



Dear Warnica School Community,

This school year is moving very quickly and we find ourselves in November already. We pride ourselves on our open communication between home and school and this continues to be a vital part of student success here at Warnica P.S.. On November 9th you will receive a Progress Report Card for your child, which will detail your child's progress with Learning Skills and Academics up to this point. This Progress Report is the first of three report cards that students will receive this year, and it does not include letter grades or percentages. The formal report card will be distributed on only two occasions, in February and in June. You will have an opportunity to discuss your child's progress during our Parent/Teacher Conferences which will take place during the week of November 13th as per the schedule set out by your child's teacher. If you have not received an interview time, please be sure to reach out to your child(ren)'s educators as soon as possible.

November is a time of reflection and that we all remember those who fought for the rights and freedom that we have as Canadians. Our Remembrance Day service will take place on Friday, November 10th at 9:30 AM. It is important that students are in attendance in order to take part in the further discussions with teachers as questions arise.

We have numerous activities underway in the building. I would like to take this time to thank our educators for all that they do and bring to the school. Outside of their commitment to teaching and learning with your students, they are committed to providing clubs, teams and many other opportunities outside of their regular duties. Without all of them, Warnica would not be the outstanding school that it is.

Please be reminded that attendance and timely arrivals at school are a focus that we are here to support you and your family with. We are committed to supporting our students and families to make this a priority as we are well aware of the impact on student success. Strong Attendance = Student Success (meeting their ultimate potential as a learner). Developing these skills early helps set standards that our students will carry forward into their secondary, post-secondary and working lives in the future. Thank-you for helping us, help them, be the best they can be!

This year, our 2023/2024 School Action Equity Plan continues to focus on Well-Being, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Numeracy and Literacy. Our staff is working towards helping our students achieve these goals daily by programming to meet the needs of the diverse needs and learning styles of our students. Thank you for working with us to support our students.

M. Cappadocia

The Warnica Wildcats Safety Patroller team is an integral part of keeping our students safe travelling to and from school each day. The program, run in conjunction with CAA is for students in Grades 4-8. This school year, we have trained 54 students to be part of this team. Safety patrollers are chosen for their dependability, attitude, knowledge, and interest in helping others. Their responsibilities include:

- Modelling safe road and safe school bus practices
- Helping students arrive to and from school safely, on buses and near crossings
- Displaying good leadership qualities and good citizenship

These students can be found in rain, sleet, snow and slush on our buses and in the entrance to our accessible parking lot. They will always be wearing their bright yellow CAA patroller vests so that they are noticeable to all! Thank you, safety patrollers, for all that you do to make Warnica PS a great and safe place to be.

Mme. Murphy

SCHOOL HOURS

- ◆ 8:55 - Playground Supervision Begins
- ◆ 9:10 - Entry Bell
- ◆ 10:50 -11:30 - Nutrition Break / Activity Break
- ◆ 1:10-1:50 - Nutrition Break / Activity Break
- ◆ 3:30 - Dismissal



WARNICA NEWS



Days of Awareness 2023-24

As you prepare your school's newsletter package, please review the Days of Awareness (NM1) www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion. Please include what is relevant to your school community in your October newsletter package.

November PA Day

Please note that Friday, Nov. 17 is a PA Day for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2023-24 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar.

Below is a summary of the activities planned for the Nov. 17 PA Day:

Elementary

Length: Full-day parent/guardian-student-teacher conferences

Topic: Communication to parents/guardians about student progress through parent/guardian-student-teacher conferences

Host: Simcoe County District School Board elementary schools, including Grades 7 and 8 in Grade 7-12 secondary schools

Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): Elementary educators

Elementary educators will meet with students and parents/guardians to discuss student progress thus far this school year, including areas of strengths and next steps for improvement.

Secondary

Length: Full day

Topic: Multilingual learners; assessment, evaluation and reporting; school action and equity planning

Host: Simcoe County District School Board

Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): School board staff, school administrators, and school leads

Educators will learn about using STEP assessment data to plan responsive instruction for their multilingual learners (ML), including the use of tools and resources to support learning. They will participate in collaborative discussions and tasks in small and large groups facilitated by school leaders and ML lead teachers. This learning was collaboratively planned by members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Multilingual Learner team and the school-based ML leads to be responsive to the needs of the MLs in each school (100 minutes).

Educators will collaborate with department colleagues to develop culminating course tasks and consolidation activities which provide students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning. They will be supported with planning resources developed by the Student Achievement 7-12 department (100 minutes).

Educators will work with school and curriculum leaders in their schools to identify evidence-based strategies and actions to support students through the achievement of their school's School Action and Equity Plan goals. These goals connect to safe and inclusive learning spaces, achievement in mathematics, and graduation and transitions (100 minutes).

Hot Lunch Schedule:

Mondays: Get Roasted

Wednesdays: Subway

Thursdays: Licious

Fridays: Domino's

****You can order hot lunches on schoolcash online and click the lunchbox button****



Communication to families regarding inclement weather days

Please note that APM A3020 – Inclement Weather, 3.1.2 states that “parents/guardians are to be reminded, in writing at appropriate times (October and January) each school year, that it is their responsibility to decide whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.”

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. Our school is in the [insert zone for your school] 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 SCDSBhub [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 Consortium 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](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scste.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

Online learning graduation requirement and opt out options

Students are required to earn two online learning credits to graduate from secondary school, beginning with every student who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year. The online learning graduation requirement also applies to adult learners that will be entering the Ontario secondary school system starting in the 2023-24 school year. The graduation requirement is intended to support students in developing familiarity and comfort with learning and working in a fully online environment, as well as developing digital literacy and other important transferable skills that they will need for success after secondary school, including in post-secondary education and the workplace.

Opting out

Parents/guardians may choose to opt their children out of the mandatory online learning credits required for graduation. To opt out, a parent/guardian must submit the [Secondary Online Learning Graduation Requirement Opt-out Form](#). Exemption from the online learning graduation requirements may be requested by:

- the parent/guardian of the secondary student
- students who are 18 years of age or older
- students who are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control

Check with your local school if you have questions regarding the registration or opt-out process.

Parents’ Guide to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Learn to navigate the world of assessment, evaluation, and reporting with this new guide for parents/guardians. Created to support parents’/guardians’ understanding of assessment, this guide was designed to effectively empower you to actively engage in your child’s educational journey. The guide has been posted to the Simcoe County District School Board’s website and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

Reminder

“sip and chat”: Nov 1st
9:30-10am

**Brandford Fundraiser
Poinsettias** : Nov 1 - Nov 17

Picture Day: Nov 2nd &
Nov 30 (retakes)

French Immersion Night:
Nov 14 at 6 - 6:30PM

Student Conferences: Nov
16 & Nov 17

PA Day: Nov 17

*Warnica PS Fundraiser
Bradford Greenhouse*

- 4.5" Poinsettia (Pink, Red, White) \$7.00
- 6" Poinsettia (Pink, Red, White) \$10.00
- 8" Poinsettia (Pink, Red, Tri-Colour, White) \$25.00
- 10" Poinsettia (Pink, Red, Tri-Colour, White) \$35.00
- 10" Tropical Planter (Pink, Red, White) \$28.00
- 7" Tabletop Greenery Indoor or Outdoor (Red or Silver decorations) \$30.00

Place your order via School Cash Online November 1 - 17

Pick up December 5, 2023 Thank you for supporting our school!

Questions? Email rtherrien@scdsb.on.ca



Subscribe to Kindergarten Connections!

Will your child be turning four in 2024? If so, the SCDSB invites you to Kindergarten Connections! This is a monthly newsletter informing families of everything they need to know about preparing their child for school, as well as registering them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB. To learn more and subscribe, visit the Kindergarten page on the SCDSB website: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

The foundation for lifelong learning and health is built in the early years. EarlyON Child and Family Centres across Simcoe County offer programs for children prenatal to six years of age and their parents/guardians and caregivers. They offer access to play- and inquiry-based learning supported by *How Does Learning Happen?* Ontario's pedagogy for the early years, information on child development and developmental screening including Early Referral Identification Kits (ERIKs), parent/guardian education, referrals to community resources, nutrition information, and post-natal resources. Check with your local EarlyON provider: <https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>

How is your infant, toddler, or preschool child developing?

Is your child meeting their milestones? Age-appropriate speech and language skills are critical to your child's ability to read, write, and be successful in school as well as to their ability to engage with their peers. Free services are available to support you with your child's development. Pre-school speech and language programs are located across the County of Simcoe. Call (705) 739-5696 or 1-800-675-1979 to complete a developmental screen. The earlier we work together the better!

Licensed Winter Break school-age child care programs

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 on PA days and holidays including over the Winter Break. 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 by visiting: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after.

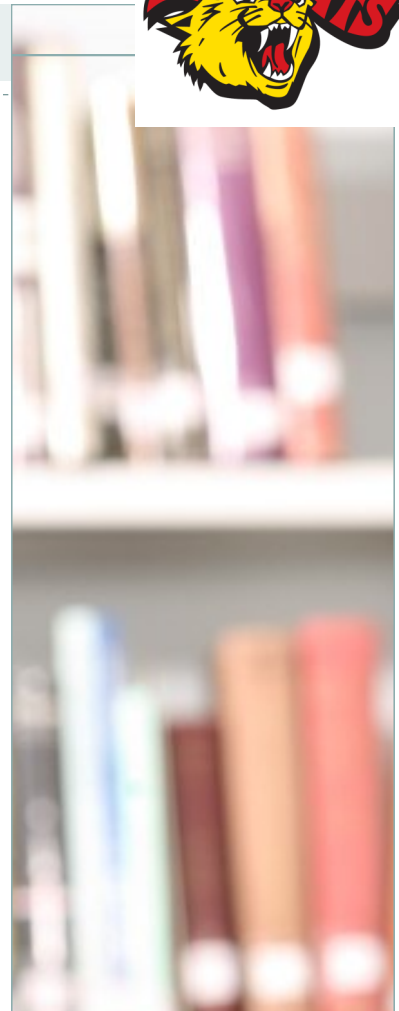
Join us! A learning series for parents/guardians with Pine River Institute

Mental health and well-being continues to be a key strategic priority within the SCDSB. We are pleased to continue our partnership with the Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) to provide several curated learning sessions focused on student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families.

There are eight webinars specifically planned for parents/guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

Nov. 9, 2023	Understanding and managing screen time, part two - social media edition
Nov. 30, 2023	Helping parents align
Jan. 11, 2024	Sleep hygiene
Feb. 8, 2024	Self regulation for kids
Feb. 22, 2024	Self regulation for teens
March 28, 2024	Building parents' resiliency
April 18, 2024	Vaping, weed, and alcohol

We hope you save these dates in your calendar and join us for these learning opportunities. For more information and to register, please visit the SCDSB website: <https://bit.ly/3jGaC74>.





Pine River Institute is a live-in treatment centre and outdoor leadership experience for youth aged 13 to 19 struggling with addictive behaviours and often other mental health issues. Combining therapy with a fully-accredited education program, PRI reinforces the healthy life skills required for a successful future. CFI@PRI extends PRI's knowledge, experience and evidence-informed treatment approach to families and care providers in the community to support youth mental wellness and prevent the need for more intensive interventions. Learn more about PRI by visiting their website at www.pineriverinstitute.com.

High school information events for Grade 8 students

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will take place in-person this winter! Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Learn about courses offered, as well as information about teams and clubs. Please visit the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning_for_high_school to find details on your high school's info night, and contact the school directly for more information.

Feedback, recovery, and improvement days (for secondary only)

At the end of each semester, all secondary schools will run feedback, recovery, and improvement days for students. Culminating assessments such as portfolios, essays, examinations, and interviews will take place during instructional days and will be returned to students with feedback.

The last day of regular instruction for students in semester one is Monday, Jan. 29, 2024. The period from Tuesday, Jan. 30 to Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024 is reserved for students who require an opportunity to receive feedback from an assessment, to rescue or recover a credit, or to improve on an area of missed expectations. Teachers and support staff will communicate with students who will benefit most from attending this opportunity; however, all students will be invited to attend. There will be no new instruction these days. Feedback, recovery, and improvement days are an opportunity for students to work closely with their teacher if they require feedback, credit recovery, or an opportunity to improve on an area of missed expectations.

Looking for Employment? Join Our Team!

Curious about what employment opportunities are available at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB)? The SCDSB is hosting several job fairs throughout Simcoe County during the month of November; come by and speak with one of our representatives at any of the following events!

YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka Employment Services (Midland)

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Job Seekers | YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka \(ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca\)](http://ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)

TRACKS Employment & Resource Service (Collingwood)

Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[TRACKS Employment Services - One-stop resource centre for Employment Ontario Services | Located in Collingwood and serving Georgian Triangle communities of Clearview, Wasaga Beach, and Town of the Blue Mountains](#)

FOCUS Employment Services (Alliston)

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023

3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

[Job Seekers - FOCUS Community Development Corporation \(focuscdc.on.ca\)](http://focuscdc.on.ca)

Agilec Employment Services (Orillia)

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023

12 to 5 p.m.

[Employment Services - Agilec](#)

For more information about employment opportunities at the SCDSB, visit: www.scdsb.on.ca/





Grade 1 French Immersion information

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

Grade 1 FI family information nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, FI family information nights will be held in-person throughout the month of November at the respective FI school locations. The designated Grade 1 FI site for our school is **WARNICA P.S.**. The information night for this school will be **November 14 at 6 pm in WARNICA P.S.**

The SCDSB board-wide electronic applications for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will open Friday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15. Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system.

Nov. 28 is Eat Well to Excel Day in Simcoe County

Eat Well to Excel is a Simcoe County non-profit community partnership that supports our school's student nutrition program. The funding provided by Eat Well to Excel allows us to supply students with access to healthy snacks during the school day.

The pandemic and increasing food costs have caused a significant financial strain on many families in our region and new data shows that 1 in 3 kids in Canada are at risk of going to school hungry. Kids that are hungry struggle to retain knowledge and keep focused throughout the day. They are also at an increased risk of experiencing poor mental health and a compromised immune system. With your support we can maintain and hopefully improve our program to provide a consistent supply of healthy food to our students.

You can make a donation by visiting eatwelltoexcel.ca. You can either support the county-wide program or direct your donation to our school. Please include our school name in the comment box to ensure the donation goes directly to our program. A tax receipt will be emailed to you.

For more information about Eat Well to Excel visit eatwelltoexcel.ca.

Knowledgehook math tool

Knowledgehook is a digital math assessment and practice tool that has been purchased for all K-10 SCDSB classrooms. This tool is accessible to students at home so that they can practice math skills, either assigned by their teacher or on their own. Ask your child about how they use Knowledgehook in class and learn more at: www.knowledgehook.com.

Supporting oral language development at home

Within the revised language curriculum, there is a focus on supporting students to acquire the knowledge and skills relating to the foundations of language. Oral and non-verbal communication are foundational components of language skills. Over the years, students develop their listening and speaking abilities using a variety of strategies and skills, including word choice and syntax, to become effective communicators.

Here are some ways you can support oral language development at home:

- Engage your child in conversations about things that interest them
- Talk to your child and listen responsively
- Ask and answer questions
- Share oral stories
- Read aloud to your child
- Talk about the books you read together
- Singing and playing together





Mental health promotion strategy of the month

Well-being is a strategic priority in the Simcoe County District School Board, and our mental health and well-being department provides monthly strategies to support student and family well-being.

This month's strategy is *Let It Go*. This practice helps students focus their attention, calm feelings of anxiety, and manage stress. To practice *Let It Go* at home, have your child/youth sit comfortably and take a deep breath. Share the following exercise with your child/youth:

- Use your fingers to gently massage the top of your head
- Still in massaging motion, bring your fingers to your forehead, eyebrows, temples, around your eyes, cheeks, and jaw
- If you notice tension anywhere – let it go
- Finally, massage each of your ears and end by gently pulling your earlobes

Keep in mind to take your time with each area, especially where you hold the most tension.

Practicing *Let It Go* can be done any time of the day or at regular times, such as at mealtime or before bed. You may try this technique on your hands using a massaging motion to focus on each finger, thumb, and palm. Consider doing *Let It Go* with your child/youth to model the strategy.

Visit the links below for *Let It Go* posters from School Mental Health Ontario:

Elementary - <https://smho-smso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/SEL-Posters-Let-It-Go.pdf>

Secondary - <https://smho-smso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SEL-Posters-Secondary-Let-It-Go.pdf>

Find more easy and fun mental health activities to do at home visit: <https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/>

Follow the mental health and well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

Dental screening and services for kids ages 0-17

Good dental health is an important part of your child's general health. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Oral Health Community Program offers free dental screenings in daycares, schools, and health unit offices for children and youth aged 0 - 17 years. Dental screening can identify and inform families that their child has a dental concern.

Health unit staff can also help children/youth and their families access free preventive services and treatment through the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) Program. For more information regarding these services visit: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Dental.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

