



Tecumseth South Central Public School

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November 2020



From The Desk of Mrs. Nixon...

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." By: Winston Churchill

As we focus on the character trait of **Courage** this month, I have been challenging Tec. South students to demonstrate courage in their decision making...to make decisions that will demonstrate their mental and moral strength and their heart felt convictions. AND have the courage to show kindness towards each other through their words and actions. I continue to be very proud of the way our students are growing daily in their commitment to demonstrating positive character and treating others the way that they want to be treated!

Our **Remembrance Day Assembly** is on Wednesday, November 11th, HOWEVER, the assembly will be virtual. We are looking forward to this annual opportunity to think about and to be thankful for the peace we live in. Our students will be receiving poppies to wear and we appreciate this gift from the Legion.

Ministry Progress Reports will be sent home with all students on Thursday, November 12th. Please take the time to review your child's report and set some goals together. **Parent and Teacher VIRTUAL Conferences** are on Thursday November 19th in the afternoon and evening or on Friday November 20th, in the morning (PD Day). Your child's teacher will be contacting you to confirm a mutually convenient time for this conference. This communication with your child's teacher is an important ingredient to ensure the academic success of your child. Thank you for our ongoing partnership.

A big thank you to Mrs. Cousins, our Teacher Librarian, who has organized a virtual Scholastic Book Fair for our students. Watch for the link to view all of the great books that are available this year, for families to order on line. Thank you for nurturing the love of reading and books with your children while supporting this helpful fundraiser for our school library.

Thank you parents for your effort and creativity in helping your child to come to school in a costume or black and orange on October 30th. Our Grade 7/8 class led a great (and safe) Costume Parade outside enabling the students to see everyone's great costumes!

Congratulations to the September and October Character Award recipients. These students were celebrated at a school-wide VIRTUAL Assembly on October 30th. We are proud of the way these students show Caring and Cooperation every day!

Sincerely,

Susan Nixon ... *"Be the change you want to see in the world."* GHANDI

Remembrance Day



Royal Canadian Legion poppy campaign

The SCDSB has a time-honoured relationship with our local Royal Canadian Legions through the annual poetry and poster competitions and the annual poppy campaign. For the 2020-2021 year, it is our intention to once again support the poppy campaign. Due to the health and safety protocols in place, we will not be collecting donations from students. Instead, schools are asked to work with their school councils to make a suitable donation through school generated funds. Families interested in making their own donations can do so by visiting the Royal Canadian Legion's poppy campaign at www.legion.ca/remembrance/the-poppy.



Character Attribute for the month of November

Courage - we do the right thing even when it's difficult.

More information about character education can be found here:

www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

Days of awareness and recognition taking place in November

Throughout the year, there are many awareness days that focus on different causes and recognition. The Simcoe County District School Board has developed a list of these days as a guide for schools. Schools may participate in recognizing some or all of these days in various ways. This list is not exhaustive. Following are the days of awareness and recognition that the SCDSB will recognize during the month of November:

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| November | Financial Literacy Month |
| November | November |
| Nov. 1-7 | Canadian Down Syndrome Week |
| Nov. 2-6 | Treaties Recognition Week |
| Nov. 11 | Remembrance Day |
| Nov. 13 | World Kindness Day |
| Nov. 15-21 | Bullying Awareness Week |
| Nov. 20 | Trans Day of Remembrance |

COVID-19 self-assessment

All students and staff will be expected to self-screen prior to attending school each day, using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit the [SMDHU website](#).



November PA Day

Please note that Friday, Nov. 20 is a PA day for all secondary and elementary SCDSB students, both Learn@Home and in school. Please refer to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information:

www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar



High school information events for Grade 8 students

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will happen virtually this winter. Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Different pathways and courses offered will be explained. Visit your school's website for more information.





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

Treaties Recognition Week takes place Nov. 2 to 6

Did you know we are ALL treaty people? Treaties Recognition Week is the first week of November every year - this year it is Nov. 2 to 6. 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.

mPower: supporting your child's math learning

Are you looking for a way to provide extra math practice for your child at home, in a fun and engaging format? [TVO mPower](http://www.tvomath.com) is a free digital tool that includes 65+ online games to support the mastery of tough-to-learn math concepts.

TVO mPower's goals are:

1. To provide Ontario students with opportunities to practice important math skills and to foster positive attitudes towards math by making learning fun and engaging.
2. To show students that math is everywhere by connecting math games to the big ideas in science and social studies.
3. To support students to develop 21st century global competencies by integrating skills such as metacognition, problem solving, creativity and citizenship.

TVO mPower is:

1. Ontario curriculum-based: Aligns with the Ontario mathematics, science and technology and social studies curricula while also supporting the development of global competencies.
2. Learner-centred: Tracks student progress and responds to learners' needs.
3. Assessment-driven: Includes teacher dashboard and educator resources.
4. Tested and trusted: Developed in partnership with Ontario educators and students.
5. Free: Always free for Ontario students and educators - and now for Ontario families.
6. Safe and advertising-free.

