



Ferndale Woods Elementary School Newsletter April 2021

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Principal's News

Well, we have made it to April with the Easter and April Break around the corner! It was just over a year ago that the school system was shut down following the March Break. And here we are. I have to say a great big thank you to all parents, grandparents and guardians who have been diligent with the COVID screening prior to each school day. Your part in keeping us all safe hasn't gone unnoticed. We are also grateful to our school staff for going the extra mile to figure out how to do fun events for students in a COVID-safe manner. The school-wide Camp Week organized in March was thoroughly enjoyed by all. K. Jessop, O. Disu



Upcoming Events

- April 2** - World Autism Awareness Day
- April 2, 5** - Easter Holiday
- April 12-16** - April Spring Break
- April 14** - International Day of Pink
- April 22** - Earth Day
- April 28** - Administrative Professionals Day

House Colours

Students are encouraged to wear their House Colours every Ferndale

Ferndale House Colours		
Black	Red	Blue
Yellow	Green	Purple
Orange	White	Pink

Friday.

Daily School Schedule

- 9:10 - 10:00** Period 1
- 10:00 - 10:50** Period 2
- 10:50 - 11:30** Nutrition/Recess
- 11:30 - 12:20** Period 3
- 12:20 - 1:10** Period 4
- 1:10 - 1:50** Nutrition/Recess
- 1:50 - 2:40** Period 5
- 2:40 - 3:30** Period 6

COVID-19 school screening tool



Each day, families are asked to ensure that their child(ren) complete the COVID-19 school screening tool prior to coming to school. Secondary school students are required to confirm with their teacher that the COVID-19 school screening tool has been completed at the beginning of each day.

The updated provincial direction states that students and staff with any new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 (as indicated in the screening tool), even those with only one symptom, must stay home until:

- They receive a negative COVID-19 test result;
- They receive an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional; or,
- It has been 10 days since their symptom onset and they are feeling better.

In addition, all asymptomatic household contacts of symptomatic individuals are required to quarantine until the symptomatic household member receives a negative COVID-19 test result or receives an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional.

The COVID-19 school screening tool is available on the Ontario government's website here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. A printable version of the COVID-19 school screening tool can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3ulap6V>. More information is also available on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/covid-19.

Character attribute for the month of April



Optimism - we maintain a positive attitude and have hope for the future.

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

Participate in the first-ever SCDSB student census



At the SCDSB we are committed to identifying and removing barriers within our system that impact equity, achievement and well-being of students, and to ensuring that all students are offered supportive, inclusive and respectful learning environments. To support these efforts, we must learn more about our students.

In April 2021, the SCDSB will hold its first student census. The confidential SCDSB Student Census 2020-2021 will be used to collect identity-based student data so that

systemic barriers can be identified. The results will guide our focus on programs, supports and resources to address inequities within our system.

Between April 1 and 30, 2021, students in Grades 7 to 12 and parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be invited to participate in the SCDSB Student Census 2020-2021. Students in Grade 7 to 12 will be emailed a secure link inviting them to complete their census. For students in Kindergarten to Grade 6, parents/guardians will complete the student census on behalf of their child or children. Parents/guardians of these students will receive an email invitation which includes a secure link to their child(ren)'s student census. The email used for parents/guardians will be the primary contact email on file at their child's school.

For further information regarding the SCDSB Student Census 2020-2021, visit the SCDSB website or contact Lisa Newton, Manager of Research and Decision Support, at census@scdsb.on.ca, or (705) 734-6363, ext. 11731.

Register now for summer child care

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 over the summer holidays. 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 at https://scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after.

Days of awareness and recognition taking place in April

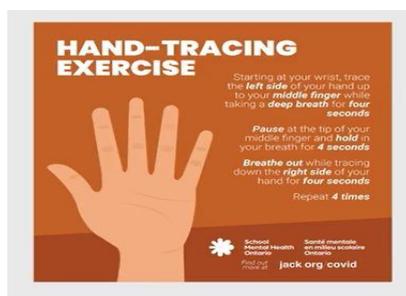
Throughout the year, there are many awareness days that focus on different causes and recognition. The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has developed a list of these days as a guide for schools. Schools may participate in recognizing some or all of these days in various ways. This list is not exhaustive. Following are the days of awareness and recognition that the SCDSB will recognize during the month of April:

