

# New Lowell

## Central Public School

5197 County Road 9, New Lowell, ON L0M 1N0

PH: 705-424-0991

Email: [newlowell@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:newlowell@scdsb.on.ca)

Principal – Sue Moxam

### Newsletter #4 December 2023

#### Kiss n' Ride

Hello Charger Families,  
We are asking for your support in maintaining a safe, calm and smooth parking lot and Kiss n' Ride program.

We have many people accessing our parking lot and Kiss n' Ride each day. Please exercise extra caution in our lot as safety is our first priority. It is very important that if you need to park, please use designated parking spaces only.  
Please do not block the Kiss and Ride by parking in a non-designated space.

The map below indicates the direction of the flow of cars. In the morning, if you are using the Kiss n' Ride, drivers must remain in their vehicle and students must exit independently and enter the schoolyard. Please pull up to the pylon at the gate for your child to exit your vehicle. We ask that students do not exit along the sidewalk.

If your child is not able to exit the vehicle **independently**, please park in a designated parking spot, support the safe exit from the vehicle and walk them to the gate. At the gate, a staff member will welcome them into the school yard. If you have family or friends dropping your child off, please share this information with them.

We appreciate everyone trying their best and continuing to be patient and respectful with this process. Your child's safety is our number one priority and together we can ensure that our parking lot and Kiss n' Ride function safely.

#### Communication to families regarding inclement weather days

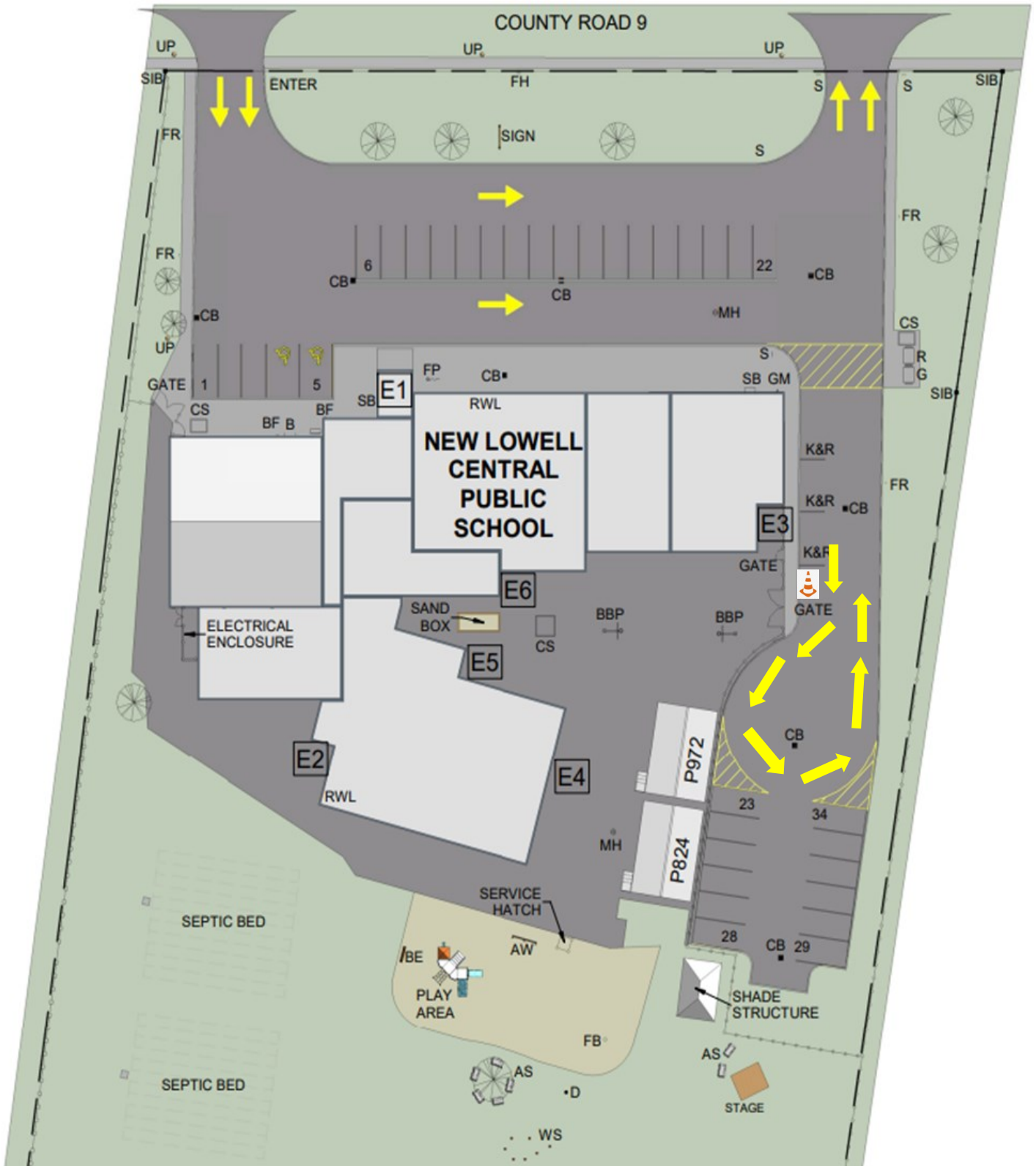
*Please note that APM A3020 – Inclement Weather, 3.1.2 states that “parents/guardians are to be reminded, in writing at appropriate times (October and January) each school year, that it is their responsibility to decide whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.”*

