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#### ALGONQUIN RIDGE NEWS NOVEMBER 2022

#### **Character attribute for the month of November**

Courage - we do the right thing even when it's difficult.

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

With just over 2 months of the school year now behind us, it is easy to see the positive impact our 'return to normal' has had on our students, the staff and, presumably families. For most, this school year began with a great deal of optimism, even in the face of many unknowns given our changes to routine over the last couple of years (at school, at home, extra-curricular activities etc.). Once again, the Algonquin Ridge community has risen to the challenge, supported each other as we worked to bring back so many of the traditional events and practices that have made us all a part of this inclusive, safe, engaging, and enriching school environment. The support the school receives from families is critical to our success and has a direct correlation with how students feel about their school. Recent School Climate Data, collected from students in grades 4-8, show that Algonquin Ridge scores are higher than the SCDSB averages in almost every category—but our work to build a safe and inclusive learning space is far from done. The following list offers only a snapshot of some of the many things going on in the school at the moment and over the first couple of months. We are confident that we can continue to build on this list and provide many more opportunities to our students to learn, grow and thrive as we continue the year. Once again, thank you for your continued support for our staff, this school and the children who motivate us.

- Jr. Girls Basketball (Zone Champs) and Jr. Boys (Zone/Regional Champs (ARES welcomed many guest spectators)
- library helpers, primary classroom helpers and classroom 'buddy program' (partnered older/younger class for organized activities)
- after school tutoring sessions in the library
- A-Team/Safety Patroller Student Leadership
- Cross-Country season with over 25 athletes qualifying for and competing at the County Championships
- Remembrance Day assembly (gr. 1-6), Kinder assembly and intermediate student walking trip to downtown Barrie
- Terry Fox Day Community Run/Yard Run for primary
- community walks/field trips
- School Council (in-person meetings) and the return of volunteers to the school
- lunch program with 3 offerings (pizza, pasta, subs)
- nutrition/snack program for students in need
- Meet the Educator in September with In-Person Conferences in November
- Intermediate Flag Football
- Girls Basketball and Boys Volleyball seasons now underway
- Book Fair continues through Thursday evening during interviews
- Field Trip plans for the year are being created
- Character Assemblies (by division)
- Community of Us Club & Chess Club underway

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#### CALENDAR

Nov 16 – Int Girls Bball mini @ home  
Nov 16 – Grade 5 Rotary Club book day  
Nov 17 – Student Led conferences (evening)  
Nov 17- Book Fair  
Nov 18 – PA Day – student led conferences (am)  
Nov 22 – Int BVball Zones – pm  
Nov 22 – Int GVball Zones - pm  
Nov 23 – Grade 1-4 – Georgian College Theatre (am)  
Nov 25 – Stripes, polka dots, Pattern'd up Spirit Day  
Nov 28 – School Council @ 6:30 in the Learning Commons  
Nov 29 – Int Girls Bball Regionals  
Nov 29 – Picture retake day  
Nov 30 – Int BVball Regionals  
Dec 1 – Grade 6 to Hockey Hall of Fame  
Dec 7<sup>th</sup> – Raise the Dough night

### TIME TO SHOP!

Dear families,

It's here! Our school's Scholastic Book Fair has begun! Students will be scheduled time to browse and shop at our school from November 9 - 18

The Book Fair will be open for extended hours for families to shop on:

Wednesday, November 16th from 3:30-5:00pm

Thursday, November 17th from 3:30-8:00pm

Friday, November 18th from 9:00-10:30am

And don't forget! Even if you can't join us in the school, you can experience the joy of our Book Fair online by visiting our Virtual Book Fair Extension on the same dates! <https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5171563>

Share this link with Grandparents, too! Extended family can participate in the virtual Book Fair Extension from the comfort of home. It is also a great holiday shopping option!

### NOVEMBER PA DAY

Please note that Friday, Nov. 18 is a PA Day for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information: [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/school\\_year\\_calendar](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar)

### VENTILATION

The Ministry of Education ventilation strategy is one strategy that was implemented in schools to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and to support healthier and safer learning environments. The SCDSB has fully functioning mechanical ventilation systems at all schools. [Learn more on our website.](#)

### 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 at [www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning\\_for\\_high\\_school](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning_for_high_school) to find details on your high schools' info night and contact the school directly for more information.

### PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS INVITED TO LEARN ABOUT PLANNING FOR THE SKILLED TRADES AT VIRTUAL EVENT ON DEC. 1.

Are you not fully sold on the skilled trades as a career? Not everyone is. On Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m., participants in *What our School Families Need to Know About Skilled Trades Careers* will learn about apprenticeship pathways and can hear how to best explore a career in the trades while still in high school. Parents/guardians and Grade 7 to 12 students can consider what one employment researcher has discovered about contradictory perspectives on skilled trades careers. He will share findings based on interviews with hundreds of tradespeople and reveal the results of surveying 500 parents/guardians.

This interactive virtual evening, presented by the Simcoe County District School Board, will feature Dr. Jon Callegher, Executive Director at Job Talks, and will include information about apprenticeship, tech ed in our schools, cooperative education, and a question-and-answer segment. Participants can submit questions in advance here: <https://forms.gle/K1fHeartoGYnDd3u8>. More information regarding the event will be shared in the coming weeks on the SCDSB's website ([scdsb.on.ca](http://scdsb.on.ca)) and social media accounts.

### SCDSB SCHOOLS ARE MASK-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, staff and visitors are not required to wear masks in schools, school board offices and on student transportation. SCDSB schools will continue to be mask-friendly environments. Masks will be available to students and staff who choose to continue to wear them while in schools. Please encourage your child(ren) to be respectful and understanding of everyone's choice with respect to masking so that SCDSB schools remain the safe, inclusive and welcoming teaching and learning environments they are meant to be for all.

For more information visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website at [simcoemuskokahealth.ca](http://simcoemuskokahealth.ca).

### SELF-ASSESSMENT

All students and staff are encouraged to complete the daily COVID-19 self-assessment screening tool prior to entering SCDSB schools and buildings and follow the direction of the screening tool. The COVID-19 self-assessment screening tool can be accessed here: [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#).

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

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at our school and at the 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).

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

### WELCOMING VOLUNTEERS BACK TO SCHOOL FOR 2022-23

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our schools great places to learn and grow. The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is pleased to welcome back volunteers in our schools for the 2022-23 school year. Volunteers can fill various roles at our schools including school council members, hot lunch organizers, field trip supervisors, and classroom helpers. The requirements for all volunteers prior to starting/returning to your school of choice in September are as follows:

Volunteers must:

- Agree to submit a copy of a Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) executed within the last six months and register and complete all required steps through the [SCDSB Community Apps](#) link (see image below) prior to beginning volunteer duties.

#### How to access the Volunteer Portal

Click this [SCDSB Community Apps](#) link or find the link on the volunteer page of your schools website, under the Parents menu.

If you have previously registered a Community Account, click the **Login To Community Apps** button, and login with your username and password.

If you do **not** have an account, click the **New? Register for new Community Account** link at the bottom of the page.



REMINDER: Each volunteer will have to have their own community apps account. Each community apps account is created with a separate email address.

- Complete an annual offence declaration through the SCDSB Community Apps – Volunteers page for up to four years to continue volunteering.
- Submit a new VSC at the beginning of the fifth year.
- Be responsible for the cost of the VSC.
- Be responsible to the principal and work under the supervision of teaching staff.
- Work co-operatively as part of a team to support and supplement school programs.
- Respect the confidentiality of the relationship to the school, ensuring that staff issues and student work and behaviour issues are held in confidence.
- Adhere to established SCDSB and school procedures.
- Communicate regularly with staff.
- Complete the COVID-19 screening tool prior to each school visit.
- Be prompt, dependable and regular in attendance, and give advance notice to teachers when unable to attend.

### 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.

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).

## DAYS OF AWARENESS/HERITAGE DAYS

### **NOVEMBER**

Financial Literacy Month  
Albanian Heritage Month  
Movember  
Hindu Heritage Month  
Veteran's Week – Nov 5-11, 2022  
Treaties Recognition Week – Nov 6-12, 2022  
Remembrance Day – Nov 11, 2022  
World Kindness Day – Nov 13, 2022  
Bullying Awareness and Prevention week – Nov 20-23, 2022  
Trans Day of Remembrance – Nov 20, 2022  
National Child Day – Nov 20, 2022  
16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence – Nov 25-Dec 10, 2022  
Holodomor Memorial Day – Nov 26, 2022

## HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Nov 6 - Dev Diwali – Jainism  
Nov 7 – Inuit Day – Indigenous World View  
Nov 8 – Birth of Guru Nanak – Sikhism  
Nov 16 – Louis Riel Day – Indigenous World View  
Nov 24 – Martyrdom of Guru Ted Bahadur – Sikhism  
Nov 26 – Day of the Covenant – Baha'i  
Nov 27 – First Day of Advent – Christianity  
Nov 28 – Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha – Baha'i  
Nov 28 – Nativity Fast begins (40 days) (J) - Christianity

## 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.

Grade 1 FI family information nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, FI family information nights will be held in-person throughout the month of November at the respective FI school locations. The designated Grade 1 FI site for our school is **Warnica**. The information night for this school will be **Tuesday, November 15 @ 6pm**.

**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.

## NOV. 29 IS EAT WELL TO EXCEL DAY IN SIMCOE COUNTY

Eat Well to Excel is a Simcoe County non-profit community partnership that supports our school's student nutrition program. The funding provided by Eat Well to Excel allows us to supply students with access to healthy snacks during the school day. The pandemic has caused a significant financial strain on many families in our region and new data shows that 1 in 3 kids in Canada are at risk of going to school hungry. Kids that are hungry struggle to retain knowledge and keep focused throughout the day. They are also at an increased risk of experiencing poor mental health and a compromised immune system. With your support we can maintain and hopefully improve our program to provide a consistent supply of healthy food to our students.

You can make a donation by visiting [eatwelltoexcel.ca](https://eatwelltoexcel.ca). You can either support the county-wide program or direct your donation to our school. Please include Algonquin Ridge in the comment box to ensure the donation goes directly to our program. A tax receipt will be emailed to you.

For more information about Eat Well to Excel visit [eatwelltoexcel.ca](https://eatwelltoexcel.ca).

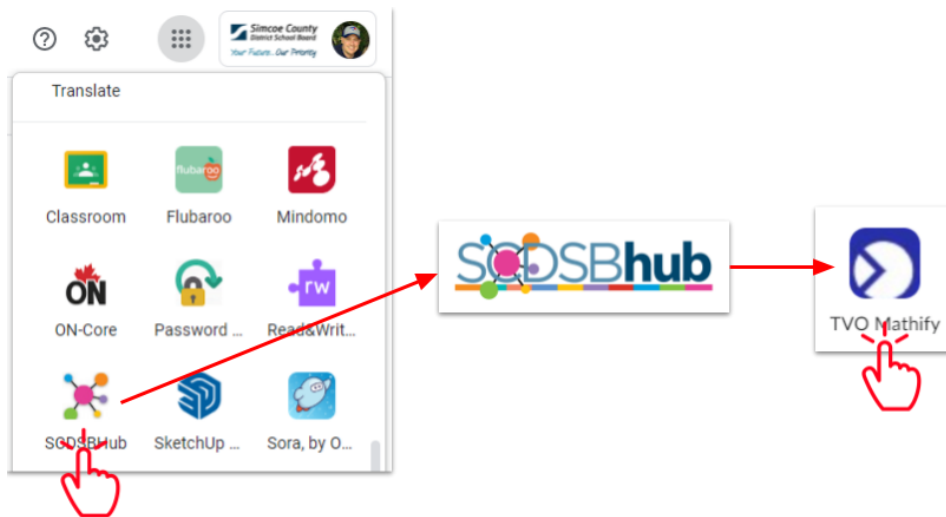
### EXTRA MATHEMATICS SUPPORT FOR GRADES 4 TO 12

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.
2. 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.

### 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.

For a list of approved organizations and to learn more about how you can access these services, visit [scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring\\_programs](https://scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring_programs).