






Thunderbolt Newsletter

October 2023

 **1-888-885-8065**
whdattendance@scdsb.on.ca
 905-775-9692
 whday@scdsb.on.ca
 Whd.scdsb.on.ca
 @WHDayES
 WH Day Elementary School
 410 Maplegrove Ave
 Bradford, Ontario L3Z 2V4
 Inclement Weather Zone: **SOUTH**

DAILY SCHEDULE

Please be on time for school. Yard supervision begins at 8:20 a.m., so all children should be in the school yard before the Warning bell rings at 8:32 a.m. Thank you.

There will be no pick up of students after 2:30pm

Teachers are busy getting

Yard Supervision	8:20am
Warning Bell	8:32am
Entry Bell	8:35am
Instructional Time	8:35-10:15am
Outdoor Play	10:15-10:35am
Nutrition Break	10:35-10:55am
Instructional Time	10:55-12:35
Outdoor Play	12:35-12:55pm
Nutrition Break	12:55-1:15pm
Instructional Time	1-15-2:55pm
Dismissal	2:55pm

Dear W.H. Day Families,

We have had a great start up to our school year and are happy to enjoy these last warm, sunny school days as we begin October. Thank you to the parents and guardians who were able to join us for the first School Council meeting. Our school council chair this school year is Jacquie Ridout and information about fundraising events planned for this school year will be shared in next week's Thunderbolt Highlights.

Many staff are coaching teams this Fall at W.H. Day and many junior and intermediate students are participating in cross country, volleyball, soccer, and flag football. A dungeons and dragons club has also started this term for students at Nutrition Break. Thank you to our incredible staff for volunteering their time to run these events for students.

Three other events in October we would like to draw your attention to:

1. School photos will take place on October 12 during the school day.
2. Kindergarten parents and guardians are invited at 9:15 a.m. on October 31 to the school Gym to watch the Kindergarten Halloween parade. The parade will be about 10 minutes.
3. Please review page 11 of this newsletter for an outline of how we will celebrate Halloween this year at W.H. Day.



- Oct. 11 Cross Country Areas at Tottenham
- Oct. 12 Photo Day
- Oct. 16 Gr. 4 - Outdoor Education Day
- Oct. 17 IEPs Go Home
- Oct. 18 Cross Country Meet-Moonstone
- Oct. 19 Flag Football Tournament
- Oct. 20 PA Day
- Oct. 25 Dwarfism Awareness Day
- Oct. 31 Halloween Progress Reports Go Home
- Nov. 9 Hot Lunches begin
- Nov. 13 Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Nov. 16-17 Gr. 1 F.I. Information Night
- Nov. 21


Administrative & Office Staff

Principal **Katie Maxwell**

Vice Principal **Tracey McCann**

Superintendent **Matt Webbe**

Trustee **Debbie Connors**



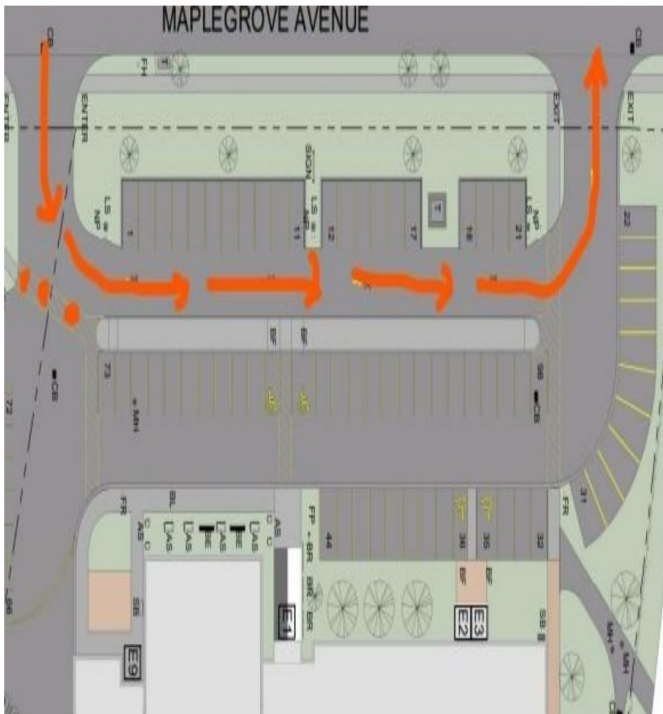
Senior Office Support **Laura Senetchko**

