MUSTANG NEWS!

MINESING CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

February 2024 NEWSLETTER

The Character Traits for February are Love & Empathy

7 HURON STREET, MINESING, ONTARIO L9X 1J2 – Tel: 705-728-1944

Website: http://min.scdsb.on.ca
Twitter: @minesingtweets
Instagram: @minesingcentral

BUS CANCELLATION ZONE—CENTRAL

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM:

PRINCIPAL: Allison Beecroft VICE-PRINCIPAL: Jim Dewey

OFFICE TEAM: Natalie Kopacz & Shannon Priest

SUPERINTENDENT: Charlene Scime Liz Grummett



ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As we step into the month of February, a time brimming with warmth, love, kindness and inclusivity, I am reminded of the core values that make our school community truly special. At Minesing Central P.S., diversity, equity and inclusion are not just words but guiding principles that shape our interactions and foster a sense of belonging for every individual. This month, as we celebrate Canadian Black Excellence, the Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day and Family Day, let us also reaffirm our commitment to embracing diversity and promoting inclusion. Whether it's through small acts of kindness or thoughtful gestures of support, let us continue to nurture an environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

We kicked off Black History Month with a workshop on Anti-Black Racism that enabled our students to learn about how systemic racism affects all of us and how they can be an ally. Students are enjoying our Black Excellence Trivia Content daily as well as researching for our "Hallway of Black Excellence" near the library where we will celebrate Black Canadians whom have made a difference in our country. We will close out the month with Pink Shirt Day on February 28th where our student leadership team will lead us in activities that prevent bullying and promote kindness. Together, let us cultivate a culture of empathy and understanding, where every child knows they are cherished for who they are.

Wishing you all a February filled with love, kindness, and joyful learning experiences!

With warm regards, Allison Beecroft—Principal

SCHOOL COUNCIL

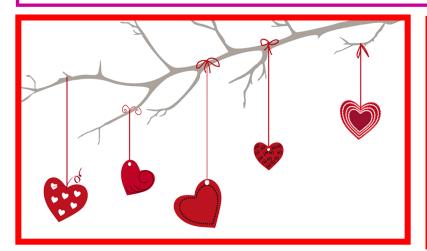
Our school council recently met on February 5 and we are excited to share that we are working on plans for the year-end celebration event, spring vendor market and an exciting NEW family evening (spring timing) - details coming soon!

There are many school fundraising initiatives underway all of which support our student Experience. Special thank you to the volunteers that coordinate these and for your participation.

Mark your calendars for our next meeting which will be held **Monday**, **April 8**, **at 6 p.m.** in the school library - we would love to see you!

Please forward all questions to councilchairmin@scdsb.on.ca

Jenn Smith-Shuttleworth & Robyn Blanchet School Council Co-Chairs



BBQ Fundraiser Our Next BBQ Lunch Fundraiser is scheduled for Feb 29th! Please check School Cash online for options. Make a meal deal!!!

IMPORTANT DATES:

Feb 10th—Lunar New Year

Feb 12th—Bus Safety Presentations

Feb 12th – Stay and Play; Parent Literacy

Feb 13th -McLaren Arts Grade 3

Feb 14-Valentines Day

Feb 14th – Kindness Grams/Dance

Feb 15th - Barrie Colts Night

Feb 16th – Report Cards

Feb 19th – Family Day

Feb 22nd – Grade 8 Grad photo retakes

Feb 28th—Pink Shirt Day (Bullying Prevention)

Feb 29th—BBQ Fundraiser—Available on School Cash online.

DAYS OF AWARENESS

Copy and paste the following link to view the days of awareness for

FEBRUARY

www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity and inclusion

Thank you to Mme. Naccarato and ALL of her helpers for running a wonderful winter Carnaval.

The day was fun and successful and the fresh air was so good for all.

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 enewsletter 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/kindergarten.

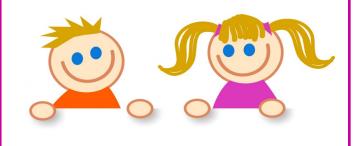
Subscribe to Community Connects!

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.

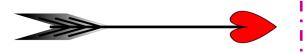
To learn more and subscribe, visit the Community Connects page on the SCDSB website: https://www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community/community/connects.

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.







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 on Twitter ocstate SchoolBus for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx.

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 (ERIK), parent/guardian education, referrals to community resources, nutrition information, and post-natal resources. Check with your local EarlyON provider: https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe.

MINESING MUSTANGS Go to the Colts Game!

