



## Algonquin Ridge Elementary School

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Cory McKeown

Principal

Karen Moffitt

Vice-Principal

### ALGONQUIN RIDGE NEWS DECEMBER 2022

#### Character attribute for the month of December

**Empathy** - we strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others.

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

November was a very busy month at Algonquin Ridge and there are no signs of life slowing down as we begin December!

We had an excellent turnout for the Family/Parent/Teacher Conferences this month with mostly in-person meetings occurring throughout the week of November 14<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that you can reach out to your child(ren)s teacher(s) at any time to discuss their progress.

We have now hosted several exhibition games, mini-tournaments, area and zone competitions in our gym. It has been great to welcome so many of our ARES families, as well as guests from other nearby schools, into our building to enjoy these opportunities again. Our Junior and Intermediate Boys' Volleyball teams and Girls' Basketball teams enjoyed successful seasons at home and away. We'd like to congratulate the Intermediate girls basketball players in particular since they won the regional championship last week to advance to the SCDSB Championships. We wish them luck in the SCDSB Championships this week.

Now, with some temporary reduced demand on our gymnasium time, Mr. Sclater is looking at organizing junior house league opportunities that are sure to draw a large number of students. This will provide yet another venue for older students to develop their leadership skills as they give back to our school. The A-Team/Safety Patroller training and work, lunch helpers, book fair, chess club, field trips, and Committee of Us Club are only a few other examples of the interesting things that have kept us busy and engaged throughout November.

We are very excited to invite you to the school for a Winter Holiday Fair event on Thursday, December 15 from 5-7 pm (please refer to the flyer at the end of this newsletter). This drop-in event will include some local vendors with unique gift ideas, some crafts, games and food, a selfie photo-booth and lots of holiday art to view. The misfit gift room was a huge hit at our last Winter Fair as it gave our students an opportunity to shop for gifts for their family and loved ones for a nominal cost. **Items for our misfit gift room are being accepted until Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.** School Council, other volunteers and some staff will help students shop and then wrap their treasures so that everyone can be surprised—wrapping supply and gift bag donations also gladly accepted. The evening will end with guests being invited outside to join in some carolling with favourite holiday songs. Please add this event to your calendar and join us for some or all of the evening to celebrate this special time of the year with friends, family and neighbours. Further information and reminders will be sent out closer to the date.

We are also accepting donations to the Barrie Food Bank.

#### HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD DRIVE

As in previous Decembers at Algonquin Ridge, we are actively trying to support many families in need from our own community so that everyone can enjoy a wonderful holiday season. There are always families close to home who may find themselves struggling and those challenges can become overwhelming at this time of year. To support them we will once again be collecting gift and grocery cards so that they may experience a more joyous season. We regret that we will not be able to accept donations of gifts/toys or food and we will gladly accept donations to the Barrie Food Bank at the Winter Holiday Fair. We have already received some donations from families who anticipated this message as this initiative has become an important tradition at Algonquin Ridge thanks to the generous support of many staff members and families. We sincerely appreciate your continued support and will gladly accept donations of any amount. You can make your donation by having your child pass it on to their homeroom teacher or, more anonymously, by ringing the front bell to leave with the office staff. All donations will be appreciated but President's Choice, Walmart, Dollarstore, Giant Tiger, gas or other grocery store cards, will be especially versatile and convenient. Please make your contributions directly to the school no later than Tuesday, December 20. If you have questions, please contact the school office. The ARES community has a long history of generosity and giving, and we will appreciate any level of support you are able to provide. Finally, on behalf of all members of the Algonquin Ridge staff and administration, I would like to wish everyone a very safe and prosperous Holiday Season from our families to yours!

Cory McKeown

Principal

705 737-4080 x 20304

Pronouns: He/His/Him

[cmckeown@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:cmckeown@scdsb.on.ca)

### CALENDAR

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> – Raise the Dough night  
Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – Int G Bball – Counties  
Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – Winter Fair – 5-7  
Dec 16-22<sup>nd</sup> – Dairy Presentations  
Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> – Merry Bright Spirit Day  
Dec 26-Jan 6 – Winter Break – school closed  
Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – School reopens  
Jan 27<sup>th</sup> – PA Day

### GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations. **The SCDSB board-wide electronic applications for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will open Thursday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16.** Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system.

### HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENTS FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will take place in-person this winter! Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Learn about courses offered, as well as information about teams and clubs. Please visit the [SCDSB website](#) to find details on your high schools' info night and contact the school directly for more information.

**JOIN US! A LEARNING SERIES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS WITH PINE RIVER INSTITUTE** Mental health and well-being continue 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.

Dec. 8, 2022	How to Manage Another's Anxiety
Feb. 9, 2023	Guide to Attuned Limit Setting
Mar 2, 2023	Emotional Regulation for Kids and Adults
Apr 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).

### NEW SCHOOLS AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The Simcoe County District School Board has a variety of projects on the go, whether it's building new schools, renovating older schools, or completing additions on existing buildings. For more information about how new schools are planned and funded, visit the capital planning page on our website ([www.scdsb.on.ca/about/capital\\_planning](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/capital_planning)). If you are interested in information about recently completed projects, projects under construction and new projects, please visit the new schools page on our website ([www.scdsb.on.ca/about/capital\\_planning/new\\_schools](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/capital_planning/new_schools)) or our Capital Priorities Overview

### FREE ACCESS TO COMMUNITY-BASED TUTORING FOR STUDENTS

For all students to achieve success, schools, families, and community partners must work collaboratively to increase access to resources, supports, and broader learning experiences. The SCDSB offers a wide variety of tutoring programs to support students and their families in accessing needed supports. From Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, the SCDSB has funds available to cover costs associated with these tutoring services, when provided by a SCDSB-approved organization. SCDSB families accessing these services are not required to pay the service provider directly.

### DAYS OF AWARENESS/HERITAGE DAYS DECEMBER

December 6 – National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women  
January is Tamil Heritage Month  
January 27 – Family Literacy Day  
January 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day  
TBD – Bell Let's Talk Day

### HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

December 13 – Birthday of Imam Aga Khan  
December 18-26 – Chanukah - Judaism  
December 21 – Yule/Winter Solstice (may be observed Dec 19-13)  
Wicca  
December 24 – Christmas Eve – Christianity  
December 25 – Christmas Day – Christianity  
December 26 – Zarathosht-no-diso – (FC)  
December 26 – Boxing Day – Canadian Holiday  
December 26- January 1 – Kwanzaa – Afro-Centric  
January 1 – New Year's Day – Christianity  
January 5 – Birth of Guru Gobind Singh – Sikhism  
January 7 – Christmas (J) – Christianity  
January 7-9 – Mahayana New Year – Buddhism  
January 14 – New Year's Day (J) – Christianity  
January 15 – Makar Sankranti – Hinduism  
January 22 – Lunar New Year/Maitreya Bodhisattva's Birthday  
Buddhism

### THE SEASON OF GIVING

December marks the season of giving and is a great time to teach your little ones about the benefits of giving back to their community and others. Many people think the only way to help their community or support their favourite charitable cause is with a financial donation – think again! While financial donations are integral to non-profits, there are many other ways that you and your family can give back, make a difference in your community, and have fun – all at the same time! Here are three ways your family can make a difference this giving season:

#### **Volunteer as a family**

Volunteering is a great way to teach kids about empathy and compassion. It shows them that a simple act can make a significant difference and helps them practice valuable life skills. Start small, like spending an hour helping a neighbour, and work your way up to bigger commitments, like going to a shelter or animal rescue once a week. Some families pick a favourite project and make it a yearly tradition, like filling gift baskets for seniors around the holidays. You're never too young to help others!

#### **Get crafty for a cause**

A fun way to get the whole family involved is to make arts and crafts to share with others. Many retirement homes and long-term care homes collect handmade cards, drawings, and crafts from the community to share with seniors during the holidays. This is a fun activity that lets kids be creative and brings great joy to those receiving the handmade items.

#### **Give old clothes or toys a second life**

Have your kids outgrown any of the items they used to love? Consider giving gently worn clothing or used toys a second life by donating them to a local nonprofit. Many shelters that support struggling families, refugees, or immigrants rely on clothing and toy donations. Have your family collect any items they want to donate and explain to your little ones that their once loved items will be going to a new home to bring joy to other children that need it. Basic items that many of us take for granted can make a huge difference in a person's life.

Local charities, like the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, run on the generous support of individuals and families like yours. If you'd like to learn more about the ways you can give back to the YMCA, visit [www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca](http://www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca). No matter how you decide to give back to your community, you and your family can feel good knowing you are making a positive difference in the lives of others. Your giving changes lives! *Content provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka*



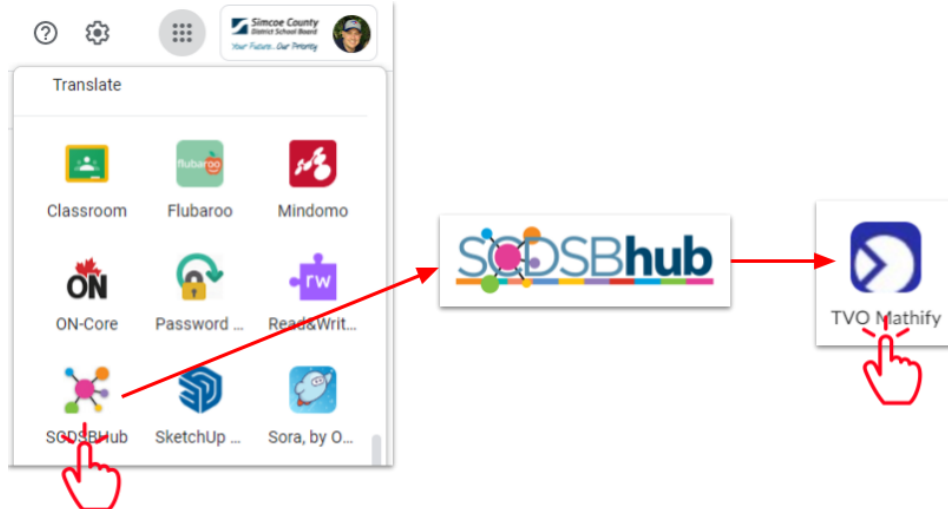
### EXTRA MATHEMATICS SUPPORT FOR GRADES 4 TO 12

