

MUSTANG NEWS!

MINESING CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

January 2024 NEWSLETTER

The Character Traits for January are Optimism & Courage

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
TRUSTEE: Liz Grummett



ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE

Dear Minesing Central Families,

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you well-rested, rejuvenated and ready for an exciting start to 2024. Welcome back to Minesing where learning and the warmth of our school community continue to thrive!

I am thrilled to kick off the new year with a sense of optimism and enthusiasm for the incredible possibilities that lie ahead. Our dedicated team of educators and staff have been hard at work preparing engaging and enriching experiences for our students. Our school goals focus on math, literacy, equity and well-being. We are committed to fostering an environment where curiosity is celebrated, kindness is embraced, and every child feels valued and supported. We will be extending the curriculum in these areas with a variety of presentations, workshops, whole school events, field trips and co-curricular activities such as Math Jam, McLaren Art Centre, Intramurals and Tour for Humanity. Thank you to our staff and our school council for planning, helping and supporting with these goals and activities so that we may enhance each child's academic journey and also contribute to their personal growth and development.

Let's make 2024 a year of discovery, growth, and achievement! Together, as a Minesing Central community, we can create an environment where each child feels empowered to reach their full potential. Thank you for entrusting us with your child!

Allison Beecroft (she/her/elle/ella)
Principal



SCHOOL COUNCIL



HELLO and HAPPY NEW YEAR MUSTANG FAMILIES!

Our school council is thrilled for the months ahead. We invite you to join us at our upcoming meetings where we'll share our plans for the year-end celebration event and discuss the fundraising initiatives already in progress. Your participation is invaluable in ensuring the success of these events and enriching our children's educational experience.

Our next meeting will be held Monday, February 5, at 6 p.m in the school library - even if you have never attended, you are welcome - we would love to see you!

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

IMPORTANT DATES:

Jan 16th – Math Jam K-3 in gym
Jan 17th—McLaren Arts Presentation Gr. 6
Jan 17th – Grad photos
Jan 17th – BNC open house for grade 8—6:30 PM
Jan 18th—BNC open house (inclement weather date)
Jan 24/25 – Tour for Humanity Bus—presentation Gr. 3-8
Jan 25th – Ice Cream fundraiser day
Jan 26th – PA Day
Feb 2—Carnavale day at school
Feb 5—Parent Council Meeting 6PM in library



DAYS OF AWARENESS

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

www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion

January PA Day (elementary only)

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.

A HUGE THANK YOU!

Thank you to Mme. Kobylnik for organizing our Wintertainment show which took place in the gymnasium.

Thank you also to all the students who performed a variety of wonderful talents.

AMAZING!

A summary of the activities planned for the Jan. 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.

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

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 [@SCSTC_SchoolBus](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

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.

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!!



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/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten.

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

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: www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community_connects.

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

Licensed Winter 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 Winter Break and March Break. 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 by visiting:

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

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.

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.



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.

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>.

Reporting achievement in language

Student achievement in language will be reported as one overall grade or mark on the term one report card. The mark will reflect a student's integrated learning across the four strands:

- Strand A - Literacy Connections and Applications
- Strand B - Foundations of Language
- Strand C - Comprehension; Understanding and Responding to Texts
- Strand D - Composition; Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

The grade will be accompanied by supporting comments that will indicate the student's strengths, describe growth in learning, and identify next steps for improvement. For more information regarding the revised Language curriculum, visit www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/key-changes-language to view a guide for parents/guardians on the Ministry of Education website.

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.

Mental health promotion strategy of the month - 2 x 10 Connecting

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 *2 x 10 Connecting*. This practice helps to build rapport and the relationship between a caring adult and student, and to let the student see they are genuinely cared about as a person.

To practice *2x10 Connecting* at home, find a consistent time each day to spend two minutes talking to your child about anything they would like to talk about for a period of 10 days. If you have more than one child, switch who spends that time talking with you every 10 days or find different times in the day to spend 2 minutes with each child.

Find more information to support your child's mental health here:

<https://smho-smso.ca/parents-and-caregivers/>.

2x10 Connecting resources:

Elementary - <https://smho-smso.ca/emhc/self-awareness-and-sense-of-identity/mattering/2-x-10/>

Secondary - <https://smho-smso.ca/emhcsecondary/healthy-relationship-skills/being-a-good-friend/connecting/>

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

Keeping your information private

As parents/guardians, we work to support our children's well-being and to protect them from harm. At a time when internet use can pose risk to our children, how can we support them in keeping their information private and secure when using social media, games, and/or other digital apps? Each month we will highlight one cyber awareness topic to support parents/guardians with the information and tools they need to navigate these topics with their children.

January's theme is *Keeping your information private*. For helpful tips related to managing your child's privacy and security settings on mobile devices, read through the info sheet from the Educational Collaborative Network of Ontario (ECNO) by visiting:

https://ecno.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/ECNO-CAM-Calendar-23-Aug3023_KeepInformationPrivate.pdf.

For additional activities and information, please refer to the Digital Citizenship resources for parents/guardians that are available on the SCDSB website:

https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools (see button for Mental Health & Well-being in Online Environments).

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.



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!

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: January
26th P.A day:
Penguin Poppers



Cork Gnomes

Cost: Free!

The Library will be offering a fun drop-in craft at both its Elmvale and Midhurst locations. Participants will make their own Cork Gnome. This program will be available as long as supplies last. Starting Tuesday January 2nd at Midhurst Branch. This is a drop in program, no registration required.



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 Elmvale Branch. This group will start Monday September 11, 2023.



Parent & Child 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 November 9th, 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.

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>