

★ **Tecumseth South Times** ★

October 2017 * Issue #2 * Phone: 905-936-3711

Respect * Responsibility * Reaching for Excellence

WE COMMIT TO COOPERATION

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

~Helen Keller

Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

We had a very busy month of September as everyone got back to the routines of school. As most of you know, we did not have to reorganize any of our students or classes this September. Thank you for returning our Start-up package forms and supporting our lunchtime food fundraisers of Sub and Pizza lunches. All forms are due back by October 6. We regret that no late orders can be accepted.

Today staff and students participated in the Terry Fox Run. Over the past years, Tecumseth South has raised over \$ 70 000 for the Terry Fox Foundation. We have all been impacted by cancer, and we thank you both as a school and on a personal level for your contributions and support. We have surpassed our goal for this year's fundraising and look forward to presenting at our October assembly.

We had our first School Council meeting on Monday, September 25th and were so pleased to see many new and returning members. We elected this year's council that represents students, parents/guardians, staff and the community. While there is an executive body that will work with the Administration to support Tecumseth South, all parents are welcome to join us for council meetings. Our focus this year continues to be Math and Well Being. Please join me in welcoming Lesley Smith as our Chair, Krista Elford as Treasurer and Susanna Jarvis as our Secretary for the upcoming year.

Thank you to our school council for the wonderful BBQ on September 20th. It was fantastic to see so many families at the school. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the care and commitment of our entire staff: our teachers who have set up their classrooms to be inviting, child-centered and caring places to learn and grow; our office staff (that's Mrs. Rosie!) who completes many tasks that may go unnoticed but are critical to our school- safe arrival, attending to sick children, registering for school or transitioning to high school; our Educational Assistants and DECE/RECEs who work as partners with teachers to support student learning in a variety of settings, both in and out of the classroom; and last, but not least, our caretaking team who work to ensure that classrooms, carpets, washrooms, the library, gymnasium and playground areas are safe and ready to meet students and families each day.

Please know that our staff welcomes your questions and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to share a concern, a question or even a compliment. Our doors are always open.

Sincerely,

M. Bongard
Principal

Public Meeting

A public meeting was held on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017 at Alliston Union Public School regarding a potential replacement school for Banting Memorial High School.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- share information about how the Ministry of Education funds new and replacement schools
- share information about options for a replacement school
- gather feedback from the local community

For those who were unable to attend, the presentation is available on the Simcoe County District School Board website www.scdsb.on.ca by clicking 'Board', then 'Capital Planning' and 'Other Planning/Reviews'.

Multi-faith Space

We want everyone to feel welcome at Tec. South!

Did you know that our school has a multi-faith space? This room is available for students of all faiths and followings. The room provides a quiet atmosphere for prayer, worship, meditation, and other spiritual and faith based activities. Students can speak with their teacher or with Mrs. Leaist if they would like to use this space. Parent feedback and suggestion is encouraged and welcome.

Please share with us if there are any other ways that we can include your cultural or religious practices during the school day and at special events.

Lunch Orders

Lunch orders for October, November & December went home last week. They are due to the school by Friday, October 6th. **Late orders will not be accepted and will be returned home.** Thank you for sending the forms in on time! If you are available to help on our lunch days, please email Lesley Smith at smithservices@bellnet.ca

*Please note: There was a misprint in November dates. The order form should read Nov. 20 & 27 (Mondays).

Parent Portal gives parents real-time access to attendance, 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, visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

Pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with School Cash Online

If you have not already done so, be sure to sign up for School Cash Online. This is our preferred method of payment for all school fundraising including lunch days and field trips. School Cash Online allows you to pay with your debit or credit card. Follow these steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com or from our school website click on "Pay Fees"

2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through echeck or credit card

The School Cash Parent Helpdesk is available 24/7 to help you with registration, password recoveries or any other payment issues. Call the helpdesk at 1-866-961-1803 or email parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com.

School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place Oct. 16 to 20. 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.

Wed., Oct. 18 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/.

New Path offering child and youth mental health walk-in clinics

In response to the increasing wait times for child and youth mental health services, and the increased need for such services, New Path has undertaken a service redesign that will provide more timely and responsive services to children, youth and families in Simcoe County. New Path now offers Child and Youth Mental Health Walk-In Clinics in five office locations throughout Simcoe County: Bradford, Alliston, Barrie, Collingwood and Orillia.

Children, youth and families requesting service from New Path no longer need to call and complete an intake; they can simply attend one of the local Walk-In Clinics and will receive a single session intervention that day. Should children or youth require further service, New Path will continue to offer a wide variety of community and school-based services as well as residential service and women's service. For further information, including the clinic locations, days and hours, visit www.newpath.ca or contact New Path's central intake department at 705-725-7656.

Fire Prevention Week is October 8 to 14: Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!

Fire Prevention Week runs from Oct. 8 to 14. This year's theme is "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" Smoke and fire spread fast. There's no time to figure out how to escape AFTER a fire starts. All households should have working smoke alarms and practice a home fire escape plan with everyone in the family BEFORE there's a fire. Find out more at: www.nfpa.org/fpw.

Translating legal issues for frontline workers and members of the trans community

The Gilbert Centre, in partnership with The Community Legal Clinic, The Law Foundation of Ontario, and The Mediation Centre, is offering training on navigating human rights and the law for transgender people in Simcoe County. Topics will include trans inclusivity training, human rights, housing, employment, income support and family law. Register at www.gilbertcentre.ca/translating-legal-issues/. The training is offered in Collingwood Oct. 12 to 13.

Healthy classroom celebrations

Classroom and school celebrations are great opportunities for children to practice the healthy eating messages they learn in the classroom. Help teach the importance of healthy eating by choosing healthy foods to send in the next time your child's class is celebrating. Here are some ideas:

- Send a tray of watermelon slices, orange slices, apples or fruit kabobs
- Make homemade mini muffins with whole wheat flour and grated carrots or apple
- Send a tray of whole grain crackers, cubes of lower fat cheese and grapes
- Send a veggie platter - get creative by arranging it in fun shapes
- Prepare chocolate dipped strawberries for a sweet treat

Looking for more information to help keep you and your family healthy? Call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 to speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Tips for a healthy Halloween

The month of October is upon us and that means Halloween is just around the corner! For many children, this can be an exciting time of year as they get their costumes ready and their buckets out to fill with candy! Halloween can also be a tough time for parents to keep their kids' diets healthy and balanced. Here are some helpful 'tricks' to help you and your family have a healthy Halloween this year!

- Walk door to door when trick or treating. It will burn calories and also tire the kids out – potentially limiting the amount of houses you will hit before the end of the night. Try making a competition out of who can walk the most steps.
- Plan a party. Make the focus of your party fun activities instead of sugary treats. Include Halloween games such as a costume or dance contest, or pumpkin carving.
- Trade the candy collected for non-edible treats like books, small toys or arts and crafts materials. You can also consider offering to buy back some of the candy, providing your kids with some extra spending money as a reward.
- Before your kids venture out in their costumes, make sure they eat a healthy meal.

Visit your local YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka for some fun Halloween activities for the whole family to enjoy!

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka (www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)

Black & Orange Day & Halloween Costumes

Spirit Day - On October 27th, the day of our assembly, everyone is welcome to wear black & orange. On Tuesday, October 31st, students may choose to wear costumes to school. It is very important that students do not bring replica weapons or wear masks to school. Please save these items for trick or treating. Please look in your child's agenda for any more direction from classroom teachers around costumes and the day's activities.

Giving back to the school community - volunteer in our school

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our school a great place to learn and grow. We value and appreciate the support of our volunteers. There are many opportunities available, including school council, reading help, assisting in the classroom or library and much more. Everyone who volunteers in a school must have a criminal record check which includes a Vulnerable Sector Screening. Please call or visit the school

office for more information about opportunities available or if you'd like to volunteer! **If you have not already returned your Annual Offence Declaration and wish to remain on the list please do so by October 19th.**

Thank you

Thank you to Mr. Szolopiak for donating a pumpkin for every student again this year! They will arrive on October 6th.

GR. 6 D.A.R.E.

On September 28th our grade 6 students started their D.A.R.E. program with Officer Mortimer. This program will run for 9 sessions with the students learning about Drug Awareness Resistance Education.

We need your help to keep students safe

The safety of our students is our top priority. Arrival and dismissal are busy times at our school. We need to work together with parents/guardians and childcare providers to make sure students are safe.

Here are key points to be aware of when planning pick up and/or drop off of students:

- Supervision starts fifteen (15) minutes before bell time and ends fifteen (15) minutes after bell time. School staff will contact the parent/guardian, followed by emergency contact, for any student who is not picked up within this time. If late pickup or early drop off happens often, additional support services may be involved.
- If parents/guardians arrange for other people to pick up their children, like a private childcare provider, the parent/guardian is responsible to ensure the alternate person/program is picking up on time.
- Designated bus loading zones are out-of-bounds during arrival and dismissal times, with the only exception being Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium buses. Private childcare providers will be asked not to use these areas. Parents are also not allowed to drop off or pick up in the bus zones.
- Unattended vehicles must be parked in an approved parking space, with the engine turned off.

A full description of the Supervision, Arrival and Dismissal Procedures is available at www.scdsb.on.ca – Parents – Safe and Healthy Schools – Procedures.

School Council News

Our 2017-2018 School Council has been formed. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM in the school library on Monday, October 23, 2018. All are welcome to join us for the meeting.

Thank you to our families for participating in our chocolate sale fundraiser. Please remember that the money is due back by October 12th.

X Country

Tec. South students have been lacing up and running during these past weeks to prepare for the upcoming Area Meet. Everyone knows that running is a great way to get into shape, but did you know that it can benefit almost every part of your body, as well as lift your mood? Running is incredibly effective at making you healthier physically and mentally. Running can provide a noticeable boost to your confidence and self-esteem by setting and achieving your own goals. The race distances are determined by age, and range between 1.9 km and 2.9 km. We wish them well at their meet on October 11.

Stay updated, get information about your school and school board

Want to ensure you are receiving up-to-date, accurate information about what's going on at your school and our school board? Here's how:

- You can subscribe to our school's website by clicking on 'Subscribe' at the top of our school website: <http://tso.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. When you fill out your email and click Subscribe, an email will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.
- For Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases and event information, visit the 'News' section under 'About Us' at the SCDSB's website: www.scdsb.on.ca. You can also subscribe to receive board media releases, event information and/or job postings via email by visiting www.scdsb.on.ca and clicking on 'Subscribe' at the top of the page.
- Follow Tec. South on Twitter @TECSOUTHPS, the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb) Check out our *Sharing Simcoe* blog (www.sharingsimcoe.com), where we share stories of our amazing students, staff and community members.
- For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. And remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days. Notifications of bus delays can be emailed to families and students that subscribe to receive their specific bus delay notification through the SCSTC website. Subscribe here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/>.

High School information nights 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 on February 8, 2018 to find out what's offered. Our students will visit Banting Memorial High School when they host a "Picture Yourself at Banting" event on November 1st. Check out the full schedule of info nights and more information at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.

Ontario Early Years Centre

Are you home with little people and looking for something fun to do? Drop by the Ontario Early Years Centre in Alliston! The OEYC is a **free** service for all adults with children 0 to 6 years of age. Adults and children participate in activities together. Children have the opportunity to play with other children and participate in many different types of programs and activities, which promote early learning and school readiness, and they are **FUN** for children and adults alike.

Do you have a child starting school in 2018? Participating in activities at the OEYC is a great way to help prepare your child for this exciting transition. OEYC staff have resources for kindergarten preparation. Just drop by and ask!

Check out our website, www.e3.ca or call 705 435-4308 for hours, directions and more information.

OEYC also offers outreach programs in communities outside of Alliston. These early learning programs for children 0 to 6 years of age accompanied by an adult, include a variety of activities, circle time (story and

songs) and crafts. Fun, early learning for children! You are welcome to visit the following locations and join in the programs there:

Tottenham Community Centre – 10:15 am – Wednesdays October 4th and 18th

Tottenham Library – Pam Kirkpatrick Branch – 10:15am – Wednesdays October 11th and 25th

DA Jones Library, Beeton – 10:15am – Friday October 6th and Tuesday October 17th

Do you ever struggle with discipline and other parenting issues? If so the Triple P Positive Parenting Program might be for you! Three seminars dealing with Positive Parenting, Raising Confident Competent Children and Raising Resilient Children will be offered at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Alliston, October 11, 18 and 25 at 7pm. Call 705-435-4308 for more information or to register.

Hard Copies of the Newsletter

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

HAPPY FALL EVERYONE!



Fantastic Terry Fox Run today-

Thanks to staff, students and families for participating.