

★ **Tecumseth South Times** ★

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Respect * Responsibility * Reaching for Excellence

WE COMMIT TO INCLUSIVENESS

‘It isn’t necessary to blow out the other person’s light in order to let your own light shine.’

Message from our Principal

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of our first term of learning, we hope that you take the time to talk to your child about personal growth, successes and challenges. At school, teachers help students to set goals in academics and learning skills. We talk about the value of making mistakes (after all that is how we learn new things!) and what we call “growth mindset”.

Staff are integrating wellness strategies into daily school life to help our students learn how to “unplug” from technology and deal with stress that might impact their daily lives. We will also continue our school focus on mathematics teaching and learning. You can help support mathematics at home by finding math in your daily activities- baking relies on measurement and fractions, playing board games with dice helps to build fluid mental math, using an analogue clocks builds an understanding of benchmark fractions like $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ past as well as elapsed time, and finally, try having your child pay for items with cash at the store. All of these real life activities will help to build conceptual understanding of basic mathematics concepts.

To share your child’s achievement, First Term Reports will go home on February 16, 2018.

We would like to take a moment and congratulate our intermediate debate team for their achievement at the Debater’s Forum, our speech contests and presenters, and all of our students who presented at our holiday assembly (in January!). We are thrilled to share that our chess team is continuing to prepare for their tournament, and we have boys basketball and girls volleyball up and running.

Sincerely,

M. Bongard

**Tec. South is on Twitter. Follow us
@tecsouthps**



Now accepting Kindergarten registrations

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2014? If so, it's time to register them for Kindergarten! Elementary schools are now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and immunization records. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.

High school information nights coming to a school near you!

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights are happening this winter. This event gives an overview of what's new, what to expect, as well as a chance to check out the school and ask questions. Attend our local high school information night to find out what's offered: Banting Memorial High School, 203 Victoria Street East, Alliston – Thursday, February 8th at 7:00. Check out the full schedule of info nights and more information at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.

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.learningcentres.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 sessions 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.

Feb. 26

Transition Planning Grade 8 to 9

March 19

Accessing Supports in the Community

April 16

Understanding Alternative/Non-Academic IEP Goals

All sessions take place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the SCDSB Education Centre, located at 1170 Highway 26 in Midhurst. No registration required.

National Engineering Month competition takes place March 3

Students in Grades 5 to 8 are invited to submit a model bridge, catapult or grabber for the National Engineering Month (NEM) event. Models will be tested for design, strength, quality of construction and functionality. Students of any age are invited to attend to check out 3D printers and robots, Raspberry Pi computer coding demos, crystal radio construction and CNC machine coding. The event takes place on March 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Eastview Secondary School (421 Grove St. E. in Barrie). Lunch will be provided. This event is jointly organized by the Georgian Bay Chapter of OACETT and Simcoe-Muskoka Chapter of PEO, under the banner of NEM Ontario. For more information and to register for this free event, visit <https://nemsimcoe.wixsite.com/nemsimcoe>.

Update your child's immunization record

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is required to keep up-to-date immunization records for all students who attend elementary or secondary school in the County of Simcoe and the District of Muskoka. Parents are responsible for reporting immunizations to the health unit each time their child receives a vaccine from their health care provider. The immunizations that the health unit requires records for include: diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal, pertussis and varicella (chickenpox) for those born in 2010 or later.

It's easy to update your child's immunization status. Go to www.smdhu.org/immsonline to update your child's record or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 (toll free).

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

The benefits of youth leadership development

There are many reasons why developing youth leadership skills at a young age is important – it builds confidence, perseverance, problem-solving and communication skills. While leadership skills can come naturally, children and youth often learn lessons through life experiences that significantly impact them later in life. Here are some ways you can help your child develop leadership skills at a young age:

- encourage outdoor adventures and education
- enrol in camps
- find volunteer and community service opportunities

For more information about the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka Youth Leadership Development Programs and Outdoor Education, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

Student Pick Up at the End of the Day

If you are picking up your child at the end of the day, please send a note in the agenda for the teacher. Calls at the end of the day may be difficult to coordinate. Please remember that if you are picking up your child at the end of the day, you need to meet them in the front foyer. For safety reasons, students are not allowed to enter the front parking lot unless they are with an adult.

School Council Meeting

The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM in the school library on Monday, February 26th. All are welcome to join us for the meeting. Thank you to our school community and to school council- fundraising this year to date has allowed us to order 10 new Chromebooks for student use. The Chromebooks should arrive the beginning of March.

Operations Appreciation Day –Wear blue and grey!

February 7, 2018 is Operations Appreciation Day in the Simcoe County District School Board. We celebrate and recognize our custodians and operations maintenance employees for the great work they do every day to keep our schools safe and clean. We'd like to say thanks to *Mr. & Mrs. Mulla*. To honour our fabulous staff here at Tec. South we are asking that students and staff dress in blue and grey on Feb.7th.

Kids fighting? Here are some tips for a more peaceful household

It's common for children to disagree or argue at times. They may fight or get aggressive with when things don't go the way they want, or if they feel jealous or competitive, especially with siblings. So what can you do to stop fighting before it starts?

- Let your child know what behaviour you expect by explaining rules for playing with others, such as "be gentle" and "keep your hands and feet to yourself."
- Praise your child when they are playing well with others.
- Help children to solve problems before fights start.

Remember, you and other adults play a big role in setting expectations and teaching children better ways of behaving. For more tips, call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and talk to a public health nurse about the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program or visit www.tripleontario.ca.

Hard Copies of the Newsletter

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

Sharing some student work....

Please enjoy some writing from our grade 1/2 class...