THURSDAY February 15th - 7:00 P.M. \$23.00 Per Ticket

Come join us for a fan-tastic night at the Barrie Colts vs. Saginaw Spirit game. Tickets are \$23 each . TICKETS MUST BE PICKED UP IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE . Tickets WILL NOT be sent home with students. Children must be accompanied by an adult on February 15th. Tickets available on a first come, first serve basis. Be sure to wear your Mustang spirit wear or Minesing Central P.S. colours!!





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

Black History Month

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) recognizes and celebrates Black History Month every February. The SCDSB is committed to improving equity of access, positive identity affirming experiences and opportunities for Black students, staff, and parents/guardians, and to creating a safe and caring learning environment that promotes the human rights of students, staff, and parent/guardians. The initiatives undertaken by the SCDSB have been embedded in teaching and learning at all school levels, and centrally, for Black History Month and throughout the year. Follow the SCDSB on social media to see how schools are recognizing Black History Month and celebrating Black excellence.

Reminder: Safe Arrival system for SCDSB schools - call 1-888-885-8065 to report an absence

This school year, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) launched a new Safe Arrival system at elementary schools. This system supports us in continuing to improve our home-to-school communication process and streamlines 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/guardians 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 system, please contact the school office.

- * AFTER YOU PRESS 1 TO ACKNOWLEDGE, YOU MUST STILL CALL SAFE ARRIVAL TO REPORT
- ** Pressing 1 to acknowledge only stops the call from continuing to the next contact.

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!

Child care programs available on PA days, holidays, and March Break

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 11 to 15). Registration in advance is required.

Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register. For more information and contact numbers, please visit: https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after.

Registration now open for summer eLearning!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school courses in July 2024 (elearning) and travel for credit courses in both July and August 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:

https://www.thelearningcentres.com/programs/summer school.

EDUTravel programs are offered in a variety of destinations including Canada, USA, and Europe. For more information including costs, destinations, credits, and dates of commitment, please visit: www.edutravelforcredit.com.

Summer eLearning opportunities for students entering Grade 9!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school eLearning courses in July 2024. Current Grade 8 students wishing to reach ahead and earn a credit before high school can now register through their elementary school principal. eLearning is fully supported by certified teachers who are available electronically daily. Available courses include:

CGC1D - Grade 9 Geography

PAF10 - Grade 9 Personal Fitness

CHV2O & GLC2O - Grade 10 Civics and Careers

CHC2P – Grade 10 Applied History

CHC2D - Grade 10 Academic History

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at:



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.

Developing fluency through repeated reading

Fluency, the ability to read smoothly, accurately, and with expression, is a fundamental skill that significantly impacts a child's overall reading proficiency. When children read fluently, they can focus more on comprehension, understanding the meaning behind the words, rather than struggling with decoding.

Repeated reading is a highly effective strategy that involves a child reading the same text multiple times. This method aims to enhance fluency, comprehension, and overall reading proficiency. By revisiting a text, readers become more familiar with the words and structure, leading to increased speed and accuracy. Additionally, repeated reading allows children to focus on expression and intonation, promoting a more natural and engaging reading style. This approach is particularly beneficial for struggling readers, as it builds confidence and reinforces word recognition. As parents/guardians, incorporating repeated reading into your child's routine not only reinforces the joy of reading but also cultivates a strong foundation for improved fluency and comprehension skills over time.

New Math at Home online resource for families

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) Math team is excited to launch Math at Home, an online resource for parents/caregivers of SCDSB students from ages 0-16. Math at Home provides the following nformation and resources to support math learning:

Math games to play at home Links to digital math games Practice opportunities Real world math connections

Math mindset



Math at Home will be updated monthly to include new math games, problems, and number talks. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/MathAtHome to begin supporting your child's math learning at home!

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.



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.

ONGOING FUNDRAISERS AT MINESING CENTRAL

MABEL'S LABELS campaigns.mabelslabels.com choose Minesing

CHICKEN ON THE RUN www.chickenontherun.ca –use code MUSTANGS24

SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR https://simcoecountydistrictschoolboard.entripyshops.com/

Lunch Box—hot lunch programs *Monday—Pasta *Tuesday-Pizza *Wednesday—Subs

We thank you for your continuing support in our fundraising efforts.

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:

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.

Mental health strategy of the month - Just Breathe

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 *Just Breathe*. The purpose of this strategy is to help students develop a mind/body connection, self-regulation, awareness of emotions, and resiliency by practising deep breathing.

To practice *Just Breathe* at home, follow these steps:

Place your hands flat on your stomach or pay attention to your stomach.

As you breathe deeply in through your nose, send this breath all the way to your stomach.

Feel your stomach expand and your hands move out.

Breathe out. Feel your stomach contract and your hands move in.

Repeat 5-6 times.

Practice deep belly breathing any time you feel stressed or upset. Find more information to support your child's mental health here: https://smho-smso.ca/parents-and-caregivers/.

