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## Newsletter items for SCDSB Schools June 2023

### Character attribute for the month of June

Responsibility - we are accountable for our actions and we follow through on commitments.

More information about character education can be found here: [scdsb.on.ca/about/charactereducation](https://scdsb.on.ca/about/charactereducation).

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

As you prepare your school's newsletter package, please review the [Days of Observance \(NM1\)](#). Please include what is relevant to your school community in your June newsletter package. To further share these dates with your school community, you can now link directly to the SCDSB Days of Observance on the SCDSB website: <https://bit.ly/3Ln2Mfb>.

### June PA Day (elementary only)

Please note that Friday, June 2 is a PA Day for SCDSB elementary students. Please refer to the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information:

[scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planningforschool/schoolyearcalendar](https://scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planningforschool/schoolyearcalendar).

### 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 [scdsb.on.ca](https://scdsb.on.ca).
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB\_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).

### Feedback, recovery and improvement days (for secondary only)

At the end of each semester, all secondary schools will run feedback, recovery, and improvement days for students. Culminating assessments such as portfolios, essays, examinations, and interviews will take place during instructional days and will be returned to students with feedback.

The last day of regular instruction for students in semester two is Friday, June 23. The period from Monday, June 26 to Wednesday, June 28 is reserved for students to receive feedback from an assessment, to rescue or recover a credit, or to improve on an area of missed expectations. Teachers and support staff will communicate with students who will benefit most from attending this opportunity; however, all students will be invited to attend. There will be no new instruction these days. Feedback, recovery, and improvement days are an opportunity for students to work closely with their teacher if they require feedback, credit recovery, or an opportunity to improve on an area of missed expectations.

### Online learning graduation requirement and opt out options

Students are required to earn two online learning credits to graduate from secondary school, beginning with every student who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year. The online learning graduation requirement also applies to adult learners that will be entering the Ontario secondary school system starting in the 2023-24 school year. The graduation requirement is intended to support students in developing familiarity and comfort with learning and working

in a fully online environment, as well as developing digital literacy and other important transferable skills that they will need for success after secondary school, including in post-secondary education and the workplace.

### **Opting out**

Parents/guardians may choose to opt their children out of the mandatory online learning credits required for graduation. To opt out, a parent/guardian must submit the [Secondary Online Learning Graduation Requirement Opt-out Form](#). Exemption from the online learning graduation requirements may be requested by:

- the parent/guardian of the secondary student
- students who are 18 years of age or older
- students who are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control

Check with your local school if you have questions regarding the registration or opt-out process.

### **Use of student information to transition from elementary to secondary**

As students progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared which eases each student's transition. 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 is 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 Dean Maltby, Superintendent of Education, if you would like more information about the transition process at Bradford Secondary.

### **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 <http://thelearningcentres.com>.

### **Kindergarten registration for September 2023 is open!**

Kindergarten is the beginning of a wonderful journey of learning, and we want your child to begin their journey in a SCDSB school! Do you have a child who is turning four in 2023? If so, we invite you to register your child for Kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: [scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](https://scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten).

### **Licensed summer 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 over the summer holidays. 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 [scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planningforschool/childcarebeforeafter](https://scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planningforschool/childcarebeforeafter).

### **EarlyON Child and Family Centres**

The Simcoe County EarlyON Child and Family Centres have locations throughout Simcoe County. These centres offer a variety of services, including programs that help prepare children and parents/guardians for kindergarten. Check with your local EarlyON provider for dates and times. <https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>

### **Before and after school programs for the 2023-24 school year**

Register now for before and after school programs for the 2023-24 school year. Please contact the child care operator at your child's school directly to discuss fees and to register. More information and contact numbers can be found at [scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planningforschool/childcarebeforeafter](https://scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planningforschool/childcarebeforeafter).

## **Adult English as a Second Language Program**

Looking to improve your English skills? Join our Adult English as a Second Language Program (ESL) classes to improve your listening and speaking skills through class discussions and presentations. Develop your English skills to advance in your current job or open the door to new employment opportunities. Learn more about your local community and explore Canadian culture and history. Adult ESL classes are offered year-round with a continuous intake.

To register for the program, please contact the Barrie Learning Centre at 705-725-8360 ext. 45151, or email [ganderson@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:ganderson@scdsb.on.ca).

*\*Please note all students starting ESL for the first time must be assessed prior to starting the class. Fees apply for visitors to Canada and work/study permit holders.*

## **Complete your diploma and get a head start on your career in healthcare in the SCDSB's PSW program!**

Did you know that the SCDSB's Learning Centres offer an accredited Personal Support Worker (PSW) program? Individuals interested in a career in healthcare can earn 7.5 credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and a PSW certificate upon completion of the program!

