



ORCHARD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

December 2022

Principal: Chris Chater

Vice Principal: Jennifer Viherjoki

Safe Arrival Phone Number: 705-325-7772 Press "1"

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Please call or e-mail when your student(s) will be absent. We thank you for your cooperation.

Hello Orchard Park Families!

It's quite hard to believe that we are sitting down to write the final newsletter update for the calendar year. Time sure does fly when you are having fun and learning a great deal!

Thank you to families for joining us in our Student-Led Conferences. Teachers and students were excited to share all of their learning and celebrate successes with families. It was nice to be able to share these events in person! Teachers have been engaging in learning regarding new literacy strategies to support our young learners, and math activities that promote descriptive feedback and small group instruction.

Students have been busy participating in a variety of activities in the school. Intermediate Girls Basketball, Intermediate Boys Volleyball, Leadership and Media Teams, Lunch Monitors, Bus Patrollers, Puzzle Club, Band, Chess Club, are just a few of the events that students have been involved in. Thank you to the staff and volunteers who give up their time to support our students in these activities.

Looking ahead to the next few weeks, the fun and learning doesn't stop there. We are excited to welcome back families to our "Around the World" winter concert. Mr. Frederickson has once again, gone all out and has created a wonderful event to showcase so many talents of our students.

The cold weather has arrived, and we ask that you please send your students with appropriate warm clothing. Labeling these items is definitely helpful as the Lost and Found tends to grow in excess over the winter months. Check out our Mabel's Labels fundraiser.

The winter break is fast approaching, and on behalf of the staff at Orchard Park, we want to wish each of you a wonderful time spent with family, relaxing and resting up for the New Year. All the warmest wishes!

Mrs. Viherjoki

**Significant days, holy days, holidays and heritage recognition
occurring in the month of December**

You can now link directly to the SCDSB Days of Observance on the SCDSB website:
<https://bit.ly/3Ln2Mfb>.

Important Dates:

December 1: Electronic applications for the Grade 1 French Immersion program open

December 1: Planning for the Skilled Trades - virtual event

December 16: Holiday Festival (11:45am - 12:45pm) Please see below

December 19: Holiday Festival (11:45am- 12:45pm AND 6:00pm - 7:00pm) Please see below.

December 23: Last day of school before Winter Break

January 9: Return to school

Holiday Festival

We are filled with excitement to announce that there will be TWO seasonal concerts taking place at Orchard Park in the 2022-2023 school year. The first concert, “Around the World at Orchard Park” will take place before the winter holidays on December 16 & December 19, 2022. The spring concert will be taking place on May 1, 2022. Below is a list to show when each class will be performing. *All Kindergarten students will perform in their own show—more details to follow in the New Year.

December 16 & 19	May 1
Sopha	MacDonald
Earle	Earle
Caldwell	Caldwell
Alkins	Alkins
Cameron/Davis	Cameron/Davis
Finney	Finney
Wara	Wara
Reynolds	Downer
Brown	Murray
Coville & Anderson	Andrews
Kemp	Twizell
Cornwall	Henderson

More information to follow.

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.

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 North 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>.

Bus Delays Reminder

With the challenge of on-going bus delays, we wanted to take this opportunity to provide parents and guardians with the best ways to stay informed regarding bussing.

1. Download the Bus Planner App- Select Simcoe County STC then Orchard Park P.S.(North Zone) and your child's bus # to receive notifications on any delays.
2. Visit <https://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca> click on the yellow button labeled 'View Bus Delays' to view a list of current delays or scroll down to the bottom of the page and hit the 'Subscribe Now' yellow button to be notified via e-mail when your student's bus is running late.
3. Twitter - Bus delays are always posted on our Twitter page @OrchardParkPS, give us a follow! (please note, you do not need a twitter account to view our school's page) you can use the following link to view [Orchard Park \(@OrchardParkPS\) / Twitter](https://twitter.com/OrchardParkPS)

2022/2023 - ORCHARD PARK - Parent/Guardian Wellness Survey

As our school environment re-adjusts and adapts after a challenging and ever-changing couple of school years, Orchard Park's OPHEA team (a healthy schools extra-curricular initiative) would like to gather some information to ensure that we are supporting our students, their families, and our greater community.

