



HURONIA HIGHLIGHTS

March 2023

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HCES Safe Arrival Phone Number 705-322-1101 Press #1

Principal's Message

We see hints every day that spring is just around the corner. School trips are being planned and families are being notified as soon as plans are in place. Our staff and students have been working hard in the classroom, learning and growing.

This month we said goodbye to Ms. Waite who has secured a permanent contract with the SCDSB. We will miss her and wish her well at her new school. Replacing her will be Ms. Townes and Mrs. Elliott. We welcome them.

We wish Ms. Fleras and Ms. Little well as they begin their maternity leaves. They are being replaced by Mrs. Foley and Ms. Chantler. Welcome to the Hawk's nest.

We are excited to announce that singer, songwriter, children's author and motivational speaker Errol Lee will be spending the day and evening of May 17th at Huronia Centennial. He will work with all classes in each of our divisions and they will learn songs and dances for the evening performance during Kaleidoscope 2023. We appreciate the support of our staff and School Council in the organizing of this event. Be sure to mark your family calendar so you are able to join us for the evening event of May 17.

We are welcoming many new families to our community. Each week we have 3 or 4 new students coming to our school. If you are new to our school, we welcome your family and hope that you will come out and be part of all of the things we do.

Cathy Lethbridge

Keep connected with our school and with the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at our school and at the SCDSB. Here are some ways to do that:

Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca.

Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb). See our school accounts on Twitter: @HuroniasCES Facebook: Huronia Centennial Elementary School Instagram Huronia Centennial E.S.

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at

simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.



Collection and use of personal student information

As students' progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared which eases each student's transition to secondary school. Sharing this information also improves our ability to program effectively to benefit all students. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes are authorized under the *Education Act*. Please note that all information used for the transition process is limited, secure, and protected at all times. Please contact Scott Young, Assistant Superintendent of Education, if you would like more information about the transition process at Huronia Centennial ES.



Our upcoming School Council meetings will be held monthly on Mondays at 6:30 pm in the staff room. All parents and guardians are welcome. We wish to recognize everyone who has been coming out regularly to our meetings providing support, ideas, advice and people power.

April 17
May 8
June 12



Character attribute for the month of March Integrity: we act justly and honourably in all that we do.

More information about character education can be found here: [Character Education - Simcoe County District School Board \(scdsb.on.ca\)](http://CharacterEducation-SimcoeCountyDistrictSchoolBoard(scdsb.on.ca))

Significant days, holy days, holidays and heritage recognition occurring in the month of March

Click the link below to go SCDSB Days of Observance on the SCDSB website:

[Sept22-Aug23-HolyDaysandHolidays-Calendar \(sharpschool.com\)](http://Sept22-Aug23-HolyDaysandHolidays-Calendar(sharpschool.com))

Dogs on School Property

Please be advised that dogs are not permitted on school property. You will see our Canine Ambassador, Rita (a Saint Bernard). She's here working, helping our students and staff.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding!



EarlyON Child and Family Centres

Is your child starting JK or SK in September? The Simcoe County EarlyON Child and Family Centres are excited to offer in-person and virtual programs that help prepare children and parents/guardians for Kindergarten. Parents/guardians and children will have the opportunity to interact together in a variety of school readiness activities. We will look at and discuss how does learning happen, self-regulation, social skills, and how to get ready to start school.

If program registration is full, please check back regularly as there may be cancellations. To register for a program in your area visit www.earlyonsimcoenorth.ca/GRFK.



March Break

Please note that March 13 to 17 is March Break for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information:

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



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 March 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 March Break (March 13 to 17). 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 at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after.

Just breathe coping strategy

Well-being is a Strategic Priority in the Simcoe County District School Board, and our well-being department provides monthly strategies to support student and family well-being.

This month's strategy is deep breathing. Parents/guardians should practice deep breathing with their children to help them develop a deeper mind/body connection, self-regulation, awareness of emotions, and build resiliency. To practice deep breathing at home, have your child get comfortable by either standing or sitting. Encourage them to keep their back straight, and shoulders and head relaxed. If they're comfortable, ask them to close their eyes. Have your child place their hands flat on their stomach. Ask your child to breathe in deeply through their nose, filling the belly with breath. Point out how hands move out. Encourage them to hold their breath for a few seconds, then slowly breathe out through the mouth to feel the stomach contract and hands move in. Repeat 5-6 times.

