

MUSTANG NEWS!

MINESING CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

September 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

Website: <http://min.scdsb.on.ca>

Twitter: @minesingtweets

Instagram: @minesingcentral

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM:

PRINCIPAL:	Allison Beecroft
VICE-PRINCIPAL:	Jim Dewey
OFFICE TEAM:	Natalie Kopacz & Shannon Priest
SUPERINTENDENT:	Charlene Scime
TRUSTEE:	Liz Grummett



ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all returning families, our new kindergartens, students that have transferred to Minesing Central Public School from other schools and all new parents and guardians. I am excited and optimistic that the 2023-24 school year will be a rewarding and enjoyable year for all community members. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone for all of your support and positivity! We welcome your feedback as we continue to provide a safe and positive learning environment for our students at Minesing Central Public School.

I love to share all of the wonderful things going on at the school! I have had an opportunity to visit all of the classrooms and there are great things happening here at M.P.S.! This school is very lucky to have such a talented and dedicated group of professionals on staff. I am also pleased to see the excitement and positive attitudes demonstrated by the students.

Cont'd...

Each new school year brings new opportunity. I encourage all parents to seize the opportunity to get actively involved in your child's education and in the broader school community. We are always looking for volunteers on our school council. We welcome your input and assistance with fundraising and will also aim to keep you informed about all the goings on at school as well as our School Action Plan.

We also support parental involvement and home-school communication through teacher blogs, social media (Remind app etc...) and through the school website. Please take a few moments to subscribe to our website to receive email notifications any time the site is updated. Following our Instagram account will help you to keep informed with school news as well as viewing highlights and pictures of the great things happening at M.P.S. Our school newsletters are posted to our website monthly. Please subscribe to this website and an email will be sent to you with up to date information. Since we are an eco school, paper copies of our school newsletter are not available – we will send our newsletter out to you by school messenger (emails listed in our Power School system) and as stated previously, they will also be posted to our school website for you to access all year long. In the rare occurrence that parents/guardians do not have an email address or access to technology, please contact the office and we will aim to provide you with a paper copy of the newsletter when requested.

An updated list of Minesing staff is available on the school website, however, it is important to note that, as always, class placements and teacher assignments are tentative until the turnaround date of September 27th in all SCDSB Schools.

Last, just as I encourage teachers to establish and nurture positive relations with the home, I ask that parents do the same with staff. You are your child's first and best teacher and you know them best. Working together, we can offer your child the best education possible! We look forward to meeting and getting to know your children and your family through the school year.

Have a wonderful year!

Allison Beecroft (she/her/elle/ella)

Principal

Minesing Central P.S.

705-728-1944 ext. 25204

SCDSB launches updated character education program for 2023-24 school year

This year the SCDSB will begin implementation of the updated character education program. Rather than focus on one attribute each month, the program has been changed to reflect that character is a fluid concept that includes a variety of attributes.

The updated character attributes are:

Bravery	Helpfulness	Listening	Responsibility
Caring	Honesty	Love	Trustworthiness
Compassion	Humility	Loyalty	Truth
Cooperation	Inclusiveness	Optimism	Sharing
Courage	Integrity	Perseverance	Wisdom
Empathy	Kindness	Respect	

For more information on the updated character education program, visit the character education page on the SCDSB website: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education.

IMPORTANT DATES:

***Every Monday is Mustang Monday-Wear blue & yellow!**

Sept 18 - School Council 6 pm

Sept 22 - PA Day

Sept 25 - Franco/Ontarian Day

Sept 26 - Terry Fox 1:50 p.m.

Sept 27 - Turn Around Day

Sept 29 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Oct 4 - Meet the Families Night - more info to come

Oct 6 – Elmvale Fair - more info to come

Oct 9 - Thanksgiving

Oct 10 - Pronoun Day

Oct 20 - PA Day

DAYS OF AWARENESS

2023/2024

Copy the link below to view the days of awareness for the current school year.

<https://scdsb.sharepoint.com/sites/EquityDiversity/SiteAssets/SitePages/EDI-Home-Header/2023---2024-Days-Of-Awareness.pdf?web=1>

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Welcome Back Mustangs!

We hope you have had a great summer break! We are excited to welcome new and returning members to School Council for the 2023/24 school year. School Council is an excellent opportunity to provide your input on important school topics and have a direct impact on the student experience at Minesing Central. In order to become a voting member, please remember to submit the School Council Parent Candidate Nomination form that was sent out with the First Day at Minesing Central email communication.

Our first School Council Meeting will be held on Monday September 18th, at 6:00 p.m. in the school library.

We look forward to seeing you there!

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Dates:

Fall Photos: Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Retake Photos: Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Graduation Photos: Wednesday, January 17, 2024



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 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 Sept. 22 PA Day:

Length: Full day
Topic: Reading and Literacy, Social Studies, Assessment
Host: Simcoe County District School Board
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): School board staff and school administrators

Educators will participate in person to review the newly revised Language Curriculum, *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language, 2023*, and new de-streamed *English, Grade 9, and Français, 9e année* courses and explore resources to support their implementation with students. Through group discussions and hands-on activities, elementary educators will learn about early reading instruction and the use of screening tools to help ensure that students with reading difficulties are identified and supported early. They will also explore and plan for literacy instruction across the curriculum, including the new Holocaust Education curriculum in Grade 6. Secondary educators will also engage in assessment activities and the collaborative planning of student tasks and opportunities to inform both course instruction and evaluation.

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.

Keep Connected With Our School and With the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (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).

MINESING CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL INFO:

- **Website:** <http://min.scdsb.on.ca>
- **Twitter:** @minesingtweets
- **Instagram:** @minesingcentral

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 and on school websites under 'students'. If you have questions, please contact the school.

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 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.

School council nominations take place every fall. If you are interested, please watch your email for upcoming communication and for more information visit:

www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent/school_councils.

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 Oct. 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.

Annual notice to adult students or parent(s)/guardian(s) of students under the age of 16

A completed Student Medical Form (FORM A1420 - 1) is required each school year, or when a medical need is identified, or when the student transfers to another school, in order to authorize medical response plan development and the administration of prescribed medication to students who require it during school hours, or when the medication and/or dosage requirements change. Specific to asthma, every student is now permitted to carry their asthma medication if the student has their parent's/guardian's permission. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are responsible for ensuring that a current, completed Student Medical Form is on file at the school. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are also to complete a Plan of Care for students with prevalent medical conditions such as anaphylaxis, asthma, type 1 diabetes, or epilepsy/seizure disorder.

Some students may experience severe life-threatening allergic reactions to bee, hornet, wasp, or other flying insect stings or to certain foods or food ingredients such as peanuts. The best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure for these students is to respectfully ask parent(s)/guardian(s) to avoid sending peanut butter or products with peanuts and/or tree nuts listed in the ingredients to school. For students with life-threatening allergies, it is recommended that two doses of an epinephrine auto-injector are available on site at school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions you may have.

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 or by calling 1-833-560-0527; or,
Insure my Kids through at 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.

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. If you have questions about the dress code, contact your school principal.

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.

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 and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (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 every-one 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.

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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](#).

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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.

MINESING CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

7 HURON ST., MINESING, ON L9X 1J2

PHONE: 705-728-1944 FAX: 705-728-9861

Principal: Allison Beecroft Vice-Principal: Jim Dewey

SCHOOL HOURS:

First Bell - Teachers on Duty		8:55 AM
Entrance to School		9:10 AM
1st LEARNING BLOCK	Period 1	9:10 - 10:00 AM
	Period 2	10:00 - 10:50 AM
ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:40 AM		
Nutrition Break		10:50 - 11:10 AM
Recess		11:10 - 11:30 AM
2nd LEARNING BLOCK	Period 3	11:30 - 12:20 PM
	Period 4	12:20PM - 1:10 PM
Nutrition Break		1:10 - 1:30 PM
Recess		1:30 - 1:50 PM
3rd LEARNING BLOCK	Period 5	1:50 - 2:40 PM
	Period 6	2:40 - 3:30 PM
Dismissal		3:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 2023						
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DECEMBER 2023						
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JANUARY 2024						
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APRIL 2024						
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MAY 2024						
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JUNE 2024						
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23	24 4	25 5	26 1	27 2	28 EP	29

SIGNIFICANT DATES	
S	First Day of School September 5, 2023
ETD	Elementary Turnaround Day September 27, 2023
RC	Elementary Report Card Days 2023: November 9 2024: February 16, June 21
EP	Elementary Professional Activity Days 2023: September 22, October 20, November 17 2024: January 26, April 26, June 7, June 28
H	Holidays 2023: September 4, October 9, December 25-29 2024: January 1-5, February 19, March 11-15, March 29, April 1, May 20