



RAMA CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Principal: Daryl Halliday

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Washago, ON
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705-689-2031

Important Dates:

February 6-17 FOOD DRIVE in support of The Sharing Place

February 6 School Council 6pm

February 16 4:30-6:30 Health & Wellness Fair

February 17 Gr4-8 X-Country skiing fieldtrip

February 17 Report Cards Home

February 20 Family Day

March 13-17 March Break



THIS MONTH WE CELEBRATE

INCLUSIVENESS

We include everyone in what we do and value their unique contributions.

Follow Us on Twitter
@RamaCentral_PS



Principal's Message:

While the weather has certainly been a wintery mix, we have continued to move forward positively with our learning here at the school!

As we journey through the months ahead, we remain guided by the renewed Simcoe County DSB Strategic Priorities which include:

- Excellence in Teaching and Learning
- Well-Being
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Community

We have a lot on the go during the month of February including:

- Report cards will be coming home on February 17 as an opportunity for staff to share the progress and next steps for our students (connection to the SCDSB priority of Excellence in Teaching and Learning)
- Health and Wellness Fair with details below (connection to the Well-being priority)
- A Food Drive in support of the Sharing Place (connection to the Community priority)
- Focus on Black History Month (connection to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion priority and this month's SCDSB character attribute)

Thanks to all families for your support of our work with your children – we are better together!!

To report a student absence, or if your child will be late
call **705-689-2031** and press **1** to leave a message.

Please leave messages before **9:10 AM**.



School Schedule

9:10 Morning Bell
10:50-11:30 First Break
1:10-1:50 Second Break
3:30 Final bell

Students arriving after the morning bell must sign in at the office.



Inclement Weather

When buses are cancelled school remains open for learning.

We are in the NORTH zone.

To receive delay and cancellation notifications for your school bus – subscribe on simcoecountyschoolbus.ca



We are striving to be a PAPERLESS school in terms of home communication.

Please ensure we have your current email on file.



ALLERGIES

Due to life threatening allergies, **NUTS, PEANUTS and peanut products are not permitted** on school property.

We are also a scent free school.



Calling the school

If you are not able to reach us at 705-689-2031, please leave a message we will get back to you as soon as possible.



Student Information

Please remember to update your contact and student medical information throughout the year as required.

Character attribute for the month of February

Inclusiveness - We include everyone in what we do and value their unique contributions.

More information about character education can be found here: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

SCDSB Character Education program

Our SCDSB Character Education program was developed over 20 years ago. As a school board, we are moving forward to update the SCDSB Character Education program, along with the attributes. The intended implementation date for our new Character Education program will be September 2023. To make this successful, it is imperative that everyone has an opportunity to have a voice. Currently, we are eliciting student voice from our elementary and secondary students and understanding the important partnership with parents/guardians; we are asking if you could take a moment to fill out the below survey.

The survey opens on Feb. 6 and will remain open until Feb. 10: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M2BF38X>.

Significant days, holy days, holidays and heritage recognition occurring in the month of February.

The students and staff of the SCDSB represent a rich diversity of faith, tradition, heritage, culture and beliefs. The SCDSB Days of Observance 2022-2023 provides schools with an overview of these notable dates and is designed as a reference tool for school staff. As a staff team, we will make a point of recognizing, acknowledging, or celebrating a variety of these dates over the course of the school year with a focus on inclusiveness and respect.

For information regarding holy days and holidays, visit the SCDSB website here:
www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion/holy_days_and_holidays_calendar .

For more information on heritage days, visit the SCDSB website here:
www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion/heritage_recognition .

Black History Month School Focus

February is Black History Month and we will be learning a great deal about the significant contributions of Black Canadians to the Canadian society in which we live. Whether through daily announcements, books being read or research being done within our classes, we will be taking time to focus on this important area of learning to align with our ongoing focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Black History Month – SCDSB Focus

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) recognizes and celebrates Black History Month every February. The SCDSB is committed to improving equity of access and opportunity for Black students, staff, and parents/guardians, and to creating a safe and caring learning environment that promotes the human rights of staff, students, and parent/guardians. The initiatives undertaken by the SCDSB have been embedded in teaching and learning at all school levels, and centrally, for Black History Month and throughout the year. Follow the SCDSB on social media to see how schools are recognizing Black History Month.

Healthy, Active Living – a Key Ongoing Focus at Rama Central

As noted previously, our school is aiming to receive a Gold Certification from Ontario Physical and Health Education Association for our focus on well-being and healthy active living. Whether through our classroom focus on mental health strategies, our commitment to daily physical activity or our focus on the importance of healthy eating, we are helping students to lead healthy lives.

Health and Wellness Fair - Feb 16th

We are pleased to share a great opportunity for our school! On Thursday, February 16 from 4:30-6:30pm, families are invited to return to the school for some outdoor activities (snowshoeing, sledding, games, outdoor yoga) and also to visit our gym where we have invited a number of community organizations to come and share the programs and supports that they have to offer with a focus on mental health and well-being. There will also be hot chocolate and treats available for all. Make sure that you fill out a ballot once you are here for an opportunity to win some brand-new snowshoes, and RCPS toques/clothing! We look forward to a fantastic turnout for this event!!!

Food Drive

We know that families and food banks sometimes struggle after the holidays and so we are planning to run a Food Drive from Feb 6-17 in support of the Sharing Place. Any canned goods or non-perishables are welcome. Thank you for supporting this initiative to make an impact in the local area!

Direct Donations to Rama Central PS – Fundraising

We are pleased to announce that the Simcoe County District School Board now provides online donations as an option – a convenient and secure way to make a one-time donation. When you choose to give online, your donation will transfer directly to our bank account. It is convenient for you and eases the work for our back-office administration. We encourage you to consider online giving for your future contributions.

If you are interested in making an online donation, you will log into your School Cash Online account and click on the “Make a Donation” button to launch the donation portal. You will then be able to choose your gift amount, select Rama Central Public School, and an initiative that you would like to support. You can let us know if this donation is a tribute and if so, who the tribute is for. Lastly, you will have the option to send a message to the school board. Once you add it to your cart you can proceed to the cart and complete your transaction. Tax receipts are issued for donations regardless of denomination, upon completion of transaction.

School playground structures are closed for the winter

Every winter, school playground structures are closed. Students are made aware of this during school hours through announcements and staff reminders during breaks. This may not be well known throughout the community, despite signs indicating that playground structures are a winter hazard and are closed. The Canadian Standards Association regulations make recommendations for the depth of ground cover required to minimize injuries (e.g., sand, pea gravel or wood chips). These surfaces cannot be maintained when the ground freezes. Injuries from falling would be more significant on frozen ground. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen.

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. Our school is in the NORTH 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 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>.

Standards of behaviour and consequences for student action related to racism, bias or hate

At the SCDSB, we are committed to maintaining safe, inviting and supportive school environments, and recognize that all students have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in our schools. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate.

We want you to know that any incident of racism, bias or hate will not be tolerated. Any such incident is treated very seriously with immediate action and consequences in accordance with the requirements of the *Education Act*, and consistent with our values and obligations under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

Students who engage in acts of racism, bias or hate will face severe consequences as a result of their actions. Please take a moment to review the [SCDSB Code of Conduct](#) with your child(ren). The Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour and specifies consequences for student actions that do not comply with these standards.

We are dedicated to educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism. We continue to work with students, staff, parents/guardians and community partners to ensure that our schools are the safe places they are intended to be for all students.

Successful Grant Application!

We recently applied to PHE Canada for an “Access to Action” grant funded by the Government of Canada and were successful in being provided with \$3000 to support our school action plan and the pursuit of our OPHEA certification. This targeted funding will be well used as we purchase new and replacement phys. ed equipment to be used during gym classes, daily physical activity sessions and by those local community groups accessing our school through permits for evening or weekend use. We know how important physical activity is and how it promotes both student and staff well-being. We are fully appreciative of this funding support!



Fundraising Updates

Thank you to all families who supported the Domino’s Pizza “Raise the Dough” fundraiser. As a result of your support, we received a cheque for \$215 which will be put towards General School Needs and Playground Repairs/Yard Improvements.

Additionally, we would like to thank the local chapter of the Lions Club for their generous donation of \$500 to help with the work that was required to maintain and make needed repairs to the creative playground structure. We appreciate their generous support towards these significant costs.

Kindergarten registration for September 2023 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 2023? If so, we invite you to register your child for Kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

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 five webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents, guardians and other caregivers during this school year. The remaining sessions include:

Feb. 9, 2023	Guide to Attuned Limit Setting
March 2, 2023	Emotional Regulation for Kids and Adults
April 27, 2023	The Biology of Stress

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.

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

In 2023, 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 remaining sessions include:

Supporting students with autism spectrum disorder

Feb. 14

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Supporting students as they transition into school, from one school to another, and from school upon graduation

April 20

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Working with families to create safe and supportive environments for children who have experienced trauma

May 9

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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 each session and how to register on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions.

Notice to students and parents/guardians of students regarding out-of-area-requests

Under Simcoe County District School Board procedures (APM A7000 – School Attendance Areas), it is possible for students to apply for and receive permission to attend an out-of-attendance-area school. Students will be permitted to continue in attendance as long as there are pupil places available. They may be required to return to their home school or transfer to another school when the capacity of the school they are attending has been reached and space is required for students residing within the designated attendance areas. An approval may be revoked at any time by the superintendent of education, after consultation with the receiving school principal, for reasons related to the student's behaviour, attendance, actions or inactions. Transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the out-of-attendance-area student and/or parent/guardian.

SCDSB Anti-sex Trafficking Protocol and resources for parents/guardians

In 2021-22, the Ministry of Education directed Ontario school boards to develop an anti-sex trafficking protocol that was tailored to the needs of their community. The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has developed a protocol and relevant training and resources for staff, students and parents/guardians. The focus of the SCDSB's protocol and resources is to protect students and empower school communities to play a key role in fighting sex trafficking and keeping children and youth safe from sexual exploitation.

More information, including a link to the SCDSB Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol and associated resources, is available on the SCDSB website: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools/anti-sex_trafficking_protocol.

Evaluating early literacy

The Ministry of Education has directed all Ontario school boards to begin implementing the recommendations outlined in the Right to Read Inquiry. As a result, primary educators are shifting from using leveled texts for reading instruction as they encourage reliance on guessing strategies to solve unknown words. Instead, educators are beginning to use a scope and sequence to systematically teach phonemic awareness (awareness of the sounds in words) and phonics (understanding of the letters that represent sounds). Students may apply the phonics skills they have learned by reading 'decodable' or 'phonetically controlled' texts.

As a result, educators are moving away from using PM Benchmarks and moving towards assessments that measure foundational reading skills. For example, in Grade 1, educators will be observing a child's ability to identify the sounds they hear in a word, identify the letter(s) that represent the sound, and their ability to blend the sounds together to decode (read) the word and encode (write) the word. In later primary, educators will be observing a child's understanding of more complex letter/sound relationships such as prefixes and suffixes.

Educators will also consider a child's achievement in reading fluency, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension when assigning a report card grade for reading.

To support your child at home, the following documents provide activities that may help foster these foundational skills:

1. Phonological Awareness Activities for Families
<https://bit.ly/3WVsexb>
2. Supporting Reading Development at Home
<https://bit.ly/3X3wB9w>

Math games at home

Playing math games at home is a great way to reinforce math concepts that students learn at school. The YouTube channel MMMathMania has a large number of videos of math games that can be played using paper, dice, and/or playing cards.

Check out the channel at: www.youtube.com/@mmathmaniamathgamesmore3985 or search MMMathMania on YouTube.

Follow us on Twitter and check out our school website

Throughout the school year, we will be posting updates and information on Twitter and our school's website. To stay up to date, please be sure to follow us on Twitter – our Twitter handle is @RamaCentral_PS You can also check out our website at <http://ram.scdsb.on.ca>



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