



# Alliston Union Public School



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Jennifer Carrick, Principal

Kate Copfer, Vice-Principal

## October 2023 Newsletter

Dear AUPS families,

Thank you to everyone who came to our open house last month! We had a blast seeing you all. This month we are looking forward to photo day and our first School Council meeting. Participating in School Council is a fantastic way to show support for your school community. For more information about School Council including how to join, please see our flyer on pg. 11.

As temperatures start to get colder, please be sure to send your students to school dressed appropriately for the weather. We recommend students wear layers to account for the cooler mornings and warmer evenings.

Halloween is just around the corner! On October 31 students are welcome to wear costumes to school or black and orange if they would like. Please keep in mind that there should be **no masks (unless they are for medical purposes), no facepaint, no offensive, inappropriate or culturally insensitive content, and no props.** As always, thank you for helping to keep our school environment safe and respectful.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Carrick  
Principal

Kate Copfer  
Vice-Principal



Upcoming dates:

**October 2** - School Council Meeting

**October 5** - Terry Fox Run

**October 9** - Holiday - Thanksgiving

**October 13** - Photo Day

**October 27** - Grade 7 Immunization - Information from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to follow

**October 31** - Halloween/ Wear Black and Orange Day

## Alliston Union - October 2023 Newsletter Continued

New Safe Arrival system for SCDSB schools – call 1-888-885-8065 to report an absence

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has a new Safe Arrival system at elementary schools. This system will support us in continuing to improve our home-to-school communication process and streamline absence reporting.

**To report a student absence, call 1-888-885-8065.** Callers will be prompted to identify the school before leaving a message. Parents should include the student's name, teachers' name, dates, and reason for the absence. When schools do not hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, the school will call home to find out the reason for the absence.

You can also report a student absence by email to [aluattendance@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:aluattendance@scdsb.on.ca)

If you have questions about the new system, please contact the school office.

### Photo day- October 13

Photo day is Friday, October 13, 2023. Showcase your best smile! Students will be photographed at school. On photo day, no order form or payment is due. Please ensure your student(s) is/are dressed ready to have their photo taken and do not wear green to avoid blending in to the background.

For more information including how to order and how to sign up to receive notifications about photo day, please visit [edgeimaging.ca](http://edgeimaging.ca).



### School Council

Our first school council meeting for the 2023-2024 school year is taking place Monday, October 2, 2023 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the AUPS library. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend, no RSVP required. If you are interested in joining the school council or would like to know more, please check the flyer attached on Pg. 11. We hope to see you there!

### Lunch drop-off policy

Students should bring a water bottle, lunch and a snack to school every day.

In the case that lunch must be dropped off during the day, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to:

- Notify the student that they will need to come pick up their lunch from the foyer
- Label the food/drink with the student's first and last name

Please note that we are unable to accept fast food lunch drop-offs due to student allergies. Thank you.



## Alliston Union - October 2023 Newsletter Continued

### 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 **South 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>.

### School bus transportation information available from the SCSTC

In order to receive delay and cancellation notifications, families can check the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) or download the 'BusPlanner Delays' app from the Apple or Android app stores to receive delay notifications to their devices. Users would need to select Simcoe County STC as the transportation authority. The app will need to be forced closed, but you will be able to select your student(s) routes or school to receive delays.



The app will send a general notice for any cancellation in Simcoe County. You only need to know which 'zone' you're in, so you would know which one to look out for in the app. You can find your student's zone by visiting the School Bus Status page at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) and clicking the dropdown for the area you live in.



### School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place Oct. 16 to 20, 2023. Please visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) for information on school bus safety and links to school bus safety resources. Oct. 19, 2023 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in the province of Ontario. It's a great opportunity for the school community to thank our bus drivers for all their hard work transporting students to and from school safely.

## Alliston Union - October 2023 Newsletter Continued

### Get on the move

There are many benefits to walking or wheeling to school. Walking or wheeling to school reduces traffic, helps students establish healthy lifestyles, is better for the environment and enhances community safety. Wherever possible, we

encourage students within walking zones to *get on the move* and walk or wheel to school. For more information please visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website here: [bit.ly/3OC4CJ9](https://bit.ly/3OC4CJ9)



### Upcoming in-person Grade 1 French Immersion information sessions

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 English and French.

Information sessions for families who are considering entry into Grade 1 FI for the 2024-25 school year will take place at Ernest Cumberland Elementary School on November 20, 2023 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Online applications will open in December 2023.

Entry into the FI program will be determined through a digitally randomized lottery system. A link to access the Grade 1 FI online application form will be available on the SCDSB website starting at 9 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 1 until 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15. For more information regarding French Immersion, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca), then select 'elementary', and 'French as a Second Language'.

### Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 8 to 14

This year, the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, 'Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™', works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking. For more information about Fire Prevention Week and this year's theme, along with a wealth of resources to help promote the campaign locally, visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org).



*Information from the National Fire Protection Association website*

### Parents' Guide to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Learn to navigate the world of assessment, evaluation, and reporting with this new guide for parents/guardians. Created to support parents/guardians understanding of assessment, this guide was designed to effectively empower you to actively engage in your child's educational journey. The guide has been posted to the Simcoe County District School Board's website and can be accessed via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

## Alliston Union - October 2023 Newsletter Continued

Interested in learning more about the ways that the SCDSB supports students with special education needs and their families? Join us for a virtual special education outreach series

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/caregivers in learning more about programs, supports, and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs.

The first session, *IEPs and school-based assessments – information for parents/caregivers*, will be held on Oct. 24 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This virtual presentation will include an opportunity for participants to share some of their questions regarding IEPs and special education programming.



Participants are asked to register in advance. Information to access the sessions will be shared via email with individuals who have pre-registered. Learn more about upcoming sessions and how to register on the SCDSB website: [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special\\_education/special\\_education\\_outreach\\_sessions](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions).



### Have you met Sora?

Our digital ebook/audiobook collection contains over 4,000 titles waiting to be checked out by our SCDSB students. Students simply download the app, use their SCDSB login and start reading for free on their phone or tablet. The collection can be accessed at: [meet.soraapp.com](http://meet.soraapp.com).

### Licensed PA day and holiday school-age child care programs

Child care programs for children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are provided by independent, third-party child care operators in some SCDSB schools. To support your child care needs, some operators offer child care on PA days and holidays including over the Winter Break, March Break, and during summer holidays. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register.

## Alliston Union - October 2023 Newsletter Continued

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 eight webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents/guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

Oct. 26, 2023	Understanding and managing screen time, part one - gaming edition
Nov. 9, 2023	Understanding and managing screen time, part two - social media edition
Nov. 30, 2023	Helping parents align
Jan. 11, 2024	Sleep hygiene
Feb. 8, 2024	Self regulation for kids
Feb. 22, 2024	Self regulation for teens
March 28, 2024	Building parents' resiliency
April 18, 2024	Vaping, weed, and alcohol

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).



## Alliston Union - October 2023 Newsletter Continued

### supporting your child with math

Are you curious about how you can support your child's growth as a mathematician? Visit the Parents Guide to Mathematics at [www.ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8](http://www.ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8), where you can find a summary of the knowledge and skills your child will be learning as they progress through the grades, information about how you can support your child's learning, and how the curriculum was developed.

TVO Mathify offers free 1:1 online Grade 4-12 math tutoring to SCDSB students. 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. ET Monday to Friday, and 3:30 to 9 p.m. ET Sunday.

All SCDSB students from Grades 4-12 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.

### Revised 2023 Ontario Language Curriculum

Beginning this school year, all language programs for Grades 1-8 will be based on the expectations of the revised Ontario Language Curriculum. The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 to 8: Language, 2023 outlines the knowledge and skills required for effective reading and writing, listening, and speaking so students can succeed at school and beyond. The curriculum has been revised partly in response to the recommendations outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Right to Read public inquiry report.

The 2023 curriculum now includes four strands:

1. Literacy Connections and Applications
2. Foundations of Language
3. Comprehension: Understanding and Responding to Texts
4. Composition: Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

For more information, visit [www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/key-changes-language](http://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/key-changes-language) to view a guide for parents/guardians on the Ministry of Education website.

# Student Wellness Resources



**One Stop Talk offers children and youth (aged 0-17 years) immediate access to free, virtual mental health support when and how they need them.**

*One Stop Talk provides free, virtual, confidential single-session counselling support and ensures direct referral to additional services when needed. Services are provided through an integrated network of infant, child and youth mental health agencies across Ontario.*

## Who can contact One Stop Talk?

- Children and youth (from 0-17 years of age)
- Parents and caregivers can access the service in the presence of their child

## Clients will receive:

- Counselling from registered therapists from across the province
- In the moment access to counselling, no appointment needed
- Access to One Stop Talk after hours and on weekends
- A plan to take with them after the session that they co-create
- Direct connection to services in their community within the same visit, as needed
- The opportunity to self-select service when it's right for them

## Hours:

Connect with the clinicians (hours in EST)

Monday to Friday from 12pm to 8pm  
Saturdays from 12pm- 4pm

**No appointments required!**



**Free service**



**No referral required**



**Languages Offered: English, French** (interpretation services available as needed)



One Stop Talk

To learn more about the program, visit [OneStopTalk.ca](https://www.onestoptalk.ca)

## Safety Reminders and Resources for Students

Remind students that, if they are feeling unwell (e.g., overwhelmed, anxious, sad), they can talk to you or another adult they trust. There are people who work in schools, and in our community, who are there to help them find ways to feel better. Provide them with the resource list and encourage help-seeking.

