



## Algonquin Ridge Elementary School

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### ALGONQUIN RIDGE NEWS MARCH 2023

#### Character attribute for the month of March – Integrity

**We act justly and honourably in all that we do.**

More information about character education can be found here: [www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education)

#### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Why am I always so shocked each month when the old one ends and the new one arrives? Most likely because they seem to get here earlier than expected! I am sure many families feel the same way. While the individual days and weeks (of winter especially) seem to drag on, the months and years pass too quickly. February has come and gone with the usual flurry of activity that keeps our school active, engaged and learning. We have welcomed the return of the opportunity to learn beyond our walls with field trips, and school athletics are once again a highlight for many of our students. Other opportunities like the Art Club, Intramurals, the Move-a-thon, and a variety of student helper duties around the school, all play a part in building community and the memories that will last long after the Science and History lessons have faded. I have no doubt that March will be much the same, and we hope that all our students and families enjoy the upcoming break from school and find some special things to do as you get ready for the sprint to summer that is just around the corner.

February is a special time at school as we recognize Black History Month and work to engage students as we actively promote equity, diversity, and inclusion. I'd like to thank our Librarian Rachelle Rossignol for her work in this area, as she took a lead role in purchasing, promoting, and utilizing many new literacy resources for our school. They will advance our goal of allowing all students to see themselves represented in the teaching resources we use. Ms. Rossignol, in addition to working directly with all students in the library, prepared daily announcements, created displays, and shared information and resources with classroom teachers to promote Black History Month. It is important for us all to remember that the work we do to promote equity and eradicate racism does not end with the changing of the month. With this in mind, during our March staff meeting, we will discuss and reflect on how each classroom took advantage of available resources to address this topic over the last month. We will also consider new and better ways to engage our students in this critical work throughout the year, and again next February. I'd also like to personally thank our school trustee Lisa-Marie Wilson who made time to visit our school to share her personal lived experience, knowledge, and insights with our grade 8 students.

Returning to the topic of the Valentine's Day Move-a-thon, I'd like to share what an incredible success this event was. Not only did we reach our goal of raising \$1800 for the purchase of literacy resources that will accelerate our implementation of recommendations made in the Ontario Right to Read inquiry report (<https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report>) but we also had a fabulous time! This event was a great way to add some closure to the January 'Celebrate Reading' initiative and promote healthy/active living (related to our OPHEA Healthy Schools Certification goal). Thank you to the School Council members who were able to lend a hand and to all those who were able to make an online donation through 'schoolcash', and to Ms. Rossignol for her leadership. For many children I think this was the best day of school they had all year although, many were surprisingly thrilled by pancakes in February! Students enjoyed a variety of movement options that ranged from moving in step with favourite tunes/videos, to a giant obstacle course and several game stations. Glowing bracelets and popcorn added to the spectacle as lasting memories were made.

Finally, for those of you who read these newsletters and who have been at Algonquin Ridge for a number of years, my 'friendly' reminders about parking lot safety at entry and dismissal time should be well known. I tend to revisit these messages as new families join our school community regularly, and bad habits tend to creep back in overtime as we all go about our busy lives. Please expect another exhaustive message on this topic to arrive in your inbox soon and remember that we all share the same goal—for all of the Algonquin Ridge students, staff and families to get to and from school safely each day. Our school, the parking lot and the adjacent spaces need to be places where our community feels safe, welcome, and respected. No one's time or convenience is more important than the safety of others.

Cory McKeown

## **MARCH BREAK**

Please note that March 13 to 17 is March Break for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2022-2023 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)

## **CALENDAR**

March 9 – Junior Girls Vball @ ARES

March 13-17 – March Break – **school closed**

April 6 – Grade 8-Hamblin to Water Treatment Plant

April 7 – Good Friday – **school closed**

April 10 – Good Monday

April 12 – Jr Girls Bball @ Maple Ridge – pm

April 19 – Jr Bball Zones @ ARES

April 20 – Grade 8 – Horie to Water Treatment Plant

April 24 – Jr GBball Zones

April 25 – JrBball Xover @ ARES

April 27 – JrGBball Xover – pm

Jr Bball Regionals

April 28 – PA Day – no school



## **COLLECTION AND USE OF PERSONAL STUDENT INFORMATION**

As students' progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared which eases each student's transition to secondary school. Sharing this information also improves our ability to program effectively to benefit all students. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes are authorized under the *Education Act*. Please note that all information used for the transition process is limited, secure, and protected at all times. Please contact Lisa Coffey, Superintendent of Education, if you would like more information about the transition process at Algonquin Ridge.

## **EarlyON Child and Family Centres**

Is your child starting JK or SK in September? The Simcoe County EarlyON Child and Family Centres are excited to offer in person and virtual programs that help prepare children and parents/guardians for Kindergarten. Parents/guardians and children will have the opportunity to interact together in a variety of school readiness activities. We will look at and discuss how does learning happen, self-regulation, social skills, and how to get ready to start school.

If program registration is full, please check back regularly as there may be cancellations. To register for a program in your area visit [www.earlyonsimcoenorth.ca/GRFK](http://www.earlyonsimcoenorth.ca/GRFK).

## **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. Preschool 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!

## **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER ELEARNING!**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school courses in July 2023 for current high school students or adult learners who are interested in earning a new credit or upgrading a previous mark. Students can advance online learning skills, earn missed credits, or fast-track preparation for graduation or post-secondary in just four weeks. eLearning is fully supported by certified teachers who are available electronically daily.

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at [thelearningcentres.com/high-school-student/summer-school](http://thelearningcentres.com/high-school-student/summer-school).

## DAYS OF OBSERVANCE FOR MARCH

### **March is Bangladeshi Heritage Month and Hellenic Heritage Month**

March 2-20 – Baha'i fast

March 4 – Sikh New Year – Sikhism

March 6 – Memorial of Shan-tao/ Zando Daishi – Buddhism

March 6-7 – Purim - Judaism

March 7 – Holi – Hinduism

March 8 – International Women's Day

March 11 – National COVID-19 Day of Observance

March 14 - Pi Day

March 17 – Irish Heritage Day

March 20 – Ostara/Mabon/Lady Day/Spring Equinox – maybe observed March 19-22 – Wicca

March 21 – Naw Ruz (New Year) Baha'i

Navroze (New Year) Zoroastrianism

Eid-e-Navroz – Islam

World Down Syndrome Day

International Day for the Elimination of Racism

March 22-31 – Chaitra/Chithirai (New Year) – Hinduism

March 22 – Hindu New Year – Hinduism

Vasant Navratri begins – Hinduism.

March 23 – Ramadan – Islam

March 26 – Khordad Sal (FC) Zoroastrianism

Epilepsy Awareness Day

March 30 – Rama Navami – Hinduism

March 31 – Trans Day of Visibility



### **SCDSB EBOOK LIBRARY - SORA.**

Did you know that the SCDSB has a digital eBook library available for all students from K-12? Students may access books using either the SORA app on a tablet or visiting <https://soraapp.com/welcome/login/202712> on the desktop version. They simply use their school Google login and password to access the library. Picture books, beginner chapter books, graphic novels, magazines, young adult novels, audio books; there is something for every student. Students may use the search function to select a specific book or browse through one of the many curated collections. Happy reading!

### **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 five webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents, guardians, and other caregivers during this school year. The remaining sessions include:

April 27, 2023                      The Biology of Stress

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).

### **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**

In 2023, 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 remaining sessions include:

#### **Supporting students as they transition into school, from one school to another, and from school upon graduation**

April 20

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

#### **Working with families to create safe and supportive environments for children who have experienced trauma**

May 9

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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 each session and how to register on the SCDSB website at [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special\\_education/special\\_education\\_outreach\\_sessions](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions).

### **KEEP CONNECTED WITH OUR SCHOOL AND WITH THE SCDSB**

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Here are some ways to do that:

- Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca).
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB\_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb)

## **JUST BREATHE COPING STRATEGY**

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

This month's strategy is deep breathing. Parents/guardians should practice deep breathing with their children to help them develop a deeper mind/body connection, self-regulation, awareness of emotions, and build resiliency. To practice deep breathing at home, have your child get comfortable by either standing or sitting. Encourage them to keep their back straight, and shoulders and head relaxed. If they're comfortable, ask them to close their eyes. Have your child place their hands flat on their stomach. Ask your child to breathe in deeply through their nose, filling the belly with breath. Point out how hands move out. Encourage them to hold their breath for a few seconds, then slowly breathe out through the mouth to feel the stomach contract and hands move in. Repeat 5-6 times.

Parents/guardians should practice deep belly breathing at home any time their child seems stressed or upset. Watch a deep breathing video here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le2TO\\_MNFxE&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le2TO_MNFxE&t=3s).

Follow along the Mental Health and Well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB\_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

## **MATH @HOME PARENT SERIES**

Fostering a strong school-home partnership is an important part of reinforcing math learning at school and extending the learning beyond the classroom. Families are a child's first educator and help build a strong foundation for future success. The virtual math series outlined below is intended to support a positive attitude towards mathematics, enhance motivation and ultimate success.

The SCDSB math department is pleased to offer three evening virtual sessions for families and caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support students with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. The first 200 registrants will receive a path pack of resources to use at home. Participants must pre-register for each of the sessions.

### **Making Math Connections @Home**

Wednesday, April 12

7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore where we find numbers, patterns, measures, and shapes in our daily lives. Participants will learn about practical ways to help their child notice and wonder about the math in their world.

### **Problem Solving @Home**

Tuesday, April 25

7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore how to encourage children to be active thinkers and problem solvers, both in math and around the house. Participants will learn about how solving problems at home can help their children solve problems in math class.

### **Having Fun with Math Facts @Home**

Thursday, May 11

7 – 8 p.m.

This session will explore practical, intentional, and fun ways to practice math facts at home. Participants will leave with ideas, games, and activities to support their child with becoming fluent with their math facts.

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a pack of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on their registration form.