Our targeted goal is to support the overall mental health and well-being of these groups. We aim to use the remainder of the school year to

- 1) review and discuss survey results as an OPHEA team and then
- 2) make feasible adjustments and implementations accordingly.

We kindly ask that you help us reach our goal by taking this **brief** online survey.

[Fall 2022-PARENT/GUARDIAN Wellness Survey \(Orchard Park P.S.\)OPHEA Healthy Schools](#)

We're Fundraising with Mabel's Labels!

Personalized waterproof name labels for your kids' stuff!

- 1 . Visit campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search **Orchard Park Public School (Orillia)**
2. Purchase your labels
3. Labels ship right to your door!

You get labels, we raise funds.

Parents/guardians and students invited to learn about planning for the skilled trades at virtual event on Dec. 1.

Are you not fully sold on the skilled trades as a career? Not everyone is. On Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m., participants in *What our school families need to know about skilled trades careers* will learn about apprenticeship pathways and can hear how to best explore a career in the trades while still in high school. Parents/guardians and Grade 7 to 12 students can consider what one employment researcher has discovered about contradictory perspectives on skilled trades careers. He will share findings based on interviews with hundreds of tradespeople and reveal the results of surveying 500 parents/guardians.

This interactive virtual evening, presented by the Simcoe County District School Board, will feature Dr. Jon Callegher, Executive Director at Job Talks, and will include information about apprenticeship, tech ed in our schools, cooperative education, and a question-and-answer segment. Participants can submit questions in advance here: <https://forms.gle/K1fHeartoGYnDd3u8>. To virtually attend the presentation, visit the SCDSB Facebook event page for more information: <https://fb.me/e/21YLL7Pw4>.

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](#) to find details on your high schools' info night, and contact the school directly for more information.

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 applications for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will open Thursday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16. Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system.

**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 as teacher-led, synchronous online classes using Brightspace/D2L. Classes are held two nights per week from 6 to 9 p.m. on either a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule, with online student attendance being mandatory. Night school classes run given sufficient enrolment. Learn more at: www.thelearningcentres.com.

Adult English as a second language program

Looking to improve your English skills? Join our adult English as a second language (ESL) classes to improve your listening and speaking skills through class discussions and presentations. Develop your English skills to advance in your current job or open the door to new employment opportunities. Learn more about your local community and explore Canadian culture and history. Adult ESL classes are offered year-round with a continuous intake. To register for the program, please contact the Barrie Learning Centre at 705-725-8360 ext. 45151, or email ganderson@scdsb.on.ca.

**Please note all students starting ESL for the first time must be assessed prior to starting the class. Fees apply for visitors to Canada and work/study permit holders.*

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.

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 Adults
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.

Early learning and child development

How is your infant, toddler or preschool child developing? Is your child meeting their milestones? Age-appropriate speech and language skills are critical to your child's ability to read, write and be successful in school as well as to their ability to engage with their peers. Free services are available to support you with your child's development. Preschool speech and language programs are located across the County of Simcoe. Call 705-739-5696 or 1-800-675-1979 to complete a developmental screen. The earlier we work together, the better!

New schools and construction projects

The Simcoe County District School Board has a variety of projects on the go, whether it's building new schools, renovating older schools, or completing additions on existing buildings. For more information about how new schools are planned and funded, visit the capital planning page on our website (www.scdsb.on.ca/about/capital_planning). If you are interested in information about recently completed projects, projects under construction and new projects, please visit the new schools page on our website (www.scdsb.on.ca/about/capital_planning/new_schools) or our Capital Priorities Overview (storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bbeca797d75f4aef933c79047ff2a28c).