#### 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). Our school is in the **WEST 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/or SCDSBhub [Brightspace by D2L]) 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>.

# Kiss n' Ride



## Days of Awareness 2023-24

Days of Awareness for December 2023

- Dec. 1 World AIDS Day
- Dec. 2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- Dec. 3 First Day of Advent (Christianity)  
International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Dec. 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on  
Violence Against Women  
Saint Nicholas Day (Christianity)
- Dec. 7-15 Chanukah/Hanukkah (Judaism)
- Dec. 8 Awakening Day (Buddhism)
- Dec. 9 International Day of Commemoration and Dignity  
of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the  
Prevention of this Crime
- Dec. 10 Human Rights Day
- Dec. 13 Birthday of Imam Aga Khan (Islam)
- Dec. 21 Yule/Winter Solstice (Wicca)
- Dec. 22 Maun Ekadashi (Jainism)
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve (Christianity)
- Dec. 25 Christmas (Christianity)
- Dec. 26 Boxing Day  
Sanghamitta Day/Unduvap Poya (Buddhism)  
Zarathosht-no-diso (Zoroastrianism - Fasli  
Calendar)
- Dec. 26 – Jan. 1 Kwanzaa

## 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!

## 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 at [https://www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning\\_for\\_high\\_school](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning_for_high_school) to find details on your high school's information 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.

Grade 1 FI family information nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, FI family information nights will be held in-person throughout the month of November at the respective FI school locations. The designated Grade 1 FI site for our school is Worsley ES. The information night for this school will be Monday November 20, 2023 at 6 p.m.

**The SCDSB board-wide electronic applications for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will open Friday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15.** Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system. To learn more, visit the SCDSB website: <https://www.scdsb.on.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=210982&pageId=12587752>

### **Licensed Winter Break school-age child care programs**

Child care programs for children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are provided by independent, third-party child care operators in some SCDSB schools. To support your child care needs, some operators offer child care on PA days and holidays including over the Winter Break. Registration in advance is required.

Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register.

More information and contact numbers can be found by visiting: [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/childcare\\_before\\_after](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after).

### **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.

### **Mental health promotion strategy of the month - Emotion Charades**

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

This month's strategy is *Emotion Charades*. This practice helps students practice expressing emotions with their whole body and recognize body language and facial expressions in others. To practice *Emotion Charades* at home, on slips of paper, write or draw different feelings depending on the age of your child. For instance, happy, sad, angry, scared, worried, sleepy, frustrated, etc. Place the papers in a bowl/container.

Then:

- Decide who will go first. Have that person pick a piece of paper from the bowl.
- Have them read the feeling to themselves, or, if needed, help your child read the feeling.
- Now they will act out the feeling without words while the other players try to guess what it is.
- Once someone gets the right answer it's the next person's turn to pick a piece of paper and act out the feeling.

This is a fun activity that everyone in the family can play!

*Emotion Charades link to School Mental Health Ontario parent sheet:* <https://smho-smsso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/>

Find more information to support your child's mental health here: <https://smho-smsso.ca/parents-and-caregivers/>

Emotion Charades:  
Elementary - <https://smho-smsso.ca/emhc/identification-and-management-of-emotions/recognizing/emotion-charades/>

Follow the Mental Health and Well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB\_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

## EarlyON Child and Family Centres

The foundation for lifelong learning and health is built in the early years. EarlyON Child and Family Centres across Simcoe County offer programs for children prenatal to six years of age and their parents/guardians and caregivers. They offer access to play- and inquiry-based learning supported by *How Does Learning Happen?* Ontario's pedagogy for the early years, information on child development and developmental screening including Early Referral Identification Kits (ERIKs), parent/guardian education, referrals to community resources, nutrition information, and post-natal resources. Check with your local EarlyON provider: <https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>

## Programs available through the SCDSB's Adult and Continuing Education Learning Centres

The Simcoe County District School Board's Adult and Continuing Education department offers a variety of programming including day school, summer school, correspondence, and co-op. Courses may be online, hybrid, or in-person and are based on sufficient enrollment. For current high school students, we offer travel for credit, summer school, and night school programs. For adults, we offer credit courses towards completion of an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) including credits granted for prior learning and experiences (PLAR). In support of many of the adult learners in our communities, we also offer non-credit classes in English as a second language (ESL) and literacy and essential skills (LES) both of which can support learners towards paths of employment, continued education, and citizenship. Please visit us at [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) to learn more.

**Did you know it's illegal to vape or smoke *Anywhere* on school property, inside the school or outside within 20m of school property, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year?**

The law applies to everyone on school property, students, staff, and visitors. It also means it is illegal to vape or smoke on school athletic fields during after hour activities or vape or smoke in school washrooms. There is a fine of \$350 for vaping or smoking on school property.

*But why do youth vape at school?* Vapes contain nicotine, which is a highly addictive drug. Nicotine addiction is extremely powerful, develops quickly, and youth may not realize they are addicted. Once addicted, they need nicotine regularly or they will experience withdrawal, making it hard to get through the school day. Help them take back control - there are supports to help youth quit! Talk to your child about vaping, they listen more than you think. Learn more at <https://www.notanexperiment.ca/parents/>

## Parents' Guide to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Learn to navigate the world of assessment, evaluation, and reporting with this new guide for parents/guardians. Created to support parents'/guardians' understanding of assessment, this guide was designed to effectively empower you to actively engage in your child's educational journey. The guide has been posted to the Simcoe County District School Board's website and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

## Keep connected with our school and with 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 SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)

Follow the SCDSB on X (@SCDSB\_Schools),  
Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).  
X (@nlo\_scdsb)  
[nlo.scdsb.on.ca](http://nlo.scdsb.on.ca)



## Head lice treatment and prevention

Anyone can get head lice. Having head lice does not mean a person is unclean or lives in a dirty home. While they are a nuisance, head lice do not spread disease or cause illness. Head lice spread easily, especially where people are in close contact and are very common among school-aged children or children in childcare.

Head lice spreads through direct hair-to-hair contact or indirectly by sharing hats, combs, hairbrushes and headphones. To help prevent the spread of head lice, it's important to educate students about avoiding head-to-head contact and discourage sharing combs, hairbrushes, tuques, hats, or hair accessories.

## Subscribe to Kindergarten Connections!

Will your child be turning four in 2024? If so, the SCDSB invites you to Kindergarten Connections! This is a monthly newsletter informing families of everything they need to know about preparing their child for school, as well as registering them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB. To learn more and subscribe, visit the Kindergarten page on the SCDSB website: [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/kindergarten](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten).

## Supporting oral language development at home

Within the revised language curriculum, there is a focus on supporting students to acquire the knowledge and skills relating to the foundations of language. Oral and non-verbal communication are foundational components of language skills. Over the years, students develop their listening and speaking abilities using a variety of strategies and skills, including word choice and syntax, to become effective communicators.

- Engage your child in conversations about things that interest them
- Talk to your child and listen responsively
- Ask and answer questions
- Share oral stories
- Read aloud to your child
- Talk about the books you read together
- Singing and playing together

## 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. There are eight webinars specifically planned for parents/guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

- Nov. 9, 2023 Understanding and managing screen time, part two - social media edition
- Nov. 30, 2023 Helping parents align
- Jan. 11, 2024 Sleep hygiene
- Feb. 8, 2024 Self regulation for kids
- Feb. 22, 2024 Self regulation for teens
- March 28, 2024 Building parents' resiliency
- April 18, 2024 Vaping, weed, and alcohol

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](http://www.pineriverinstitute.com).

## Parents' Guide to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Learn to navigate the world of assessment, evaluation, and reporting with this new guide for parents/guardians. Created to support parents'/guardians' understanding of assessment, this guide was designed to effectively empower you to actively engage in your child's educational journey. The guide has been posted to the Simcoe County District School Board's website and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

**Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions is seeking compassionate and skilled professionals with specialized experience to apply to become Foster Care providers**

The goal of this program is to meet the needs of youth through a therapeutically supported parenting approach within a structured environment, where they are supported and guided by a multi-disciplinary treatment team. The youth will remain, or become connected to, their family/kin/community whenever possible. Treatment services will be individualized based on the needs of the youth, and the knowledge of those who know the youth best in collaboration with community partners. This will allow youth to reside in a family-based setting and remain in their home community of Simcoe Muskoka, staying connected to important relationships and supports that may already be in place.

The homes approved under this strategy are designed to create clinically informed care plans that will support the youth directly, in addition to the continued support of their care providers. Youth will be supported by a multi-disciplinary team and will be available to implement and design parenting and support to address the needs of the youth.

Compensation packages will be offered to experienced foster care providers, as well as clinical support to both care providers and youth.

If you or someone you know is looking for more information or would like to apply, contact Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions by email at [bruna.figliuzzi@familyconnexions.ca](mailto:bruna.figliuzzi@familyconnexions.ca) or call 705-716-4664.

*Information provided by Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions*

**Is bedtime stressing you out?**

Kids need 10 - 12 hours of sleep every night but sometimes getting them to bed can be challenging. You can help create regular sleep schedule for your child by setting a clear bedtime and sticking to the same time every night. Start getting ready an hour before bed; turn off the tv, computers, and phones. Spend quality time talking or reading stories to help them unwind. Agree on how many you'll read before you start! Keep their room dark, cool and quiet - a nightlight is fine. Remember, making sure your child gets enough rest will help improve their mood, behaviour, and ability to learn. For more bedtime tips, contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a public health nurse. Visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) for more information.

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.*

**Subscribe to Community Connects!**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is excited to launch Community Connects, a new bi-monthly newsletter for the SCDSB community. Our shared goal with this new tool is to keep our community partners and stakeholders informed while nurturing relationships that are built on accountability, trust and transparency.

To learn more and subscribe, visit the Community Connects page on the SCDSB website: [https://www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community\\_connects](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/community/community_connects).

## Math @Home parent and caregiver series

It's back! The SCDSB math team is pleased to offer three virtual sessions for parents and caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support children with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. The first 200 registrants will receive a Math @Home kit of resources to use at home. Participants must pre-register for each of the sessions.

### Exploring the new SCDSB family math resources

Tuesday February 6, 2024 7pm to 8pm

This session is for parents and caregivers. Join members of the SCDSB math team for a guided exploration of the new SCDSB family math resources. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the resources that are available to support their child's math learning at home. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length. During the final 15 minutes, the math team will be available to answer questions about the session.

### Tips for engaging in math conversations with your child @Home

Wednesday February 28, 2024 7pm to 8pm

This session is for parents and caregivers and will explore opportunities to discuss math with their child(ren) at home. Participants will learn about how events such as shopping, preparing food, engaging in a building project, or going for a walk can be used as a starting point for math conversations, and will receive prompts to get the discussion rolling. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length. During the final 15 minutes, the math team will be available to answer questions about the session.

### Games to support your child's math learning @Home

Thursday April 4, 2024 7pm to 8pm

This session is for parents, caregivers and their children. Playing games at home is a great way to support child(ren)'s math development. In this session, several games will be explored, and participants will have the opportunity to try the games with their children during the session. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length followed by 15 additional minutes for further game play or to ask questions of our math facilitators. Bring your child(ren) and your math kit to this session!

Participants must pre-register for the session they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a kit of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on the registration form.

Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/24MathAtHome>.

## New Lowell Central Public School

5197 County Road 9  
New Lowell, ON L0M 1N0  
Phone: 705-424-0991





# DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Mr. Sub	7 Grade 8s to SCI Kindergarten Story time Pizza Day 	8	9
10	11	12	13 Mr. Sub	14 Kindergarten Story time Pizza Day	15	16
17	18	19	20 Mr. Sub	21 Pizza Day	22	23
24	25 Winter Break 	26 Winter Break	27 Winter Break	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30
31						