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



Online luring and grooming

As part of our shared commitment to educating our students about digital citizenship and cyber awareness, this month we are highlighting online luring and grooming. The following info sheet has been created by the Educational Collaborative Network of Ontario (ECNO) to overview:

What online luring and grooming is Commonly used tactics that online predators use Helpful tips to stay safe How to report if necessary



Info sheet: https://ecno.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/ECNO-CAM-Calendar-23-Aug3023 GroomingLuring.pdf

For additional activities and information, please refer to the digital citizenship resources for parents/guardians that are available on the Safe Schools page on the SCDSB website (www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools). The Ministry of Education has also provided information and resources in PPM 166 Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols: www.ontario.ca/document/education-ontario-policy-and-program-direction/policyprogram-memorandum-166.

Foster families needed in your community!

Children in our community need you! We have an urgent need for foster homes in Simcoe Muskoka. We are looking for diverse foster care providers who understand children's needs. Our needs are diverse and range from babies to teens. Open your home to a child/youth and receive training, support, and between \$85 and \$155 per child and per day. Do you know anyone who may be interested? Visit https://familyconnexions.ca/fosterconnexions/ to inquire, apply, and for more information. You may also call 705-726-6587 ext. 4.

Information provided by Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions.

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.



Creating safe and healthy schools

A healthy school supports children to reach their full health and learning potential. There are many ways for you to get involved in creating a safe and healthy school for your child. Here are some ideas:

Talk with your child about what they are learning at school and find ways to role model or reinforce the health messages at home.

Stay informed about your child's school through the school website and social media platforms.

Get to know your child's friends, other parents, and staff from the school and communicate often.

Volunteer to participate on a committee that helps organize healthy activities for the school community.

Contact your child's school or your local public health unit to get started.

Looking for more parenting support? Speak with a public health nurse by calling 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

Register your child for the YMCA's Escape in the Landscape program

Register your child for an outdoor education experience like no other. The YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka's Escape in the Landscape program offers nature immersion activities led by qualified staff for children ages 4-12. Through experimentation, peer-to-peer learning, and storytelling, your child will be encouraged to discover new experiences and skills, all while making lasting friendships and developing a love of the great

During this memorable program, your child will:

- Learn about the land and how to be environmental caretakers.
- Connect with nature and build self-confidence.
- Improve their mental and physical health.
- Be curious, resilient, and motivated to make a difference.

The program runs for eight weeks from March to April 2024 and is offered in Alliston, Innisfil, Midland, Wasaga Beach, and Barrie.

Cost:

outdoors.

Ages 4-6: \$125.00 Ages 7-12: \$175.00

For more information and to register, visit https://ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/escape-in-the-landscape/.





SPRINGWATER LIBRARY

Springwater Library - Minesing Branch

Miss Amanda Storytime

Elmvale Branch: Tuesdays at 10:30am Midhurst Branch: Wednesdays at 10:30am



Join Miss Amanda for storytime in the library! We will be singing songs, reading stories and having fun! At the end of each storytime families will be given a craft kit to take home with them! Drop in! No Registration required! Free!

English Language earners Club

ESL Conversation Club

Come and join us weekly for a conversation group that will be working on English language basics. All are welcome! Meet new people, increase your fluency and vocabulary.

Mondays 1pm at the Elmvale Branch.

Kaitlyn's P.A Day Craft Kits

Cost: Free!

On the Thursday before a scheduled P.A day come to the Minesing Branch and pick up a cute craft kit. This month: February 16th. Heart Peacock



Parent & Child Book Club

SAME PAGE

BOOK CLUB

For parents and children age 8 - 11, the "On the Same Page Book Club" will be starting this fall! Read the book together and then gather as a group to talk, play games and enjoy some snacks! Our first book will be, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. Registration required.

Thursday February 15th, 6pm at the Midhurst Branch.



Weekly Drop-in Games

Cost: Free!

Come on in after school to play some games with friends and family every Tuesday from 3pm-5pm at Minesing Branch. The library will provide the games or you can bring your own! All ages are welcome to join the fun! This is a drop in program, no registration required.

Heart Suncatcher

Cost: Free!

The Library will be offering a fun drop-in craft at both its Elmvale and Midhurst locations. Participants will make their own Heart shaped Suncatcher. This program will be available as long as supplies last. Starting Friday February 23rd at the Midhurst Branch. This is a drop in program, no

registration required.



Minesing Branch Hours

Tuesday - 10am - 5pm Thursday - 1pm - 7pm



Springwater Public Library

2347 Ronald Road Minesing, Ontario L0L 1Y0 | 705-722-6440 http://www.springwater.library.on.ca