Ontario Ministry of Education tutoring services

The Ontario Ministry of Education is supporting tutoring services in schools and in the community until the end of March 2023. Schools offering after school tutoring services will advertise this service directly to parents/guardians. Community tutoring agencies provide free of charge tutoring to Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students after hours in the community and online. Contact information for community tutoring agencies can be found at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring_programs. Tutoring is available to all SCDSB students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12. The SCDSB is also seeking members of the community to act as tutors in our schools during the school day. All candidates must apply through Apply to Education Posting #3361243. Candidates are required to be interviewed by SCDSB administration, provide professional references and complete a Vulnerable Sector Screen through their local police service. For more information, please email tutoring@scdsb.on.ca.

Support your child's mathematics learning at home

Looking for ways to support your child in their math learning at home? The Ministry of Education has a page with ideas on how to support your child and make math part of your day-to-day routine. There are general routines and grade-level ideas to explore. Learn more: www.ontario.ca/page/support-your-childs-math-learning.

Right to Read inquiry report

Beginning in 2019, the Ontario Human Rights Commission conducted a public inquiry into human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system. The report (www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report-), released this past spring, issued 157 recommendations. Among these recommendations is the need for an updated language curriculum that includes explicit, systematic, and direct instruction in foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding, and word reading proficiency. The Simcoe County District School Board is committed to shifting our instructional practices to align with these recommendations.

What does this mean for my child? Primary educators are shifting from using leveled texts as they encourage reliance on guessing strategies to solve unknown words. Instead, educators are beginning to use a scope and sequence to systematically teach phonemic awareness and phonics. Students may apply the phonics skills they have learned by reading 'decodable' or 'phonetically controlled' texts. As a result, educators are moving away from using PM Benchmarks and moving towards assessments that measure foundational reading skills. To support your child at home, the following documents provide activities that may help foster these foundational skills:

Phonological awareness activities for families

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrSSU-HhNzjSRv6_CKiJBue32B-n6ggy/view?usp=sharing

Supporting reading development at home

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12jf50KLLzZP9q82HN-w39jrHFgYElf45/view?usp=sharing>

The season of giving

December marks the season of giving, and is a great time to teach your little ones about the benefits of giving back to their community and others. Many people think the only way to help their community or support their favourite charitable cause is with a financial donation – think again! While financial donations are integral to non-profits, there are many other ways that you and your family can give back, make a difference in your community, and have fun – all at the same time!

Here are three ways your family can make a difference this giving season:

Volunteer as a family

Volunteering is a great way to teach kids about empathy and compassion. It shows them that a simple act can make a big difference, and helps them practice valuable life skills. Start small, like spending an hour helping a neighbour, and work your way up to bigger commitments, like going to a shelter or animal rescue once a week. Some families pick a favourite project and make it a yearly tradition, like filling gift baskets for seniors around the holidays. You're never too young to help others!

Get crafty for a cause

A fun way to get the whole family involved is to make arts and crafts to share with others. Many retirement homes and long-term care homes collect handmade cards, drawings, and crafts from the community to share with seniors during the holidays. This is a fun activity that lets kids be creative, and brings great joy to those receiving the handmade items.

Give old clothes or toys a second life

Have your kids outgrown any of the items they used to love? Consider giving gently worn clothing or used toys a second life by donating them to a local nonprofit. Many shelters that support struggling families, refugees, or immigrants rely on clothing and toy donations. Have your family collect any items they want to donate, and explain to your little ones that their once loved items will be going to a new home to bring joy to other children that need it. Basic items that many of us take for granted can make a huge difference in a person's life.

Local charities, like the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, run on the generous support of individuals and families like yours. If you'd like to learn more about the ways you can give back to the YMCA, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca. No matter how you decide to give back to your community, you and your family can feel good knowing you are making a positive difference in the lives of others. Your giving changes lives!

Content provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka