



Kiss 'n Ride: Thank-you and Further Updates From the School

Thanks to everyone using the Kiss 'n Ride demonstrating intentional patience and care each day. While most have worked hard to not get out of their car, there have been a few instances where cars have been left in the active lane without a driver during the afternoon pick-up. This practice stifles the safe progression of vehicles and creates frustration for everyone using the 'live' lane. If you need to leave your vehicle, please park your car in designated parking areas. Using the grassy areas in the parking lot to either idle or park your vehicle is not permissible. Thanks again for your patience and support to keep the students at school safe. Below is the original message sent to the school community. With the addition of many new students and families, some may not have had a chance to access this information.

"Kiss & Ride" September update.

For many, this information will be a reminder of our school practice and for some this will be important new information.

- When dropping students off at the school, supervision of students begins at 9:15 a.m. For the safety of your children, please do not drop students off prior to this time.
- Enter the Kiss & Ride from the North entrance/exit and approach the designated drop-off and pick-up area in a single line of traffic – please remain in single file throughout the process.
- Please pay close attention to staff who are supervising and directing vehicle movement.
- Please do not pass any vehicles unless directed by school staff.
- Drop off/pick-up students in the designated area adjacent to the Main Yard gate. Have students wait in the vehicle until your vehicle is in the area and the vehicle has come to a complete stop.
- Whenever possible, the driver should remain in the car. A staff member is usually present and can assist opening and closing vehicle doors for younger students.
- Students should exit the vehicle on the passenger side whenever possible.
- At drop-off specifically, students should be reminded to be aware of the busy parking lot they are entering and they should move in a focused manner to the main gate and the playground.
- Once students have been dropped off/picked up, vehicles should proceed forward and loop back to the north entry/exit. Please drive with care as this area is an active area with teachers, parents and some students. Slow, Slow, Slow!!
- If you need to escort your child(ren) please park your vehicle. There is limited parking on the school property but additional, short-term parking can be found across the street from the school at the 8th Avenue Youth Centre (grey building). There is a cross-walk that can then be used to safely cross the road to the school.

Safe Arrival and Early Dismissal

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has a new Safe Arrival system at elementary schools. This system will support us in continuing to improve our home-to-school communication process and streamline absence reporting. **To report a student absence, call 1-888-885-8065.** Callers will be prompted to identify the school and leave a message. Parents should include the student's name, teachers' name, dates, and reason for the absence. When schools do not hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, the school will call home to find out the reason for the absence. If you have questions about the new system, please contact the school office.

- To avoid congestion and protect student confidentiality, we cannot have your child waiting for you in the office if you are picking them up early. We call them to the office when you (or an approved person) arrives and rings the door bell. For your child's safety, we will not send students out to people we can't see at the front door.
- Do not arrive after 3:30PM to pick up your child early. We do not call students to the office between 3:30-3:50.
- Avoid early dismissal when possible. It's disruptive to learning if multiple dismissals are happening each day.
- **Do not press 1 when you receive a safe arrival automated call.** This information does not make it's way to office staff. Instead, call the safe arrival line at 1-888-885-8065. We will continually attempt to connect with parents and emergency contacts until you report your child's absence.

Daily School Schedule

Yard Supervision

9:15AM

Morning Bell

9:30AM

Period 1

9:30AM - 10:20AM

Period 2

10:20AM - 11:10AM

Nutrition Break A

11:10AM - 11:30AM

Main Floor/Portables Outside
Second Floor Inside

Nutrition Break B

11:30AM - 11:50AM

Main Floor/Portables Inside
Second Floor Outside

Period 3

11:50AM - 12:40PM

Period 4

12:20PM - 1:30PM

Nutrition Break C

1:30PM - 1:50PM

Main Floor/Portables Outside
Second Floor

Nutrition Break D

1:50PM - 2:10PM

Main Floor/Portables Inside
Second Floor Outside

Period 5

2:10PM - 3:00PM

Period 6

3:00PM - 3:50PM

Dismissal Bell:

3:50PM

Terry Fox at Ernest Cumberland

The Ernest Cumberland Terry Fox Campaign was once again a huge success. On Thursday, September 28th, all students and staff took part in a run or walk - some classes stayed on the school grounds, while many of our grade 4-8 students took part in a 5 kilometre run/walk through the community. Although toonies and donations are still coming in, this year our school raised over \$2 600.00 for the Terry Fox Foundation. That is outstanding work! Special thank you goes to our community partner, Zehrs for donating popsicles for our \$500.00 incentive and to Giant Tiger for donating granola bars and apples for students on the run day. Giant Tiger also donated \$250.00 to the Terry Fox Foundation in Ernest Cumberland Elementary School's name. Thank you to all families, staff and students for continuing to support this worthwhile cause and create amazing school spirit here at Ernest Cumberland.

PA Day on October 20, 2023

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

Length:	Full day
Topic:	Health & Safety, Diversity, Equity & 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.

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.

Interested in learning more about the ways that the SCDSB supports students with special education needs and their families? Join us for a virtual special education outreach series

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/caregivers in learning more about programs, supports, and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs. The first session, *IEPs and school-based assessments – information for parents/caregivers*, will be held on Oct. 24 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This virtual presentation will include an opportunity for participants to share some of their questions regarding IEPs and special education programming. Participants are asked to register in advance. Information to access the sessions will be shared via email with individuals who have pre-registered. Learn more about upcoming sessions and how to register on the SCDSB website:

www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions.

Inclement Weather



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 South 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>.



*Ernest Cumberland Elementary School is in the SOUTH weather zone.
Younger students must be met by an adult at the bus stop.
For more information on busing visit: <https://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca>*

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 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 and clicking the dropdown for the area you live in.

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 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

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

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.

Information from the National Fire Protection Association website



Parent Council Corner

Our First council meeting and elections are on Monday October 2, 2023 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the school library. All nominees wishing to be voting members must be in attendance. Agenda items for the first meeting include: School Council goal setting, Fall Fling update, and School Updates. We hope to see all interested parents in attendance!

If you are a volunteer, please go onto your parent portal and complete an offense declaration prior to any volunteering in the school in the 2023-2024 school year. This is done yearly.

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 Ernest Cumberland on November 20th from 6:00-7:00pm 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, then select 'elementary', and 'French as a Second Language'.

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
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.

Keep Connected!

It is important to get accurate information about what's going on at school and Simcoe County District School Board.

Here are some ways to do that:

- Our school website: <http://ern.scdsb.on.ca>
- Sign up to receive emails from us. Provide your email, click Subscribe. A message will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe any time using the link at the bottom of each email.
- Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking Subscribe www.scdsb.on.ca
- Twitter @SCDSB_Schools
- Facebook/SCDSB
- Instagram.com/scdsb



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
2. Foundations of Language
3. Comprehension: Understanding and Responding to Texts
4. Composition: Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

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

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>.

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.

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, 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.



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

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.
2. Look for the TVO Mathify icon on their dashboard.

MONDAY LUNDI	TUESDAY MARDI	WEDNESDAY MERCREDI	THURSDAY JEUDI	FRIDAY VENDREDI	SATURDAY SAMEDI	SUNDAY DIMANCHE
2 DAY 4 Booster Juice Council Meeting 6:00pm - 7:00pm	3 DAY 5 Pizza Pizza	4 DAY 1 Subway	5 DAY 2 Champ Burger Fall Fling 5:00pm - 7:00pm	6 DAY 3 Lunch Made Easy		8 Lunch & milk order due by noon
9 	10 DAY 4 Pizza Pizza	11 DAY 5 Subway	12 DAY 1 Champ Burger	13 DAY 2 Lunch Made Easy Comfy Clothes Day		15 Lunch & milk order due by noon
16 DAY 3	17 DAY 4 Pizza Pizza	18 DAY 5 Subway	19 DAY 1 Champ Burger Picture Day	20 		22 Lunch & milk order due by noon
23 DAY 2 Grade 7: Immunizations	24 DAY 3 Pizza Pizza	25 DAY 4 Subway	26 DAY 5 Champ Burger	27 DAY 1 Lunch Made Easy		29 Milk and lunch orders for next week are due by 12:00pm
30 DAY 2	31 DAY 3 Wear black/white or your Halloween costume	<div style="border: 2px solid #0056b3; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">What's for lunch?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Order at www.schoolcashonline.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Orders are cancelled on inclement weather days.</p> </div> <div style="border: 2px solid #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 60%; text-align: center;"> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Spirit Days</p> </div>				

