

★ Tecumseth South Times ★

April 2018 * Issue #8 * Phone: 905-936-3711

Respect * Responsibility * Reaching for Excellence

WE COMMIT TO OPTIMISM

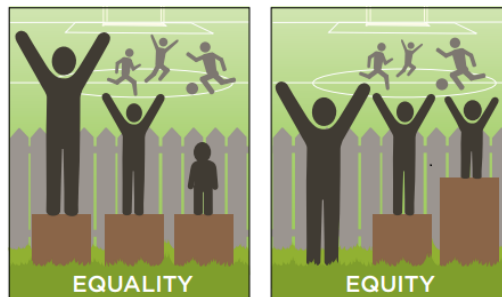
‘A pessimist only sees the dark side of the clouds, and mopes; a philosopher sees both sides and shrugs; an optimist doesn’t see the clouds at all—he’s walking on them.’

~ Leonard L. Levinson

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that we are in the final months of our 2017-2018 school year. Take a moment to reflect on how far your child has come in their learning, celebrate strengths and talk about next steps for learning.

April is Sikh heritage month, and is also host to Autism Awareness day (April 2), and pink shirt day (April 11). One of SCDSB’s strategic priorities for 2017-2022 is to focus on equity and inclusion. Here at Tec. South, staff are working hard to build equitable, inclusive and encouraging environments within their classrooms, that extend throughout the school. You can help by talking to your children about how we all learn differently, and celebrate that we have different beliefs, heritage, talents and strengths. We often use the following diagram to help explain the concept of equity to our students- we hope that you will take a moment and use this picture as a starting point for discussion at home as well.



A great big thank you to our Tec. South Community for their donations to support youth programming for the First Nations community on the James Bay Coast. I received photos and ‘thank yous’ from the girls who are using the art and spa supplies to engage the youth in their communities. If you would like to follow the amazing journey of these young leaders, you can find information by searching for James Bay Girls at Bat, sponsored by the Jays Care Foundation.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

I would like to take a moment to thank our parent council who work tirelessly to host pizza and sub lunch, and organize events and experiences to support our students and families. Some upcoming events include: AWESOME Parenting series presentations on April 26 and May 10 in the evening as well as our Spring Fling scheduled for June 7.

Sincerely,
M. Bongard

Register now for summer child care

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) supports your child care needs by offering full day child care programs in select schools across Simcoe County. Twenty schools offer child care programs for children from Junior Kindergarten age to 12 years of age. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to register. More information can be found on our website at www.scdsb.on.ca – click on ‘Schools’ then ‘Before & After School Care.’

School’s in for summer at the SCDSB

Are you and your child planning their courses for next school year? Looking for a way to create flexibility in their timetable and earn a credit? Consider summer school! Each year, the SCDSB offers a variety of summer programs to over 2,000 students. Summer school options include open, college and university level courses from Grades 9 to 12. Courses are offered in-person or online. Interested students can also travel and earn credits with the summer EduTravel program. Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at www.thelearningcentres.com. Current SCDSB students should speak to their guidance counsellor for information and to register. Register now so that your summer school choices align with course selection for next year!

Parents invited to information session about special education

The SCDSB is hosting a series of information sessions for parents/guardians to learn about special education in the SCDSB, and how to support students with special education needs. The last session takes place this month:

April 16

Understanding Alternative/Non-Academic IEP Goals

The event takes place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the SCDSB Education Centre, located at 1170 Highway 26 in Midhurst. No registration required.

SCDSB Specialist High Skills Majors programs offer students opportunity to earn industry-recognized certifications

Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) are bundles of 8-10 courses that allow Grade 11 and 12 students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while getting their high school diploma. SHSMs provide students with an opportunity to focus their learning and gain valuable experience for all post-secondary opportunities. The SHSM program has a number of required components, designed to give students a “leg-up” to pursue post-secondary opportunities in a variety of employment sectors. Students will also earn industry recognized certifications, which builds confidence in their skills and links their studies with the world beyond high school and future careers. Find out more about SHSM at www.myshsm.ca.

Applications open for 2018-19 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants

Parents/guardians play a vital role in public education, and Ontario’s Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants are designed to encourage parents’/guardians’ involvement in their children’s education to support student achievement and well-being. The 2018-19 PRO grant process has been announced and an online application is now available. PRO grants are provided to select applicants who develop projects, events or training in support of parent/guardian engagement. Applications are due by June 5. Find out more: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/.

School bus evacuation training took place April 3 to 6

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC), in partnership with school bus operators, is offering school bus evacuation training to all home-to-school transported students the week of April 3 to 6. During this week, school bus drivers will educate students on how to evacuate a school bus safely in an emergency. The SCSTC would like to remind all drivers to be extra cautious near school buses and in school bus loading and unloading zones. For more information or if you have questions, visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/.

Events at our school in celebration of International Day of Pink

Our school will be hosting several events during the week of April 9 to 13 in honour of the International Day of Pink, which is Wed. April 11. This day celebrates diversity and promotes standing up to bullying. It is a day of action that started in Nova Scotia when two straight high school students saw that a gay student wearing a pink shirt was bullied. The two students intervened, but wanted to do more. They purchased pink shirts and within a few days got everyone at school wearing pink, standing in solidarity for diversity and standing up against discrimination, gender-based bullying and homophobia. Our school will be recognizing Pink Day by wearing pink on April 11.

Identifying school-sponsored trips

All field trip information will be sent home on school and/or Simcoe County District School Board letterhead. This is the best way for parents/guardians to identify supervised and approved trips. There may have been times when community or external groups have organized trips that have been mistaken for school-sponsored field trips. Parents would be notified of individual circumstances if the school is aware that an external trip is being planned. When in doubt about any trip ask questions of the organizers, including "Who is sponsoring or in charge of this trip?", "Who will be supervising?" and "What are their qualifications?" You can also contact the school if you have any questions about a trip you see advertised that you think may not be school-sanctioned.

Do you know a youth, aged 15-29, who is looking for a job or to gain work experience?

The Career Centre can help. Services include paid employment training, support with job searches and more, at no cost. Meet with an Employment Consultant today, or visit the Career Centre website at www.barriecareercentre.com for more information, including hours of operation. The Career Centre is operated by the Simcoe County District School Board. This Employment Ontario service is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

Trauma & Loss: Creating School Communities of Well-being on April 14 in Barrie

Parents and/or community members are invited to attend *Trauma & Loss: Creating School Communities of Well-being* on Sat. April 14 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Bear Creek Secondary School, located at 110 Red Oak Dr. in Barrie. This conference is being funded through a Regional PRO grant from the Ontario Ministry of Education and is being presented by the Adoption Council of Ontario. This event is free to attend and lunch is provided. Limited child care is available for children aged three to 12 years. Register at www.adoption.on.ca/events. Questions? Contact pact@adoptontario.ca.

Please turn off your car while you wait

A reminder to please turn your engine off when dropping off or picking up your child from school. Idling cars release exhaust that is harmful to the environment, our health and the health of our students. It's good to get into the habit of turning your car off any time you're stopped and in park for more than 60 seconds. Thank you for doing your part to keep our kids and our environment healthy! For more information to keep you and your family healthy, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Stress: Our kids get it too!

Kids have stress, just like us. Stress is a normal part of life, but our bodies are only made to handle it for short amounts of time. Continued stress can cause feelings of pressure, anxiety and tiredness. It can make it hard for kids to focus in school and can cause them to become sick, get lower grades or make unhealthy choices. It's easy to mistake signs of stress for bad behaviour in your child. You can help them learn to manage stress by staying calm, showing love and talking openly about their feelings. Encourage them to try calming activities like deep breathing or doing something active. If the stress continues, be sure talk to your child's family doctor or health care provider. To speak with a public health nurse, contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit website for more information at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

YMCA Healthy Kids Day taking place on April 29

YMCAs across Canada are celebrating Healthy Kids Day on Sun. April 29. It's a national day dedicated to improving the health and well-being of kids. The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka is happy to host this FREE event for everyone in the community, offering fun and healthy activities for the entire family to enjoy. Across Canada, most children do not meet the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Rising rates of obesity and related chronic disease tell us that getting kids active should be a top priority for parents, schools, and all Canadians. With summer just around the corner, here are some practical tips on how to keep your kids active and healthy:

- Rather than heading out on a walk or jog solo, invite your kids to hop on their bicycles, skateboards and scooters and head out with you. You will come back energized and connected knowing that you've set a great example and spent quality time together. Everyone wins!
- Many communities have free or low-cost youth activities or programs at facilities such as pools, playgrounds, parks, sporting fields, community centres and the YMCA! Ask your child's teacher, contact your local municipality, search online or contact your local YMCA for upcoming events.
- Depending on the distance and safety factor, consider letting your children walk to school, the library, their friend's house or any other place you would normally drive them to. Some kids may be inspired by tracking their steps with a pedometer. Pedometers are relatively inexpensive and many libraries have them available on loan!

Join the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka on Healthy Kids Day and learn about healthy habits, connect with other parents and get the whole family active together under one roof. For schedules of activities and more information, please contact the YMCA in your community: www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

Kindergarten Registration

This spring, we are hosting an orientation session to welcome new Kindergarten students and their parents to our school. Come experience what life is like in Kindergarten! Explore areas of the program, meet Kindergarten educators and have the chance to ask questions. Our school's session takes place on *Thursday, May 3rd at 6:30 PM*. We look forward to welcoming you! For more information, visit www.scdsb.on.ca, click on 'Programs,' 'Kindergarten' and then 'Kindergarten Orientation.'

School start dates for September 2018 are as follows:

- Senior Kindergarten (Year 2) students will begin school on Tues. Sept. 4.
- Junior Kindergarten (Year 1) students will begin school on Thurs. Sept. 6.

EQAO Assessment – Grades 3 and 6

The provincial assessment given by EQAO will occur between May 22nd and June 5th this year. If your child is involved in this province wide assessment, please avoid making appointments for those dates. We appreciate your support in this matter. For more information about the assessments please go to www.eqao.com.

TECUMSETH SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL



2124 Sideroad 10, R. R. #3
Tottenham, Ontario
L0G 1W0
(905) 936-3711
Fax (905) 936-3712

Dear Families,

On Thursday, June 7th, 2018 Tecumseth South Central Public School is hosting our First Annual Spring Fling fundraiser. It is a celebration of Spring and to bring together our Tec South Family and local community in a fun carnival like atmosphere. Some of the activities we have planned are:

- Carnival Eats
- Face painting
- Henna Tattooing
- Police Cruiser and Fire Truck
- Children's Entertainer
- Basket Raffle
- Silent Auction
- Sporting Groups
- Book Fair

The Spring Fling fundraiser will help us in our fundraising goal of purchasing more technology for our students in the classroom, assist with the cost of fieldtrips, school yard enhancements, such as play area and equipment, and maintenance of the baseball diamond.

It is our hope that our local business community/families can help support us in our efforts by:

- donating an item or service for the silent auction; or
- sponsoring an activity at the Spring Fling; or
- a monetary donation of any denomination
- Tax receipts for any type of donation with a value over \$25 can be provided

All sponsors and donators will be recognized on signage at the event, in our school newsletter as well as in our yearbook at the end of the year. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and consider our request. As we all know it takes a village and every little bit helps.

If you would like any more information on our school or the Spring Fling, please feel free to contact our principal, Mona Bongard at the school 905-936-3711, or our committee heads, Michelle Smith tel: 647-284-1647 and Lesley Smith tel: 416-991-6407.

Sincerely,

Tecumseth South Parent Council

.....

Hard Copies of the Newsletter

If you wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter you must notify the office in writing.

APRIL 2018

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Easter Monday Autism Awareness Day	3	4 Subs	5 Chess Tournament	6	7
8	9 Pizza	10 Dickey Bee Honey trip	11 Pink Shirt Day Subs	12	13	14
15	16 Pizza	17	18 Subs Junior Basketball Tournament	19	20	21
22 Earth Day Pitch In Week	23 Pizza School Council 6:30	24	25 Subs Spirit Day- Dress in plaid Heritage Fair Scanlon Creek here	26 AWESOME Parenting Series tonight Assembly 2pm	27 PA DAY NO SCHOOL	28
29	30 Pizza	<p><i>April 25th Is Administrative Professional's Day! I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Rosie for all she does here at our school- we couldn't do it without you!</i></p> 				