



## Character Attribute for the month of December

**Empathy** - We strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others. More information about character education can be found here: [www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education).



## December 2021 Newsletter



Dear W.H. Day Families,

It's hard to believe that our winter break is almost here! As the weather gets colder, please remember to dress your child warmly for school.

A reminder that morning supervision begins at 8:20 and classes begin promptly at 8:35. Please ensure that your child(ren) arrive at that time so they are not missing any class time. We also ask that they arrive with everything they need for the day, including winter clothes and lunches. This will help to reduce unnecessary interruptions to learning time.

We would like to wish all families a very happy holiday. We hope that you are able to enjoy time together this season.

Warm wishes,

Ms. Reynolds, Ms. Marjerrison, and Ms. McCann

Once again we are proud to present our virtual version of 'Story Time' at W.H. Day. Our Staff and School Council know how much this event means to our community so we decided we would send it out again this year for our families to enjoy!

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1CS075THSbfD7Wbj78F\\_EiCa6l0zOH01MKNWlNyKEGso/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1CS075THSbfD7Wbj78F_EiCa6l0zOH01MKNWlNyKEGso/edit?usp=sharing)

Enjoy the presentation,

The W.H. Day Staff and School Council



## December 2021 Newsletter Continues

### **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.

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.

### **Change of Learning Mode Requests (Elementary)**

As previously communicated to SCDSB families in May 2021, Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) elementary school families are being provided an additional opportunity to request a change in learning mode (In-Person or Learn@Home) for their child(ren), where available space exists for Term 2 (February 22 to June 30, 2022).

As you are aware, the Ministry of Education directed school boards to develop plans for the 2021-2022 school year that included both In-Person and Learn@Home options, as well as flexible and responsive options should the need arise for schools to pivot based on local public health conditions. Operating successful instructional programs for both In-Person and Learn@Home programs requires considerable coordination and planning, taking into account multiple factors such as existing enrolment, school composition, continuity of cohorts and collective agreements.

While it is expected that the vast majority of elementary students will remain in their existing learning mode for the remainder of the school year, the SCDSB recognizes that individual situations may have changed; therefore, SCDSB families will be provided with the opportunity to request a change to their child(ren)'s mode of learning effective February 2022, where available space exists.

Families requesting a change of learning mode from Learn@Home to In-Person learning are asked to contact their child(ren)'s home school directly prior to December 10, 2021, to discuss whether space is available to accommodate their request.

Families requesting a change of learning mode from In-Person to Learn@Home are asked to complete an online request form. The online form will be emailed to families on Monday December 6 and be available from Monday December 6 at 9 a.m. and close Friday December 10 at 4 p.m. It will also be available on the SCDSB's public website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)).

**The deadline to request a change of learning mode is December 10, 2021.**

**It is important to note, requests for a change of learning mode will only be accommodated where available space exists.**

# December 2021 Newsletter Continues

## Updates to the School Screening Tool for the 2021-22 school year - International travel

Recently, the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) was updated to reflect the return to school requirements for students who are returning from international travel. Individuals who are unvaccinated and returning from international travel may not attend school or child care for 14 days upon their return. For further clarity, while unvaccinated children and those under the age of 12 are exempt from federal quarantine if they travelled with a fully vaccinated companion, they may not attend school or child care for 14 days upon their return. Individuals with all other quarantine exemptions (e.g. travelling for cross-border custody arrangements, travelling for medical treatment) may continue to attend school or child care.



## Considerations prior to travelling this winter

Is your family is thinking of travelling this winter? Here are some things to consider before you make the arrangements:

1. Learn about travel advisories related to COVID-19 where you are headed, before leaving - <https://bit.ly/3Czlk5l>
2. Be sure you understand how the Quarantine Act applies to travelers arriving back in Canada - <https://bit.ly/3HAIOft>

Students who have travelled outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days if they do not qualify for a federal quarantine travel exemption. Your child's ability to return to school after travel outside of Canada will depend on whether or not they are fully vaccinated. If they are fully vaccinated, they may be exempt from federal quarantine. If they are not fully vaccinated, they are not to attend school/child care for 14 days, even if they traveled with a vaccinated companion. A reminder that all students must complete the [COVID-19 Screening Tool](#) before going to school each day. This includes questions related to travel and guidance for those who have travelled. More information can be found on the Government of Canada website: <https://bit.ly/3ctaLqa>.

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

## Daily COVID-19 self-assessment

All students and staff are required to complete the daily COVID-19 self-assessment prior to entering SCDSB schools and buildings, using the provincial self-assessment tool. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>.

## Daily COVID-19 Self-Screening Tools



## High school information events for Grade 8 students

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will happen virtually this winter. Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Please visit your school's website for more information.

  
**KEEP CALM**  
AND  
**WELCOME TO HIGH SCHOOL**

KeepCalmAndPosters.com



# December 2021 Newsletter Continues



## 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](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). **Our school is in the South 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/guardians and students invited to learn about planning for apprenticeship at virtual event on Dec. 2

On Thursday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m., parents/guardians and students in Grades 7-12 can learn about preparing for a career in the skilled trades at an interactive virtual session presented by the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Participants in High School Planning for the Skilled Trades – Let's Get Started! will learn about apprenticeship pathways and have the opportunity to ask questions about how to explore a career in the trades while in high school.

The virtual presentation will include information about the skilled trades as well as a question and answer segment. Participants are invited to submit questions in advance here: <https://bit.ly/32cfnPN>.

To virtually attend the presentation, visit the SCDSB Facebook event page for more information: <https://bit.ly/3Fpds8D>.



## Register now for Night School (semester two) to complete high school, prepare for post-secondary education

Night school offers secondary school credits in a variety of subjects for students completing their Ontario Secondary School Diploma, and for students who are preparing for post-secondary education. Subjects include math, English, chemistry, biology, physics and social science. All night school courses this year are offered virtually using Brightspace/D2L with opportunities for synchronous classes, small groups and one-on-one sessions each evening with the teacher in addition to asynchronous coursework. Classes are held two nights per week from 6 to 9 p.m. and run given sufficient enrolment. Learn more at: [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com).

# December 2021 Newsletter Continues



## Grade 1 French Immersion information

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

The SCDSB board-wide electronic application dates for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will be **Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 17, 2021.** Consistent with last year's process, the online FI application process will be a randomized lottery system. To access the FI application form, visit: <https://bit.ly/3c0Md7K>.

## Math @Home parent series

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey. The winners of the prizes will be notified in January. The SCDSB math department is offering three evening virtual sessions for caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support students with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. Participants will receive a math pack of resources to use at home, and must pre-register for each of the sessions by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/SCDSBMathAtHomeRegistration>.



## Having fun with math facts @Home

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2022

7 to 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 in becoming fluent with their math facts.

## Making math connections @Home

Thursday, March 24, 2022

7 to 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 help their child notice and wonder about the math in their world.

## Problem solving @Home

Wednesday, April 26, 2022

7 to 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.

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



Please do your best to send your child to school each morning with all of their belongings, including lunch, snow pants and mitts. This will help to ensure instructional times are not interrupted.

# December 2021 Newsletter Continues

## Heritage Recognition in December

### **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (December 6)**

Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. December 6 also represents an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on violence against women in our society. For more information, visit <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/remembrance-commemoration-en.html>.



National Day of  
Remembrance and  
Action on Violence  
Against Women

### **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.

### **Is it time for your child to have a dental check-up?**

#### **Let us help!**

The Oral Health Team at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is now available to provide a variety of dental health services for children and youth aged 0–17 at our various clinic locations. We can provide dental screenings, answer questions and guide you through the dental options that are available for your child through Healthy Smiles Ontario. If you don't have a dentist, we can provide you with options of dental offices that can help.

This is your personal invitation to contact us to discuss your child's dental needs and to ensure their dental concerns are addressed. For more information, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 705-721-7520 or toll free at 1-877-721-7520, ext. 5867.

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

## DECEMBER

2021

### Holy Days & Holidays

- 6** Chanukah ends  
Judaism
- 8** Bodhi Day/Awakening Day  
Buddhism
- 13** Birthday of Imam Aga Khan  
Islam
- 14** Maun Agiyaras  
Jainism
- 18** Sanghamitta Day  
Buddhism
- 21** Yule/Winter Solstice  
(may be observed Dec. 20-23)  
Wicca
- 24** Christmas Eve  
Christianity
- 25** Christmas  
Christianity
- 26** Zartosht-no-diso (FC)  
Zoroastrianism
- 26** Boxing Day  
Canadian Holiday

# Monthly Calendar

# December 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Dress in Winter Colors! (Blue & Gold, Green & Red)	14 Wear your fuzzy or comfy clothes!	15 Wear a festive holiday or winter-themed sweater!	16 Wear winter sports wear or winter costumes!	17 Pajama Day! (Please do not bring stuffies or blankets)	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Spirit Week!

No School!  
20th-31st



Thank you!

merci



As always, please contact the office should you have any questions.

Thank you for helping us keep our school & community safe

K. Reynolds

T. McCann

M. Marjerrison