April 2	World Autism Awareness Day
April 14	International Day of Pink
April 22	Earth Day
April 28	Administrative Professionals Day National Day of Mourning (World Day for Safety and Health at Work)

Tips for supporting fact fluency at home

- Practice the facts in a meaningful order:
 - Start with foundational facts like 2s, 10s, 5s, 1s, and 0s
 - Move on to more challenging facts that can be found using combinations of foundational facts, like 3s, 4s, 6s, 8s, 9s and 7s. The Mastering Math Facts resource provides strategies to support each group of facts: <https://bit.ly/39cNzLE>
- Help your child see that the order of the factors does not change the product:
 - Example, $2 \times 5 = 10$ and $5 \times 2 = 10$
- Help your child practice by decomposing more challenging facts into known facts:
 - Example 1: 7×8 can be thought of as $(7 \times 4) + (7 \times 4)$
 - Example 2: 5×7 can be thought of as $(5 \times 5) + (5 \times 2)$
- Help your child visualize the facts by building arrays and drawing pictures to represent them: <https://mathvisuals.wordpress.com/multiplication-division/>.
- Play games such as:
 - Blockout! - <https://mathforlove.com/lesson/blockout/>
 - Math Flips - <https://mathvisuals.wordpress.com/math-flips/>
 - Stick and Split - <https://www.stickandsplit.com/>
 - Games to play with a deck of cards - https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B_wlnPzXZBUZRk0yNXFBd3dqTDg/edit
- Allow your child as much time as they need to find an answer for a fact. This will lower stress, support them with using the strategies they are learning, and they will soon become automatic with practice.

Supporting Mental health and well-being



When students attend school, whether in-person or online, they engage in important routines and foster connections that can help them to feel more balanced amidst the uncertainties of the pandemic. Our school is committed to bolstering student mental health and well-being by teaching our students to practice strategies to increase their stress management and coping skills. School Mental Health Ontario works together with Ontario school districts to support student mental health. Ferndale Woods will be using a collection of resources for educators to support student mental health during the ongoing pandemic response. These resources are evidence-based. This month, we will be practicing various breathing strategies.

Try the hand tracing exercise: <https://bit.ly/2OWOAN>

- Starting at your wrist, trace the left side of your hand up to your middle finger while taking a deep breath for four seconds
- Pause at the top of your middle finger and hold in your breath for four seconds
- Breathe out while tracing down the right side of your hand for four seconds
- Repeat four times

Get outside and play!

Active play does more than help kids to achieve the 60 minutes of physical activity they need every day; it supports their development in many ways – especially when the play is outdoors, self-directed and fun. This allows kids to test boundaries and problem-solve, develop social skills, resolve conflict and learn to control their emotions and behaviour.

Active play outdoors in the fresh air and nature also helps to improve mood and lower stress. Support your child to play outside in the neighbourhood and at your local park as much as possible, while staying safe by maintaining COVID-19 prevention protocols for physical distancing and mask use.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Dear Ferndale Friends and Family! MacMillans kicks off!

We are at it again! Our MacMillans fundraiser kicks off on April 9th! A catalogue will be coming home or you can find the list on school cash online filled with delicious goodies! Funds raised will directly benefit our school through added technology and other enhancements.

Please note that due to our current situation the only method of ordering is through School Cash Online.

If you require assistance with this, please do not hesitate to call the school office.

- Feel free to collect orders from friends and family
- One school cash online order per student (but multiple items can be ordered)
- Buffalo Chicken dip (CAG) is not available at this time to order, sorry for the inconvenience

Please retain order forms for your reference. Last day to order is April 30th and delivery will take place on May 26th.

We do not have the facilities to store orders so please make arrangements to pick up your order before 6 pm on May 26th.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Spring Break Activities

The Barrie Police has created some activities for students in our community to participate in during the upcoming Spring Break.

All activities are virtual through Microsoft Teams and will be approximately 20-30 minutes per day. Once the parent/caregiver registers their child or children, a link will be shared with them to join. They can join all activities or just the ones they prefer.

Please see the link below for posters providing more information about each activity.

[Barrie Police Spring Break Activities Poster](#)