Simcoe County District School Board September 2023

Ernest Cumberland Newsletter



Welcome Eagles!

We are excited for all things to come in the 2023-2024 school year. Here are some things you can expect this year.

First Day Of School (SK-Grade 8)

Class placements will be shared by email this weekend. If you miss an email, teachers will have class lists available on Tuesday morning to support students finding the correct classroom.

Parents will be permitted on the school yard on the <u>first day</u> of school to assist with finding the correct teacher and lineup. We hope this will prevent a crowd at the gate. Staff will be out with a sign and a class list to meet students at 9:30. This will be the routine for the first day only, as we work to ensure a safe school yard with familiar adults/staff for the rest of the school year.

Cell Phone Expectations

Cell phones will be off and placed in a central location within each classroom, each day. This prevents students from distraction and protects their privacy from unwanted photos, videos, etc. A land-line phone for student use is located in the office, and with teacher permission, in each classroom. This expectation will be reviewed at the first day assembly with all students.

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 guestions about the dress code, contact our school principal, Eile Short.

Safe Arrival and Early Dismissal: Do's and Don'ts

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.

- DO NOT: To avoid congestion and protect student confidentiality and the privacy of matters/conversations happening in the office, do not ask for your child be waiting for your arrival in the office. We call them to the office when you or an approved person arrives and rings the door bell. For your child's safety, we will not send students out to people we can't see at the front door.
- DO NOT: Do not arrive after 3:30PM to pick up your child early; we will not call them to the office between 3:30-3:50. Please avoid early dismissals where you can as this can be disruptive to classroom learning when multiple early dismissals are happening each day.
- DO NOT: Do not press 1 when you receive a safe arrival automated call. This information does not make it's way to
 office staff; call the safe arrival line at 1-888-885-8065 We continually attempt to connect with parents and
 emergency contacts until we hear from you.

Lunch programs are cancelled on inclement weather days. LunchBox will credit all purchased items directly to your SchoolCashOnline account.



2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Please note: the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar is subject to change.

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- First Day of School Sept. 5, 2023
- First Day of Semester 2 (Secondary) Feb. 5, 2024
- PA Days for all students
 2023: Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17
 2024: April 26, June 28
- PA Days Secondary only 2024: Feb. 2, June 27
- PA Days Elementary only 2024: Jan. 26, June 7

- Elementary Reporting Schedule 2023: Nov. 9 2024: Feb. 16, June 21
- Secondary Reporting Schedule
 2023: Nov. 23 (mid-term)
 2024: Feb. 16, May 2 (mid-term), July 5
- Holidays
 2023: Sept. 4, Oct. 9, Dec. 25-29
 2024: Jan 1-5, Feb. 19, Mar. 11-15, Mar. 29
 Apr. 1, May 20

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Elementary Turn-Around Day Sept. 27, 2023

Secondary Mid-Semester Sem. 1: Nov. 13, 2023 Sem. 2: Apr. 22, 2024

Secondary Full-Disclosure Days Nov. 30, 2023, May 9, 2024

Last Day of School Elementary: June 27, 2024 Secondary: June 26, 2024

@SCDSB_Schools

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Facebook.com/SCDSB





District School Board ELEMENTARY REPORTING AND 5 DAY CYCLE SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2023-24

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Elementary Professional Activity Days EP

- 2023: September 22, October 20, November 17 2024: January 26, April 26, June 7, June 28 Holidays н
 - 2023: September 4, October 9, December 25-29 2024: January 1-5, February 19, March 11-15, March 29, April 1, May 20



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. 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

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	

"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"

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 www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent and on school websites under 'students'. If you have questions, please contact us.

Standard acknowledgment & permission form/student information computing technology appropriate use agreement 2023-24

The 2023-2024 Standard Acknowledgment & 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.

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 <u>main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca</u>

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: <u>www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/</u> <u>planning for school/school year calendar</u>.

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.



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 us 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 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 <u>here</u>. 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 <u>our Parent Portal</u>.

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.

Keep Connected!

