



**Allandale  
Heights  
Public School**

**KNIGHTS BULLETIN**  
124 Bayview Drive, Barrie, ON, L4N 3P4  
705-726-4256  
[www.all.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.all.scdsb.on.ca)

**Administrative Staff**

**Principal:**

[tcave@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:tcave@scdsb.on.ca)

**Vice-Principal:**

[fvannarragon@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:fvannarragon@scdsb.on.ca)

Please contact the school for your child's teachers' email, it is the best form of communication.

**Upcoming Dates in January**

January 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> – Dental Screening for all students  
January 26<sup>th</sup> – Elementary P.A Day (No School)  
Thursdays are \$2 popcorn

Dear Allandale Heights Families,

As we approach the end of another wonderful year at Allandale Heights Public School, I wanted to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you.

The holiday season is a time for reflection, gratitude, and the joy of coming together as a community. Our school has seen incredible growth and achievement this year, and it's all thanks to the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm of our students, teachers, and parents.

As we embark on a well-deserved break, The upcoming break is an excellent opportunity for reflection and relaxation. I encourage you to cherish the moments spent with loved ones, embrace the spirit of generosity, and take time to appreciate the simple joys that surround us. Whether you observe special traditions during this time or not, may the coming days bring you peace, happiness, and an abundance of joy.

Looking ahead to the New Year, let's continue to foster a nurturing learning environment that inspires curiosity, creativity, and a love for education. I am confident that 2024 will bring even more opportunities for growth and success for our Allandale Heights family.

On behalf of the entire staff at Allandale Heights Public School, I wish you a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year! May the coming year be filled with prosperity, good health, and the fulfillment of your dreams.

Warm regards,

Mr. Cave Principal,

Allandale Heights Public School



### Safe Arrival

If your child(ren) will be late or away, please call Safe Arrival:

(Note: if your child(ren) will be away for multiple days, you can report them all in one call or email).

- **Call** the NEW Safe Arrival Line at **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. (Parent Instruction Guide: [Safe Arrival Line Reference Guide - Parent Version.pdf](#))  
**IF YOU HAVE NOT CALLED SAFE ARRIVAL AND RECEIVE THE SAFE ARRIVAL CALL, PLEASE CALL THE SAFE ARRIVAL NUMBER AND NOT THE SCHOOL.**
- **Email** [allattendance@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:allattendance@scdsb.on.ca)



### Emails & Communication

At Allandale Public School we rely on email communication to reach our community quickly and efficiently. It is important to have updated email addresses on file and to check school correspondence on a regular basis. Please ensure "School Messenger" is not a blocked email recipient and that you read each email entirely as it likely contains important information for your child(ren).



### Phone Calls

Administration, staff, or students may call home for a variety of reasons. Please be sure voicemail is setup on your phone and to **check all messages before returning calls to the school**. This will help expedite your call and connect you with the person you were contacted by.



### After School Pick Up Changes

We understand that last minute changes may occur; unfortunately, the end of the day is **very** busy in the office, and classrooms may be in various locations (including outdoors). Therefore, unless it's an emergency, **please refrain from making changes after 2:30 pm** for the safety of our students.



### Parking Lot Safety

Please enter from the East entrance. Please do not enter the parking lot or pass school vehicles (buses/vans) when they are on school property. Please patiently wait behind them until they exit.



### Cashless School

Allandale Heights Public School aims to be a cashless school. Please remember to sign up for **School CashOnline**; it is a convenient and efficient way to purchase various school items such as lunches, fieldtrip, sporting events, activity fees, and complete annual Permissions and Acknowledgements.

**KEV Parent Help Hotline:** 1-866-961-1803 or [parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com](mailto:parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com)



### LUNCHBOX by SchoolCashOnline

With every meal delivered funds generated are put toward our school. If you haven't already, be sure to create your School Cash Online (SCO) account to have access to this opportunity!

**Parent Support:** 1-877-426-6860 or [info@lunchboxorders.com](mailto:info@lunchboxorders.com)

**Orders Due:** Sundays by 12:00 noon (or order multiple weeks in advance!)

**Did you know:** If you know your child(ren) will be away you can cancel your order up to two days in advance, and SCO will credit your account.



We kindly ask that you be mindful of the following as the office is a very busy place:

- If you miss a call from the school, please check your voicemail for details before calling back to help expedite your call and connect you with the right person.
- Please make any medical or other appointments ahead of time outside of school hours the best you can, as things are very busy during nutrition/recess breaks. Please make sure you let your child's teacher know ahead of time via email
- If you need to make changes to your child(ren)'s dismissal, please try to do so well ahead of time and no later than 2:30pm the day of and communicate this with the classroom teacher via email as classrooms may be in various locations in the school or on the school yard.