Parents/guardians should practice deep belly breathing at home any time their child seems stressed or upset. Watch a deep breathing video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le2TO_MNFxE&t=3s.

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

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, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities.

There were five webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents, guardians and other caregivers during this school year. The remaining sessions include:

April 27, 2023 The Biology of Stress



We hope you save this date in your calendar and join us for this learning opportunity. 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.

SCDSB schools are mask-friendly environments

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, staff and visitors are not required to wear masks in schools, school board offices and on student transportation. SCDSB schools will continue to be mask-friendly environments. Masks will be available to students and staff who choose to continue to wear them while in schools. Please encourage your child (ren) to be respectful and understanding of everyone's choice with respect to masking so that SCDSB schools remain the safe, inclusive and welcoming teaching and learning environments they are meant to be for all.

For more information visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website at simcoemuskokahealth.ca.

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 outreach series

In 2023, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/caregivers in learning more about programs, supports and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs. The remaining sessions include:

Supporting students as they transition into school, from one school to another, and from school upon graduation

April 20

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.



Working with families to create safe and supportive environments for children who have experienced trauma

May 9

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 at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions.

Registration now open for Summer eLearning!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school courses in July 2023 for current high school students or adult learners who are interested in earning a new credit or upgrading a previous mark. Students can advance online learning skills, earn missed credits or fast-track preparation for graduation or post-secondary in just four weeks. eLearning is fully supported by certified teachers who are available electronically daily.

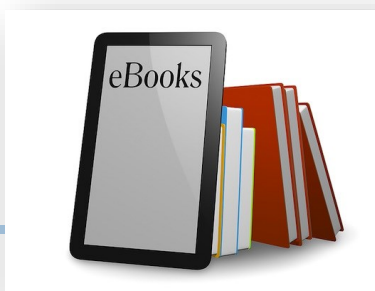
Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at <http://thelearningcentres.com/high-school-student/summer-school>.

As part of our Ophea Healthy Schools Initiative, we will be starting a special program after March Break. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning students are welcome to come to the front foyer of the school from 8:45 am-9 am for Mindful Mornings. This will include quiet activities, a healthy snack and time to connect with friends. We hope to set our students up for a positive day after the rush to get to school and for some, a long bus ride. Hope to see you there!

(Logistics: Bus students will enter the school through the front doors if they plan to attend Mindful Morning. Other students arriving by car or foot will enter the school via the primary doors and head to the front hall. If they pass their coat rack on their way, they can drop their gear. Otherwise they should bring their gear with them to the front foyer.)

SCDSB eBook library - SORA

Did you know that the SCDSB has a digital eBook library available for all students from K-12? Students may access books using either the SORA app on a tablet or visiting <https://soraapp.com/welcome/login/202712> on the desktop version. They simply use their school Google login and password to access the library. Picture books, beginner chapter books, graphic novels, magazines, young adult novels, audio books; there is something for every student. Students may use the search function to select a specific book or browse through one of the many curated collections. Happy reading!



Math @Home parent series

Fostering a strong school-home partnership is an important part of reinforcing math learning at school and extending the learning beyond the classroom. Families are a child's first educator and help build a strong foundation for future success. The virtual math series outlined below is intended to support a positive attitude towards mathematics, enhance motivation and ultimate success.

The SCDSB math department is pleased to offer three evening virtual sessions for families and caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support students with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. The first 200 registrants will receive a path pack of resources to use at home. Participants must pre-register for each of the sessions.

Making Math Connections @Home

Wednesday, April 12

7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore where we find numbers, patterns, measures, and shapes in our daily lives. Participants will learn about practical ways to notice and wonder about the math in their world.



Problem Solving @Home

Tuesday, April 25

7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore how to encourage children to be active thinkers and problem solvers, both in math and around the house. Participants will learn about how solving problems at home can help their children solve problems in math class.



Having Fun with Math Facts @Home

Thursday, May 11

7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore practical, intentional, and fun ways to practice math facts at home. Participants will leave with ideas, games, and activities to support their child with becoming fluent with their math facts.



Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a pack of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on their registration form.

Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/23MathAtHome>