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

Here are some ways to do that:

- Our school website: http://ern.scdsb.on.ca
- Sign up to receive emails from us. Provide your email, click Subscribe. A message will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe any time using the link at the bottom of each email.
- Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking Subscribe www.scdsb.on.ca
- Twitter @SCDSB_Schools
- Facebook/SCDSB
- Instagram.com/scdsb





Daily School Schedule

Yard Supervision 9:15AM

Morning Bell 9:30AM

Period 1 9:30AM - 10:20AM

Period 2 10:20AM - 11:10AM

Nutrition Break A 11:10AM - 11:30AM Main Floor/Portables Outside Second Floor Inside

Nutrition Break B 11:30AM - 11:50AM Main Floor/Portables Inside

Second Floor Outside

Period 3 11:50AM - 12:40PM

Period 4 12:20PM - 1:30PM

Nutrition Break C

1:30PM - 1:50PM Main Floor/Portables Outside Second Floor

Nutrition Break D 1:50PM - 2:10PM

Main Floor/Portables Inside Second Floor Outside

Period 5 2:10PM - 3:00PM

Period 6 3:00PM - 3:50PM

Dismissal Bell: 3:50PM

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.



Looking for ways to volunteer? Consider joining Parent Council!

School council nominations take place every fall. Complete the attached nomination form and return to the school by September 29, 2023.

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.

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 <u>www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com</u> or by calling 1-833-560-0527; or,
- Insure my Kids through at <u>www.insuremykids.com</u> or by calling 1-800-463-5437.

Participation in extra-curricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, etc.) and/or out-of-province/ outof-country trips require the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage.

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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.

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. Simcoe County

STUDENT MEDICAL FORM ed activities, including co-op pl required with school staff/volunt STUDENT INFORMATION (please print)
First and Last Name School D.O.B. Relationship to student Home Phone Business Phone Cell Phone 1001 02 tact #3 Relationship to student Home Phone Business Phone Cell Phone MGuardian Contact #4 Relationship to student Home Phone Business Pho Cell Phon lationship to student Home Phone Business Phone Cell Phone EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION obia to student Harpo Dhono DOES THE STUDENT RIDE THE BUS TO SC Bus One

Page 1 of 3

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.

FORM A1420 - 1a; Rev 08/21

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).

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What's for lunch? Order at www.schoolcashonline.com Orders are cancelled on inclement weather days. The lunch program starts Monday, October 2nd. Spirit Days Holy Days, Heritage Recognition, Holidays				2	3		
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NU CHILD WITHOUT Program FAQs

Do you offer

assistance for people in need? Medic Alert

How do I	It's easy! Visit our <u>No Child Without® program page</u> and navigate
purchase a	to the subscription form section. Complete the form and one of
MedicAlert	our team members will contact you to complete the registration
subscription?	process. You can also subscribe by calling 1.877.282.5378 .
How much does MedicAlert cost?	MedicAlert offers three service plans on a subscription basis and more than 200 IDs to choose from. For just \$99.99 a year , plus the cost of your child's favourite ID (check out our styles <u>here</u>), you can have peace of mind knowing your child will be protected even when you can't be with them.

Yes, we dot MedicAlert's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity in Action (IDEA) Program helps individuals who may be adversely impacted by social determinants of health for a variety of reasons. To learn more, visit the IDEA program page.

