



Tecumseth South Central Public School

Newsletter
October 2019

From the Desk of Ms. Jacklin

It was wonderful to meet so many families at our Meet the Teacher BBQ last week. Thank you to School Council for planning such a successful and well attended event. I am delighted to see the positive spirit here at Tec. South Central P.S. This is exemplified through participation in events like our Annual Terry Fox Run and in student involvement in sports such as junior volleyball and cross country. Thank you to staff who gave their time to provide practices, passion and expertise.

The student population at Tec. South grew slightly from last year. With this growth, we welcomed a new teacher, Ms. Anderson who will be teaching grade our 3/4 class. We say thank you and good bye to Mr. Dollin who provided a strong start for this group. We also congratulate Mrs. Ross who secured a contract at WH Day and wish her all the best. Growth is a wonderful thing. With the extra staff and students, we can offer an even more rich experience at our school. We are excited for the things to come!

As we approach Thanksgiving and reflect on all that we appreciate, I'd like to thank the families, for the support that you have provided your children at home as they transition to school, our volunteers who make a positive difference in our school, for the staff who worked exceptionally hard in preparing their programs, field trip plans, growth plans and for the students who share their excitement for learning with me each day.

Now that the students and routines are settling, I am looking forward to the new adventures that October will bring. Don't forget to follow us on twitter @tecsouthcentralps where we share examples of our learning every day. Regular updates are also posted on our website.

S. Jacklin

School Council members invited to *Connections* event on Oct. 22

School council members are invited to join us at *Connections*, the Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) school council development and networking event.

When: Tues. Oct. 22, 4 to 8 p.m.

Where: SCDSB Education Centre, 1170 Hwy. 26, Midhurst

Participants can gather tips, resources and important information to help you be more effective in your role on school council. You will also be able to contribute to group discussions, browse booths and enjoy snacks from our approved vendors, and network with fellow school council members and the Parent Involvement Committee. Register to attend at www.scdsb.on.ca/connections.

School bus transportation information available from the SCSTC

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place October 21 to 25, 2019. To support schools in promoting school bus safety to students, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC), in partnership with school bus operators, will offer bus evacuation training to all home-to-school transported students. During this week, school bus drivers will educate students on how to evacuate a school bus safely in an emergency situation. October 23, 2019 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in the province of Ontario. It's a great opportunity for the school community to thank our bus drivers for all their hard work transporting students to and from school safely. For more information, visit the SCSTC website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/.

Have you met Sora?

Our digital ebook/audiobook collection contains over 4,000 titles waiting to be checked out by our SCDSB students. Students simply download the app, use their SCDSB login and start reading for free on their phone or tablet. The collection can be accessed at: meet.soraapp.com.

Volunteering in a SCDSB school

We thank all volunteers for your time – we couldn't do it without you! If you are interested in volunteering at a SCDSB school, please register on the SCDSB Community Apps website via www.scdsb.on.ca. Once you've done this, please visit the school to find out the next steps in order to become a volunteer in the school.

Reorganization balances class sizes to support your child's success

Each September, our school starts off with a certain number of classes and teachers - these numbers are based on estimates made the previous spring about how many students will be enrolled during the next school year. As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education has class size goals that all school boards are required to meet. When the Simcoe County District School Board organized its schools in the spring, they adhered to this expectation. Each September, the board compares actual enrolment numbers to the numbers projected by the board in the spring. At times it is necessary to reorganize classes. After reorganization, some students may move to another class in order to balance class sizes. In some cases, it may be necessary to move teachers to a new school. If your child was affected by a change, you should have received a letter with details following reorganization. Please be assured that these changes will not affect the quality of education your child will receive at Tecumseth South P.S. Our staff have the skills, training and resources to work effectively with students in a variety of settings.

Pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with SchoolCash Online

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees"
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

Paying online is the preferred method of payment, it's safe, fast and convenient. Contact the office with any questions.

Parent Portal gives parents real-time access to attendance and grade information

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and grades and includes the option to sign up for email notifications. To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's SCDSB Pupil ID Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID will be provided in a sealed letter this fall with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, you can visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

Communication to families regarding inclement weather days

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>

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.

Days of Awareness and Recognition taking place in October

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 October:

October	Canadian Autism Awareness Month
Oct. 1	International Coffee Day
Oct. 2	International Walk to School Day
Oct. 2	National Custodial Workers Recognition Day
Oct. 5	World Teachers' Day
Oct. 10	World Mental Health Day
Oct. 11	International Day of the Girl
Oct. 21-25	National School Bus Safety Week
Oct. 23	School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
Oct. 24	Ontario Dress Purple Day - Association of Children's Aid Societies
Oct. 24	Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation Day

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 6 to 12

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your

Escape!” is aimed at educating everyone about the small but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe. If there is a fire in your home, you may have as little as one to two minutes to safely escape. Escape planning and practice can help you make the most of the time you have, giving everyone enough time to get out. Plan ahead for your escape. Make your home escape plan and practice today.

Information from the Government of Ontario website

It's time to 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. 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

October is Children's Vision Month

Did you know that school-age children should have their eyes checked by an optometrist every year? These visits are free with an OHIP card from birth until age 19.

Young children may not know that they have a vision problem. They don't complain because they assume that everyone sees the way that they do. For parents and caregivers, there are sometimes no obvious signs or symptoms to indicate that their child has a vision problem. But if not identified early, some eye problems can permanently reduce a child's vision. This is why it's important for children to have their eyes checked by an optometrist starting at a young age.

For more information, or if you need help finding an optometrist for your child, please 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

Get active and have fun this Halloween

Halloween is just around the corner, and it's a great opportunity to get your whole family outside, explore the neighbourhood and meet people in your community. While your kids may be focused on their costumes and candy, here are five tips on how to get active and ensure a fun and safe Halloween for everyone:

- **Stay visible** - Costumes should be light-coloured with reflective stripes so that children are more easily seen at night. And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards and brooms, too!
- **Go as a group** - Don't be a spectator – join in the fun as much as possible! Take turns handing out candy at home so that everyone gets a chance to get outside. Parents can walk alongside youngsters or with other adults to casually keep an eye on older kids. A stroll around the block means more physical movement!
- **Network with neighbours** - One of the benefits of Halloween is the chance to catch up with neighbours and introduce yourself to newcomers who have recently moved in. Parents of little ones might discover families who want to meet up for an active playdate, and school-aged kids may find a new friend they can walk or ride to school with. Having like-minded people nearby can help your family form even more healthy habits!
- **Think outside the box** - Trade the candy collected for non-edible treats such as toys or arts and crafts. Or, consider offering to buy back some of the candy, giving your kids some extra spending money at the toy store as a reward.

- **Have fun** - Collecting (and consuming) Halloween candy is fun, but the real treat is getting out there as a family and enjoying the full Halloween experience!

Visit your local [YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka](#) for some fun Halloween activities for the whole family to enjoy. For more information visit www.JoinTheY.ca.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka

Ministry of Education – cell phone restrictions

To help ensure students can focus on learning without distraction, the Ministry of Education has updated the Provincial Code of Conduct to address the use of cellphones and other personal mobile devices during instructional time, unless they are required:

- for health and medical purposes,
- to support special education needs, or
- for educational purposes, as directed by an educator.

This new requirement will come into effect provincially on Nov. 4, 2019.

The SCDSB will make the necessary revisions to our code of conduct and procedures to align with the Ministry update. This direction from the Ministry of Education aligns well with the procedures that our schools have had in place for many years. We encourage the use of board-provided and personal technology to support student learning. This reality is governed by the need to support our students with special needs, for students' health or medical purposes and in learning settings where the use of technology is directed by an educator.


The following resources from the Ministry of Education provide information and guidance to parents, guardians, educators and students about the new requirement:

- [Parents' Guide to the Provincial Code of Conduct](#) (updated)
- [Cellphones and Other Personal Mobile Devices in Schools – Questions and Answers for Parents and Guardians](#) (new)

We thank our parents/guardians for reviewing this information with your children.

Information provided by the Ministry of Education

October 2019

	1	2 Gr. 7/8's to Camp Tawingo	3 Gr. 7/8's return from Camp Tawingo	4 P.A. Day No School for students	5 World Teachers's Day	
6 Fire Prevention Week	7 3:30 Cross Country	8	9	10 Cross Country Meet	11 Cross Country Rain Date	12
13	14 Thanksgiving	15	16	17 Jr. Boys' & Girls' Volleyball Zones	18	19
20 School Bus Safety Week	21 Federal Election	22 Cross Country Counties 2-4 PM School Council Connections	23 Picture Day Bus Driver Appreciation Day	24	25 Childcare Worker and ECE Appreciation Day	26
27	28	29	30	31	