The online application portal for PSW programs beginning in September 2023 in Barrie, North Simcoe (Midland), and Orillia is now open. To apply, visit [thelearningcentres.com](http://thelearningcentres.com) and watch the mandatory virtual information session video. This video includes important information about the PSW program and the application process. Applicants will also be required to complete an online PSW Literacy Assessment. Register for the assessment using the 'Assessment Registration Form'.

Registration for September 2023 closes July 7 at 12 p.m. Have questions or need more information? Contact the Learning Centres at [psw@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:psw@scdsb.on.ca).

## **Take math outdoors this summer!**

Are you looking for ways to promote and extend your child's math learning in the summer? Take math outside! Many of the everyday summer activities that your child engages in provide opportunities for making math practical through meaningful math explorations.

### Number

- Count collections of objects found in nature or on a scavenger hunt
- Calculate rates and speed during running, biking, and obstacle races
- Estimate the heights and lengths of natural and manmade objects outside

### Algebra

- Find examples of growing and shrinking patterns in nature
- Code your friend, where one person is the coder, while the other is the robot, and the coder must instruct the robot on how to navigate a path or do a dance around the yard

### Spatial

- Use a park map to plan a route and travel to a new location
- Go on a shape hunt and find shapes in the natural environment
- Examine leaves and other objects to find symmetry
- Estimate and determine elapsed time of road trips and adventures

### Data

- Keep a tally of the different types of birds that come to the feeder or other animals that come into the yard
- Track and graph daily temperatures or precipitation over time
- Track the growth of plants in a vegetable garden and examine how they change over time

### Financial literacy

- Determine a budget and calculate the costs to refresh a garden
- Set up a lemonade stand and determine costs and sales goals
- Donate gently-used outdoor items that you're done with for others to enjoy

Have fun adding some math joy to your outdoor experiences this summer!

### **Continuing literacy development throughout the summer**

As the summer break approaches, it's time for children to recharge, explore, and have fun in the sun. While the break from school is a great opportunity for relaxation, it's important to continue fostering literacy skills during this time. Here are some valuable tips to keep children engaged in literacy activities throughout the summer.

1. Visit the local library: Libraries offer an abundance of books, resources, and summer reading programs that can captivate children's imaginations. Encourage your children to explore various genres, discover new authors, and participate in library events. It's a wonderful way to nurture their love for reading and broaden their literary horizons.
2. Create a reading routine: Establish a consistent reading routine that works for your family. Set aside a specific time each day dedicated to reading. Whether it's before bedtime, during a lazy afternoon, or while traveling, having a designated reading time helps create a habit and signals to your children that reading is an important part of their day.
3. Encourage reading beyond books: While books are a great way to foster literacy, don't limit reading to just novels or story books. Encourage your kids to read newspapers, magazines, comic books, and even online articles. Let them explore topics they find intriguing, fostering a broader range of reading experiences and exposing them to different writing styles.
4. Engage in meaningful conversations: After your child finishes reading a book, engage in conversations about the story. Ask questions about their favourite characters, the plot, and their interpretation of the events. Encouraging dialogue not only improves reading comprehension but also helps develop critical thinking and communication skills.
5. Explore digital resources: While it's important to limit screen time, there are numerous digital resources that can enhance literacy skills. Look for reputable educational websites, interactive reading apps, or audiobooks that can provide a multimedia experience and make reading more engaging for your children. The SCDSB even has a digital ebook library that can be accessed through the SORA app.
6. Keep a summer journal: Encourage your child to keep a summer journal where they can document their daily activities, adventures, and thoughts. This practice allows them to reflect on their experiences, recall memories, and improve their descriptive writing skills. Provide writing prompts or encourage them to illustrate their journal entries to make it even more engaging.
7. Start a storytelling tradition: Encourage your child to create and tell stories. You can establish a storytelling tradition where each family member takes turns sharing a story they've written, or even collaborate on a story together. This activity sparks imagination, builds narrative skills, and promotes a love for storytelling.

Remember, the goal is to make literacy enjoyable and a natural part of your child's summer routine. By implementing these tips, you can ensure that your children continue to thrive academically while having a fantastic summer vacation.

### **Gratitude moment coping strategy**

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

This month's strategy is gratitude moment. Viewing the world and relationships through a lens of gratitude can help children and youth intentionally notice the positive elements in their day and shift the balance towards optimism, even when facing a challenge. To practice gratitude moment at home, model to your child/youth how to express

gratitude. Explain what it means to be grateful or thankful. Share something you are thankful /grateful for as an example and in turn, have your child share something they are thankful/grateful for. Repeat this practice as often as you would like. Practicing gratitude moment can be done at any time of the day, or at regular times such as at mealtime or before bed. Consider writing down the ideas and posting them in your home or creating a gratitude jar.

Find more easy and fun mental health activities to do at home here: <https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/>

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