

# Orillia Secondary School

## Newsletter for January 2021

### **Character attribute for the month of January**

Honesty - we behave in a sincere, trustworthy and truthful manner.

More information about character education can be found here:

[www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education).

### **COVID-19 self-assessment**

All students and staff will be expected to self-screen prior to attending school each day, using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit the SMDHU website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

### **High school information events for Grade 8 students**

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will happen virtually this winter. Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Different pathways and courses offered will be explained. Visit your school's website for more information.

### **SCDSB to offer Grade 9 French Immersion beginning in September 2021**

Starting in September 2021, The Simcoe County District School Board will begin to offer French Immersion (FI) courses to Grade 9 students. There are seven designated secondary school sites that will run FI programs.

These sites are:

Banting Memorial High School (Alliston)  
Barrie North Collegiate (Barrie)  
Collingwood Collegiate (Collingwood)  
Georgian Bay District Secondary School (Midland)  
Innisdale Secondary School (Barrie)  
Nantyr Shores Secondary School (Alcona)  
Twin Lakes Secondary School (Orillia)

Grade 9 students will take four courses in French: French language, geography and health and physical education, as well as an arts course. By the end of Grade 12, students in the FI program will have taken 10 courses in French. To learn more, including how to register and what school your child would attend, visit

[www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/program\\_options/french\\_as\\_a\\_second\\_language](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/program_options/french_as_a_second_language).

### **Days of awareness and recognition taking place in January**

Throughout the year, there are many awareness days that focus on different causes and recognition. The Simcoe County District School Board 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 January:

|         |                                         |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| Jan. 27 | Family Literacy Day                     |
| Jan. 27 | International Holocaust Remembrance Day |
| Jan. 29 | Bell Let's Talk Day                     |

### **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 **NORTH** 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](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>.

### **Join us for some *Time Well Spent***

The SCDSB acknowledges the existence of systemic racism in society, and the importance of addressing it. We share responsibility in standing up against racism, hate and oppression of all kinds. One of the SCDSB's [Strategic Priorities](#) is Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Our focus continues to be educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism, and on working to create and maintain safe spaces within our schools and broader communities.

Our work within the pillar of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion stems from the fundamental principle that every student should have the opportunity to experience academic success and personal well-being regardless of their identity. With that in mind, the SCDSB Equity, Diversity and Inclusion department developed a video series focused on addressing the impacts of all forms of racism. Interviews with experts in the field, members of local and national community organizations, parents/guardians, staff and trustees have been recorded and shared with staff and with the public through our social media channels. To watch, visit the SCDSB YouTube channel at: [www.youtube.com/SimcoeCountyDSB](http://www.youtube.com/SimcoeCountyDSB) and select the Time Well Spent playlist.

For more information about the SCDSB's commitment to equity and inclusion, please visit the equity and inclusion page of our website at: [https://scdsb.on.ca/about/equity\\_and\\_inclusion](https://scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion).

### **It's all about the connection**

Young people are more likely to grow up successfully when they have close connections with the important adults in their lives. Through these connections, young people discover who they are, what they are capable of and how to make a positive contribution in their community. Here are some ways to help keep your relationship with your child strong:

*Show me that I matter to you.* Encourage my efforts, and believe in me  
*Push me to keep getting better.* Expect my best, while helping me learn from mistakes  
*Help me complete tasks and achieve goals.* Stand up for me when I need it  
*Treat me with respect and give me a say.* Take me seriously and treat me fairly  
*Connect me with people and places that broaden my world.* Inspire me about my future.

Looking for more parenting support? Speak with a public health nurse by calling 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

### **New year, new goals for the entire family!**

The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to start thinking about setting new goals. Bringing the whole family together for a new year goal-setting session not only provides an opportunity to discuss the importance of exercise and a healthy diet with your children – it also gives you the chance to brainstorm on working towards a shared goal.

Here are some small steps to set your family up for success in the new year:  
Play together. Spend time outside playing together as often as possible. Spending time outdoors improves your mood and helps you get an extra dose of vitamin D. Go for a walk, build a snow fort or go tobogganing – fun for the whole family!

Pencil it in. Add physical activity or play time to the calendar, with the same commitment as other important meetings. Schedule an evening family walk or a [virtual family fitness class](#) from your living room – seeing it on the calendar will help motivate your family to stay on track.

Set goals. Set a goal that you can achieve together as a family, like trying one new activity each week, or walking for 30 minutes a few times a week. Having a reward, like a family movie night, when you reach your goal will encourage the whole family to participate and make reaching the goal even more fun.

The YMCA offers a variety of family programs - with registered activities like open gym, family swim and the Y kids' program, the Y offers plenty of great opportunities to be active with your family in a safe environment. For more information on booking a visit to your YMCA, visit [ymcasm.ca/FAQ](http://ymcasm.ca/FAQ). If you are looking for activities to do in the comfort of your home, [YMCAHome.ca](http://YMCAHome.ca) has a variety of free, virtual fitness classes and family-friendly workouts. Wishing you a safe and healthy 2021!

*Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka*