

Significant Days, Holy Days, Holidays and Heritage Recognition Occurring in the Month of October

The SCDSB officially recognizes a variety of observances as detailed in the SCDSB Holy Days and Holidays Calendar.

<https://bit.ly/3Ln2Mfb>.



2	World Communion Day Christianity
3	Durga Ashtami Hinduism
4-5	Yom Kippur Judaism
5	Bodhidharma Memorial Buddhism
5	Vijaya Dashmi/Dussehra Hinduism
9-11	Sukkot Judaism
9-11	Kathina Buddhism
Nov 8	
10	Pavarana Buddhism
10	Thanksgiving Day Canadian Holiday
13	Nichiren Shonin Memorial Buddhism
13	Karva Chauth Hinduism
16	Birth of the Báb Bahá'í
16-18	Shemini Atzeret Judaism
16-18	Simchat Torah Judaism
17	Birth of the Bahá'u'lláh Bahá'í
20	Installation of the Guru Granth as Guru Sikhism
22	Milad-un-Nabi Islam
24	New Year/Enlightenment Day of Gautamswami Jainism
24	Diwali/Deepavali Hinduism
24	Diwali/Lord Mahavir Nirvana Jainism
24	Bandi Chhor Divas Sikhism
25	Vikram New Year Hinduism
29	Gyan Panchami Jainism
31	Samhain Wicca

October PA Day

Please note that Monday, October 24 is a PA Day for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information:

www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar.

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.”

If you have not already shared this information with families at your school, please do so via your school newsletter, email or the communication method that you use to reach your families. Our communications department has provided the following message:

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 [insert zone for your school] 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.

Simcoe County District School Board Emergency Procedures Information

Procedures help keep our school safe

The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. 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; and,
- 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:** a procedure used during hazardous environmental or weather-related situation, where it is necessary to keep all occupants within the school to protect them from an external situation at or near the school. Examples may include chemical spills, blackouts, explosions, or extreme weather conditions.
- **Hold and secure:** a response to a threat in the general vicinity of a school, but not related to the school. This could be a police pursuit, a crime in progress or an active search by local police for a suspect. All building entrances should be locked to restrict access of unwanted individuals. Generally, school activities may continue as usual inside the building; however, a decision about this will be made by the principal in consultation with the local police services.
- **Lockdown:** a procedure used in response to a major incident or threat of violence inside the school, or in relation to the school. In this case staff and students are directed to lock themselves in designated safe areas. A lockdown is an emergency response to an imminent threat. Interior doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. Schools 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), the board website (www.scdsb.on.ca), and 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. Each school has two evacuation sites. Ours are [insert evacuation site names and addresses here]. 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 pickup 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 child(ren) 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.

School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place Oct. 17 to 21, 2022. 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, 2022 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.

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.



OSSLT

Students in Grade 10 (along with eligible students in Grades 11 and 12) will have the opportunity to attempt the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on November 29th, 30th or December 1st. Students will be notified of the specific day and location of their scheduled assessment in the near future. If successful, this will count towards satisfying the literacy requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The normal school day schedule will be unaffected and will continue as normal. We believe that students, working with their teachers, parents/guardians and administrators, can be successful on the OSSLT. Additional information and materials about the OSSLT are posted on the EQAO web site at <http://www.eqao.com> or access additional review material and an online practice test on our website: <http://twi.scdsb.on.ca>

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

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 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.

The SCDSB Human Rights and Equity Office

The SCDSB Human Rights and Equity Office (HREO) is a safe and confidential space to identify matters related to discrimination, harassment and human rights violations. The HREO's goal is to create and maintain a safe, caring and inclusive learning and working environment by promoting and protecting the human rights of SCDSB students and staff. At the SCDSB Board Meeting on Aug. 31, 2022 the SCDSB Human Rights and Equity Policy (<https://bit.ly/3dkjW0t>) was approved by the Board of Trustees. Visit the SCDSB website to learn more: <https://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/human-rights-and-equity-office>.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 9 to 15

This year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The 2022 Fire Prevention Week theme, 'Fire won't wait. Plan your escape™', works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires. 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

Guidance News

Students are assigned a guidance counsellor by the first letter of their last name as follows:

A – I Mrs. McCullough

J – M Ms. Racco

N – Z Mrs. Pellarin (and International students)



Guidance Communication

Google Classroom

All students should be connected to this as information about courses, post-secondary, wellness, community resources, community service hours, graduation etc. is posted here. Parents are also welcome to join the Classroom. Classroom code is: 4sft3wj

School emails

Every student has a Twin Lakes email account and lots of school information is relayed via this email. Access to email is available on our school computers or on home systems. Students are aware of this and are encouraged to check their accounts *frequently* to stay current with school news.

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter at: @TLSSguidance

Post-Secondary Information

Our graduating students are busy planning for their life after high school. Besides individual counselling, which students sign up for with their guidance counsellor, there are many resources and workshops to assist with post-secondary planning. Check the Google Classroom regularly for updates. Additionally, grade 12 students all received a Grad Newsletter, via their school email account, which highlights important dates and relevant graduation topics.

Community Service Hours

This is a reminder that 40 community service hours must be completed prior to graduation. Students can connect with their guidance counsellor for more details and information is also provided in the guidance google classroom.

LINK Crew – Grade 9's

LINK Crew started off this year with an Orientation Day and ice cream social for our Class of 2026. Your student has been invited to meet with their LINK Leader at any time and you may contact Mrs. Kerrie Pellarin if you would like more information about this mentoring program. More exciting events are upcoming – stay tuned...

