

WELCOME TO THE 2015/16 SCHOOL YEAR

Phone: 905 729 2624
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Safe Arrival: 905 729 2624 Press 1
Website: <http://adj.scdsb.on.ca>

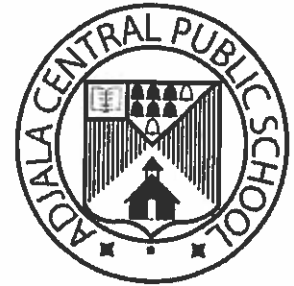
MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

It is hard to believe that another summer is waning and we are now into the new school year. Where did the summer go?

For me, starting each new school year is always so exciting – full of the potential to meet new people, have new experiences and continue my learning.

The most important lesson I have learned as a Principal is to open and then maintain the lines of communication between home and school. As we start a new year, I cannot stress how much I value the thoughts and opinions of you – the stake holders here at Adjala Central. This is your school (students and parents) and I will rely on you to help me make the many decisions that I will be faced with in the next while. Please feel free to contact me (email is usually best and is included below) to share your thoughts, ideas, concerns and insight.



"Where seeds of success are sown."

Please also check out our new and improved website. <http://adj.scdsb.on.ca/>

Together we will make a difference.

Christopher Russell

crussell@scdsb.on.ca (email is the best way to reach me)

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

In this issue:

Staff Assignments 2015/2016	1
Volunteer Opportunities at Adjala	3
School Council Elections	4 & 6
Forms to fill in and get back to school	10

SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

Highlights:

- * School Council Meeting Sept 2nd
- * Front Doors will remain locked all day
- * School wide ban on peanut and nut products.
- * Student Accident Insurance required for school teams!
- * Meet the Teacher Sept 23rd 5 to 7 pm

CLASSROOM PLACEMENTS TENTATIVE

Please remember that all classroom placements are tentative this week. The first week of school is a time of "settling in" that often includes some adjustment in class organization. We always know we'll be welcoming new registrants but can't accurately predict in what grades they'll

be. Thus, it is necessary to move some students to different classrooms and teachers so that all classes are balanced and meet contractual obligations. It will be important that you help your child understand that this may take place.

Every effort was made to grant

parent requests for placements... not all could be granted. Please give your child some time to adjust if they or you are disappointed. If things are not working out by the end of next week (Sept. 18) please contact me (crussell@scdsb.on.ca) with your concerns.

Ontario's new Health & Physical Education Curriculum

The world has changed since the sexual health education section of the curriculum was last updated in 1998. Research shows that children now enter puberty earlier. Young people now have widespread access to the Internet, social media and smart phones, giving them easy access to both helpful and potentially harmful and incorrect information. Educating children with accurate and current information, and skills and strategies to help them navigate a digital world can help keep them safe and healthy. Ontario's updated Health and Physical Education Curriculum includes sexual education. Get accurate information about the topics and concepts students learn in school – by grade level – at www.ontario.ca/hpe

NUT SAFE

Please pay careful attention to the ingredient list on packages. Do not send any food to school where the ingredient list states "contains peanut or peanut products" or "may contain trace(s) of peanut or peanut products". As well, if your child eats any nut products in the morning before coming to school, be sure face and hands are washed and teeth are brushed thoroughly. Some students' have an allergy so severe that even touching or inhaling a trace amount can trigger a life-threatening reaction!

School Council Nominations for 2015-16

If you are interested in putting your name forward, please return the enclosed Nomination form to the principal by Wednesday, Sept. 16th.

First School Council Meeting:

Mon. Sept. 21st, 6:30 p.m. in the school Library

Updated Teaching Assignments

Kindergarten	Mrs. Strever
Kindergarten	Mrs. Winegar
Kindergarten	Mrs. Bodnar
Kindergarten	Mrs. Poot
Grade 1	Mrs. Marchegiano-Dietrich
Grade ½	Mr. Godbout
Grade 2/3	Mrs. Warnock
Grade 3	Mrs. Leoni
Grade 4	Mrs. McCluskey
Grade 5	Mrs. Leck
Grade 6	Mrs. Kearney
Grade 7/8	Mrs. Coutes
Grade 7/8	Mrs. Shelson
Special Education	Mrs. Fuller
Special Education	Mr. Schwartzentruber
EA	Mrs. Tawton
EA	Mrs. Publow
Librarian	Mrs. Ruhl-Burton
FSL	Mme. Poulin
Office	Mrs. McDevitt
Custodian	Mrs. Navarra
Custodian	Mr. Hurtault

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular athletics are not covered by the Board or its insurance. Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country trips) are not covered by the Board or its insurance company.

While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen. It is essential that all students participating in extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage for all instances of injury.

The Simcoe County District School Board has selected the "insure my kids" program through Old Republic Canada as an option

for students/parents/guardians to consider with regards to purchasing student accident insurance coverage for the upcoming school year. The coverage is for 24 hours a day. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com.

Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities and out-of-province or out-of-country trips (included in this newsletter). Students that do not have a signed waiver will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular sporting events. Please read the attached letter carefully if you think your child will be joining a school team.

HOMework

Please continue to encourage your child to complete their homework each night. If no homework has been assigned the child should have a book to read. Also, please look through your child's agenda each night. Teachers are checking and ensuring that the homework gets placed in the agenda. If you have concerns regarding homework please call the teacher.

You can check out the Board's Homework policy from the link our school web site

<http://adj.scdsb.on.ca>

HEAD LICE

Check regularly!
Head lice is a recurring problem where children gather.

Often after summer travel, camp days and holiday visiting the little critters rear their ugly heads.

Please be diligent in checking your child(ren)'s head(s) regularly.

The sooner you discover the problem, the easier it is to get rid of it.

DISPLAYS

During the school year, we like to profile the work of our students in the classroom, hallways, front foyer or newsletter. Many teachers also take photos of their students and these may be displayed as well. If you do NOT wish your child's work, photo or name on display, please notify the teacher or the school office.

Volunteer Screening

We encourage participation of volunteers in our school and recognize the educational advantages to all concerned. Volunteers work under the direction of the Principal and school staff.

All new volunteers will be required to provide an original copy of a Criminal Records Check which includes a Vulnerable Sector Screening executed within the last six months, prior to beginning to volunteer. The process this year is that interested volunteers pick up an application letter at the school and then take this with two pieces of I.D. to their local police detachment. Once the CRC is complete the parent picks it up from their police detachment and brings it to the school for addition to the central approved volunteer list.

Current volunteers must complete an Offence Declaration annually after providing the original Criminal Records Check. (included in this newsletter)

Please contact the office if you are a NEW VOLUNTEER and have not yet been through the Volunteer Orientation (or if you would like a refresher)

Please don't put off this important requirement.

CURRENT: If you were an approved volunteer in 2014-15, there is a form in this Newsletter to return completed: **PLEASE RETURN no later than Sept. 25th**.

NOTE: This includes regular class involvement, field trip supervision, food program helpers, driving to sports events, library help, office help, etc. If you would like to help with school programs in any way, you **MUST** be a "screened" volunteer and/or have completed the Offence Declaration. Failure to complete the Offence Declaration will result in your name being taken from the Approved Volunteer List and you will have to redo the entire Volunteer Application process (new CRC done).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are a number of Volunteer positions that we require volunteers to help us out with (many hands make light work). What follows is a list of the areas of need with a brief description of the commitment required. If you have further questions or ideas to share please contact the office at 705 729 2624.

Hot Lunch Fundraiser:

(If two parents can do each day of the week for hot lunch the work load is very manageable)

M, T, W, Th, F - arrive at 12:30, open kitchen, food arrives, package into baskets for classes, have ready for students to pick up at 1:15 - tidy up and leave by 2:05.

Coordinator - work with online order system to place food orders with various stores and/or companies (e.g. order milk for delivery) - approx. 1 - 2 hours per month

Teacher Appreciation:

Coordinate food and beverages with other parents.
Coordinate yard assistance with Principal

Set up on day of event

- 4-6 hours total time commitment

Reading with Students:

As per your availability but you should be able to commit to one day each week for 1 hour

Various Fundraising Initiatives:

Coordinate with our School Council Fundraiser Coordinator—send an email expressing your interest

- time commitment varies with the fundraiser

Dance-a-thon Fundraiser:

Coordinate with Principal to pick day, send out collection forms, collect money

- 6-8 hours total time commitment

Track and Field (Adjala and Area):

Mostly the day of to help time, cook food, or sell food.

• 6-8 hours the day of the event

More information to follow from School Council in October

HOT LUNCH

Provided we have the volunteers to administer the program, our special lunch days will begin in October. (pizza, hot dogs, etc.) Order forms are available on line with due date for return.

Late orders are not accepted. Participation is optional. Please be aware that if a child is absent on a special food day, there will be NO refunds, NO saving until the next day. The money spent will be considered a donation to the school.

The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school, offering parents the option to pay online for lunch days and other items.

Parents who sign up will receive a notification when a new item becomes available for purchase. Items are personalized to each student. Parents use a secure online account to process payments, and can either make a one-time payment for each item as it occurs, or load money to carry a balance in the online account to make payments in the future.

To create an online account, go to simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com. Please contact the school office with any questions.

ADJALA CENTRAL SCHOOL COUNCIL

2015-2016

We value the input of our parents and welcome your advice. Please consider becoming a member of our School Council Executive by completing and returning the enclosed nomination form by **Sept. 18th**. Meetings are held once a month in the evening from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the school's library. Last year, meetings alternated between Monday evening one month. This is flexible and up for Council to decide.

We have also experimented with daycare being provided for those parents that have little ones at home.

The term of office does not exceed one year but members may seek additional terms.

School Council membership is an excellent way to become increasingly aware of what's happening in education in general and in our school in particular.

All parents are invited to attend all council meetings. You don't have to be an "official" member.

Please join us:

Monday, September 21st

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Library Resource Centre

Agenda items include:

- Election of parent members to Council
- System Goals and School Improvement Plan
- School Budget Overview
- Fund-raising plan
- Administrative Team Profile

MEET THE TEACHER EVENING

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23

5-7 PM

Teacher presentations and viewing of classrooms from 6 to 7 PM.

No need to cook this evening! Pizza, drinks, baked goods on sale.

Agenda:

5:00-6:30 p.m. Food served (Pizza)

6-7 p.m. Each teacher will make a 15 minute presentation and repeat it two more times. Please arrive on time and remain for the entire presentation.

6:00-6:20 p.m. Visit one classroom

6:25-6:40 p.m. Visit a second classroom.

6:45-7:00 p.m. Visit a third classroom.

VISITORS

All visitors to the school need to report to the office **TO SIGN IN**. We need to be aware of your presence so that there are no unauthorized persons in our building. We are concerned about student safety and this is a standard security measure throughout the school board.

If given permission to precede into the school, a visitor's badge must be worn. However, don't expect to travel in the school during the day. We make every effort to minimize interruptions to the instructional flow in the classroom. Our students deserve excellent learning conditions and as few distractions as possible. If you need to speak to a teacher, send in a note or leave a message. Leave the forgotten lunch or clothing item or project (labeled) at the office counter. Thank you for supporting our productive environment.

Visitors are not allowed onto the school yard (at the back of the building) at any time. Please begin each visit to the school by checking in at the office.

ACCEPTABLE DRESS

In order to maintain a cleaner working environment in the classrooms, we insist that students remove their outdoor footwear almost every day before they enter the classrooms.

Therefore, it is best that a pair of labeled shoes/slippers/sandals be kept at school for use in the classroom. (If this presents a financial burden for you, please let us know! and we will willingly help you in a discreet, confidential manner.) We expect every student to have his/her indoor footwear here at school by Sept. 14th. Socks or bare feet are unsuitable in terms of safe movement and in case of fire or fire drill.

Clean floors create a more comfortable, hygienic and attractive atmosphere. Since the custodian has a mere 15 minutes to clean an entire classroom, the floor must not be allowed to deteriorate significantly over the day. If all cleaning efforts are put on the floor, other areas in the room are neglected.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter. I think we all want to be proud of our beautiful facility. By taking good care of it, our students will be able to work in a pleasing and clean atmosphere.

PROPER GYM SHOES are required by the latest Physical Education Safety Requirements for Schools. Indoor shoes may certainly be used for physical education classes IF they are proper running shoes. High-soled shoes, sandals, etc will NOT be permitted in gym class, nor will bare feet or sock feet.

ACCEPTABLE DRESS CODE:

Midriffs are covered at all times.

Appropriate necklines such that cleavage is not overtly displayed.

All underwear garments are completely covered.

No headgear inside the school. (some exceptions on spirit days)

No apparel that promotes alcohol, drugs, profanity, degradation of others.

No chains.

No pajama pants, short shorts/skirts.

Please see the diagram included later in this newsletter.

SCREENING FOR GIFTEDNESS

Some children who display an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential.

In consultation with parents, the school staff determines who these students are through the gifted screening process.

Parents of a student who will be in Grade 3-8 in the coming school year, who wish the school to consider their child for screening are asked to contact Jeff Schwartzentruber or Lynsay Fuller, SERT, Adjala Central, before Sept.25, 2015.

The gifted screening process consists of three components:

1. a Teacher Rating Scale
2. a Parent Questionnaire
3. standardized test results (usually the Otis Lennon School Ability Test)

After signing a permission form, parent/legal guardian will complete the Parent Questionnaire. Information obtained from this questionnaire will help the school gain a better understanding of your child's early development as well as his/her strengths, interests, needs and abilities, which the standardized test may not identify. The teacher will complete a Rating Scale, which examines areas such as learning, motivation, creativity and leadership, which he/she has observed in the classroom. Group testing will be completed and the results will provide a standardized measure of school abilities. The information gathered from all three components will assist the school in programming for your child.

Characteristics of Gifted Learners

Advanced Cognitive Ability

- displays an unusual ability to conceptualize and to generalize
- abstracts at high levels at an early age
- is developing all aspects of language at an advanced level
- processes information quickly
- acquires an extraordinary quantity of general knowledge

Intellectual Curiosity

- takes pleasure in intellectual activities
- is intuitive, perceptive, curious and questioning
- delights in an exchange of ideas
- has a wide range of interests

Sensitivity and Creativity

- possesses strong creative and imaginative ability
- has the ability to be a fluent, flexible, original and elaborative thinker
- has a keen sense of humour
- sees unusual and diverse relationships
- is sensitive to beauty

Capacity for Intense Motivation

- shows above-average ability to concentrate, to attend and to retain
- is task-committed, goal-oriented and self-directed
- works efficiently and unusually independently
- is persistent and responsible
- has a high energy level

advanced Affective Capacity

- is highly motivated by the need for intellectual, social & emotional development
- displays evidence of positive self-concept
- is self-critical
- displays unusual sensitivity to the expectation and feelings of others
- is developing a moral and ethical sophistication.

REMINDERS

We would like to remind you of a few ways you can help us:

If your child is late or absent from school, a phone call is required before 9:00 a.m. 905-729-2856. For absences of 3 days or more, a written note of explanation is **ALSO REQUIRED**.

Students who are being picked up during the day (e.g. for an appointment) must be picked up from the school office. This is for the student's protection.

Please advise the office as soon as possible when you have a change of telephone number, address, employment, caregiver or medical information.

Requests for school personnel to administer medication to students must be made through the school office and an authorization signed by the doctor must be submitted. Without this authorization, we are not permitted to administer any medication (not even Tylenol or antibiotics!).

Valuable items such as iPods, toys, jewellery, collectibles, cellphones, cameras, etc. should not be brought to school. We cannot accept responsibility for any such items. Students are not permitted to take photos at school without specific permission in specific circumstances.

Outdoor recesses provide students with a necessary change of pace in their day and serve as a refresher so that further efficient learning can take place. Generally, students who are too ill to benefit from recesses are too ill to be in school.

AGENDAS

We continue to have a focus on encouraging increased parental involvement in each child's learning at school and in the home. Student agendas assist in the following of schedules, setting goals, adhering to established timelines and completing homework. Home support of students' learning and personal responsibility can be enhanced through use of this communication tool. Fundraising efforts have made it possible to supply agendas at no cost to each student Gr.1-8. Adjala staff have agreed to actively use the agenda to improve communication between home and school. We need you to initial the agenda each day to acknowledge your awareness of its entries.

We are grateful that many parents are in the daily habit of reading the student agenda and signing it regularly.

Please support your child in this initiative by making review of the agenda an evening ritual in your home.

SAFE ARRIVAL

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL SAFE ARRIVAL IF YOUR CHILD
WILL BE ABSENT OR LATE.**

905 729 2624

press 1 at the prompt

Leave the following:

Child's name

Teacher

Reason for absence

Expected length of absence

Your Name

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL SAFE ARRIVAL IF
YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT OR LATE.

905 729 2624 press 1 at the prompt

IMPORTANT FORMS TO BE COMPLETED

There are important forms which have come home with your child/ren. Please complete these forms and return to the office immediately.

STUDENT SEARCHES

Lockers and desks are the property of the board and are on loan to the students. In keeping with their duties under the Education Act to maintain order, discipline and safe schools, the Principal or Vice Principal who has reasonable grounds to do so, may search student lockers, desks or backpacks.

MEDICATION

Requests for school personnel to administer medication to students must be made through the school office and an authorization signed by the doctor must be submitted. Without this authorization, we are not permitted to administer any medication (not even Tylenol, prescription antibiotics or "puffers"). Should you require this form now or in the future, please contact the office to get the form and then have your doctor fill out the form and return it to the school as soon as possible. New authorization forms must be completed for each school year.

Information Available on the School Board Web Site - www.scdsb.on.ca

School Year Calendar, Regular and Kindergarten – Main Screen

Equity and Inclusive Education Policy and Procedures - under the "Board Highlights" menu tab

Please refer to your School Agenda For:

School Calendar, Code of Conduct, Bus Information, Personal Information Policies, and other important information.

Office Sign-In for School Security

All visitors to the school (i.e., parents/guardians, maintenance staff, contract workers, etc.) must attend the school office before proceeding in any area of the building or the yard during school hours to sign in. Staff members in the office are pleased to assist visitors with any concerns regarding children, routines or personnel in the school. In appropriate instances, visitors can receive a visitor tag after signing the visitor's book at the office. Often parents accompany students to the office if they are entering the building during the school day. We require that parents do not enter hallways or classrooms during school hours, from 9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Use of Adjala School Buses

Our school buses are the source of transportation for more than two hundred thirty of our students, daily to school and back home again in the afternoon. The buses are full. Please do not request transportation for students so that they might play together or work together after school. For the safety and comfort of all our students, we cannot grant permission for extra students to ride buses. Students can make 'play' or 'work' dates after they have arrived home at the end of the day.

Duty to Report

Our school is a partner in a community that cares about its children. We share the community responsibility for our children with many others- parents, neighbours, friends and organizations that are located within our community to help support and protect our children when others are unable. One of these community agencies is the Children's Aid Society (CAS). The role of CAS is to protect children and to support families.

The Child and Family Services Act, passed by the Ontario government, affects the way the community works with the CAS to keep our children safe. Many of the changes affect what is called the Duty to Report.

The legislation passed requires that any person, who has reason to suspect that a child may require the assistance of the CAS, must report this suspicion to the CAS. Any professional who fails to comply with this directive could face a charge or fine.

Your school staff are members of a community that cares about the safety of the children. We want them safe and we will work together with the community members to protect them. If you require any further information, please feel free to call your local branch office of the Simcoe County Children's Aid Society.

Our Daily "Balanced" Schedule:

9:05-9:15:	Buses are arriving. Students are supervised on playground
9:15-10:55:	Instructional Time
10:55-11:15:	Nutrition Break (in classrooms)
11:15-11:35:	Outdoor Recess
11:35-1:15:	Instructional Time
1:15-1:35:	Nutrition Break (in classrooms)
1:35-2:05:	Outdoor Recess
2:05-3:45:	Instructional Time
3:45	Dismissal to buses

Like all other Simcoe County Schools, we will be operating on a 5-day cycle system. See student agenda or monthly newsletter calendar to keep track of the cycle days.

OEYC FOR ADJALA CENTRAL

Are you home with little people and looking for something fun to do? Drop by the Ontario Early Years Centre in Alliston! The OEYC is a free service for all adults with children 0 to 6 years of age. Adults and children participate in activities together. Children have the opportunity to play with other children and participate in many different types of programs and activities, which promote early learning and school readiness, and they are FUN for children and adults alike.

Do you have a child starting school in 2016? Participating in activities at the OEYC is a great way to help prepare your child for this exciting transition. OEYC staff have resources for kindergarten preparation. Just drop by and ask!

Check out our website, www1.e3.ca or call 705 435-4308 for hours, directions and more information.

OEYC also offers outreach programs in communities outside of Alliston. These early learning programs for children 0 to 6 years of age accompanied by an adult, include a variety of activities, circle time (story and songs) and crafts. Fun, early learning for children! You are welcome to visit the following locations and join in the programs there:

Tottenham Community Centre (new section), Older Adult Room – 10 am – Thursday September 10th and Wednesday September 16th

DA Jones Library, Beeton – 10:30am – Friday September 4th and Tuesday September 15th

Children do not come with a manual! Are you looking for some parenting tips and ideas? Do you have questions about parenting? Check out these Triple P seminars:

- The Power of Positive Parenting
- Raising Confident Competent Children
- Raising Resilient Children

These will be offered at the Well Café in Alliston, Wednesdays September 30, October 7 & 14 6:30pm. Limited childcare is available. Please call 705-435-4308 to register or for more information.

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUPPLIES

	GRADES							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pencils		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Erasers		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Scissors		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ruler (cm)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Glue stick (UHU)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Markers		X	X					
Crayons		X	X					
Pencil Crayons (Laurentian 24 pack)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
French-English dictionary				X	X	X	X	X
Highlighters				X	X	X	X	X
Calculator				X	X	X	X	X
1 inch three ring binder (for French)				X	X	X	X	X
Duotangs (1 blue, 1 green, 1 purple)				X	X	X	X	X
Lined paper (1 pack)				X	X	X	X	X
Pens (1 red, 1 black, 2 blue)				X	X	X	X	X
Pencil sharpener				X	X	X	X	X
White board markers				X	X	X	X	X
Black sharpie markers							X	X

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We plan to continue our **HEALTHY SNACK PROGRAM** and would like to review it with you.

Two main goals of the program:

#1 Provide access to healthy food for children whose day did not begin with a satisfying, nutritional breakfast. (for whatever reason: e.g. got up late, didn't feel like eating that early, oops! ran out of cereal)

#2 Teach young people to choose healthy snacks.

What items are typically in the healthy snack basket:

fruits - apples, oranges, bananas

drinking boxes - apple and orange juice only

grains - e.g. cereal bars, crackers with cheese

Teachers (and hopefully parents) will be encouraging students to bring healthy snacks in their own lunch-kits and to eat their own food from home before going to the snack basket. The snack baskets are intended for use by students who are hungry.

Donations of money or any of the above food items from parents who are able to give will be gratefully accepted!

Happy, healthy students are more focused and more ready to learn. Good nutrition is of great importance to a child's academic growth.

Let's work together to give every child every advantage in the quest for knowledge and understanding!

We will hold some "special" food days to achieve our second goal. For example, this year we are planning for "Apple Day, Cereal Day, Clementine Day, Pancake Day, Yogurt/Muffin Day, Banana Day, Veggie Day", etc.

School bus 'Bag Tag' program helps students get to and from school safely

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) launched the Bus Tag program in September 2014. The Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school identified students by providing a process to match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and to also identify they must be met by a parent or guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour coded Bus Tag with the assigned p.m. route number to be attached to the student's backpack and a colour coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the Bus Tag is matched to.

New for the 2015-2016 school year:

The SCSTC will provide access to a new tag for students who are walkers and/or remain at an on-site daycare. These tags will be printed at the school with notes specific to the student.

School Staff will update and provide walker and/or on-site daycare tags to JK/SK and other school-identified students that require either tag.

The SCSTC and Bus Operators have established policies and procedures that are used on all school vehicles to ensure students in JK/SK and other school-identified students are met at their afternoon bus stop. The Bus Tag program has been established to assist schools and school bus drivers to load students on the correct afternoon bus and identify they are to be met at their bus stop by a parent or guardian. For more information, visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the 'Safety' tab.

Safety reminder: Our school doors are locked during the day

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place designed to keep our school safe. One of the newer initiatives is that our front door is locked during the school day. All other school doors are also locked. To access the building, visitors will need to press the intercom button at the front door.

Staff in the office will let visitors into the school. This will help us ensure that all visitors sign in at the office. Please understand that staff may not be available to answer the door immediately. If you have any questions about safety procedures, as always, please contact the office.

Keep connected with your school and the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and your school board, including possible labour situations. Please feel free to call the school at any time if you have questions or concerns.

You can subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at http://***.scdsb.on.ca. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. When you fill out your email and click Subscribe, an email will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.

For Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases and event information, visit the 'News' section under 'About Us' at the SCDSB's website: www.scdsb.on.ca. The SCDSB Education Centre can be reached at 705-734-6363.

• Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook ([facebook.com/SCDSB](https://www.facebook.com/SCDSB)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/scdsb](https://www.instagram.com/scdsb))
(include your school social media account information here if you have active accounts)

Through SCDSB's *Sharing Simcoe* blog (www.sharingsimcoe.com), we share stories of some of the amazing people involved in our schools. The blog features stories and tips from our own in-house experts and experts we work with in the community, as well as good news stories about our schools.

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. And remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

Procedures help keep our school safe

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place designed to keep our school safe.

Shelter in place

Shelter in place is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. During a shelter in place, activities will continue inside the school, but students and staff will not be allowed to leave the building. In some cases, the ventilation system may be shut off.

Hold and secure

A hold and secure is initiated when there is a situation taking place in the community that is not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. A hold and secure is usually initiated by police. During a hold and secure, activities continue inside the building, but all doors are locked and no one is allowed to enter or exit the school.

Lockdown

A lockdown is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. A lockdown can be initiated by police or by school staff. During a lockdown, students and staff will move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff will remain absolutely quiet.

We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents do not go to the school. There will be a Designated Parent Information Site, which will be communicated through the school board social media sites (www.facebook.com/SCDSB and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (www.scdsb.on.ca), through local police and local media.

Fire drills and evacuation plans

All schools have evacuation plans, which include a designated evacuation site. We practice our evacuation plan throughout the year during regular fire drills.

Sign-in at the office

All visitors are required to sign-in at the school office and wear visitor identification. Even regular visitors, like school volunteers, must sign in.

Criminal record checks for staff and volunteers

All staff and volunteers are required to complete a criminal record check before having contact with students.

Safe arrival system

We ask all parents to contact us when their child will be absent from school. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, we call home to find out the reason for the absence.

First aid training and equipment

At least two staff members in every school are trained in first aid and CPR. All Simcoe County District School Board schools are equipped with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

It's important for you to know that we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe. If you have any questions about safety procedures, as always, please contact the office.