



THE KNIGHT'S NEWS!

Allandale Heights Public School | 124 Bayview Dr., Barrie, On. L4N 3P4 | Tel.: 705-728-3601

Visit us on the web: <http://all.scdsb.on.ca>  Follow us on Twitter @AllandaleKnight  Instagram @allandaleheights

ISSUE NO. 6 – February 2022

Principal: Ms. J. DeCola

Vice Principal: Mr. F. Van Arragon

Principals Message

Dear Allandale Heights Families,

We were glad to have everyone come back to in-school learning in mid-January. So many students demonstrated persistence and determination while learning at home. Thank you everyone for trying your best as we have pivoted to learning at home and now back to learning at school. It is wonderful to see how much students are enjoying seeing each other back at school again. We will continue to follow the health and safety guidelines from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health unit (frequent hand washing, masks, co-horting, etc.). Thank you to all our families for continuing to do the daily health assessment for your children before deciding to send them to school. The SCDSB continues to work closely with, and take our advice from, the health authorities at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) on all matters related to COVID-19. The SCDSB has consulted with the SMDHU to ensure that proper and effective health and safety precautions are in place to continue to keep students and staff safe at school.

The school has provided each student with a new cloth mask in January, but parents are asked to continue ensuring their child comes to school with a mask each day. It is recommended that students have a couple spare masks in their backpack as a back-up in case the first mask gets dirty or lost.

Each day, **families are asked to ensure that their child(ren) complete the COVID-19 student screening tool prior to coming to school.** The COVID-19 student screening tool is available here: <https://scdsb.on.ca/covid-19>

Elsewhere in this newsletter, please see a special message from SCDSB regarding vaccination clinics in schools for elementary school aged children. You'll see a link to a form you can complete and return to the school expressing your interest in having your child participate in a vaccine clinic **with your consent.**

February is a busy time of year as students and staff wrap up term 1 and staff prepare progress reports for each student. Progress reports will be sent home with students on February 18. Please take the time to review the report together with your child to celebrate their successes and encourage them on their next steps of learning. Our students have worked hard and we are very proud of the progress they've made under unique circumstances again this term.

In February, we will also celebrate Family Day. We encourage you to find something fun to do with your family to celebrate this special day on February 21.

Thank you for all you are doing as a parent to support your child and ensure their success at school each day.

Sincerely,

Principal Jan De Cola





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The Character Trait of the Month is:

INCLUSIVENESS

We include everyone in what we do and value their unique contributions.



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More information about Character Education can be found here: https://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

Upcoming Dates

February 2 nd	Groundhog Day
February 14 th	Valentine's Day
February 15 th	National Flag Day of Canada
February 17 th	National Random Acts of Kindness Day
February 18 th	Report Cards Go Home
February 21 st	Family Day- Holiday
February 26 th	Pink Shirt Day

family Day!



Monday, February 15, 2021 is Family Day. There is no school on this day. Enjoy the day with your family! For some ideas, visit <http://www.ontariotravel.net> and click on the Family Day link.

Mini Knights Wanted – Apply Within
Experienced candidates need not apply:
Kindergarten registration is now open!

HIGH SCHOOL INFO NIGHT FOR GR 8'S

High school information events for Grade 8 students

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will happen virtually this winter. Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Different pathways and courses offered will be explained. Visit your school's website for more information.

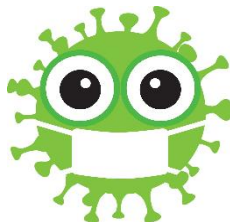


Welcome to Kindergarten

Kindergarten registration for September 2022 is open!

Kindergarten is the beginning of a wonderful journey of learning, and we want your child to begin their journey in a SCDSB school! Do you have a child who is turning four in 2021? If so, we invite you to register your child for Kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit:

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



Daily COVID-19 self-assessment

All students and staff are required to complete the daily COVID-19 self-assessment prior to entering SCDSB schools and buildings, using the provincial self-assessment tool. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>.

Vaccination Clinics

Under the direction of the Ministry of Health and in collaboration with local school boards, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) will be offering COVID-19

vaccination clinics for children in select elementary school locations. The clinics will operate during school hours for eligible students (Kindergarten to Grade 8) and staff of the host school. **Parent/guardian consent is required.** Clinic hours will be extended into the evenings for these same individuals, as well as for parents/guardians, families from neighboring schools and all other eligible community members.

To help determine interest and need for a vaccination clinic in our school, please complete [this form](#) and have your child return the form to the school office. If you have difficulty accessing the form, please contact school office staff.

The SCDSB will work with the SMDHU to determine which schools will host vaccination clinics. Information, including the date, time and location of school based vaccination clinics will be communicated directly with school families and will be posted on the SCDSB website here: https://scdsb.on.ca/covid-19/vaccination_clinics.



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For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium'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.

Inclement weather & Bus Cancellation

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 **Central 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 SCDSB hub [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 SCSTC 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 SCSTC 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>.



Math @ Home parent/guardian series

The SCDSB math department is offering three evening virtual sessions for caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support students with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. Participants will receive a math pack of resources to use at home, and must pre-register for each of the sessions by visiting <https://bit.ly/SCDSBMathAtHomeRegistration>.

Making math connections @Home

Thursday, March 24, 2022 7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore where we find numbers, patterns, measures and shapes in our daily lives. Participants will learn about practical ways to help their child notice and wonder about the math in their world.

Problem solving @Home

Wednesday, April 26, 2022 7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore how to encourage children to be active thinkers and problem solvers, both in math and around the house. Participants will learn about how solving problems at home can help their children solve problems in math class.

Having Fun with Math Facts @Home

Thursday, May 12, 2022 7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore practical, intentional, and fun ways to practice math facts at home. Participants will leave with ideas, games, and activities to support their child with becoming fluent with their math facts.

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a Math @Home pack of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on the registration form.

EarlyON Child and Family Centers

Did you know that EarlyON Child and Family Centers offer free programs, resources, parenting courses, developmental screening, as well as referrals to community programs? All children, prenatal through 6 years of age can participate with their parent(s) or caregiver(s). In Simcoe County there are four agencies that deliver EarlyON Child and Family programs. Services are available in English and French and can be explored by visiting www.simcoe.ca/ChildrenandCommunityServices/Pages/EarlyON.aspx.

EarlyON Child and Family Centre staff are trained in child development and facilitation of educational programs for



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parents/guardians and children. Coming soon; a parent/child interactive program for parents/guardians and children who are starting Kindergarten this fall! Stay tuned for registration information.

Special Education Opportunities

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

In 2022, 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.

Supporting students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in SCDSB schools and within our communities – information for parents/caregivers

Feb. 17 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Supporting students as they transition into school, from one school to another, and from school upon graduation – information for parents/caregivers

April 12 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Working with families to create safe and supportive environments for children who have experienced trauma – information for parents/caregivers

May 10 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 at <https://bit.ly/3s8OBm8>.

TVO Learn Resources for at Home

Looking for a straight-forward, engaging, free resource you can trust to support your child's learning during the pandemic? TVOntario (TVO) and Télévision française de l'Ontario (TFO) have released digital elementary curriculum-based content, including engaging learning activities linked to Grade 1 to 8 curriculum. Resources are available in English for the following subjects:

- Language
- Math
- Science and Technology
- Social Studies
- History
- Geography

Families can visit tvlearn.com to access these resources. Resources are also available in French at www.ontario.ca/fr/page/apprendre-la-maison and families are encouraged to visit tfo.org for educational videos and games.

Keeping Kids Active

Follow a schedule – Having a set schedule will make it easier to stay on track and creates a routine for children to follow. For older children, consider setting alarms. Add physical activity, like a [virtual gym class](#), to the schedule to ensure your child takes the time to get active.

Get active together - When you're active with your kids, it sends them an important message about healthy living. Get out for a walk, play outside or do a [family workout](#) from the comfort of your home. It's always more fun to exercise with a buddy!

Tips to keep kids active

One of the most important things you can do for your child's physical and mental health during this time is to keep them active. Here are three easy tips to help your kids stay healthy and active while learning from home:

Take movement breaks – Sitting for an extended period can be a challenge for children. It is important to take breaks when you can and to get up and move around. This will not only encourage physical activity throughout the day but will help refresh their mind and improve their focus.



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REPORT CARDS

Report Cards will be coming home on February 18th. Please keep in mind that the purpose of assessment, evaluation and reporting is to improve student learning. For teachers, “assessment” is the process of gathering information that accurately reflects how well a student is achieving the expectations of a particular grade, subject, or course. Assessment itself has three roles:

- Providing students with feedback about their work (known as assessment for learning)
- Helping students to set learning goals and to monitor their own progress (known as assessment as learning)
- Evaluating and reporting of progress in the form of grades or marks (known as assessment of learning)

Teachers use a variety of strategies throughout the teaching-learning process, both to give students regular feedback on their progress, and to plan for next steps in the classroom. Parents and guardians can work together with their child’s classroom teacher in the process of supporting ongoing assessment for and as student learning.

In the past, most of the attention was paid to marks/grades on student work. Today, there is increased focus on on-going, descriptive feedback that teachers give to students so that students can clearly understand what they need to do to improve. Educators recognize that individual students learn differently, and that regular feedback and “coaching” during the teaching-learning process can help each student to both improve the work at hand and to grow as an independent, self-assessing learner for life. While the final mark/grade on a report is important, it is provided at the end of the learning cycle when students have had opportunities to practise and to provide multiple demonstrations of learning.



What role do I have as a parent?

We know that you, as a parent or guardian, are vital partners in your child's education and that children do better at school when their parents are involved. It is very important to know as much as you can about how your child is doing in school, and there are many ways to find out. First, talk to your child about how he or she feels he or she is doing. Get him or her to show you his or her work. (Talking to your children about school lets them know you think school is important. Research shows that students are more likely to be successful if their parents talk to them about school and let them know they think school is important.)

Students receive report [cards](#) at least twice a year with information on their progress in all subject areas. You can ask to meet with the teacher in-between report cards if you have any concerns or if you’d like to know more about your child’s progress.



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