



**Tecumseth South
Central
Public School**

**Newsletter
November 2019**

From the Desk of Ms. Jacklin

October was a busy month full of events and activities at the school. Students participated in a number of emergency procedure drills including fire, lockdown, severe weather and bus evacuation. These are completed annually to ensure that students are confident in the event of an emergency. Some of the extra-curricular activities that took place this month included junior volleyball and cross country. Congratulations to our students who participated on these teams. At the end of September, we also recognized Orange Shirt Day, acknowledging the impact of the residential school system on Indigenous communities for more than a century in Canada. Our “Me to We” Club kicked off their campaign to bring awareness to global issues and our “Girls who Code” club has started. While students enjoyed a day off on the PA day, our staff participated in valuable learning around well-being and school improvement planning.

As we enter into the 3rd month of school, routines have been established and expectations are understood. We prefer all students to use the bussing provided for arrival and dismissal however, if you choose to drop your child off in the morning or pick your child up after school, please:

- park in a designated parking spot and ensure that your vehicle has been turned off
- in the morning, exit your vehicle and deliver your child to the West end of the school
- in the afternoon, meet your child at the West end of the school and accompany them through the parking lot

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping students safe at arrival and dismissal.

Have a wonderful month!

Stephanie Jacklin
Principal

Multifaith Space

Our multifaith space continues to be available for those students who wish to worship during the day. Please speak to Ms. Jacklin or Mrs. Leais if they have any questions. If you have suggestions for how we can include your culture and traditions in our school community, we would love to hear from you!

Library Learning Commons

Our library learning commons received a facelift over the summer. While it was a big change to lose the nostalgic "pit", we are happy to be more accessible to all and have more space to do some really cool 21st century learning. Our first book fair will take place later this month during student-led conferences.

We've had a busy start to the year with videoconferencing and virtual field-tripping through "Exploring By the Seat of Your Pants", escape rooms, book tastings, and makerspace and STEAM activities.

Please keep our makerspace in mind and send in the following items when you are able:

cotton swabs (Qtips)

pipe cleaners

toilet paper rolls

felt

buttons

sponges

stickers

Lego

clay

stickers

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. Our school is in the South zone. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted.

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>.

For school event cancellations in case of inclement weather, follow our school's Twitter account at [@TecSouthPS](#) or listen to your local radio station for event cancellation information.

High school information nights for Grade 8 students coming to a school near you!

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this fall and 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. Details to follow.

November 20 is Eat Well to Excel Day in Simcoe County!

Eat Well to Excel (EWTE) is the local student nutrition program in Simcoe County. EWTE is a non-profit community partnership that supports volunteer-run student nutrition programs in over 185 schools/programs (including elementary and secondary schools, learning centres and alternative programs) in Simcoe County. Research shows that students with access to a breakfast program have reduced risk for disease, are more likely to come to school and participate in class, have better test scores and are more likely to graduate.

Here's how you can support your school's EWTE program:

- Donate money via www.eatwelltoexcel.ca - click on 'donate now' (a printable tax receipt will be issued), and be sure to include the school's name in the comment box, otherwise the money will be used to support the purchase of equipment and food for schools with high needs
- Donate money directly to the school
- Share your fundraising ideas. If you have an idea, or would like to assist, please contact the committee via <http://eatwelltoexcel.ca/contact-us/>
- Volunteer – schools are often looking for help to purchase, prepare and serve food
- Join the EWTE partnership committee. To find out more, complete the form at <http://eatwelltoexcel.ca/volunteers/>



For more information, contact us via <http://eatwelltoexcel.ca/contact-us/>.

Treaties Recognition Week takes place Nov. 5 to 9

Did you know we are ALL treaty people? Treaties Recognition Week is the first week of November every year - this year it's Nov. 5 to 9. The Simcoe County District School Board is located on territory covered by several pre-confederation treaties - Treaty 5, 16, 18, 19 and 82, as well as the 1923 William's Treaty.

Treaties Recognition Week was introduced in 2016 to honour the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships. Take

some time this week to learn about the treaty in your area. To learn more about the treaties and how we can honour them, visit www.ontario.ca/page/treaties.

Attend a French immersion information night

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.

Information sessions take place in November for parents of students in Senior Kindergarten. A letter will be sent home to those parents with more details. Information session dates will be posted at [www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/program_options/French as a second language](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/program_options/French_as_a_second_language).

The online Grade 1 French Immersion application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 2 until 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 20. 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. Beginning this year, entry into the FI program will be determined through 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.

Keeping SCDSB school communities informed on labour updates

In August 2019, provincial and local contracts for all education workers in the province of Ontario expired. In the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB), this means that all our unionized groups are at different stages of contract negotiations at the provincial and local levels. The SCDSB will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates on the status of negotiations and our schools whenever possible.

Labour updates are issued on the SCDSB website (www.scdsb.on.ca/about/labour_updates), Facebook (www.facebook.com/SCDSB), Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools) and on the labour updates information line at 1-877-728-1187.

Host families needed for international students

Our partner in providing homestay to the SCDSB's international students, Canada Homestay Network (CHN), is recruiting host families to welcome international students into their homes.

Host families help international students realize lifelong dreams, and benefit from a unique experience with another culture. As a host, you also receive an allowance to offset expenses. CHN is always looking for hosts, learn more about specialized recruiting at <https://www.whyihost.ca>.

[Learn about a current homestay family here](#) or get more details about the program on [the Canada Homestay Network website](#).

Information provided by the Canada Homestay Network

Safe water in our school

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, along with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, works with local school boards in their efforts to ensure children are protected from unnecessary exposure to lead from drinking water. All schools are required to flush their plumbing regularly and sample their water to test for lead. Samples must be collected at every tap that provides drinking water or that is used to prepare food or drink for children under the age of 18. Schools are required to test both standing (water that has been sitting in the distribution lines) and flushed water (water which has run through the lines) for lead on a regular basis (e.g. annually). Flushing has been shown to reduce lead levels in water and is a recognized lead reduction strategy. If a school's drinking water test result is above the provincial drinking water standard for lead, the schools communicate these results to the local Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks to ensure corrective actions are carried out and the problem is resolved.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

It's all about the connection

Young people are more likely to grow up successfully when they have close connections with the important adults in their lives. Through these connections, young people discover who they are, what they are capable of and how to make a positive contribution in their community. Here are some ways to help keep your relationship with your child strong:

- *Show them they matter to you.* Encourage their efforts and believe in them.
- *Push them to keep getting better.* Expect their best, while helping them learn from mistakes.
- *Help them complete tasks and achieve goals.* Stand up for them when they need it.
- *Treat them with respect and give them a say.* Take them seriously and treat them fairly.
- *Connect them with people and places that broaden their world.* Inspire them about their future.

Looking for more parenting support? Speak with a public health nurse by calling 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Brush as a team until age 8 Baby teeth are important, and kids under age 8 still need help from an adult to brush. Help your child to brush their teeth twice a day for two minutes using a pea sized amount of fluoridated toothpaste. Before school and before bed are two great times to get into the habit of brushing. Cavities can be painful and can lead to infection, so be sure to get any toothaches checked by a dental professional.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit offers some free dental services for children and teens. Contact *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Celebrate peace in your community

November is often seen as a month of reflection and gratitude. The sight of poppies and wreaths serve as a reminder of the brave men and women who fought for peace and freedom. The month of November also plays host to a nationwide YMCA initiative called Peace Week. From Nov. 16-23, the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka encourages members of the community to celebrate the presence of peace in their local and global communities.

Peace means more than the absence of violence and conflict. Peace is an ongoing process of building fairness, equality, security and respect for diversity. Simple actions like sharing, being patient or smiling and saying hello can have a far greater impact than we think. How can you act for peace daily? Here are 10 ways to get you started:


- Help an elderly neighbor
- Organize a peace-themed event at your school
- Add your voice to important issues facing the world
- Volunteer at the YMCA or another peace-focused organization
- Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Learn about other cultures through books or films
- Keep an open mind
- Ask questions rather than make assumptions
- Be the change you want to see in the world
- Share your commitment to peace with others

As part of the Peace Week celebrations, the YMCA invites everyone to be part of the conversation. Share on social media something you do to foster peace in your home, school, workplace or community, or join one of the many YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka *Yoga for Peace* classes. Sessions are free and open to the community.

When we act for peace together, we build stronger and healthier communities. Join the #ymcapeaceweek social media discussion and add your own #actforpeace ideas. For more information, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/peace-week.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

November 2019

					1	2
3	4 <i>6:00 – School Council</i>	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Remembrance Day Celebration	12	13 <i>3/4 & 4/5 – visit from NVCA</i>	14 Gr. 7 - Immunizations	15 <i>Progress Reports come home</i>	16
17 Bullying Awareness Prevention Week	18	19 Photo Retake Day	20	21 <i>Student-Led Conferences</i>	22 P.A. Day – no school for students Student-Led Conferences	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30