



JOHNSON STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Website: <http://jon.scdsb.on.ca/> Twitter: @JSPSJets
Inclement Weather Zone: Central

Principal: Lindsey Cook

SASE: Cheryl Reed

Superintendent: Susan Sidlofsky

SEPTEMBER 2023 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message

Greetings Johnson Street Families,

Welcome back JSPS students and families! Our school is full with the hum of student excitement and learning as we move into our second week back to school. Please join me in welcoming: Ms. Gouveia (Kinark Sec. 23 Teacher) and Ms. Marra (Grade 1 - Long Term Occasional Teacher). Even though our school has been closed to students over the summer months, much activity has been happening at JSPS. Our Lead Custodian, Mr. Page has done a phenomenal job with summer clean up. When you visit the school you will see that it is sparkling and gleaming, ready for a new school year!

The resumption of many of our regular school activities has begun! We look forward to our Terry Fox Run Day on September 21. We will also recognize National Indigenous People's Day on September 29th, which includes Orange Shirt Day. Please watch your email for updates in our Week at a Glance (WAAG) regarding school events as our team collaborates to bring various activities and events to our school and community.

In terms of other important upcoming dates, Friday, September 22nd is a scheduled Professional Activity Day, which means there will not be school for students. Turnaround Day

Upcoming JSPS/SCDSB Events:

Month of September

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month

September 7th

Ukrainian Heritage Day

September 21st

Terry Fox Run at JSPS

September 27th

Elementary Turn-Around Day

September 22nd

PA Day - No school for all SCDSB students

September 29th

Orange Shirt Day

September 30th

Orange Shirt Day
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

To view SCDSB Days of Observance, click [here](#)

<https://translate.google.ca/>



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will take place on Wednesday, September 27th in the Simcoe County District School Board. Please remember that class placements for students are tentative until this date and class organizations can change based on the number of students enrolled at our school (e.g., we could gain classes, lose classes or move students between classes to balance class sizes). If there are changes to be made, staff and students will begin in their new classes on September 27th. We will notify you of any changes in advance of this date and will work with our families to minimize disruption as much as possible during this annual process.

I am looking forward to another exceptional year of learning, leadership and community building at JSPS. I am always reachable by phone or email at the school for inquiries requiring administrator support.

Your partner in education,

Mrs. Cook
Principal

News From School Council

We believe that an effective school is built on positive relationships between the school and community and we have been very appreciative of all of the School Council's efforts and support of our school. This past Monday we were excited to welcome many new parents who joined us for our School Council meet and greet. If you were not able to attend this session, and you are still interested in being part of the School Council this year, please remember to complete the School Council nomination form that was sent home last week and return it to the school by Sept. 29th.

School Council meetings are open to all parents and guardians each month and are held in the school library. Attending these meetings is a good way to keep up to date with events going on at our school. **Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023 from 6-7 p.m. in the school library.** At this meeting we will elect our Chair and Secretary, as well as confirm all voting members. All are welcome! You do not need to be a voting member to attend Council meetings.

September 22 PA Day

As mentioned above, Friday, September 22nd is a PA Day for elementary students. Please refer to the 2023-24 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information: scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar.

Terry Fox Run

September 21, 2023 1:45-2:45 p.m.

This is JSPS's 30th year participating in the Terry Fox Run. To date we have raised \$45,818.94!!! AMAZING! Please bring in your loonies, toonies, fives and tens for Terry next week. You can also donate online at www.terryfox.org. Together we can find a cure for cancer!

Intermediate Flag Football

Flag Football has begun at JSPS! We have had an incredible response with over 20+ members on our team!! Practices take place during afternoon recess breaks. Games will be after school, with a schedule soon to follow. Mrs. Bell is very proud of her kids for trying something new, working hard to learn new offensive and

defensive skills, and playing safely and enthusiastically!

New Absence Reporting System

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is implementing a new absence reporting system at secondary 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. If you have questions about the new system, please contact the school office.

SCDSB Character Education

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:**

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Bravery</i> | <i>Helpfulness</i> |
| <i>Listening</i> | <i>Responsibility</i> |
| <i>Caring</i> | <i>Honesty</i> |
| <i>Love</i> | <i>Trustworthiness</i> |
| <i>Compassion</i> | <i>Humility</i> |
| <i>Loyalty</i> | <i>Truth</i> |
| <i>Cooperation</i> | <i>Inclusiveness</i> |
| <i>Optimism</i> | <i>Sharing</i> |
| <i>Courage</i> | <i>Integrity</i> |
| <i>Perseverance</i> | <i>Wisdom</i> |
| <i>Empathy</i> | <i>Kindness</i> |
| <i>Respect</i> | |

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

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.

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 support 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.

Technology Appropriate Use Agreement

The 2023-24 Standard Acknowledgement 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.

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

Participation in extracurricular 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.

Hot Lunches at JSPS

To begin placing lunch orders for your child simply log into your [SchoolCash Online](#) account and click on 'Lunchbox' to begin ordering. **Pizza and subs will begin the week of October 18th and milk will be available the week of Oct. 2nd.** Questions? Contact the Lunchbox Orders customer service team at 1-877-426-6860 or by e-mail at info@lunchboxorders.com

Volunteering in Schools

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.

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.

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.

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.

Before and After School Programs for the 2023-2024 School Year

Register now for before and after school programs for the 2023-24 school year. Please contact the child care operator at your child's school directly to discuss fees and to register. More information and contact numbers can be found at;

https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after

Adult English as a Second Language Program

Looking to improve your English skills? Join our Adult English as a Second Language Program (ESL) classes to improve your listening and speaking skills through class discussions and presentations. Develop your English skills to advance in your current job or open the door

to new employment opportunities. Learn more about your local community and explore Canadian culture and history. Adult ESL classes are offered year-round with a continuous intake.



To register for the program, please contact the Barrie Learning Centre at 705-725-8360 ext. 45151, or email

ganderson@scdsb.on.ca.

*Please note all students starting ESL for the first time must be assessed prior to starting the class. Fees apply for visitors to Canada and work/study permit holders.

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.

Four Finger Affirmations Coping Strategy

Well-being is a strategic priority in the Simcoe County District School Board, and our well-being department provides monthly strategies to support student and family well-being.

This month's strategy is *four finger affirmations*. Parents/guardians can guide their child to think positively in the face of stress or challenges by using affirmations to promote confidence, a growth mindset, self-regulation, and resiliency. To practice four finger affirmations at home, work with your child to generate four words that make them feel calm and confident. For example, "I am loved today" or "breathe, listen, smile, love." Explain that each word will match a finger on their hand. Have them say the words (affirmation) aloud or in their head and connect each finger with their thumb. Tell your child they can repeat this as many times as they like, to themselves or out loud.

Consider practicing four finger affirmations at home with your child at a time of day that will be most helpful for them. Find more easy and fun mental health activities to do at home here:

<https://smho-smsso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/>.

Follow along on the SCDSB's Mental Health and Well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

Reporting Immunizations

Parents/guardians are responsible for reporting their child's immunizations to public health to keep records up-to-date per standards of the

Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) (ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900645) and the Child Care and Early Years Act (ontario.ca/laws/regulation/150137#BK46).

Please note, health care providers in Ontario do not automatically report immunizations to their local public health unit. Reporting and viewing immunizations is easy and can be done online.

To book a clinic appointment to receive a vaccine, visit:

www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization/Clinics-and-Programs/Routine-Immunization-Clinics. For more information or questions, you can call Health Connection at 705-721-7520, or toll-free at 1-877-721-7520.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Keep Connected with our School and 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 Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca.
- The SCDSB Education Centre can be reached at 705-734-6363.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).
- Follow JSPS on Twitter (@JSPSJets)

