



# ORCHARD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

## March 2023

Principal: Chris Chater

Vice Principal: Jennifer Viherjoki

**Safe Arrival Phone Number: 705-325-7772—Press “1”**

**Safe Arrival Email Address: [orcattendance@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:orcattendance@scdsb.on.ca)**

**Please call or e-mail when your student(s) will be absent. We thank you for your cooperation.**

February has come to a close, but I am not sure winter was sure it wanted to stay or go. We saw a couple of very cold days, with the ever popular indoor recesses, with spring-like weather sprinkled in. These warm spells contributed greatly to our lost and found collection and added to our Panther Den Clothing. Our Panther Den collection is accessible to all students throughout the week and additionally for families to come shop as needed on Wednesday mornings from 8:30-9am (see below for more detailed info). It seems hard to believe that the month of February brought us Mount Viherjoki, our massive snow hill and yet, in the same month, also brought us Lake Wright and the Lee ice fields. We all would like to avoid tarmac recesses for the month of March. With our spring break just around the corner, it is hard to believe that we are more than halfway done with the school year.

There is much to celebrate in this month's newsletter. Report Cards went home on the 17th, our Grade 6 to 8 students have been hard at work with our Mental Health Facilitator, Mrs. Gray, working on controlling our emotions and expressing gratitude to the people around us. In addition, we had our wonderful Valentine's Dance, put on by our intermediate students, with the help of Mr. Kemp, Mr. Henderson, Mrs. Cornwall and Mrs. Spottiswood. Our Winter Carnival took place on February 24th on a cold but beautiful sunny day. Thank you to Madame Dupuis and our student leaders for all their work with our younger students and helping to run a highly successful day. In addition, our boys basketball team and our girls volleyball teams have been working hard under the coaching of Mr. Henderson, Mr. Kemp, Mrs. Cornwall and Mrs. Sopha. A big thank you needs to go out to all the coaches and students for their time and effort put into representing Orchard Park so well. We have also had a great time with all of our activities happening at breaks such as Junior Dodgeball, Puzzle Club, Chess Club and The Dungeons and Dragons Club. I want to thank the staff that have created so many opportunities for our students to excel in, explore or ignite their interest in something old or something new. I wish you all the best this spring and we are looking forward to so many great events and activities happening at the OP. Be well.

Mr. Chater

## 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).

## Significant days, holy days, holidays and heritage recognition occurring in the month of March

You can now link directly to the SCDSB Days of Observance on the SCDSB website: <https://bit.ly/3Ln2Mfb>.

### Important Dates:

- March 2: Grade 8 Grad Photos
- March 2: Chess Tournament (make up)
- March 2: Clue at O.S.S (Gr. 7s)
- March 4: Science Fair (Gr. 6s)
- March 6-10: #ITSTARTS Week
- March 8: International Women's Day
- March 9: The Great Big Crunch
- **March 13-17: MARCH BREAK**
- March 24 & 25: Earth Hour
- March 27 & 28: Science visit from YMCA (Gr. 4s)
- March 30: Visit from Danielle Big Canoe (Kindies)
- April 3: School Council meeting



### The Great Big Crunch

The Great Big Crunch is a national movement and annual moment of anti-silence in which students, teachers, parents and others passionate about food crunch into apples (or other crunchy fruit or vegetable) to make noise for healthy school food! Every year since 2008, Canadians from coast to coast have participated in The Great Big Crunch - an original initiative of [FoodShare Toronto](http://FoodShareToronto).

Help Orchard Park make some noise by crunching into an apple on Thursday, March 9th, 2023.

### Earth Hour

On March 25 at 8:30pm, we invite you to be part of the biggest hour on Earth by switching off your lights. Together, with supporters in over 190 countries, we can create a rare moment of unity that shines a spotlight on nature loss and the global climate crises and inspire others to act and advocate for urgent change.

Schoolwide Earth Hour:  
March 24 – 2:00-3:00pm

Worldwide Earth Hour:  
March 25 – 8:30-9:30pm



## NEW OP Den

We are excited to announce the opening of our **OP Den**! This is a place where students/families can access donated clothing to supplement their wardrobes. Earlier this year, we received a generous donation of clothing for our students that came in all sizes. Most of the current clothing items are winter wear, including jackets, sweaters, mittens, hats and other warm pieces.

We are now looking for spring, gently used, clothing donations, especially pants. If you are cleaning out closets and have any gently used clothing looking for a new home, please consider dropping them off to Mrs. Murray in room 138. Thank you!.

If you are in need of warm clothing, we encourage you to stop by the OP Den to browse through the selection. There is no cost for these items, and they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. We want to ensure that all students have access to warm clothing during the colder months, and we hope that these donations can be of help.



The OP Den is accessible to all students throughout the day through their teacher. In addition, **Wednesday mornings from 8:30-9 a.m. the Den will be set up in the main hallway. Families are welcome to come shop as needed.** *\*Please remember that our parking lot is CLOSED before school so please park on the side streets.\**

Thank you to the generous donors who make this possible. We appreciate their kindness and commitment to supporting our community.

Sincerely,  
The OPHEA Team

## Popcorn Fundraiser

The Grade 8 students are continuing to sell popcorn to raise money for their Grade 8 Grad Trip. Popcorn will be sold at nutrition break **each Friday for \$2 a bag**. (Should there be a P.A day on Friday, popcorn will be sold on the Thursday instead.)

The Grade 8s thank you for your support!

## We're Fundraising with Mabel's Labels!

Personalized waterproof name labels for your kids' stuff!

1. Visit [campaigns.mabelslabels.com](https://campaigns.mabelslabels.com) and search **Orchard Park Public School**
2. Purchase your labels
3. Labels ship right to your door!

**You get labels, we raise funds.**



### End of Day Pickup Procedure

In order to minimize confusion and increase safety at the end of day, **including inclement weather days**, we are asking that you please pick up your children at regular dismissal time which is **3:30pm**. You can pick them up at their regular dismissal doors. Your child's teacher should have sent communication home as to where their dismissal door is. If you are not sure where your child's door is, please contact the school. If you need to pick up your children early, please pick them up from the front door before 3:00pm. After 3:15pm, it is difficult to locate students as most of them are in the hallways getting ready for dismissal and going to their bus lines.

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our end of day as calm and safe as possible.

### Inclement Weather Safe Arrival Procedure

On Inclement Weather days (when busses are cancelled) **ALL** absences will be assumed due to weather unless you notify the office otherwise. If your student(s) will be away due to weather, **you DO NOT need to call in or email**. A general Inclement Weather Safe Arrival call will be made to **ALL** families of absent students. This message is different than the regular Safe Arrival message (for non-inclement weather days) and can be disregarded **UNLESS** your child is supposed to be at school and is unaccounted for – in which case you should call us to confirm their attendance. Thank you.

### 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 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 SCSTC 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>.



### Orchard Park Website

Check out our newly updated Orchard Park website for school news as well as easy links for bus delays, student absence reporting, school calendar, newsletters and so much more!

<https://orc.scdsb.on.ca/>

### **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). **Also, don't forget to follow our twitter page: <https://twitter.com/OrchardParkPS>**

### **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 Mx. Matthew Webbe, Superintendent of Education, if you would like more information about the transition process at Orchard Park.

### **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. 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 March 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 March Break (March 13 to 17). 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 at [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/childcare\\_before\\_after](http://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, 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:

March 2, 2023  
April 27, 2023

Emotional Regulation for Kids and Adults  
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).

## #ITSTARTS week in the SCDSB

The County of Simcoe has once again proclaimed March as #ITSTARTS month. The Simcoe County District School Board will be championing the #ITSTARTS campaign from March 6 to 10. This campaign promotes inclusion, acceptance, and equity within the vibrant, diverse, and growing communities that make up Simcoe County. For more information, visit: [www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ccs/lip/itstarts](http://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ccs/lip/itstarts).

## 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).

### **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.

### **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!

### **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.

*Continued ...*

### **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.

Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/23MathAtHome>