Are you looking for extra mathematics support for your Grade 4 to 12 student? TVO Mathify offers free 1:1 online Grade 4 to 12 math tutoring to students enrolled in Ontario's publicly funded English-language schools. Features include an interactive whiteboard, as well as voice and text chat to make it easy to upload a math question and figure it out with the support of a math tutor, at a time that works for you.

Connect with an Ontario Certified Teacher of your choice. It is anonymous and secure, and can be used from a phone, tablet or computer. Math tutors are available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 3:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday.

All SCDSB students from Grades 4 to 12 have been pre-registered for this amazing service. For quick access to TVO Mathify:

1. Find the link in your child's Google waffle to the SCDSBhub. Look for the TVO Mathify icon on their dashboard.



Your child will not need to enter their OEN number or any identifying information when TVO Mathify is accessed through the SCDSBhub.

### 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 **CENTRAL** 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 Consortium 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>.

### ONTARIO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TUTORING SERVICES

The Ontario Ministry of Education is supporting tutoring services in schools and in the community until the end of March 2023. Schools offering after school tutoring services will advertise this service directly to parents/guardians. Community tutoring agencies provide free of charge tutoring to Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students after hours in the community and online. Contact information for community tutoring agencies can be found at [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring\\_programs](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring_programs). Tutoring is available to all SCDSB students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12. The SCDSB is also seeking members of the community to act as tutors in our schools during the school day. All candidates must apply through Apply to Education Posting #3361243. Candidates are required to be interviewed by SCDSB administration, provide professional references and complete a Vulnerable Sector Screen through their local police service. For more information, please email [tutoring@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:tutoring@scdsb.on.ca).



### SCHOOL PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES ARE CLOSED FOR THE WINTER

Every winter, school playground structures are closed. Students are made aware of this during school hours through announcements and staff reminders during breaks. This may not be well known throughout the community, despite signs indicating that playground structures are a winter hazard and are closed. The Canadian Standards Association regulations make recommendations for the depth of ground cover required to minimize injuries (e.g., sand, pea gravel or wood chips). These surfaces cannot be maintained when the ground freezes. Injuries from falling would be more significant on frozen ground. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen.

### SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S MATHEMATICS LEARNING AT HOME

Looking for ways to support your child in their math learning at home? The Ministry of Education has a page with ideas on how to support your child and make math part of your day-to-day routine. There are general routines and grade-level ideas to explore. Learn more: [www.ontario.ca/page/support-your-childs-math-learning](http://www.ontario.ca/page/support-your-childs-math-learning).

### RIGHT TO READ INQUIRY REPORT

Beginning in 2019, the Ontario Human Rights Commission conducted a public inquiry into human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system. The report ([www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report](http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report)), released this past spring, issued 157 recommendations. Among these recommendations is the need for an updated language curriculum that includes explicit, systematic, and direct instruction in foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding, and word reading proficiency. The Simcoe County District School Board is committed to shifting our instructional practices to align with these recommendations. What does this mean for my child? Primary educators are shifting from using leveled texts as they encourage reliance on guessing strategies to solve unknown words. Instead, educators are beginning to use a scope and sequence to systematically teach phonemic awareness and phonics. Students may apply the phonics skills they have learned by reading 'decodable' or 'phonetically controlled' texts. As a result, educators are moving away from using PM Benchmarks and moving towards assessments that measure foundational reading skills. To support your child at home, the following documents provide activities that may help foster these foundational skills:

#### **Phonological awareness activities for families**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrSSU-HhNziSRv6\\_CKjJBue32B-n6ggv/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrSSU-HhNziSRv6_CKjJBue32B-n6ggv/view?usp=sharing)

#### **Supporting reading development at home**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12jf50KLLzP9q82HN-w39jrHFgYElf45/view?usp=sharing>

### ADULT ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Looking to improve your English skills? Join our adult English as a second language (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.*

### EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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!



ALGONQUIN RIDGE WILL BE HOSTING A

# HOLIDAY

Winter Fair on  
Thursday, Dec. 15th

LOCAL VENDORS \* SPECIAL GUESTS \* CARD MAKING

MISFIT GIFT ROOM \* PIZZAVILLE PIZZA

HC Kettle  
Corn

ZEHR'S CUPCAKE  
DECORATING \* TIM HORTONS

5:00 pm  
7:00 pm

CURLING \* CAROLLING \* SELFIE PHOTO BOOTH

FREE ADMISSION / FOOD BANK DONATIONS ACCEPTED

<https://gis.com/stories/blogs/797175149ef93870e147ff1a289>