**ELEMENTARY REPORTING AND 5 DAY CYCLE
 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2023-24**

SEPTEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4 H	5 ETD	6 2	7 3	8 4	9
10	11 5	12 1	13 2	14 3	15 4	16
17	18 5	19 1	20 2	21 3	22 EP	23
24	25 4	26 5	27 ETD	28 2	29 3	30

OCTOBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2 4	3 5	4 1	5 2	6 3	7
8	9 H	10 4	11 5	12 1	13 2	14
15	16 3	17 4	18 5	19 1	20 EP	21
22	23 2	24 3	25 4	26 5	27 1	28
29	30 2	31 3				

NOVEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6 2	7 3	8 4	9 RC	10 1	11
12	13 2	14 3	15 4	16 5	17 EP	18
19	20 1	21 2	22 3	23 4	24 5	26
26	27 1	28 2	29 3	30 4		

DECEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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10	11 1	12 2	13 3	14 4	15 5	16
17	18 1	19 2	20 3	21 4	22 5	23
24/ 31	25 H	26 H	27 H	28 H	29 H	30

JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 H	2 H	3 H	4 H	5 H	6
7	8 1	9 2	10 3	11 4	12 5	13
14	15 1	16 2	17 3	18 4	19 5	20
21	22 1	23 2	24 3	25 4	26 EP	27
28	29 5	30 1	31 2			

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 3	2 4	3
4	5 5	6 1	7 2	8 3	9 4	10
11	12 5	13 1	14 2	15 3	16 RC	17
18	19 H	20 5	21 1	22 2	23 3	24
25	26 4	27 5	28 1	29 2		

MARCH 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 3	2
3	4 4	5 5	6 1	7 2	8 3	9
10	11 H	12 H	13 H	14 H	15 H	16
17	18 4	19 5	20 1	21 2	22 3	23
24/ 31	25 4	26 5	27 1	28 2	29 H	30

APRIL 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15 2	16 3	17 4	18 5	19 1	20
21	22 2	23 3	24 4	25 5	26 EP	27
28	29 1	30 2				

MAY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13 1	14 2	15 3	16 4	17 5	18
19	20 H	21 1	22 2	23 3	24 4	25
26	27 5	28 1	29 2	30 3	31 4	

JUNE 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3 5	4 1	5 2	6 3	7 EP	8
9	10 4	11 5	12 1	13 2	14 3	15
16	17 4	18 5	19 1	20 2	21 RC	22
23	24 4	25 5	26 1	27 2	28 EP	29

SIGNIFICANT DATES	
S	First Day of School September 5, 2023
ETD	Elementary Turnaround Day September 27, 2023
RC	Elementary Report Card Days 2023: November 9 2024: February 16, June 21
EP	Elementary Professional Activity Days 2023: September 22, October 20, November 17 2024: January 26, April 26, June 7, June 28
H	Holidays 2023: September 4, October 9, December 25-29 2024: January 1-5, February 19, March 11-15, March 29, April 1, May 20

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Please note: the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar is subject to change.

SEPTEMBER 2023	OCTOBER 2023	NOVEMBER 2023	DECEMBER 2023	JANUARY 2024
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
FEBRUARY 2024	MARCH 2024	APRIL 2024	MAY 2024	JUNE 2024
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

● **First Day of School**
Sept. 5, 2023

● **First Day of Semester 2 (Secondary)**
Feb. 5, 2024

○ **PA Days for all students**
2023: Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17
2024: April 26, June 28

● **PA Days - Secondary only**
2024: Feb. 2, June 27

● **PA Days - Elementary only**
2024: Jan. 26, June 7

□ **Elementary Reporting Schedule**
2023: Nov. 9
2024: Feb. 16, June 21

■ **Secondary Reporting Schedule**
2023: Nov. 23 (mid-term)
2024: Feb. 16, May 2 (mid-term), July 5

■ **Holidays**
2023: Sept. 4, Oct. 9, Dec. 25-29
2024: Jan 1-5, Feb. 19, Mar. 11-15, Mar. 29
Apr. 1, May 20

