



RAMA CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Principal: Daryl Halliday

7269 County Road 169
Washago, ON
L0K 2B0
705-689-2031

Important Dates:

Dec 5 Gr 8 Day at Twin Lakes
Dec 6 Picture Retake Day
Dec 21 Holiday Concert

Dec 23 Last School Day before the holidays
January 9 Welcome Back to School!!



THIS MONTH WE CELEBRATE

EMPATHY

We strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others.

Follow Us on Twitter
@RamaCentral_PS



Principal's Message:

It was great to have so many families participate with our staff in conferences as the first key check point in the year related to progress. On behalf of the staff team, we are appreciative for families working in concert with us to support the achievement and well-being of our students.

As we move 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

Our character focus this month is empathy and we would ask that all students and families think of a way that they can impact those less fortunate than us in a positive way throughout this coming season.

We have lots of important learning ahead in December with a healthy dose of seasonal spirit sprinkled in 😊!!

While it may be a touch early to wish everyone Happy Holidays (and that will come in our weekly community updates as we get closer to the break), we hope that the season of celebration ahead brings good health and good times with family and friends!

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.

School Council

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.

We thank you in advance for your support of our school!

Character attribute for the month of December

Empathy – We strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others.

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

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

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 .

Holiday Concert

We will be holding the holiday concert on Wednesday December 21. Details will be forthcoming through the weekly updates. This year's performance will be put on by our junior/intermediate classes following the past tradition of rotating between that group and our primary classes. We are looking forward to this celebration!

Healthy, Active Living – a Key Focus at Rama Central

This year our school will be 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. To find out more about this certification, please take some time to watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mNQmtufFtE>

Reminder about sledding safety at school

Student safety is our first priority, and although we do allow 'crazy carpets' at our school, we do not allow hard sleds, two-person sleds or snow racers. We do supervise sledding and we remind students of safety rules on a regular basis.

We want to inform parents that if students are sledding at school, Ophea recommends that they should wear a properly fitted (as per manufacturer's guidelines) and properly worn CSA-approved hockey helmet or snow sport helmet certified by a recognized safety standards association. If you send a 'crazy carpet' and helmet (optional) for use during nutrition break/recess, you are giving permission for your child to take part in this activity.

Please note that we have a collection of 'crazy carpets' that may be used for Daily Physical Activity (DPA) or physical education classes. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

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.

Importance of Regular School Attendance

We will start with the realization that the past couple of years have been a challenge to attend school on a regular basis and this fall we know that there have been many illnesses in our school community. We appreciate families keeping their children home when they are unwell as that helps keep our classrooms as healthy as they can be. All that being said, as much as possible with first priority being health, we want our students here on a daily basis so that they get the full benefit of our teachers' planning and instructional expertise. Thanks everyone for helping us in these ways!

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>.

Indigenous Education

As we continue to move forward throughout the school year, we will be continuing to invite our central SCDSB Indigenous Education team to our school to help lead student and staff learning. At times, as part of their sessions, the Elders and instructional leaders will begin sessions with a smudge. When introducing the tradition of smudging, an Elder, traditional teacher or member of the Indigenous Education department staff will explain smudging, the medicines used (in SCDSB schools, sage, cedar and sweet grass are burned), the teachings and the protocols related to this cultural tradition. With a number of our students and some staff members being of Indigenous heritage, we welcome these learning opportunities with a focus on respect, caring and inclusiveness.

The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence

The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence have recognized exceptional elementary and secondary school teachers in all disciplines since 1994, with over 1,700 teachers honoured to date. Teaching Excellence Awards recipients are honoured for their remarkable achievements in education and for their commitment to preparing their students for a digital and innovation-based economy. The Teaching Excellence in STEM Awards celebrate outstanding Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics teachers that help develop the culture of innovation Canada needs today, and in the future.

To nominate a teacher start by downloading a [nomination form](#).

Nomination packages must be submitted to the Prime Minister's Awards program office by January 17, 2023 — 11:59 a.m. Pacific Time.

For more information [click here](#) or see the attached poster.

Parents/guardians and students invited to learn about planning for the skilled trades at virtual event on Dec. 1.

Are you not fully sold on the skilled trades as a career? Not everyone is. On Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m., participants in *What our school families need to know about skilled trades careers* will learn about apprenticeship pathways and can hear how to best explore a career in the trades while still in high school. Parents/guardians and Grade 7 to 12 students can consider what one employment researcher has discovered about contradictory perspectives on skilled trades careers. He will share findings based on interviews with hundreds of tradespeople and reveal the results of surveying 500 parents/guardians.

This interactive virtual evening, presented by the Simcoe County District School Board, will feature Dr. Jon Callegher, Executive Director at Job Talks, and will include information about apprenticeship, tech ed in our schools, cooperative education, and a question-and-answer segment. Participants can submit questions in advance here: <https://forms.gle/K1fHeartoGYnDd3u8>. To virtually attend the presentation, visit the SCDSB Facebook event page for more information: <https://fb.me/e/21YLL7Pw4>.

High school information events for Grade 8 students

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will take place in-person this winter! Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Learn about courses offered, as well as information about teams and clubs. Please visit the [SCDSB website](#) to find details on your high schools' info night, and contact the school directly for more information.

Grade 1 French Immersion information

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

The SCDSB board-wide electronic applications for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will open Thursday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16. Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system.

Join us! 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.

Dec. 8, 2022	How to Manage Another's Anxiety
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.

The season of giving

December marks the season of giving and is a great time to teach your little ones about the benefits of giving back to their community and others. Many people think the only way to help their community or support their favourite charitable cause is with a financial donation – think again! While financial donations are integral to non-profits, there

are many other ways that you and your family can give back, make a difference in your community, and have fun – all at the same time!

Here are three ways your family can make a difference this giving season:

Volunteer as a family

Volunteering is a great way to teach kids about empathy and compassion. It shows them that a simple act can make a big difference and helps them practice valuable life skills. Start small, like spending an hour helping a neighbour, and work your way up to bigger commitments, like going to a shelter or animal rescue once a week. Some families pick a favourite project and make it a yearly tradition, like filling gift baskets for seniors around the holidays. You're never too young to help others!

Get crafty for a cause

A fun way to get the whole family involved is to make arts and crafts to share with others. Many retirement homes and long-term care homes collect handmade cards, drawings, and crafts from the community to share with seniors during the holidays. This is a fun activity that lets kids be creative and brings great joy to those receiving the handmade items.

Give old clothes or toys a second life

Have your kids outgrown any of the items they used to love? Consider giving gently worn clothing or used toys a second life by donating them to a local nonprofit. Many shelters that support struggling families, refugees, or immigrants rely on clothing and toy donations. Have your family collect any items they want to donate and explain to your little ones that their once loved items will be going to a new home to bring joy to other children that need it. Basic items that many of us take for granted can make a huge difference in a person's life.

Local charities, like the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, run on the generous support of individuals and families like yours. If you'd like to learn more about the ways you can give back to the YMCA, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca. No matter how you decide to give back to your community, you and your family can feel good knowing you are making a positive difference in the lives of others. Your giving changes lives!

Content provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

Ontario Ministry of Education tutoring services

The Ontario Ministry of Education is supporting tutoring services in schools and in the community until the end of March 2023. Community tutoring agencies provide free of charge tutoring to Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students after hours in the community and online. Contact information for community tutoring agencies can be found at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring_programs. Tutoring is available to all SCDSB students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 where space in these programs is open.

Support your child's mathematics learning at home

Looking for ways to support your child in their math learning at home? The Ministry of Education has a page with ideas on how to support your child and make math part of your day-to-day routine. There are general routines and grade-level ideas to explore. Learn more: www.ontario.ca/page/support-your-childs-math-learning.

Early learning and child development

How is your infant, toddler or preschool child developing? Is your child meeting their milestones? Age-appropriate speech and language skills are critical to your child's ability to read, write and be successful in school as well as to their ability to engage with their peers. Free services are available to support you with your child's development. Preschool speech and language programs are located across the County of Simcoe. Call 705-739-5696 or 1-800-675-1979 to complete a developmental screen. The earlier we work together, the better!

Right to Read inquiry report

Beginning in 2019, the Ontario Human Rights Commission conducted a public inquiry into human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system. The report (www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report), released this past spring, issued 157 recommendations. Among these recommendations is the need for an updated language curriculum that includes explicit, systematic, and direct instruction in foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding, and word reading proficiency. The Simcoe County District School Board is committed to shifting our instructional practices to align with these recommendations.

What does this mean for my child? Primary educators are shifting from using leveled texts 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 and phonics. 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. To support your child at home, the following documents provide activities that may help foster these foundational skills:

Phonological awareness activities for families

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrSSU-HhNzjSRv6_CKiJBue32B-n6ggy/view?usp=sharing

Supporting reading development at home

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12jf50KLLzZP9q82HN-w39jrHFgYElf45/view?usp=sharing>

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 **NEW** Twitter handle is @RamaCentral_PS You can also check out our website at <http://ram.scdsb.on.ca>



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