In acknowledging the safety of our walking students, it's essential to emphasize that we cannot assume a walking child is safely at home on a bus cancellation day. Our responsibility includes following up and ensuring the well-being of any absent child. Even on bus cancellation days, it remains a requirement to promptly call the safe arrival line before 8:30AM and report your child as absent. Your cooperation is crucial in maintaining the safety and security of all our students.



**Thanks parents for making Kiss and Ride a success. Let's make it better!**

Reminders to make it even better:

- Parents must stay in the car
- Keep the bus lane open at all times
- Exit quickly and Safely

## Days of awareness 2023-24

Please note the Days of Awareness for January 2024 are below. You may visit the SCDSB website each month at the link below to view the Days of Awareness for each month of the school year. [www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity\\_and\\_inclusion](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion).

- January 2024 Date(s) Observance
- Jan. 1-31 Tamil Heritage Month
- Jan. 1 New Year's Day Temple Day/Solar New Year (Buddhism)
- Jan. 4 World Braille Day
- Jan. 6 Epiphany (Christianity)
- Jan. 7 Christmas (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
- Jan. 10 Linji Memorial (Buddhism)
- Jan. 11 Sir John A. Macdonald Day
- Jan. 13 Lohri (Hinduism) Maghi (Sikhism)
- Jan. 14 New Year's Day (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
- Jan. 15 Makar Sankranti (Hinduism) Thai Pongal (Hinduism – Tamil)
- Jan. 19 Epiphany (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
- Jan. 20 Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikhism)
- Jan. 21 Lincoln Alexander Day
- Jan. 24 International Day of Education World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture
- Jan. 25 Bell Let's Talk Honen Shonin Memorial (Buddhism) Mahayana New Year (Buddhism)
- Jan. 27 Family Literacy Day International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
- Jan. 29 National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia

**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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar).**

- **Elementary report cards will go home to parents/guardians on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024.**
- Communication to families regarding inclement weather days Please note that APM A3020 – Inclement Weather, 3.1.2 states that “parents/guardians are to be reminded, in writing at appropriate times (October and January) each school year, that it is their responsibility to decide whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.”

## **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). 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 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://cdns5-ss14.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_210898/File/Secondary/Parents-Guide-to-Assessment.pdf](https://cdns5-ss14.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_210898/File/Secondary/Parents-Guide-to-Assessment.pdf).

## **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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community_connects).

## **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>.

## **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!

## **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](http://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](http://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.

## **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](http://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.

## **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. 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>. 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions). 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.

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

### **Acknowledgement and Permission Forms for Students**

The 2023-2024 Standard Acknowledgment and Permissions are required forms for all Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students and **must** be signed annually by a parent/guardian. Forms are available electronically on SchoolCash Online and will show up as an "item."

### **School Cash Online**

If you haven't already done so, please sign up for School Cash Online. It is a convenient and efficient way to purchase various school items such as field trips, fundraisers, activity fees, and complete annual Permission and Acknowledgments. **To sign up** you will need your child(ren)'s Student Number (this was provided to you during the first week of school on the SchoolCash Online Registration Information on green paper), and then click the following link: <https://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com/> If you have any questions, please call the School Cash Online Parent Help Desk at 1-866-961-1803 or email at [parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com](mailto:parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com).

### **Parent Portal**

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool which provides parents/guardians with quick access to their child(ren)'s attendance information or school announcements. Login information is provided to the primary contact on record at the school; you may share it with others as required. During the first week of school parents/guardians were provided your child(ren)'s **Access ID** number on a blue paper, followed by your child(ren)'s **Access Password** on purple paper.

**To register** please click the following link: [www.scdsb.on.ca/parent-portal](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/parent-portal)

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Simcoe County District School Board is a registered charity. An excellent way to support your school is through a charitable donation. Simply log into your SCO account and click “Make a Donation” at the top, right of the screen. Enter your payment information and complete your order. An official tax receipt will be issued for income tax purposes.



### Keep connected with our school and with the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at our school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Here are some ways to do that:



- Subscribe to our school's website by visiting the “School News” section at <http://all.scdsb.on.ca>
- <http://all.scdsb.on.ca> You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It is easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the ‘Subscribe’ link at the very top of the page. Provide your email and click ‘Subscribe’; a message will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.



- Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the ‘Subscribe’ button at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca).
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB\_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).



- For school bus transportation, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at [simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.



# Special Thank You

The holidays are a special time of giving and generosity! We would like to thank our wonderful parents, school council, school staff and community partners for all that they have done and continue to do to support families in the community. Many families have benefited directly from your actions. Thank you!