■ **Elementary Turn-Around Day**
Sept. 27, 2023

■ **Secondary Mid-Semester**
Sem. 1: Nov. 13, 2023
Sem. 2: Apr. 22, 2024

■ **Secondary Full-Disclosure Days**
Nov. 30, 2023, May 9, 2024

■ **Last Day of School**
Elementary: June 27, 2024
Secondary: June 26, 2024

October 2023

Date(s)	Observance
Oct. 1-31	2SLGBTQIA+ History Month
	Autism Awareness Month Canada
	Dyslexia Awareness Month Canada
	German Heritage Month
	Islamic Heritage Month
	Latin American Heritage Month
	Women's History Month
Oct. 2	International Day of Non-Violence
	World Habitat Day
Oct. 4	International Walk to School Day
Oct. 4-10	World Space Week
Oct. 6	World Cerebral Palsy Day
Oct. 7-8	Simchat Torah (Judaism)
Oct. 8-14	National Fire Prevention Week
Oct. 10	World Mental Health Day
Oct. 11	International Day of the Girl Child
	National Coming Out Day
Oct. 15-23	Sharad Navratri (Hinduism)
Oct. 16	Birth of the Báb (Bahá'í)
	World Food Day
Oct. 16-17	Birth of the Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í)
Oct. 16-20	National School Bus Safety Week
Oct. 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
Oct. 18	Persons Day
Oct. 19	International Pronouns Day
	School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
Oct. 20	Installation of the Guru Granth as Guru (Sikhism)
	Installation of Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib (Sikhism)
Oct. 22	Durga Ashtami (Hinduism)
Oct. 23-29	Canadian Down Syndrome Week

Oct. 24	Vijayadashami, also known as Dussehra, Dasara or Dashain (Hinduism)
Oct. 26	Dress Purple Day - Association of Children's Aid Societies
Oct. 28 – Nov. 27	Kathina (Buddhism)
Oct. 29	Pavarana (Buddhism)
Oct. 31 – Nov. 1	Karva Chauth (Hinduism)
	Samhain (Wicca)



HEY GRADE 6, 7 & 8 STUDENTS!

Want to travel? Want to have fun? Want to meet new friends? Want to have 20 days of adventure in June/July 2024?

We are pleased to announce that we will be offering our **EIGHTH ANNUAL SUMMER FRENCH EXCHANGE** between Simcoe County students and students in the Québec City region in June/July 2024. In conjunction with **Expériences Canada**, we can offer these 20 days of activities, accommodations, meals, and coach transportation for a very reasonable price.

Each Simcoe County student will be paired with a partner from the Québec City area. The Québec students will stay with their Simcoe County partners and work to strengthen their English skills for 10 days. In the second half of the exchange, Simcoe County students will travel to Québec, to stay in their partners' homes and practice communicating "en français". This trip will be a wonderful cultural and linguistic experience for **ALL** levels of French students.

Some of the anticipated activities in Ontario include a day in Niagara Falls; TreeTop Trekking at Horseshoe Valley; team-building activities; Wasaga Beach; Blue Mountain; a Blue Jays' game; Canada's Wonderland; the CN Tower and others. Activities in Québec have included a visit to The Granby Zoo; Village Vacances Valcartier waterpark; Vieux Québec; canoeing on the St-Charles River; the Quebec National Assembly and many others. Three days of family activities are also scheduled, so that students can get to know their host families better and do several family activities together. This is where real language acquisition will take place!

Dates are June 27 – July 6, 2024, for the Québec students to visit Ontario, and July 8 – 17, 2024 for the Ontario students to return to Québec. The cost for these 20 days of fun and excitement will be approximately \$999, which includes admission to all activities, all transportation costs, travel insurance, Expériences Canada registration fee, and some meals while touring. Breakfasts and dinners will usually be provided in the host family homes.

Students who are currently in Grade 6 (must be 12 years of age at some point during the exchange), Grade 7 or Grade 8 are encouraged to contact the Group Organizer as soon as possible to express their interest. Please note that the trip is limited to 25 students.

For further information, please contact our Group Organizer, **AUBREY HAWTON**, at

(705) 835-5288 or (705) 826-3000 or hawton@hawton.net