

# Codrington News

## Codrington Public School Newsletter



Mel Hornik, Principal

# Welcome Back

## Upcoming Events

### SEPTEMBER

- 1-30** Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- 5th** First day of Classes SK-8
- 5-6** Arbaeen (Islam)
- 6-7** Krishna Janmashtami (Hinduism)
- 7th** First day of classes for JK students  
Birth Date of H.H. Sakya Trizin (Buddhism)
- 8th** International Literacy Day
- 15th** International Dot Day
- 15-17** Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)
- 20th** Rowan's Law Day
- 22nd** PA Day
- 24-25** Yom Kippur (Judaism)
- 27th** Turn Around Day
- 28th** Meet the Teacher Night
- 29th** Moon Festival Buddhism)
- 30th** Orange Shirt Day  
National Truth and Reconciliation Day

## Leadership Message

Welcome back everyone to a brand new school year at Codrington Public School — and what an amazing year it will be! I'm so excited about this year and look forward to working with all of our families.

I would also like to welcome back our students and their families, and our staff. Please join me in extending a special welcome to the many new students attending our school for the first time in junior kindergarten, our gifted program, or who have moved into our area over the summer.

Without a doubt, we had a fabulous school year last year. It was so nice to return to offering fantastic athletic opportunities, extra-curricular clubs and events, celebrations and our annual Fun Fair in June. What fun!

At Codrington we strive for excellence in collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. Focused, intentional instruction around literacy and numeracy, knowing student strengths and needs, and promoting increased student achievement will continue to be a priority. We believe all students can learn and achieve success and we are committed to working closely with parents and the community to make it happen.

The first few weeks are a time when we may need to make adjustments to school organization. With new registrations, and students moving over the summer it may be necessary to shuffle not only students, but teachers as well. I will keep you updated should we need to re-organize.

I look forward to working with all members of our school community this year. I want to invite parents to consider joining our School Council this year. We have a dynamic team of dedicated parents and we always welcome new people to join. Please watch for information about our first meeting of the school year.

Please feel free to contact me throughout the year should you have any questions or feedback. I value open communication to ensure that all our community members feel valued.

Together, we can make a difference!

*Mel Hornik*

# Celebrations


We would like to extend a big THANK YOU to our custodial team—Mr. Wright and Mr. Rosenberger for the great job they did to get our school ready for the new school year. The floors are sparkling, the walls are glistening and our classrooms are clean and tidy.

THANK YOU to Mrs. Watton and all of our staff for the work they have done in preparation for the first day of school. Thank you so much for a job well done!

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

# Our Staff

Principal	Ms. Hornik		
Senior Admin Support	Mrs. Watton		
Chief Custodian	Mr. Wright		
Evening Custodian	Mr. Rosenberger		
JK/SK	Mrs. Preston/ Mrs. Beck Mrs. Ramsey / Mrs. Jackson		
Gr. SK/1	Mrs. Pappas		
Gr. 1/2	Mrs. Guthrie	Gr. 5/6	Mrs. Bontius
Gr. 2/3	Mrs. Knight	Gr. 6/7	Mrs. Eisses
Gr. 3/4	Mr. Scofield	Gr. 7	Ms. Redwood
Gr. 4/5	Mrs. Lawson	Gr. 7/8	Mrs. Kocsis-Dean
Gr. 4/5	Miss. Redmond	Gr. 8	Mr. Cable
Learning Centre/SERT	Mrs. Shanahan / Mrs. Cloutier		
French	Mme. Paciocco		
Library	Mrs. Knapp		
Music	Mr. Candelino / Mrs. Cloutier		
PT	Mme. Paciocco / Mrs. Cloutier		
Educational Assistants	Mrs. Li, Mrs. Donald, Mr. Rooney		
Speech-Language Pathologist	Mrs. Cooper		

## Helpful Information

9:00am	Entry Bell
10:40am—11:20am	1st Nutrition & Outdoor Break
1:00pm—1:40pm	2nd Nutrition & Outdoor Break
3:20pm	Dismissal
Safe Arrival: 1-888-885-8065	

### 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar).



# We're on Twitter

Stay connected with the most up-to-date

news and information by following us @CodringtonPS and @CodringtonPr.

## School Council

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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent/school_councils). Our first school council meeting for the 2023-24 school year will be Monday October 2nd at 6:30pm in our library.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

## 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.

## 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education).

# 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](http://www.facebook.com/SCDSB) and [www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](http://www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://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 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)**.

## 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code). If you have questions about the dress code, contact your school principal.

# Volunteers For 2023-24

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](#).

## **Standard Acknowledgment And Permission Form/Student Information Computing Technology Appropriate Use Agreement 2023-24**

The 2023-24 Standard Acknowledgment and Permission Form and Student Information Computing Technology Appropriate Use Agreement are required forms for all Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students. The forms have been made available electronically through School Cash Online until Oct. 16. School Cash Online is our preferred method for forms. If you are unable to submit these forms electronically, please contact the office for paper copies.

## **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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent) and on school websites under 'students'. If you have questions, please contact the school.

## **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.

## **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](http://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com) or by calling 1-833-560-0527; or, Insure my Kids through at [www.insuremykids.com](http://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.