024: Feb. 16, June 21
- **Secondary Reporting Schedule**  
2023: Nov. 23 (mid-term)  
2024: Feb. 16, May 2 (mid-term), July 5
- **Holidays**  
2023: Sept. 4, Oct. 9, Dec. 25-29  
2024: Jan 1-5, Feb. 19, Mar. 11-15, Mar. 29  
Apr. 1, May 20
- **Elementary Turn-Around Day**  
Sept. 27, 2023
- **Feedback, Recovery and Improvement Days (Secondary)**  
Sem. 1: Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2024  
Sem. 2: June 24-26, 2024
- **Secondary Mid-Semester**  
Sem. 1: Nov. 13, 2023  
Sem. 2: Apr. 22, 2024
- **Secondary Full-Disclosure Days**  
Nov. 30, 2023, May 9, 2024
- **Last Day of School**  
Elementary: June 27, 2024  
Secondary: June 26, 2024