Available for desktop and laptop computers and iPad tablets

Visit tvomath.com for more information.



Gifted Screening Process

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction and through providing program modifications. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate and challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular classroom or in gifted classroom placements. In consultation with parents/guardians, school staff determines who these students are through the gifted screening process.

Students may be nominated by either a teacher or parent/guardian.

Parents/guardians of a student currently in Grade 3, who wish the school to consider their child for screening, are asked to contact Mrs. Michelle Davidson before November 19, 2020.

If your child is nominated, a teacher from the school will contact you regarding the screening process. You will be asked to sign a consent form as your child will be taking a standardized test (the Otis Lennon School Achievement Test [OLSAT]). Your child will be given some instruction regarding the test and will have the opportunity to take a practice test prior to the actual test. Once the school receives the results, you will be contacted, and these results will be shared with you. The school staff will also explain what any next steps may be.

This opportunity is available to all students (e.g. in-school students and Learn@Home students). As the OLSAT requires that it be written in-person and supervised within a school, students participating in Learn@Home (remote learning) will be provided an opportunity to write the test in-person on the January 29, 2021 Professional Activity (PA) day at various elementary school locations throughout the SCDSB.

If you require additional information regarding the gifted screening process, please contact Mrs. Michelle Davidson at michelle.davidson@scdsb.on.ca or 905-936-3711, ext. 27624

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, Dec. 1, 2020 until 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 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.

Keeping kids healthy and active

[National health guidelines](#) recommend that children and youth (aged 5-17) have high levels of physical activity, low levels of sedentary behavior and sufficient sleep each day for a balanced lifestyle. Here are three easy tips to help your kids stay healthy and active:



Get more sleep – Getting the [recommended hours of sleep](#) each night can go a long way in ensuring everyone in your family has the proper energy to take on the next day. More sleep means better ability to get moving and think more clearly!

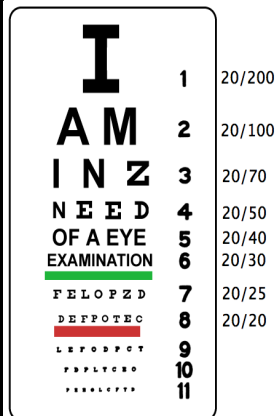
Practice relaxation – Mental health is just as important as physical health. Now more than ever, we are realizing the important connection between the mind and body in our overall wellbeing. Providing yourself and your kids with a small amount of relaxation or ‘time out’ every day – even just 15 minutes – can improve your health dramatically. Try doing a [virtual family yoga class](#) to reduce stress and clear the mind!

Get active together – When you’re active with your kids, it sends them an important message about healthy living. Get out for a walk, play outside or do a [family workout](#) from the comfort of your home. It’s always more fun to exercise with a buddy!

Looking for ways to keep your children active and healthy while in a remote learning environment? YGym offers free virtual physical activities from YMCA certified fitness instructors for children of varying ages and abilities. Visit YMCAHome.ca/YGym for free virtual physical activities for children and youth, anywhere, anytime!

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) Clinical Services changes due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Vision screening



The SMDHU will not be offering the Vision Screening Program for JK/SK for the 2020-2021 school year. Eye exams are free, with an OHIP card, for children 19 years old and under. Visit the [College of Optometrists of Ontario](#) to find an optometrist near you.

Oral health

Oral health screening at school will be delayed this year. The SMDHU will be looking for an opportunity to offer this screening later in the year if possible.

Screening and fluoride varnish application continues to be available in our offices by appointment for children 17 years and under.

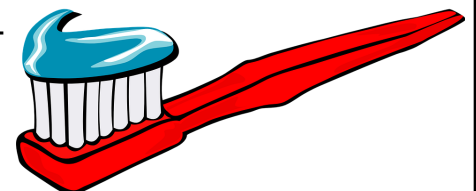
Immunization

The SMDHU will not be holding immunization clinics at your child’s school during the 2020-2021 school year. We are planning to have school-based immunizations offered in the 2021-2022 school year for Grade 7 and 8 students.

For families of current Grade 8 students who have not completed their immunization series of Hepatitis B (HB), Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Menactra due to COVID-19, we are offering immunization clinics at our health unit offices throughout Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka. Immunization clinics start Nov. 2, 2020 and are by appointment only. No walk-ins will be immunized. Please call us at 1-877-721-7520 x8827 to book your child’s appointment.

For more information on SMDHU clinical services for children, please 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



November 2020

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Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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|--|----|----|---|--|--|---------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| <i>Treaty Recognition Week & Downs Syndrome Week</i> | | | | | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11  <i>Virtual Remembrance Day Assembly</i> | 12  Progress Reports | 13  <i>World Day of Kindness</i> | 14 <i>Diwali</i> |
| 15 <i>Bullying Awareness Week</i> | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19  Online Book Fair <i>Virtual Conferences after school</i> | 20  <i>PA Day</i> <i>Virtual Conferences in morning</i> | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |