



Alliston Union Public School



211 Church St. North, Alliston, ON, L9R 0G3

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allistonunion@scdsb.on.ca

Jennifer Carrick, Principal

Kate Copfer, Vice-Principal

September 2023 Newsletter

Dear AUPS Families,

It's that time of year again! We hope that you've all had an amazing summer break! We have some quick reminders for the first week:

The first day of school for SK to Gr. 8 students is Tuesday, September 5. JK students will start on Thursday, September 7. Supervision begins at 9:10 and the bell rings at 9:25. Students arriving late (after 9:25) will need to be buzzed in at the front doors. Students will need to bring a snack, a lunch, a water bottle and a clean pair of indoor shoes. Staff members in orange vests will be waiting to welcome students out on the yard. Parents/guardians, we kindly ask that you keep the gate areas as clear as possible to avoid congestion.

As always, much care and planning has gone into assigning class placements for students. We want to remind families that class placements are tentative and that students will remain in their current classes. There may be changes during turnaround time at the end of September. Requests for alternative placements will be considered at that time.

Thank you for being a part of our awesome AUPS community. We're looking forward to spending another amazing school year with all of you!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Carrick
Principal

Kate Copfer
Vice-Principal



Upcoming Dates:

September 5 - First Day of School

September 7 - First Day for Junior Kindergartens

September 22 - PA Day: No School

September 28 - Meet the Staff Night

September 30 - Orange Shirt Day

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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

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

Kiss n' Ride

Our Kiss & Ride will be open during entry and dismissal this year. We ask that parents please make every possible effort to arrange for students to walk to and from school to keep Kiss & Ride traffic to a minimum. When using the Kiss & Ride:

- Enter the parking lot from the north end
- Stay to the right and follow the painted arrows
- Pull up as far as possible
- Do not stop at the gate, pull all the way forward before unloading
- Do not park in the Kiss & Ride lane; if students need assistance unloading, you must find a parking spot
- Exit right onto Church St.

Thank you for your assistance in keeping our school community safe!



New Crossing Guard Schedule

The Town of New Tecumseth has provided us a new Crossing Guard schedule attached below. Please take a look as there have been some changes. **There will be NO Crossing Guards at any location over the lunch hour.**

Alliston Union (Alliston) locations and NEW times		
Location	Morning	Afternoon
Victoria and Church Street	8:35 am- 9:35 am	3:35 pm- 4:35 pm
Church Street North and Hussey	8:20 am- 9:35 am	3:10 pm- 4:25 pm
Church Street North and Oak	8:20 am- 9:35 am	3:10 pm- 4:25 pm
Gray and Oak	8:20 am- 9:35 am	3:10 pm- 4:25 pm
Church Street North and Gray	8:20 am- 9:35 am	3:10 pm- 4:25 pm
James A. McCague and Gray	8:20 am- 9:35 am	3:10 pm- 4:25 pm
John W. Taylor and Boyne	8:45 am- 9:35 am	3:35 pm- 4:25 pm
John W. Taylor and Davidson	8:50 am- 9:35 am	3:35 pm- 4:25 pm
John W. Taylor and Gordon	8:50 am- 9:35 am	3:35 pm- 4:25 pm

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Student Contact Information and Permission Forms

A package of important forms and paperwork will be sent home with your child(ren) during the first week of school. Please be sure to return your Student Information Verification Forms (purple forms) and log in to SchoolCash Online to sign your Acknowledgements and Permissions forms as soon as possible. These forms ensure our emergency contact information for students are up to date and give your child(ren) permission to participate in classroom activities such as walking trips, computer use and more.

If you require assistance accessing your SchoolCash Online account, please contact our office by email at allistonunion@scdsb.on.ca or by phone at 705-435-7391.

If your child has a medical condition you would like the school to be aware of and you have not already sent us a medical form, please email kshort@scdsb.on.ca.



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 doordash, uber eats or skipthedishes food deliveries. Only a parent/guardian or emergency contact can drop off a food delivery for a student.



SCDSB 2023-24 Student Handbook

The SCDSB student handbook contains a variety of information that the SCDSB is required to share with all students and families. This September, schools will be distributing the student handbook to all families via email. The SCDSB 2023-24 Student Handbook can also be found on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent and on school websites under 'students'. If you

have questions, please contact the school.

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SCDSB launches updated character education program for 2023-24 school year

This year the SCDSB will begin implementation of the updated character education program. Rather than focus on one attribute each month, the program has been changed to reflect that character is a fluid concept that includes a variety of attributes.

The updated character attributes are:

Bravery	Helpfulness	Listening	Responsibility
Caring	Honesty	Love	Trustworthiness
Compassion	Humility	Loyalty	Truth
Cooperation	Inclusiveness	Optimism	Sharing
Courage	Integrity	Perseverance	Wisdom
Empathy	Kindness	Respect	



For more information on the updated character education program, visit the character education page on the SCDSB website: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education.

September PA Day

Please note that Friday, Sept. 22 is a PA Day for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2023-24 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar.

Below is a summary of the activities planned for the Sept. 22 PA Day:

Length:	Full day
Topic:	Reading and Literacy, Social Studies, Assessment
Host:	Simcoe County District School Board
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s):	School board staff and school administrators

Educators will participate in person to review the newly revised Language Curriculum, *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language, 2023*, and new de-streamed *English, Grade 9, and Français, 9e année* courses and explore resources to support their implementation with students. Through group discussions and hands-on activities, elementary educators will learn about early reading instruction and the use of screening tools to help ensure that students with reading difficulties are identified and supported early. They will also explore and plan for literacy instruction across the curriculum, including the new Holocaust Education curriculum in Grade 6. Secondary educators will also engage in assessment activities and the collaborative planning of student tasks and opportunities to inform both course instruction and evaluation.

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Universal Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) screening process

The OLSAT is a standardized group test of ability. The results of this test will help us gain a better understanding of students' areas of relative strength and needs as related to their verbal and non-verbal abilities so that we can plan our programs and supports accordingly. Results may also be used to inform identification (e.g., Intellectual: Gifted).

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction, and through providing program extensions and enrichment. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate, and challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular classroom or in an elementary gifted classroom placement.

A consent form examining the universal OLSAT screening process in greater detail will be sent to parent(s)/ guardian(s) of students in Grade 3 via School Cash Online in September. If you require further information about the universal OLSAT screening process, please contact the school.



School council nominations for 2023-24 school year

School council is a committee made up of elected parents/guardians, community representatives, staff, and sometimes students that help to provide the community voice and parent/guardian perspective on important school topics. School council is a good way for parents/guardians to get involved in their child/children's education while playing an important role in the partnership between home and school.

School council nominations take place every fall. If you are interested, please watch your email for upcoming communication and for more information visit www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent/school_councils.

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

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school-identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent/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. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site childcare centre to make sure they don't get on a bus in error.

For more information, visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca.



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Annual notice to adult students or parent(s)/guardian(s) of students under the age of 16

A completed Student Medical Form (FORM A1420 - 1) is required each school year, or when a medical need is identified, or when the student transfers to another school, in order to authorize medical response plan development and the administration of prescribed medication to students who require it during school hours, or when the medication and/or dosage requirements change. Specific to asthma, every student is now permitted to carry their asthma medication if the student has their parent's/guardian's permission. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are responsible for ensuring that a current, completed Student Medical Form is on file at the school. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are also to complete a Plan of Care for students with prevalent medical conditions such as anaphylaxis, asthma, type 1 diabetes, or epilepsy/seizure disorder.

Some students may experience severe life-threatening allergic reactions to bee, hornet, wasp, or other flying insect stings or to certain foods or food ingredients such as peanuts. The best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure for these students is to respectfully ask parent(s)/guardian(s) to avoid sending peanut butter or products with peanuts and/or tree nuts listed in the ingredients to school. For students with life-threatening allergies, it is recommended that two doses of an epinephrine auto-injector are available on site at school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions you may have.

Student Accident Insurance 2023-24

Student injuries at school during school events, extra-curricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, etc.) and out-of-province/out-of-country trips are not covered by the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen.

A variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices can be found through either:

- StudyInsured at www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com or by calling 1-833-560-0527; or,
- Insure my Kids through at www.insuremykids.com or by calling 1-800-463-5437.

Participation in extra-curricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, etc.) and/or out-of-province/ out-of-country trips require the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage.

Student dress code

Our board's dress code is one way that we embed the principles set out in the SCDSB and Ministry of Education documents, Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario, and Equity and Inclusive Education to ensure safe, inclusive and equitable learning environments for all of our students. In SCDSB schools, we believe that students should be able to learn in a safe and caring space that is free of bias and discrimination. When making choices about what to wear to school, we respect your individuality. To ensure that our learning environments are safe and respectful spaces, our board has consulted with students and staff to develop a set of shared standards for student dress.

The SCDSB dress code is available on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code. If you have questions about the dress code, contact your school principal.



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Procedures help keep our school safe

We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations



Parents/guardians should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **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. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off temporarily.
- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all exterior doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Interior doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents/guardians do not go to the school. Information 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.
- All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents/guardians will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.

When parents/guardians are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire, and/or emergency personnel. Parents/guardians may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent/guardian care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Please note the following:

- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** and wait for assistance. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, so please be patient.**
- Staff must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents/guardians of elementary students to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All SCDSB schools have **automated external defibrillators (AEDs)**.

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Volunteering in schools during the 2023-24 school year

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our schools great places to learn and grow. We value and appreciate the support of our volunteers. Volunteers have various roles at our schools including:

- School event volunteer
- Hot lunch day organizers
- Field trip supervisors
- Classroom helpers



Please contact your local school's office if you are interested in volunteering and would like to know more about the opportunities available.

To become a volunteer in a Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) school, you must complete accessibility training and submit a current (dated within six months) Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC). Schools require all VSCs to be in their original form and emailed directly to the school for processing. Please note, volunteers are unable to upload VSCs directly to the volunteer portal. Each potential volunteer must create an account within the volunteer portal. Please remember to choose the school you wish to volunteer with.-

If you do not have a computer or require assistance, please contact the school.

Current volunteers

Current approved volunteers must keep their Community Apps account/Volunteer Portal information up-to-date with email address changes. Communication is sent throughout the year to the provided email address with respect to timelines, necessary requirements, etc. regarding your volunteer status. Instructions on how to change your email address in Community Apps can be found [here](#). Updating your email address in your Community Apps account will automatically update your email address in your Volunteer Portal.

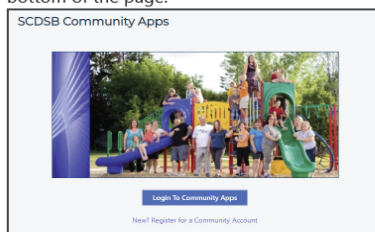
If you are also a parent, check out [our Parent Portal](#).

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.

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SEPTEMBER 2022

Holy Days & Holidays

- 1** Installation of Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib
Sikhism
- 3** **Farvardegan (SC)**
Zoroastrianism
- 5** Labour Day
Canadian Holiday
- 7** Birth Date of H. H. Sakya Trizin
Buddhism
- 9** Anant Chaturdashi
Hinduism/Jainism
- 9** **Anant Chaturdashi/Kshamavani /Daslakshan Parva ends**
Jainism
- 11** **Coptic New Year/Nayrouz (J)**
Christianity
- 12** Anniversary of the Tatsunokuchi Persecution
Buddhism
- 17** **Arba'een**
Islam
- 19** Powley Day
Indigenous World View
- 21** Festival of Higan-e
Buddhism
- 22** Eihei Dogen Kigen Memorial
Buddhism
- 22** **Harvestide/Mabon/Fall Equinox**
(may be observed Sept. 21-29)
Wicca
- 25-27** **Rosh Hashanah**
Judaism
- 26** **Sharad Navratri begins**
Hinduism
- 30** National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
Indigenous World View
- 30** Orange Shirt Day
Canadian Observance/Indigenous World View

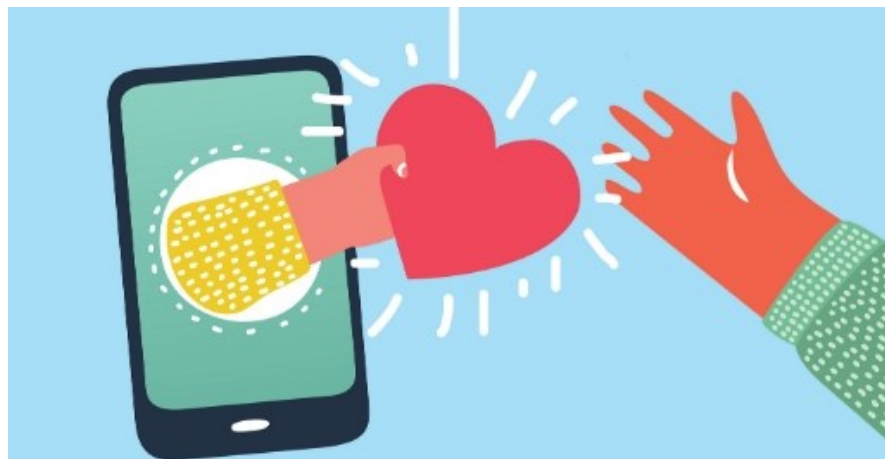
Heritage Recognition for September

Ukrainian Heritage Day (September 7)

Ukrainian Heritage Day is celebrated each year on September 7. It is the day when Ukrainian settlers arrived in Canada in 1891. For more information, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/11u03>.

Franco-Ontarian Day (September 25)

The Francophone community of Ontario is the largest French-speaking community in Canada outside Quebec. We celebrate the French language and heritage on September 25, the anniversary of the first unveiling of the Franco-Ontarian flag (in 1975). For more information, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/10f04>.





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.
- Follow the SCDSB on X (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Holiday: No School	5 	6	7 First Day for Junior Kindergarteners	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 PA Day: No School	23
24	25	26	27	28 Meet the Staff Night	29	30 Orange Shirt 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!*

