



# Ferndale Woods Elementary School Newsletter January 2021

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## Principal's News

What a great time of the year! It is exciting to see the joy in the faces of students during the holiday season. During this season of the year, we would like to say thanks to parents and guardians who diligently support the child's academic progress by sending her/him ready to learn every day. Also, thanks to all the people in our school community such as custodians, bus drivers, secretaries, educational assistants and teachers who are committed to giving their best to your children every day. We're proud of how much our community gives to ensure the best for our students. On behalf of the Ferndale Woods staff have a joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Best regards, K. Jessop & O. Disu



## Upcoming Events

- Dec 21 - Jan 1st** - Holidays
- Jan 4th** - School resumes
- Jan 4th** - Virtual School Council Meeting at 5pm.
- Jan 27** - Family Literacy Day
- Jan 28** - Super Hero Spirit Day
- Jan 29** - PA Day

## House Colours

Super Hero School Spirit day is on Jan 28th. Students are encouraged to wear their favorite super hero shirts and earn points for their House

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

## 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

## Important Message to Families

On Wednesday, Dec. 16, the Ministry of Education issued a memo to all school boards in the province with some recommendations as we head into the Winter Break. At this time, we are planning for the regular return to school on Jan. 4, 2021; however, it is important that we are prepared to respond to public health measures that could include the need to move to a remote learning model. With that in mind, we encourage you to ask your child(ren) to take their personal belongings home with them on the last day of school before the break, Friday, Dec. 18.

Should the decision be made by the Ministry of Education and public health officials to close schools to students, we will communicate directly with you to discuss next steps, including information on how to access technology, if required, for the purpose of remote learning.

For information and updates, visit the SCDSB website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)) or follow us on social media (Twitter - [@SCDSB\\_Schools](https://twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools), Facebook – [www.facebook.com/scdsb](https://www.facebook.com/scdsb)).



### Ferndale Brag Tags

Lots of students continue to have many opportunities to earn brag tags for positive behaviours displayed anywhere on school property. It's great to see the joy on their faces when they come down to the office to exchange their medal for a brag tag. The class earning the most brag tags for the month will earn an awesome reward at the end of each month. Way to go Falcons! We are proud of you!

## 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.

## Kindergarten registration for September 2021 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten).

## COVID-19 self-assessment



All students and staff will be expected to self-screen prior to attending school each day, using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit the [SMDHU website](#).

## 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). Our school is in the central zone.

**When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, as in previous years. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for your child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions. This year, please note that students who are unable to attend school due to bus cancellations will be able to access learning materials on the digital learning platform assigned by their teacher, either Desire2Learn (D2L) or Google Classroom. Students in the Learn@Home program will continue with regular programming as scheduled.**

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 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>

## 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.

## Join us for some *Time Well Spent*

# Time Well Spent

The SCDSB acknowledges the existence of systemic racism in society, and the importance of addressing it. We share responsibility in standing up against racism, hate and oppression of all kinds. One of the SCDSB's [Strategic Priorities](#) is Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Our focus continues to be educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism, and on working to create and maintain safe spaces within our schools and

broader communities.

Our work within the pillar of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion stems from the fundamental principle that every student should have the opportunity to experience academic success and personal well-being regardless of their identity. With that in mind, the SCDSB Equity, Diversity and Inclusion department developed a video series focused on addressing the impacts of all forms of racism. Interviews with experts in the field, members of local and national community organizations, parents/guardians, staff and trustees have been recorded and shared with staff and with the public through our social media channels. To watch, visit the SCDSB YouTube channel at: [www.youtube.com/SimcoeCountyDSB](http://www.youtube.com/SimcoeCountyDSB) and select the Time Well Spent playlist. For more information about the SCDSB's commitment to equity and inclusion, please visit the equity and inclusion page of our website at: [https://scdsb.on.ca/about/equity\\_and\\_inclusion](https://scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion).

## Days of awareness and recognition taking place in December

Throughout the year, there are many awareness days that focus on different causes and recognition. The Simcoe County District School Board 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 January:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Jan. 27 | Family Literacy Day                     |
| Jan. 27 | International Holocaust Remembrance Day |
| Jan. 29 | Bell Let's Talk Day                     |

## Character attribute for the month of January

This month's character attribute is Honesty. Honesty is when we behave in a sincere, trustworthy and truthful manner. More information about character education can be found here: [www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education).

## Get into coding!

Interested in exploring coding with your child at home? There are several user-friendly programs that make coding fun, accessible and easy to discover! Code.org is a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools and increasing participation by young women and students from other underrepresented groups. They offer easily accessible coding projects, lessons and experiences for students to create and alter code.

Visit this website for Hour of Code tutorials (<https://studio.code.org/courses>) or try some of the ones we recommend below!

- Dance Party - <https://studio.code.org/s/dance-2019/stage/1/puzzle/1>
- Minecraft Voyage Aquatic - <https://studio.code.org/s/aquatic/stage/1/puzzle/1>
- Flappy Code - <https://studio.code.org/flappy/1>
- Classic Maze - <https://studio.code.org/hoc/1>

**Scratch Junior** ([www.scratchjr.org/](http://www.scratchjr.org/)) - With the ScratchJr iPad app, young children (ages 5-7) can program their own interactive stories and games. In the process, they learn to solve problems, design projects and express themselves creatively on the computer.

**Scratch** (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>) - Scratch is a web-based tool where you can program your own interactive stories, games, and animations and share your creations with others in the online community. Scratch includes easy to follow tutorials, and endless project ideas to get your young coder creating and exploring the world of code.

Check out some of the great Scratch Tutorials (<https://scratch.mit.edu/ideas>) or try some of the ones we recommend below!

- Animate your Name - <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462492913/editor>
- Make a Chase Game - <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462493493/editor>
- Create a Story - <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462493360/editor>

## Brush as a team until age 8

Baby teeth are important, and kids under age 8 still need help from an adult to brush. Help your child to brush their teeth twice a day for two minutes using a pea-sized amount of fluoridated toothpaste. Before school and before bed are two great times to get into the habit of brushing. Cavities can be painful and can lead to infection, so be sure to get any toothaches checked by a dental professional.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit offers some free dental services for children and teens. Contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org). Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

## New year, new goals for the entire family!

The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to start thinking about setting new goals. Bringing the whole family together for a new year goal-setting session not only provides an opportunity to discuss the importance of exercise and a healthy diet with your children – it also gives you the chance to brainstorm on working towards a shared goal. Here are some small steps to set your family up for success in the new year:

**Play together.** Spend time outside playing together as often as possible. Spending time outdoors improves your mood and helps you get an extra dose of vitamin D. Go for a walk, build a snow fort or go tobogganing – fun for the whole family!

**Pencil it in.** Add physical activity or play time to the calendar, with the same commitment as other important meetings. Schedule an evening family walk or a virtual family fitness class from your living room – seeing it on the calendar will help motivate your family to stay on track.

**Set goals.** Set a goal that you can achieve together as a family, like trying one new activity each week, or walking for 30 minutes a few times a week. Having a reward, like a family movie night, when you reach your goal will encourage the whole family to participate and make reaching the goal even more fun.

The YMCA offers a variety of family programs - with registered activities like open gym, family swim and the Y kids' program, the Y offers plenty of great opportunities to be active with your family in a safe environment. For more information on booking a visit to your YMCA, visit [ymcasm.ca/FAQ](http://ymcasm.ca/FAQ). If you are looking for activities to do in the comfort of your home, [YMCAHome.ca](http://YMCAHome.ca) has a variety of free, virtual fitness classes and family-friendly workouts. Wishing you a safe and healthy 2021!  
Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka.

