



## MARCHMONT MUSTANGS

### From the Office

It has been an exciting start to the new school year with numerous learning opportunities that have included Orange Shirt Day, Terry Fox and professional development for staff. We continue to be grateful to the staff at Marchmont who give of their time to support extra-curriculars. Good luck to our athletes who will participate in cross-country, and flag football in next couple of weeks. Please note Progress Reports will be sent home on November 9th; see information regarding changes to the literacy curriculum and the attached parent's guide for new information.

#### 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 via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

October will be a busy month for our staff and students! Be sure to check important dates and mark them on your calendar!

If you are interested in volunteering at Marchmont, you are encouraged to reach out to Mrs. Phillips for a letter and then visit the parent portal to initiate the process. All existing volunteers are encouraged to visit the portal to ensure all requirements are up to date.

Have a Happy



Thanksgiving!

**Mrs. Rebecca Dickie - Principal**  
**Mr. Neil Finney - Vice Principal**

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Severn Ontario  
L3V 0X7  
705 326 7652  
**SAFE ARRIVAL**  
**18888858065**

#### IMPORTANT DATES: October

Area Cross Country	11
Flag Football Areas	17
County Cross Country	18
Bus Driver	19
Appreciation Day	
PA DAY	20
Flag Football Counties	25

#### School Council 2023

Chair: Sarah Fairchild

Secretary: Jeanna Smart

NEXT Meeting:

November 6th 6:00

### Getting to School

#### School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place Oct. 16 to 20, 2023. Please visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) for information on school bus safety and links to school bus safety resources. **Oct. 19, 2023**

is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in the province of Ontario. It's a great opportunity for the school community to thank our bus drivers for all their hard work transporting students to and from school safely.

### Get on the move

There are many benefits to walking or wheeling to school. Walking or wheeling to school reduces traffic, helps students establish healthy lifestyles, is better for the environment and enhances community safety. Wherever possible, we encourage students within walking zones to *get on the move* and walk or wheel to school. For more information please visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website here: [bit.ly/3OC4CJ9](http://bit.ly/3OC4CJ9)

# School Bus Transportation Information

## 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](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Our school is in the **NORTH 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://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

## School bus transportation information available from the SCSTC

In order to receive delay and cancellation notifications, families can check the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) or download the ‘BusPlanner Delays’ app from the Apple or Android app stores to receive delay notifications to their devices. Users would need to select Simcoe County STC as the transportation authority. The app will need to be forced closed, but you will be able to select your student(s) routes or school to receive delays. The app will send a general notice for any cancellation in Simcoe County. You only need to know which ‘zone’ you’re in, so you would know which one to look out for in the app. You can find your student’s zone by visiting the School Bus Status page at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) and clicking the dropdown for the area you live in.

# October 20th PA Day

## October PA Day

Please note that Friday, Oct. 20 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar).

Below is a summary of the activities planned for the Oct. 20 PA Day:

**Length:** Full day

**Topic:** Health and Safety, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Mathematics

**Host:** Simcoe County District School Board

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

Educators will participate in a half-day Health and Safety digital learning session focused on health and safety incident reporting and investigations with a particular emphasis on the essential aspect of workplace violence prevention. The session will equip staff with the knowledge and tools to report incidents effectively and promptly, provide insights into the investigative and risk mitigation process, fostering transparency and accountability, and highlight the critical role staff play in preventing workplace injuries.

Educators will learn about Somali, Latino, South Asian, and African Black Indigenous heritage. They will collaboratively plan within grades and divisions. Through this, they will celebrate identities and create environments that foster well-being and

sense of belonging.

Educators will choose learning related to the Knowledgehook digital math tool based on their readiness. Different learning pathways have been planned for new users, those with some experience, and those who are ready to extend their use of the math tool. All participants will learn about how to invite parents/guardians to view their child’s progress. Additionally, educators will engage in High Impact Instructional Practices in Mathematics learning modules that align with their school’s Achievement in Mathematics goal.

### Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 8 to 14

This year, the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, 'Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™', works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking. For more information about Fire Prevention Week and this year's theme, along with a wealth of resources to help promote the campaign locally, visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org).

*Information from the National Fire Protection Association website*

## PINE RIVER INSTITUTE

### 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, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities.

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

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Oct. 26, 2023 | Understanding and managing screen time, part one - gaming edition       |
| Nov. 9, 2023  | Understanding and managing screen time, part two - social media edition |
| Nov. 30, 2023 | Helping parents align   |

### Licensed PA day and holiday 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, March Break, and during summer holidays. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register.

### Have you met Sora?

Our digital ebook/audiobook collection contains over 4,000 titles waiting to be checked out by our SCDSB students. Students simply download the app, use their SCDSB login and start reading for free on their phone or tablet. The collection can be accessed at: [meet.soraapp.com](http://meet.soraapp.com).

- |                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| 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](http://www.pineriverinstitute.com).



# Revised 2023 Ontario Language Curriculum

Beginning this school year, all language programs for Grades 1-8 will be based on the expectations of the revised Ontario Language Curriculum. The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 to 8: Language, 2023 outlines the knowledge and skills required for effective reading and writing, listening, and speaking so students can succeed at school and beyond. The curriculum has been revised partly in response to the recommendations outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Commission’s Right to Read public inquiry report.

The 2023 curriculum now includes four strands:

1. Literacy Connections and Applications
  - Foundations of Language
  - Comprehension: Understanding and Responding to Texts
  - Composition: Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

For more information, visit [www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/key-changes-language](http://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/key-changes-language) to view a guide for parents/guardians on the Ministry of Education website.

# Supporting your child with Math

Are you curious about how you can support your child’s growth as a mathematician? Visit the Parents Guide to Mathematics at [www.ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8](http://www.ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8), where you can find a summary of the knowledge and skills your child will be learning as they progress through the grades, information about how you can support your child’s learning, and how the curriculum was developed.

TVO Mathify offers free 1:1 online Grade 4-12 math tutoring to SCDSB students. Connect with an Ontario Certified Teacher of your choice. It is anonymous and secure, and can be used from a phone, tablet, or computer. Math tutors are available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday to Friday, and 3:30 to 9 p.m. ET Sunday.

All SCDSB students from Grades 4-12 have been pre-registered for this amazing service. For quick access to TVO Mathify:

1. Find the link in your child’s Google waffle to the SCDSBhub. Look for the TVO Mathify icon on their dashboard.



Your child will not need to enter their OEN number or any identifying information when TVO Mathify is accessed through the SCDSBhub.

# Upcoming in-person Grade 1 French Immersion Information Sessions

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 English and French.

Information sessions for families who are considering entry into Grade 1 FI for the 2024-25 school year will take place at **Harriett Todd PS on Tuesday November 14th at 6:00 p.m.** and online applications will open in December 2023.

Entry into the FI program will be determined through a digitally randomized lottery system. A link to access the Grade 1 FI online application form will be available on the SCDSB website starting at 9 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 1 until 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15. For more information regarding French Immersion, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca), then select 'elementary', and 'French as a Second Language'.