



# Assikinack Public School The Blackbird Bulletin December 15, 2020

Wendy Miller, Principal

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## **FlipGive Fundraiser**

This season, fundraising for Assikinack Public School is going to be so much easier with FlipGive, a free team funding app. We earn cash back on every purchase we make all year long! All you have to do is shop anytime with the brands you already love, like Home Depot, Walmart, Amazon, Sport Chek, Indigo, Old Navy, Apple, Esso, and Loblaws. No more going door-to-door selling chocolate bars - it's completely virtual and contactless. Join our team now and you'll get a \$5 bonus the first time you shop: [https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?fundraiser\\_name=Julieanne&joincode=G49BS4](https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?fundraiser_name=Julieanne&joincode=G49BS4)

Or enter this code: **G49BS4** Any questions, just ask!

Want to learn more? Check out this two minute video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vTO\\_Qg4n80](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vTO_Qg4n80)

## **Mabel's Labels**

Tired of losing their items to the lost and found? You need Mabel's Labels!!



Visit

[campaigns.mabelslabels.com](https://campaigns.mabelslabels.com) to place your order and support our school's fundraising campaign!

Mabel's Labels are easy to order, take seconds to apply, they are laundry, dishwasher and microwave SAFE!!

Customize your own label pack with adorable designs today!

**All labels are shipped FREE!**

Again, visit [campaigns.mabelslabels.com](https://campaigns.mabelslabels.com) and choose Assikinack! It's as simple as that!

## **Holiday Broadcast**

**Our Annual Holiday Assembly will look a little different this year. We will be hosting a Holiday Broadcast to our school community on Friday, December 18th at 9:30 am.**

**A link will be emailed to all families and also posted on our school's website at 9:00 am on Friday. The Zoom Meeting will open up at 9:20 am for you to join. Kindly mute your mic and your video and enjoy the presentation.**

**We hope you'll join us!**



## **Masks and Water Bottles Please!**

Students in grades 4 through 8 are required to wear a mask all day. **Students in grades JK through 3 are not required to wear masks but it is recommended that they do.**

Parents and guardians, please be sure to send several masks with your child each day as they tend to get dirty or wet during the school day and students require a change.

**Thank you for sending extra water bottles as well!**

**Students, please dress for all weather!**

**Gym and recess are outdoors.**

## **Daily Self Assessment and Mask Etiquette**

Self Assessments for students should be completed each morning before school. For the link to the self assessment tool, click below, or copy and paste into your browser: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

**Masks are encouraged for all students at Assikinack and are mandatory for students in grades 4 through 8.**

## **Reminder about sledding safety at school**

Student safety is our first priority, and although we do allow 'crazy carpets' and soft sleds 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 sled 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 class set 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.

## **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).

## **Assikinack Public School is in the CENTRAL ZONE.**

When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, as in previous years. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for your child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

This year, please note that students who are unable to attend school due to bus cancellations will be able to access learning materials on the digital learning platform assigned by their teacher, either Desire2Learn (D2L) or Google Classroom.

Students in the Learn@Home program will continue with regular programming as scheduled.

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 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>

## **Christmas Cheer**

**Christmas Cheer is not accepting any physical donations this year, everything is virtual. Click the link below if you would like to donate to this very worthy charity this holiday season. Any funds raised through this link will be added to our school's total fundraising amount. Please give generously.**



<https://www.canadahelps.org/me/GYwdD6c>

## **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.

Historically, in-person Grade 1 FI Family Information Nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, due to restrictions to large-group public gatherings, in-person Family Information Nights will not be held. In lieu of this, an [information page on the board's public website](#) has been created to allow families the ability to access and learn about the program and the application process.

The online Grade 1 FI application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 until 4:00 pm on Friday, December 18, 2020. In Grade 1, enrollment in the FI program is limited to a maximum of two classes of 20 students per class at each host site for the FI program. The electronic applications will be processed in the order determined by a digitally randomized lottery system.

Please note that the host sites for FI may change during your child's time in the program, and your child may need to move schools. This may also include splitting the program between two different sites.

## **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.

## **COVID-19 Holiday Travel**

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit recommends that you only travel outside of your home for essential reasons such as work, school and purchasing necessities. Avoid travelling outside of your community as much as possible, including to attend family gatherings, religious services or events at municipal venues, in order to reduce transmission between geographic areas.

Recommendations for travel may change. Check for updates regularly at <https://travel.gc.ca/covid-19-travel>. For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this holiday season, contact *Health Connection* at 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit's website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/COVID-19](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/COVID-19).

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

**Holiday Break: December 21 until January 1, inclusive.**