Is your online payment system secure?	Absolutely! In fact, in 2022 we updated our entire digital network employing the latest security features to keep your information safe.
How do you protect my privacy?	We know how important privacy is when it comes to handling sensitive health information. MedicAlert is compliant with all privacy legislation and enshrines your privacy protection in our Subscriber Agreement. <u>Read our Subscriber Agreement here</u> .
What happens if my child's health information changes?	Whether it's a change to your child's medications, an update to a de-escalation protocol, or simply a change to your email or physical address, it's important to keep your record up to date to ensure that first responders have the most current information to work with. In fact, our first responder partners prefer that your child's record is updated every 3 months to ensure that they are working with current information. <u>Contact MedicAlert</u> as soon as possible following any changes to your child's health information or update the information online by visiting your Account.
How do I know when it's time to renew?	Most MedicAlert service plans automatically renew, so there's no need to remember to do so. If you're curious about your child's plan renewal date, you can always refer to your <u>Account</u> online. If you did not select a recurring subscription for your child, you'll receive a reminder about one month prior to the renewal date. We recommend that you renew one to two weeks prior to this date to ensure your child's coverage is maintained and the subscription doesn't lapse.
What if I want to cancel my child's service?	If your child no longer needs MedicAlert or you wish to cancel your child's subscription, please call us at 1-855-227-8644. Thirty days after your cancellation, your child's Personal Health Record, in accordance with privacy regulations, will be removed from our system and will no longer be available to first responders. We also ask that your child no longer wears their ID for safety reasons, as the information will become outdated and will no longer be useful to first responders in an emergency.

MedicAlert® is a Registered Trademark and Service Mark of MedicAlert Foundation United States Inc. Used under licence in Canada. No Child Without® is a Registered Trademark of Canadian Medic-Alert Foundation Inc.

Can I purchase an ID without a service plan?

No. The ID your child wears is one part of the complete MedicAlert service. First responders are trained to look for and read the ID, and then call to get more detailed information that comes from your child's Personal Health Record (PHR). The PHR is the most current information about your child's health conditions and the key resource trusted by first responders.

Can I purchase a service plan without an ID? Not yet. Today, MedicAlert service involves two interconnected components: your child's ID which alerts first responders to your child's health condition(s), and your child's Personal Health Record which provides first responders with more detailed information. As technology and our ability to connect directly with 9-1-1 systems across Canada evolves, we'll be able to provide service options that will not require an ID.

What will be engraved on my child's ID? Standard on all MedicAlert IDs is the subscriber's unique MedicAlert identification number that connects first responders to their Personal Health Record, as well as the 1.800 number for our 24/7 Emergency Response Team. The custom engraving on your child's ID depends on their health conditions and what is important for first responders to know to care for your child effectively in a health emergency.

Does it cost me to update my child's Personal Health Record? No. Your child's subscription covers unlimited updates to their Personal Health Record. In fact, we encourage you to update your child's record as soon as a change occurs. Whether it's a change in their medications, an update to a de-escalation protocol, or simply a change to your email or physical address, it's important to keep their record up to date to ensure that first responders have the most current information to work with. Our first responder partners prefer that your child's record is updated every 3 months.



Students Assisting Friends Everywhere (S.A.F.E.)

Here's what's new and exciting about MedicAlert's S.A.F.E.

- Developed with the experts at the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (Ophea) and directly connected to The Ontario Health and Physical Education Curriculum, Gredes 1-8
 Assures your child is equipped with the knowledge they need to lead a health and fully and fulfilling life
- Goes beyond addressing issues when they arise
 Supports teachers to establish a safe and inclusive learning environment addressing the unique needs of every student
- Covers topics like promoting safety practices and awareness of common but difficult-to-manage medical conditions
 Interime and metiones uses child to take control of their health
- Inspires and motivates your child to take control of their health and safety as well as aducate their friends about their health conditions
 Heips peers understand and empathize

Give the gift of health literacy to your child today!

MedicAlert

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You can't be with your child 24/7, but with MedicAlert, you can

a, anaphylaxis, type one es, epilepsy. For parents, childran have health ions, out of sight is not



No Child Without is protection you can't ignore!

More than 50,000 children across 6,000 schools in Canada are the beneficiaries of the No Child Without Program. With our new age-appropriate curriculum, Personal Health Record, and the first responder-trusted, best-known medical ID in the world, your child can have the same benefits and more.



No Child Without

 provides children with tools to salf-advocate
 gives teachers the tools to adopt more inclusive approaches in provides you with additional tools to give you peace-of-mind when you are not with your children
 provides give responders with direct access to your child's health information in an emergency
 Potection and salely for your child is just a click or a phone call away.



Why MedicAlert's No Child Without Program? Because you love them.

Learn more or sign your child up today!