



FERNDALE WOODS E.S.

Joanne Merkley
Principal

170 Ferndale Drive South
Barrie, ON L4N 8A1
Safe Arrival 705-733-5636 Ext. 1
School website: <http://fer.scdsb.on.ca>

Kerry Butler
Vice Principal

SEPTEMBER 2017

- Starting next month newsletters will be sent electronically
- a hard copy will be sent home with your child if you do not have email.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 22 – Every Child Matters – Orange Shirt Day
 September 25- Franco Ontario – Wear White & Green
 September 28- Picture Day
 September 28-Meet the Teacher Social
 September 29 – Terry Fox Run at 2:00
 October 2 – Volunteer Orientation at 5 in Library
 October 2 – School Council Meeting at 6 in library
 October 3 – Subway Lunches start- Every Tuesday
 October 5- Gardening Bee in front Garden 3:45

SAFE ARRIVAL

Please call the safe arrival phone line (733-5636, ext. 1) if your child is absent or will be late. It is also important that you sign your child in/out at the office. We will be calling contacts of any students who are marked with an unexplained absence, unless you choose not to participate in the Safe Arrival program. If this is your choice, please advise the office.



SCHOOL REORGANIZATION

As you know, school reorganization is often necessary in order to be compliant with Ministry expectations. Enrollment and staffing allocation often result in a need to change teachers and classes. It is important that teachers, students and parents know that these changes are a normal part

of a new school year. Reorganization and turnaround day is on Sept. 26.

BALANCED DAY SCHEDULE

9:10	School Begins
10:50 – 11:30	Nutrition/Activity Break
11:30 – 1:10	Learning Block
1:10 – 1:50	Nutrition/Activity Break
1:50 - 3:30	Learning Block
3:30	DISMISSAL

Kindergarten to Grade 3 will always eat for the first 20 minutes of each break and go outside for the last 20 minutes of each break.

Grades 4-8 will go outside for the first 20 minutes of each break and eat for the second 20 minutes.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES / KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE

We need your help to keep students safe at arrival and dismissal. The safety of students is our top priority. Arrival and dismissal are busy times at our school. We need to work together with parents, guardians and childcare providers to make sure students are safe.

Here are key points to be aware of when planning pick up and/or drop off of students:

- Supervision starts fifteen (15) minutes before bell time and ends fifteen (15) minutes after bell time
- If late pickup happens often, additional support services may be involved. Please ensure

prompt pick-up and call the school if an urgent situation prevents timely pick-up

- If parents/guardians arrange for other people to pick up their children, like a private childcare provider, the parent/guardian is responsible to ensure the alternate person/program is picking up on time and that they are on the list of people who may pick-up this/these children
- Designated bus loading zones are out-of-bounds to non Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium buses during arrival and dismissal times. Parents may use the right lane for pick up and drop off and may flow through to the exit once the buses have unloaded or loaded. **Please do not leave vehicles unattended.** There are “vested staff” available to help with young children. The left lane must be left clear for buses
- Buses arrive in good time in the morning and the kiss and ride flows very freely once the buses have unloaded
- No idling please
- Parents are encouraged to walk their children to school when possible. Sometimes it is necessary to drive. It is highly recommended that parents park along Nicholson Drive behind the school by the catwalk. This reduces being backed up on Ferndale Drive. Parents may legally park on Nicholson and walk their children to and from the school yard or older children may walk through on their own. There is also parking at the city lot by the tennis courts

A full description of the Supervision, Arrival and Dismissal Procedures is available at

www.scdsb.on.ca – Parents – Safe and Healthy Schools – Procedures.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

SCDSB will officially recognize Orange Shirt Day on Friday September 22nd.

The Orange Shirt Day Campaign – *Every Child Matters*-- remembers the experiences of former students of residential schools and is a commitment to ongoing reconciliation in Canada. 2017 marks the fourth year of the campaign.

GRANDPARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

Simcoe Community Services’ Grandparent System Support Program

Simcoe County is home to approximately 4,000 grand-families. The Grandparent System Support Program (GSSP) was established in response to the increased needs and unique challenges experienced by grandparents with the sole responsibility of raising their grandchildren. The GSSP Support Groups take place in Barrie, Bradford, Orillia and Midland. For more information about the support group, meeting dates/times or if you have questions about the GSSP, contact Trish Longo at gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca or 705-726-9082 x2321.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS/ALLERGIES

A reminder to parents that a number of our students and staff have life-threatening allergies. It is most important that students do not bring nut products (especially peanut butter) to school. Sesame allergies are also prevalent in the school. Allergic reactions to perfumes are a concern, especially for asthmatics. We appreciate the use of deodorants (especially with energetic adolescents!); however, these must be the stick or roll-on variety (please no spray or aerosols at school). This is the time of year when bee stings are very common. Please ensure that medical plans and accompanying medication have been submitted to the office.



Students who require access to medication/epipens must have this, along with the corresponding medical forms in the office for easy and prompt access and most students with anaphylactic allergies also carry an epipen on them at all times).

PROCEDURES TO 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
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations

Parents should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off.
- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents 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) and

website (www.scdsb.on.ca), 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 an evacuation site. Our site is St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic School, 111 Summerset Drive (705) 728-7301. 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 will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.
- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** to enter the building. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, please be patient.** All visitors, including school volunteers, are required to **sign in** at the school office and wear **visitor identification**.
- Staff and volunteers must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All Simcoe County District School Board schools **have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**.

When parents are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents may not have immediate access to their children 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 care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We welcome our parents and guardians to become involved in the Ferndale community by participating in various capacities within the school such as council and volunteering opportunities.



Our first meeting will be held in the Library on Monday Oct. 2 at 6:00 p.m. The new School Council will be established at that time and, if necessary, elections will be held.

Council position nomination forms are available from the school office. School council meetings are always open to all parents. If you have an interest in being a formal, voting member, please consider putting your name forward.

SCDSB DRESS CODE

The SCDSB is introducing a new student dress code this school year. The dress code was developed in consultation with staff and students. Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive, and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at www.scdsb.on.ca. If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact the principal or the SCDSB Equity and Inclusive Education Team at 705-728-7570.

BUS TAG PROGRAM

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent or guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour coded Bus Tag with the assigned p.m. route number to be attached to the student's backpack and a colour coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the Bus Tag is matched to. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site childcare centre to make sure they don't get on a bus in error.

For more information, visit

main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the 'Safety' tab.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees"
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

It's safe, fast and convenient. Contact the office with any questions.

TERRY FOX RUN

Our school is proudly taking part in the 2017 Terry Fox School Run on September 29th at 2 p.m. Let's show our school spirit by going the extra mile for Terry Fox. Online donating is simple and you will receive your tax receipt immediately. Simply click:

<http://www.terryfox.ca/FerndaleWoodsESBarrieON> to make your donation and your funds will be automatically added to our school's fundraising total.

GARDENING

We would like to invite parents, staff, students and other community members to help us to trim back our front garden on October 5th from 3:45-4:45. We also look forward to planting some generously donated tulip bulbs at this time. Please bring your enthusiasm, gardening gloves, spades and sheers if you are able to participate.

FREE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

The SCDSB offers children in Grades 1 to 8 an opportunity to learn and/or maintain a language other than French or English. Whether you enrol your children in this program to learn a new language, understand a new culture or to extend their knowledge of their first language, every student can benefit from this program. The Barrie Learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) is offering Arabic, Russian, Mandarin, Korean, German, Spanish and Ukrainian. The Bradford Learning Centre (157 Holland St. E, Suite 200) is offering Arabic, Tamil, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. The course takes place Saturday mornings, 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 16. There is no charge for this program. Most classes fill quickly on a first come, first served basis. Register your child by visiting www.thelearningcentres.com and clicking on 'Elementary Student.'

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL ESL CLASSES

Do you or someone you know want to improve English language skills? The SCDSB Learning Centres can help. English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults are offered at the Alliston, Barrie and Bradford Learning Centres. Visit www.thelearningcentres.com or call for more

information: Alliston: 705-435-7778; Barrie 705-725-8360; Bradford: 905-775-4432.

ACTION NEEDED

Most parents like email copies of newsletters, etc. Please let us know if you do not want this email communication from our school. Canada's anti-spam legislation (CASL) came into effect on July 1, 2014. Under the legislation, organizations must not send commercial electronic messages (CEMs) that encourage recipients to participate in any commercial activity, even if it is not-for-profit, unless they have the recipient's express consent. School boards and schools are covered by the legislation. We made the decision to provide a hard copy of this first newsletter to everyone.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE 17/18

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country trips) are not covered by the board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen. The Simcoe County District School Board has selected the "insure my kids" program through Old Republic Canada as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com. Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities and out-of-province or out-of-country trips.

PARENT PORTAL

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and grades and includes the option to sign up for email notifications. To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need

their child's SCDSB Pupil ID Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID will be provided in a sealed letter this fall with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, you can visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

MEDICATION



In order for the school to dispense any medication, even non-prescription, a form must be completed by a physician. This form can be obtained from the school office.

PICTURE DAY



School photographs will be taken on September 28. Our pictures will be taken by Green Apple Studio. Online ordering is done afterwards.

HEALTHY SMILES ONTARIO

Free dental care for children under 18 from Healthy Smiles Ontario

Free dental service is available to your child through Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Healthy Smiles Dental Clinic in Barrie, or on the dental bus that visits many communities across Simcoe Muskoka throughout the year, as long as you qualify for the program. To find out if your child qualifies or to book an appointment, call the health unit (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) oral health team at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, extension 8818. Healthy Smiles Ontario is a government-funded program that provides free dental care for children and youth 17 years old and under from low-income households. This dental program provides free preventative, routine and emergency dental services.

SMOKE FREE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Reminder from the Health Unit: School grounds are smoke free 24/7

Protect yourself and your children from the health hazards of secondhand smoke. Remember, it is against the law to smoke ANYWHERE on school property at ANY TIME. This includes smoking in your vehicle while picking up or dropping off students. It is also against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco in a vehicle carrying anyone under age 16. The fine for ignoring the law is \$250. For more information, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

VOLUNTEERS

Community members interested in volunteering in our school must attend a volunteer orientation and have a criminal record check and vulnerable screening completed prior to volunteering at the school. If you are already on our approved list, you must stop by the office to complete an Annual Offence Declaration. Parents may request a volunteer transfer if they were an approved volunteer at another SCDSB school last year. Our volunteer training will occur at 5 pm on Oct 2/17. Please be sure to attend if you plan to volunteer at any time this year.

Current volunteers who do not submit an Annual Offence Declaration for Volunteers on or before December 31, 2017, will be deleted from the database on January 1, 2018, and will have to submit a new Criminal Records Check and Vulnerable Sector Screen. Please see the office for more information or if you have questions about volunteering in our school.

EYE SEE PROGRAM

***Eye See...Eye Learn* program offers free glasses for Junior Kindergarten students**

The *Eye See...Eye Learn* program provides comprehensive eye exams by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten (JK) students. The eye exams are covered under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) when parents show their child's health card. There is no out-of-pocket cost for the eye exam and if the child requires a pair of glasses, they will receive them free of charge courtesy of a participating optometrist. For more information, visit www.Eyeseeyelearn.ca.

KEEP CONNECTED TO OUR SCHOOL

Keep connected with our school and with the SCDSB

- <http://fer.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations.
- www.scdsb.on.ca. The SCDSB Education Centre can be reached at 705-734-6363
- follow us on Twitter (@SCDSB or @FerndaleWoods
- (www.sharingsimcoe.com),

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at:
main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca