



# Lions Pride Press

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## Administrative & Office Staff

**Principal:** Patrick Miller

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

**Vice-Principal:** Lisa Aldersey

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## Senior Administrative Support:

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## Clerk Steno:

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## Upcoming Dates

January 28th - PA Day  
February 18th - Elementary Report Cards  
February 21st - Family Day  
March 7th - Graduation Photo Day  
March 14th - 18th - March Break

## January Character Attribute

Honesty - we behave in a sincere, trustworthy and truthful manner.

More information about Character Education can be found here: [www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education)

## Administrator's Message:

Hello again, WC Little Families!

We are so glad to see the students back at school, and just as happy to continue connecting with those who are currently learning online. It has been great to see classroom learning come alive again, a process which is enriched by the use of educational technology. If you borrowed some of our ed tech during the closure (Chromebooks), please return it as soon as you are able, so that we can get these important learning tools back into the classrooms!

We send warm wishes for happiness, health and adventure in 2022, as seasonal celebrations continue in our learning community with Mahayana New Year and Lunar New Year. We would also like to welcome all newly-registered families to their new school and hope that your children are off to a great start here.

As I write this, I am wrapped in an extra sweater layer as those extremely cold temperatures draft in from the outside. This reminds me to share with you that we approach these extreme temperatures with a school response to keep our students safe and comfortable. We assess the temperatures and wind chill several times daily, and will keep the students inside for supervised classroom activities during their break time if needed. Thank you for making sure that your child(ren) are prepared for the weather with well-insulated outer layers, face coverings, mittens, extra mittens, and warm footwear.

School Closures due to inclement weather do not happen very often, and our recent closure serves as a great reminder to connect yourself to the many sources of information shared by the SCDSB and the school. Our Instagram handle is [@wclittle\\_scdsb](https://www.instagram.com/wclittle_scdsb). The SCDSB's Twitter ([@SCDSB\\_Schools](https://twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and Facebook feeds are also a great way to get timely updates. Another way that we keep you informed is our SchoolMessenger bulk email broadcasts to families, so please make sure we have your most updated email address. With the changing landscape of Covid-19 protocols and information, your school and your family can work better together by staying connected.

Thank-you for your continued effort to keep our school and wider community safe and well by completing the daily [Covid-19 Self-Assessment](#) with your child(ren). I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the School Council chairs and members for their commitment to fundraising, parent engagement and community-building at WC Little. Their behind-the-scenes work fuels many positive school initiatives and goals.

Stay warm, stay well, stay kind and stay connected!

Lisa Aldersey  
Vice-Principal





### Emails & Communication

As W.C. Little Elementary School is growing and as we also need to convey information with urgency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we rely on email communication to reach our community quickly and efficiently. It is important to have updated email addresses on file and to check for school correspondence on a regular basis. Please ensure "School Messenger" is not a blocked incoming email recipient and that you read each email entirely as it likely contains important information for you or your child(ren).



### Phone Calls

Administration, office staff, teachers, students, or other school staff may call home for a lunch, change of clothes, forgotten items, important information, Covid-19 protocol, etc. Please be sure to have voicemail set up on your phone and to check all messages before returning calls to the school. This will help expedite your call and connect you with the person you were contacted by.



### Safe Arrival

The Safe Arrival Program is in place in elementary schools to ensure that children arrive safely at school each day. Please be advised that **on days when buses are cancelled due to inclement weather**, calls will **not** be made to families whose children ride school transportation. Families of those children who walk to school are asked to report their child's absence to the school if they will not be in attendance. An effort will be made to call families of walking students who are not present but on some days, given the number of absent students, this may not be possible.



### After School Pick Up Changes

Please do not call the office to make any changes to your child's pick up arrangements after 2 pm, unless it is a dire emergency. We do understand that changes to your schedule sometimes occur at the last minute, unfortunately the end of the day is very busy in the office, the classrooms may be in various locations (including outdoors), and staff are maintaining Covid-19 protocol to keep students in their cohorts. Therefore we ask for the safety of all our students, to please refrain from making any changes after 2 pm each day.



### Kiss N' Ride

Please remember this lane is not for parking (the entire lane before, at, and after the school). It is designated for school buses and specialized transportation only. Please park in the parking lot or surrounding school areas when at the school. Kiss N' Ride is a quick drop off and/or pick up process with the driver remaining in the vehicle.



### No Dogs / Pets Please

A reminder that dogs and/or pets are not permitted on school property. Please keep your pets at home when picking up and dropping off your child(ren), communicating at the front entrance for school needs and school events.



### Instructions for when Children Become Sick at School

Parents/guardians will be asked to provide multiple contacts who will be available to pick up their child(ren) in the event that they become ill while at school. Children who become ill while at school, will be isolated from their classroom and will not be able to travel on a bus home for the protection of the other riders.



### No Visitor Access

As we have transitioned back to school routine, following the direction from our local health authority, the SMDHU, visitors are not permitted within SCDSB schools at this time. Parents/guardians may ring the doorbell at elementary schools to receive assistance (masks are required on school property). Parents/guardians will be asked to call the school's main office at secondary schools to receive assistance. School main office phone numbers will be posted on the doors of school



**PARKING LOT SAFETY MESSAGE:**

With the return to in-person learning has come the return of a busy parking lot. We have had a number of vehicles left unattended in the Kiss and Ride lanes as well as in the laneways of the parking lot. This can not continue as it causes further congestion in the Kiss and Ride and leads to cars backing up onto Bear Creek Drive and even Sun Dew Drive.

Please review the information below which was originally sent home November 1st and again on December 2nd. Our staff will continue to supervise the parking lot before and after school but we need the support of all families to keep the parking lot safe for all of us.

Thank you for your attention to this important safety message.

**1. Bus Zone**

We recently had our parking lot lines and signage repainted. This included directional arrows, crosswalks, no parking signs and a highly visible Bus Zone. This Bus Zone is also marked with traffic cones and is for busses only. Please do not drive through, stop or park in this zone before or after school. This space is for our school busses and vans and it is an important part of a safe entry and exit for our students.

**2. Kiss and Ride**

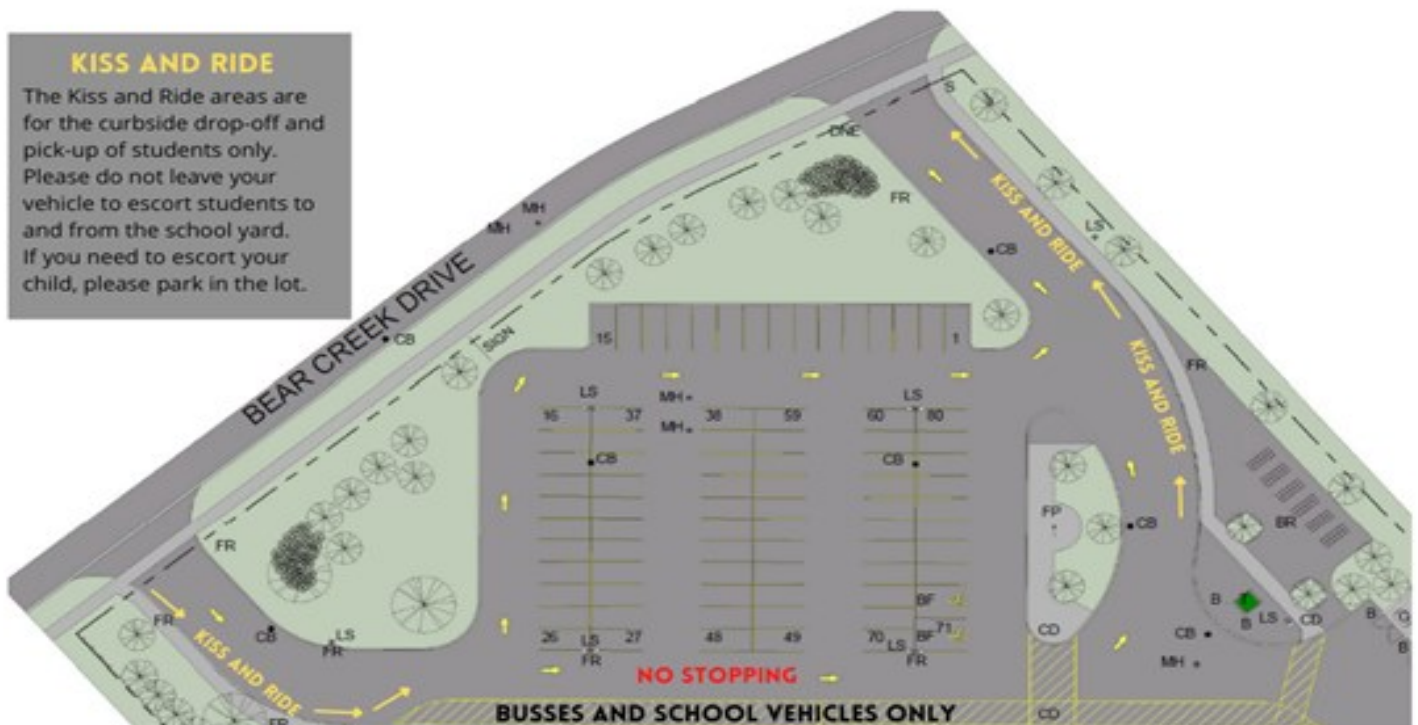
Please use the directional arrows for our Kiss and Ride drop off and pick up. These Kiss and Ride areas are for curbside drop off and pick up of students only. Cars in the Kiss and Ride areas are not to be left unattended as traffic backs up onto Bear Creek Drive and in some cases Sundew Drive as well. This can cause potentially dangerous situations on these roads and blocks school vehicles from entering our lot. If your child requires you to walk them to or from the entry gates, please park in the lot and escort them to the gates. We continue to encourage walking where possible but understand that some of our families need to drive to and from school. There is also a City of Barrie parking lot behind the school on Holly Meadow Road available for drop off and pick up.

**3. Slow down.**

With so many cars coming and going, it is vital that we all use extreme caution when driving through our parking lot, out onto Bear Creek Drive and through the streets in our community.

**4. Staff Supervision**

Our staff are on duty before and after school to support the arrival of our students by bus and van and to supervise the front of the school area for our walkers. They are all working in service of keeping our students safe and I ask that they are treated with respect and kindness. If they approach you about a parking lot safety issue please know that they are doing so with student safety in mind. Please follow their direction and direct any concerns to Mr. Miller.

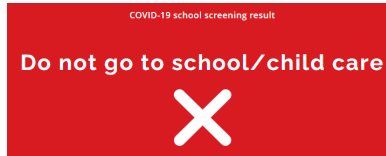
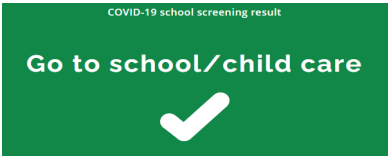




**DAILY SCHOOL SCREENING SELF-ASSESSMENT**

All students and staff are required to complete the daily COVID-19 self-assessment prior to entering SCDSB schools and buildings, using the provincial self-assessment tool. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

**NOTE: The test result will look like one of the examples below, please follow accordingly.**



**BOX LUNCH PROGRAM**

The lunch program has continued. Orders are made on-line through the School Cash Online portal. So if you haven't already, be sure to create your School Cash account to have access to this Opportunity. To cancel orders, this process is done through the Lunch Box account directly.

**Available to Order:**

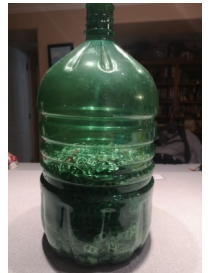
- Wednesdays—Subway Subs (ham, turkey or veggie with gluten free options)
- Thursdays—Cheese Pizza



**CHALLENGE FROM MS. SAUNTER: "CAN W.C. COLLECT MORE THAN ME?"**

Ms. Saunter is beginning a fundraiser at W.C. starting in December, running through the school year until the end of May. Classes will be collecting POP TABS to make wheelchairs for children and students in need. Each participating class will be entered into a draw to win a Pizza Party!

See the photo of all the tabs Ms. Saunter has collected so far!



Please join us on Facebook where you can keep up to date on council and please email the fundraising team with any questions or ideas that you may have!

[wclittlelionsfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:wclittlelionsfundraising@gmail.com) / <https://www.facebook.com/wcschoolcouncil/>



### Daily COVID-19 self-assessment

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### Updates to the School Screening Tool for the 2021-22 school year - international travel

Recently, the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) was updated to reflect the return to school requirements for students who are returning from international travel. Individuals who are unvaccinated and returning from international travel may not attend school or child care for 14 days upon their return. For further clarity, while unvaccinated children and those under the age of 12 are exempt from federal quarantine if they travelled with a fully vaccinated companion, they may not attend school or child care for 14 days upon their return. Individuals with all other quarantine exemptions (e.g. travelling for cross-border custody arrangements, travelling for medical treatment) may continue to attend school or child care.

### January PA Day (elementary only)

Please note that Friday, Jan. 28 is a PA Day for elementary SCDSB students, both Learn@Home and in school. Please refer to the 2021-2022 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).

### 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 SCSTC 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 SCSTC 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>.

### Kindergarten registration for September 2022 is open!

Kindergarten is the beginning of a wonderful journey of learning and we want your child to begin their journey in a SCDSB school! Do you have a child who is turning four in 2022? If so, we invite you to register your child for kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/kindergarten](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten).

### High school information events for Grade 8 students

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will happen virtually this winter. Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Please visit your school's website for more information.



| JANUARY |   |
|---------|---|
| 2022    |   |
| 1       | Temple Day (Solar New Year)<br>Buddhism |
| 1       | New Year's Day<br>Christianity          |
| 1       | New Year's Day<br>Canadian Holiday      |
| 5       | Birth of Guru Gobind Singh<br>Sikhism   |
| 6       | Epiphany<br>Christianity                |
| 7       | Christmas (J)<br>Christianity           |
| 10      | Linji Memorial<br>Buddhism              |
| 13      | Lohri<br>Hinduism                       |
| 13      | Maghi<br>Sikhism                        |
| 14      | New Year's Day (J)<br>Christianity      |
| 14      | Makar Sankranti<br>Hinduism             |
| 18      | Magha begins<br>Buddhism                |
| 18-20   | Mahāyāna New Year<br>Buddhism           |
| 19      | Epiphany (J)<br>Christianity            |
| 25      | Honen Shonin Memorial<br>Buddhism       |

**Interested in learning more about IEPs and school-based assessments? Join us for a virtual special education outreach session**

In 2022, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/guardians in learning more about programs, supports and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs.

On Jan. 13, join us for the first session, 'IEPs and school-based assessments – information for parents/guardians.' This virtual presentation will run from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and will include opportunities for participants to share their questions regarding IEPs and school-based assessments.

For more information and to register visit: [https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special\\_education](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education).

**Join us! A learning series for parents/guardians**

Mental health and well-being continues to be a key strategic priority within the SCDSB. We are pleased to announce a new three-year partnership with Pine River Institute (PRI). The Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) will provide several multi-part learning series focused on student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities.

There are three upcoming webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents and guardians during this school year.

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Jan. 25, 2022  | Understanding and Managing Screen Time           |
| March 29, 2022 | Connection and Empathy in Response to Behaviour  |
| May 19, 2022   | Understanding Addiction and Addictive Behaviours |

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 mental health and well-being page on 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).

**Math @Home parent series**

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey. The winners of the prizes will be notified in January. The SCDSB math department is offering three evening virtual sessions for caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support students with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. Participants will receive a math pack of resources to use at home, and must pre-register for each of the sessions by visiting <https://bit.ly/SCDSBMathAtHomeRegistration>.

**Having fun with math facts @Home**

Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022

7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore practical, intentional and fun ways to practice math facts at home. Participants will leave with ideas, games and activities to support their child in becoming fluent with their math facts.

**Making math connections @Home**

Thursday, March 24, 2022

7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore where we find numbers, patterns, measures and shapes in our daily lives.

Participants will learn about practical ways to help their child notice and wonder about the math in their world.

**Problem solving @Home**

Wednesday, April 26, 2022

7 to 8 p.m.

This session will explore how to encourage children to be active thinkers and problem solvers, both in math and around the house. Participants will learn about how solving problems at home can help their children solve problems in math class.

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a Math @Home pack of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on the registration form.



# January



| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI   |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
|     |     |     |     |   |
| 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 31  |     |     |     | PA DAY<br> |