



# Ferndale Woods Elementary School Newsletter March 2021

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## Principal's News

Welcome to the first month of spring! We are all looking forward to warmer and sunnier days in the near future. With the arrival of better weather, we are hoping that additional families will take the opportunity to walk their children to school. This will help to alleviate the vehicle congestion before and after-school. If you do need to bring your vehicle through the Kiss and Ride, please make sure that you are following our traffic flow procedures, travelling at a low rate of speed and aware of students, parents and staff members who are moving through the area. Also, parents and guardians are expected to maintain physical distancing and wear a mask while on school property. Thank you for helping to keep our students, families and staff here at Ferndale safe. Best regards, Mrs. K. Jessop & Mr. O. Disu



## Upcoming Events

- March 8th** - International Women's Day
- March 14th** - Pi Day
- March 15-19th** - School Spirit Week
- March 19th** - Ferndale House Events.
- March 22nd** - Rock your Socks Day for Down Syndrome.
- March 26th** - Earth Hour

## House Colours

Students are encouraged to wear their House Colours every Ferndale Friday. Our next Ferndale house event is on March 19th.

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

## Updates to the COVID-19 school screening tool and process



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.

In an effort to strengthen health and safety measures and help reduce the spread of COVID-19, the criteria in the provincial COVID-19 school screening tool has been updated by the Chief Medical Officer of Health. 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:

1. They receive a negative COVID-19 test result;
2. They receive an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional; or,
3. 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 updated 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/covid-19).

## Character attribute for the month of March



Integrity - we act justly and honourably in all that we do.

More information about Character Education can be found here: [www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education)

## 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).

## 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 <https://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>.

## Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) to deliver first-ever student census in April 2021

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 Grade 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. To support the delivery of the SCDSB student census, the SCDSB is hosting information sessions in March. Details regarding the information sessions, including how to register, will be available on the SCDSB website.

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](mailto:census@scdsb.on.ca) or 705-734-6363 x11731.

## Days of awareness and recognition taking place in March

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 March:

March 5 National Employee Appreciation Day

March 8 International Women's Day

March 14 Pi Day

March 21 World Down Syndrome Day

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 26 Earth Hour (in schools)

## Mental health and well-being resource hub



COVID-19 has, and will, impact the mental health of people everywhere. Kids Help Phone has seen an unprecedented surge of young people feeling more stressed than usual reaching out during this global pandemic. Finding accurate information and appropriate resources can be hard. Jack.org, School Mental Health Ontario and Kids Help Phone have partnered to bring you all the information needed in one easy-to-access hub so that youth mental health remains top of mind, and our communities are able to easily access the education, tools, support and reliable information they need. Please share widely with the young people in your life.

[Jack.org](https://www.jack.org) is a Canadian non-profit organization focused on helping youth understand how to take care of their mental health and look out for others.

## Making 'cents' of money matters

All students need the skills and knowledge to take responsibility for managing their personal financial well-being with confidence, competence and a critical and compassionate awareness of the world around them. In the 2020 math curriculum there is focus on financial literacy learning in Grades 1 to 8, including understanding the value and use of money over time, how to manage financial well-being and the value of budgeting. Students build their skills and knowledge about the value and use of money, how decisions impact personal finances, as well as develop consumer and civic awareness.

Students will:

- Learn how to manage finances responsibly, such as creating a budget to help save enough money to buy something they want such as a book, toy or a video game.
- Begin to develop a greater awareness as consumers and contributors in the local and broader economic system.

Wondering how you can support the development of your child's financial literacy skills at home? Check out some of these great tips and resources!

### Tips:

- Find daily, real-world opportunities to talk about money in the contexts of earning, saving, spending and giving.
- Consider the financial habits you want to instill in your child and talk about them.
- Involve your child in making decisions about purchases for household items and compare the costs of different items. (e.g. We need to save money to repave the driveway, so we're going to cut down on spending. Do you have any ideas?)

### Resources:

- A Parent's Guide to Financial Literacy  
[http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/financial\\_guide.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/financial_guide.html)
- Peter Pig's Money Counter  
<https://practicalmoneyskills.ca/games/peterpigs/>
- Help Your Kids Understand Money: A Parent's Guide  
<http://www.themint.org/parents/parenting-guide.html>

## Screen-free activities to keep kids active

Finding ways to break up your daily schedule with active play will pay off in the long term, and encourages creative thinking, problem solving and so much more. Here are some ideas for screen-free activities to keep kids active while having fun:

**Enjoy the great outdoors:** Breathe in some fresh winter air as you explore your local trails, parks and toboggan hills or have a family snowman-building contest to see who can make the most creative snow sculpture!

**Get creative with indoor games:** If it's too cold to explore the outdoors, there's plenty of fun indoor activities that use common items from around the house. Try playing a game of 'bedsheet parachute' – grab a twin-sized or smaller bedsheet or blanket to make a DIY parachute. Then get the kids (or even you!) to hold onto each end of the bedsheet and work together to try to shake a small stuffed animal or ball off the parachute!

**Lead your family in a group workout:** When you're active with your kids, it sends them an important message about healthy living. Try leading your family in a group workout from the comfort of your home. If you're looking for ideas and inspiration for family-friendly workouts, visit [YMCA at Home](#) where you can find activities for all ages and fitness levels. Once you learn the basic

movements of the workout, gather your family and exercise together. It's always more fun to exercise with a buddy!

*Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskok*