



The SIMCOE STREET Public School ...

4760 Simcoe Street,
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 1V6
905 358-9121
Our website: simcoestreet.dsbno.org

February 2021



A Message from the Principal...

Welcome Back!

Welcome back! We hope that this information package finds you and your family healthy and safe. We are so excited to be returning to in-person learning on February 8, 2021.

Thank you again to our families that worked together to support and continue our learning remotely. Our parents are rock stars in supporting our Stingers as they navigated the virtual learning platforms. I would also like to thank our amazing teaching staff for all of their work in gathering resources, exploring new digital resources, and connecting with families during this time. Our caretaking staff have completed a very thorough clean of our building and it is ready to be filled with the sound of our Stinger voices once again.

I would like to remind everyone that our protocols that have been in place since September continue to be in place with some enhancements. Our mask protocol has been updated as per Ministry and Public Health guidelines (please see page 2 and 3).

On behalf of our entire staff, we are so excited to welcome our Stingers back to in person learning!



Thank you for your continued support of your children and our wonderful school!

Ms. Moore :)

Online Resource LINKS!

[Daily COVID-19 Family Screening Tool](#) (Ministry of Education link that is linked on DSBN website)

[DSBN Covid-19 Information](#) (link to DSBN website with Covid Updates)

[September newsletter](#) (our school September newsletter because there is so much about protocols in there)

[SafeArrival – reporting absences](#)

[NSTS Transportation Cancellations](#)

[DSBN Kindergarten Registration](#) (can't have too many reminders)

[French Immersion Registration Begins](#) (can't have too many reminders)

[DSBN Academy Online Applications](#) (can't have too many reminders)

Protocol Reminders

As we welcome our students and families back, this is a great opportunity to review the protocols that remain in place. **Masks for staff and students in Grades 1-8 are required.** Kindergarten students are encouraged to wear a mask, but they are not required to based on the Ministry of Education and Niagara Public Health recommendations. We have masks for students who don't have one or who have lost or damaged theirs. We will continue to maintain our physical distancing protocols and handwashing and sanitizing routines. We also need to ensure all families are actively [screening your children](#) and ensuring anyone with symptoms stays home. These protocols are in place to ensure the safety of our school community and we thank you for following these protocols and reminding your child about them as well.

Return of Devices

Did you borrow a Chromebook during the remoting period in January? We will be asking for you to return the technology to Simcoe Street, as soon as possible. Parents may return the device to Mrs. Reeb at the front office, or your child may return the device to their teacher.



Important Update to Mask Protocol

Children in Kindergarten are encouraged to wear a mask, but they are not required to based on the Ministry of Education and Niagara Public Health recommendations. Children in Grades 1-3 will now be wearing masks in class and on the bus, just like their peers in Grades 4-8. We have masks for students who don't have one or who have lost or damaged theirs. When playing outside and unable to safely distance, students will wear their masks.

Parent Access to the School

One of our goals is to maintain a school environment that minimizes the number of potential contacts for students and staff. For that reason, parents should not enter the school. Pick-up and drop-off of students can only happen outside of the school. You can continue to drop off or pick up items for your child with Mrs. Reeb at the office, by ringing the buzzer. Parents will not have access to classrooms and unscheduled visits are not permitted. We thank you for cooperating with our protocols to keep all members of our school community safe.



Parents Role in Keeping Schools Safe

Everyone has a role to play in keeping families safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children on a daily basis before sending them to school. We ask parents to use this link: [Ontario Ministry of Education Covid-19 School and Childcare Screening Tool](#) to screen their child(ren) daily. The screening tool will provide direction and information to determine if students should attend school, remain home, or seek medical advice.

Additionally, parents must have a person available to pick up their child right away, should they become sick during school. We thank our parents for being diligent with following the screening guidelines and being available to pick up your child when needed!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

There are times in Niagara when weather conditions are so poor that we must cancel student transportation, and/or close schools to preserve the safety of students and staff.

The decision to cancel transportation and/or close schools is not taken lightly; a variety of factors are considered when making this choice. To learn more about how these decisions are made, please go to <https://www.dsbnschools.org/inclementweather>.

Transportation Cancellations:

Information about transportation delays and cancellations are posted to <https://portal.nsts.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. When transportation is cancelled, information is shared before 6:00 am on the day of the cancellation. There are times when transportation is cancelled, but schools remain open. If, on those days you feel it is best for your child to stay home, please report your child's absence <https://dsbn.org/safearrival/> so we can make sure they are safe at home.

School Closures:

When the decision to close schools is made, it refers to all schools: both in-person and virtual schools. School closure information is shared before 6:00 am on the day of the school closure. You will find it on dsbn.org, all school websites, DSBN social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

Student Work on School Closure and Transportation Cancellation Days:

For elementary students - On days where transportation is cancelled and/or schools are closed, please visit our [school website](#) and click on the "Learn From Home" button. There you will find optional asynchronous learning resources.

For secondary students – Students will be able to access online materials for their courses. If it is a culminating activity day, special arrangements will be made and communicated to students centrally.

Winter Weather Reminders



We remind students to bundle up and dress appropriately for outdoor play this winter. Except in extreme cases, such as when Niagara Public Health issues Extreme Cold Weather Alert, gym classes, recess and lunch breaks will continue outdoors to provide our children a much-needed change of pace and scenery. Niagara Public Health will issue a cold weather alert when the temperatures are **-15°C** or when weather conditions are severe enough to warrant alerting the community to the risks involved with prolonged exposure to the outdoors, such as a blizzard or wind chill warning. Depending on the wind chill factor, outdoor breaks may be shortened as appropriate.

Students **are not kept in at recess due to illness** as fresh air and exercise are essential to a healthy mind and body. If your child is well enough to be at school, we consider them well enough to be outside. If your child is properly dressed, they will be able to enjoy the colder weather and time outside. We feel very strongly that if the child is too ill to go out for recess, it would be in the child's best interest to remain home for the day. If you believe your child is an exceptional case, please contact Ms. Moore to discuss the situation.

SOCIAL WORKER SUPPORT

Do you have questions about your child's mental health and well-being, such as anxiety, behaviour or self-harm?

Do you need support in accessing supports in the community?

Do you need advice for setting goals to help with regular school attendance?

Do you have any questions or looking for support regarding a certain aspect of parenting?



If these are some questions that you have, please speak with your child's teacher or Ms. Moore. Sue Bennett is a DSNB Social Worker that works with families in Niagara Falls schools, including Simcoe Street, to provide an additional layer of support to help our students and families achieve success. She is an invaluable member of our Simcoe Street team and is looking forward to connecting with families.

Connect with Us!

Technology allows us multiple ways to connect with families. The following is a list of ways we use to connect with families to ensure all families are aware of the many events happening throughout the year.

SCHOOL WEBSITE [_simcoestreet.dsnb.org](https://simcoestreet.dsnb.org) Please take some time to visit the Simcoe Street Public School website. Our website includes current newsletters, school calendars, code of conduct, a school year calendar and bell times.

SCHOOL MESSENGER: Using the School Messenger program, all families will receive a phone call and email on Friday afternoon with reminders about events for the upcoming week. If you are not receiving these emails/phone calls, please check your contact information with the office to ensure we have the most current information. We have received many positive comments about this method of communication!

TWITTER: Check us out on TWITTER @PsSimcoe.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER: All newsletters will be posted to the school website (September and January newsletters will be sent home as a hard copy). Monthly calendars will also be posted on our school website.

SCHOOL SIGN: We will continue to post important dates on the school sign on the front of the school. Please note that due to space limitations we cannot fit all school events on the sign.

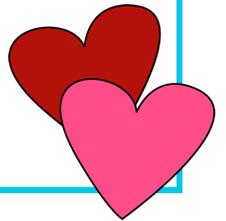
VALENTINE'S DAY AND 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL- THURSDAY, FEB. 11TH

As Valentine's Day is approaching and we will be back in person, we have been working on reimagining what Valentine's Day will look like this year. We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Thursday, February 11, 2021, which is also the 100th Day of School. It is vital that we continue to follow all the protocols that are in place, even while celebrating Valentine's Day. For that reason, there will be some changes to how Valentine's Day is celebrated at Simcoe Street this year.

Students are invited to wear clothing to celebrate the day (red, pink, hearts) or students may choose to wear something to celebrate the 100th day of school.

To ensure we continue to follow all of our health and safety protocols, we will not be able to share food brought into the school (this includes prepacked treats for classmates). Please enjoy your Valentine treats at home with your family. In order to reduce contacts, we are asking that you also refrain from sending in Valentine's cards for your child's classmates. Individual classes may have their own classroom-based activities planned for the day, which will include a focus on friendship and kindness and showing our appreciation for our classmates in different ways.

Your cooperation in ensuring the safety of all students is much appreciated.



Community Crew- LUNCH ANGELS

During the shutdown Community Crew has been delivering lunches to children's houses along with bags of food for the Families.

They are ready and prepared to head back to Simcoe Street, starting next week. They will be delivering lunches to our school on Thursday's and will start back this Thursday Feb 11th.

If you would like an application form and have not filled out one this year, please contact Mrs. Reeb, at our office.

Community Crew looks forward to serving Simcoe Street, again.