Office Support **Danielle Brouckxon**

Lead Custodian **Diego Tidi**

Kiss n' Ride Information

Please note in the drawing below that this lane is the one to the south of the bus lane, marked with orange arrows. Cars will enter the parking lot and proceed as far down the lane as traffic allows. Cars are expected to remain in single file. Cars may not pass another vehicle. Drivers are not permitted to park and leave their vehicles in this live lane. Please be aware that our staff are supervising the safety of students. Walking to school remains the preferred option for our students. Priority will be given to students and parents walking to school and using the crosswalks, in addition to school buses and vans arriving and leaving our school. Pedestrians must use sidewalks and crosswalks only, and please do not walk through the parking lot.



At the end of the day, pedestrians are asked to use the crosswalk and center median walkway to travel from one side of the school to the other. Please do not walk between the parked cars and the buses.

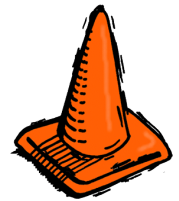
PARKING LOT



Our parking lot is very busy especially at arrival and dismissal time. For everyone's safety we encourage parents who have students in the busing areas to please take the bus to and from school and that walking students walk to and from school.

The parking lot will be closed between 8:20 AM to 8:45 AM and between 2:35 to 3:15 PM. There is no parking other than in the designated parking areas.

Only school vehicles (school buses and vans) or emergency vehicles (ambulances/police cars) are allowed in the school bus loading zone that is located directly in front of the school.



PAY WITH SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you!

Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com or visit our [school website](#) and click on 'Pay Fees'
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

It's safe, fast and convenient!



SAFE ARRIVAL

If your child will be absent/late, please call the safe arrival line at 1-888-885-8065 or



email: whdattendance@scdsb.on.ca

Leave a message with your child's name (Clearly spell the last name)

teacher/grade -date of absence and the reason for the absence.

This is a 24 hour machine where a message may be left if your child will be absent or late.

SIGNING IN/OUT AT THE OFFICE

Any late students are required to Sign In at the office via the front doors before going to class.

If you are picking up your student early please notify the office as soon as possible so we make arrangements for early dismissal.

Upcoming in-person Grade 1 French Immersion information sessions

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 English and French.

Information sessions for families who are considering entry into Grade 1 FI for the 2024-25 school year will take place at W.H. Day on November 21, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. The event will be in the gym.

Entry into the FI program will be determined through a digitally randomized lottery system. A link to access the Grade 1 FI online application form will be available on the SCDSB website starting at 9 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 1 until 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15. For more information regarding French Immersion, visit www.scdsb.on.ca, then select 'elementary', and 'French as a Second Language'.

October PA Day

Please note that Friday, Oct. 20 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 Oct. 20 PA Day:

Length: Full day

Topic: Health and Safety, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Mathematics

Host: Simcoe County District School Board

Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): School board staff and school administrators and school leads

Educators will participate in a half-day Health and Safety digital learning session focused on health and safety incident reporting and investigations with a particular emphasis on the essential aspect of workplace violence prevention. The session will equip staff with the knowledge and tools to report incidents effectively and promptly, provide insights into the investigative and risk mitigation process, fostering transparency and accountability, and highlight the critical role staff play in preventing workplace injuries.

Educators will learn about Somali, Latino, South Asian, and African Black Indigenous heritage. They will collaboratively plan within grades and divisions. Through this, they will celebrate identities and create environments that foster well-being and sense of belonging.

Educators will choose learning related to the Knowledgehook digital math tool based on their readiness. Different learning pathways have been planned for new users, those with some experience, and those who are ready to extend their use of the math tool. All participants will learn about how to invite parents/guardians to view their child's progress. Additionally, educators will engage in High Impact Instructional Practices in Mathematics learning modules that align with their school's Achievement in Mathematics goal.

Volunteer Information

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our schools great places to learn and grow. The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is pleased to welcome back volunteers in our schools for the 2022-23 school year. Volunteers can fill various roles at our schools including school council members, hot lunch organizers, field trip supervisors, and classroom helpers. The requirements for all volunteers prior to starting/returning to your school of choice in September are as follows:

Volunteers must:

Agree to submit a copy of a Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) executed within the last six months and register and complete all required steps through the [SCDSB Community Apps](#) link (see image below) prior to beginning volunteer duties.

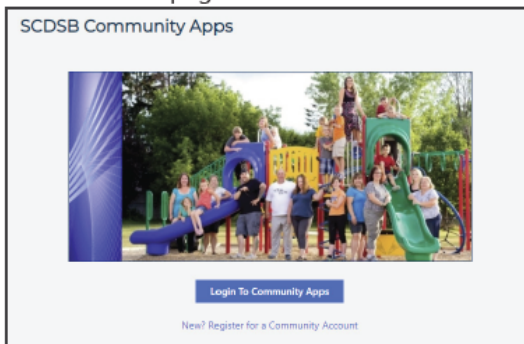
- Complete an annual offence declaration through the SCDSB Community Apps – Volunteers page for up to four years to continue volunteering.
- Submit a new VSC at the beginning of the fifth year.
- Be responsible for the cost of the VSC.
- Be responsible to the principal and work under the supervision 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.
- Complete the COVID-19 screening tool prior to each school visit.
- Be prompt, dependable and regular in attendance, and give advance notice to teachers when unable to attend.

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.

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 everyone 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.

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 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)**.

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 **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>.

School bus transportation information available from the SCSTC

In order to receive delay and cancellation notifications, families can check the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca or download the 'BusPlanner Delays' app from the Apple or Android app stores to receive delay notifications to their devices. Users would need to select Simcoe County STC as the transportation authority. The app will need to be forced closed, but you will be able to select your student(s) routes or school to receive delays.

The app will send a general notice for any cancellation in Simcoe County. You only need to know which 'zone' you're in, so you would know which one to look out for in the app. You can find your student's zone by visiting the School Bus Status page at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and clicking the dropdown for the area you live in.

School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place Oct. 16 to 20, 2023. Please visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for information on school bus safety and links to school bus safety resources. Oct. 19, 2023 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in the province of Ontario. It's a great opportunity for the school community to thank our bus drivers for all their hard work transporting students to and from school safely.

Get on the move

There are many benefits to walking or wheeling to school. Walking or wheeling to school reduces traffic, helps students establish healthy lifestyles, is better for the environment and enhances community safety. Wherever possible, we encourage students within walking zones to *get on the move* and walk or wheel to school. For more information please visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website here: bit.ly/3OC4CJ9

Cell Phone use at School

The proper use of technology is expected of all students and while staff do supervise the use of technology, students are expected to access technology in a responsible way.

In following the SCDSB Appropriate Use of Guidelines, devices, including cell-phones, may be only used during Instructional times under the following circumstances: educational purposes, as directed by the classroom teacher, designated early childhood educator or Educational assistant.

If your child will be bringing a device with them to school (including cellphones) please review this policy with them. We will be directing students to have technology "off and away" at all times unless their teacher has given them permission during instructional times for education purposes.



Student dress code

Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive, and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code. If you have questions about the dress code, you can 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 and click on the 'Safety' tab.

School Bus Transportation

School bus transportation information available from the SCSTC For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s website at:

main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.



WHDAY is a Nut Aware and Scent Free school. Please refrain from bringing any products containing nuts to the school and from wearing any scents. We have staff and students that are greatly affected and may have anaphylaxis reactions. Thank you.



Home support for math learners

Are you looking for ideas on how to help your child achieve their best in math this year? The virtual workshops for parents/caregivers that were offered earlier this year have been recorded and are now available.

Making math connections @Home

This session explored where we find numbers, patterns, measures, and shapes in our daily lives. Participants learned about practical ways to help their child notice and wonder about the math in their world. Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWJ-aMzSlh4 to watch the workshop.

Problem solving @Home

This session explored how to encourage children to be active thinkers and problem solvers, both in math and around the house. Participants learned about how solving problems at home can help their children solve problems in math class. Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFh-5t40XzM to watch the workshop.

Practicing math facts @Home

This session explored practical, intentional, and fun ways to practice math facts at home. Participants left with ideas, games, and activities to support their child with becoming fluent with their math facts. Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=1F316gC1GaE to watch the workshop.

Thanks for being an part of your child's education!



Join us! A learning series for parents/guardians with Pine River Institute

Mental health and well-being continues to be a key strategic priority within the SCDSB. We are pleased to continue our partnership with the Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) to provide several curated learning sessions focused on student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities.

There are five webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents, guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

Oct. 20, 2022	Screen Time 2.0
Dec. 8, 2022	How to Manage Another's Anxiety
Feb. 9, 2023	Guide to Attuned Limit Setting
March 2, 2023	Emotional Regulation for Kids and Adult
April 27, 2023	The Biology of Stress

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.

Free access to community-based tutoring for students

For all students to achieve success, schools, families, and community partners must work collaboratively to increase access to resources, supports, and broader learning experiences. The SCDSB offers a wide variety of tutoring programs to support students and their families in accessing needed supports.

From Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, the SCDSB has funds available to cover costs associated with these tutoring services, when provided by a SCDSB-approved organization. SCDSB families accessing these services are not required to pay the service provider directly.

For a list of approved organizations and to learn more about how you can access these services, visit scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring_programs.



Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 8 to 14

This year, the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, 'Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™', works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking. For more information about Fire Prevention Week and this year's theme, along with a wealth of resources to help promote the campaign locally, visit fpw.org.

Information from the National Fire Protection Association website

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 via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

Licensed PA day and holiday 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, March Break, and during summer holidays. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register.

Interested in learning more about the ways that the SCDSB supports students with special education needs and their families? Join us for a virtual special education outreach series

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

The first session, *IEPs and school-based assessments – information for parents/caregivers*, will be held on Oct. 24 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This virtual presentation will include an opportunity for participants to share some of their questions regarding IEPs and special education programming.

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 upcoming sessions and how to register on the SCDSB website: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions.

Have you met Sora?

Our digital ebook/audiobook collection contains over 4,000 titles waiting to be checked out by our SCDSB students. Students simply download the app, use their SCDSB login and start reading for free on their phone or tablet. The collection can be accessed at: meet.soraapp.com.

Revised 2023 Ontario Language Curriculum

Beginning this school year, all language programs for Grades 1-8 will be based on the expectations of the revised Ontario Language Curriculum. The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 to 8: Language, 2023 outlines the knowledge and skills required for effective reading and writing, listening, and speaking so students can succeed at school and beyond. The curriculum has been revised partly in response to the recommendations outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Right to Read public inquiry report.

The 2023 curriculum now includes four strands:

1. Literacy Connections and Applications
Foundations of Language
Comprehension: Understanding and Responding to Texts
Composition: Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

For more information, visit www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/key-changes-language to view a guide for parents/guardians on

Supporting your child with math

Are you curious about how you can support your child's growth as a mathematician? Visit the Parents Guide to Mathematics at www.ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8, where you can find a summary of the knowledge and skills your child will be learning as they progress through the grades, information about how you can support your child's learning, and how the curriculum was developed.

TVO Mathify offers free 1:1 online Grade 4-12 math tutoring to SCDSB students. Connect with an Ontario Certified Teacher of your choice. It is anonymous and secure, and can be used from a phone, tablet, or computer. Math tutors are available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday to Friday, and 3:30 to 9 p.m. ET Sunday.

All SCDSB students from Grades 4-12 have been pre-registered for this amazing service. For quick access to TVO Mathify:

1. Find the link in your child's Google waffle to the SCDSBhub. Look for the TVO Mathify icon on their dashboard.



Your child will not need to enter their OEN number or any identifying information when TVO Mathify is accessed through the SCDSBhub.

Halloween at W.H. Day—October 31, 2023

We wanted to give you information about how we will celebrate Halloween at our school. On Tuesday, October 31, 2023, your child is welcome to wear a costume, dress in black and orange clothing, or wear their WHD spirit wear.

As a reminder, costumes should not have replica weapons or props, and children should not wear face paint or face masks at school. In addition, families please ensure that your child's costume does not mimic the traditional attire of an ethnic, racial, gender or marginalized group/identity. Home-baked food should not be brought in to the school, and if the classroom teacher invites students to bring food into the classroom on this day, it needs to be store-bought and labeled as peanut and nut free.

As we approach Halloween, it is important to think about how we can make this day, which is a fun day for many students, align with our Character Attributes as an organization, and as a school. All members of the school community are expected to honour our traits and demonstrate good character. We would also ask that you keep these traits in mind in choosing a Halloween costume for your child. Any participation in Halloween activities by students or staff is completely voluntary.

Thank you for your care, attention and support in ensuring our school is inclusive for all!

SEPTEMBER 2023						
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OCTOBER 2023						
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APRIL 2024						
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MAY 2024						
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16	17 4	18 5	19 1	20 2	21 RC 3	22
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