### Kids Help Phone

Call: 1-800-668-6868

Text: CONNECT to 686868

### LGBT YouthLine

Text: 647-694-4275

### First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line

Call: 1-855-242-3310

### Trans Lifeline

Call: 877-330-6366

### Black Youth Helpline

Call: 416-285-9944 or toll-free 1-833-294-8650

**TIP: Some phone lines are open 24/7 and some have certain hours. Encourage students to check out the ones they prefer.**








# SCDSB Days of Awareness

## OCTOBER



Oct. 1-31	2SLGBTQIA+ History Month Autism Awareness Month Canada Dyslexia Awareness Month Canada German Heritage Month Islamic Heritage Month Latin American Heritage Month Women's History Month
Oct. 2	International Day of Non-Violence World Habitat Day
Oct. 4	International Walk to School Day
Oct. 4-10	World Space Week
Oct. 6	World Cerebral Palsy Day
Oct. 7-8	Simchat Torah (Judaism)
Oct. 8-14	National Fire Prevention Week
Oct. 9	Thanksgiving
Oct. 10	World Mental Health Day
Oct. 11	International Day of the Girl Child National Coming Out Day
Oct. 15-23	Sharad Navratri (Hinduism)
Oct. 16	Birth of the Báb (Bahá'í) World Food Day
Oct. 16-17	Birth of the Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í)
Oct. 16-20	National School Bus Safety Week
Oct. 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
Oct. 18	Persons Day
Oct. 19	International Pronouns Day School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
Oct. 20	Installation of the Guru Granth as Guru (Sikhism) Installation of Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib (Sikhism)
Oct. 22	Durga Ashtami (Hinduism) <sup>4</sup>
Oct. 23-29	Canadian Down Syndrome Week
Oct. 24	Vijayadashami, also known as Dussehra, Dasara or Dashain (Hinduism)
Oct. 26	Dress Purple Day - Association of Children's Aid Societies
Oct. 28 – Nov. 27	Kathina (Buddhism)
Oct. 29	Pavarana (Buddhism)
Oct. 31 – Nov. 1	Karva Chauth (Hinduism) Samhain (Wicca)

# October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 School Council Meeting	3	4	5 Terry Fox Run 	6	7
8	9 Thanksgiving - No School!	10	11	12	13 Photo Day 	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 PA Day - No School!	21
22	23	24 Grade 7 Immunization (from the SMDHU)	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween/ Wear Black and Orange Day 				

## School Schedule

Supervision Begins:	9:10
First Bell:	9:25
First Nutrition Break:	11:05-11:45
Second Nutrition Break:	1:25-2:50
Dismissal:	3:45

*Merci  
Thank You!*



**ATTENTION Parents  
and Guardians!  
We need YOU!**

# Alliston PUBLIC SCHOOL

Please contact the school by email  
[allistonunion@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:allistonunion@scdsb.on.ca) or phone  
705-435-7391 if you would like more  
information or would like to join  
school council this year

Please visit

[https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent/school\\_councils](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent/school_councils)

for more information on school councils in  
the SCDSB

## What is School Council?

School council is made up of administrators, teachers, parents and guardians. One of the purposes is to work together to create a positive environment for learning for all students.

School Council is inclusive, accountable and transparent. School Councils are able to make recommendations to the principal and school board on any matter. They help to provide the community voice and parent/guardian perspective on important school topics.

The partnership of school and community representatives on a school council helps to build mutual understanding and interaction between a school and its community, resulting in benefits for both.

## Meeting Dates:

Monday, October 2nd  
Monday, November 6th  
Monday, February 5th  
Monday, March 4th  
Monday, May 6th

All meetings will be held from 5:30pm  
to 6:30pm

Location: AUPS Library



# YOUR PHOTO DAY IS APPROACHING!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13



## Showcase Your Best Smile

- Students will be photographed at school.
- On photo day, no order form or payment is due.
- Review your images and purchase online with ease!



### DON'T FORGET

School photos are a Canadian tradition to capture the school year and preserve your continued growth.



### GET REMINDERS

Sign up for notifications at [edgeimaging.ca/photoday](https://edgeimaging.ca/photoday) to get real-time updates about your photo day and stay in the know with Edge.

