

## Tecumseth South Central Newsletter

October 2018

Dear Families,

We have had a fantastic first month of school. Our school BBQ was a wonderful success thanks to the many parent volunteers who helped with planning, set up and of course our families and staff who attended the evening.

As a school, we continue to work towards SCDSB's strategic priorities, with a focus on *Well Being* and *Teaching and Learning* in the area of mathematics. We have learned that as we make mistakes, our brain actually creates new connections. As a school and in our classrooms we are looking to celebrate and embrace the positive struggle that comes with learning something new.

In the upcoming month we have some exciting happenings- our grade 8 class is off to Tawingo Outdoor Centre, sports teams such as volleyball and cross country will continue to practise and we will begin a Tecumseth South Student Council. Our picture day this year will be on October 17<sup>th</sup>- Our photo studio would like to remind students to wear any colour except for green, as it does not show up when we use "green screen" technology.

Our Chapters adopt a school ends on October 7<sup>th</sup>, and you can participate in store or online. Thank you for your ongoing support of all of our fundraisers- Terry Fox (we raised over \$2000!) Chocolate Sales and Chapters. You are an amazing community, and we recognize each day what a privilege it is to work with your children.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Sincerely,

M. Bongard

Principal

### **School Council members invited to *Connections* event on Oct. 23**

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. 23, 4 to 7 p.m.

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

Participants can gather tips and important information to help you in your role on school council, contribute to group discussions, browse booths and enjoy snacks from our approved vendors, and network with fellow school council and Parent Involvement Committee members. This year, we welcome Jacqui Strachan, Communications Director, People for Education, who will discuss fundraising and equity within a school council. Register at [www.scdsb.on.ca/connections](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/connections). Register by Oct. 16 for your chance to win a \$500 parent engagement grant for your school. The winner(s) will be drawn at the event. You must be in attendance to win the prize.

### **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](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: [simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://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 22 to 26, 2018. 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. 24 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/](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/).

### **School Absences**

Please make sure that you inform the office if your child is going to be absent. You can call the school and leave a message 24 hours a day. 905 936 3711

### **Wet Weather**

With the cool and wet weather approaching, it is helpful to send your child with a change of clothes and extra socks. Encourage them to dress in layers as the temperatures can vary throughout the day.

### **Safety Drills**

Students and staff continue to practice our fire and lock down drills. During Fire Prevention Week, our local Fire Department will join us here at Tec. South to help us with a fire drill, and to teach our students about fire safety.

## Want to be a volunteer at our school? Here's what you need to know...

We appreciate the commitment of all who volunteer at our school. This school year, we are implementing a new online Volunteer Portal. SCDSB Community Apps (<http://communityapps.scdsb.on.ca>) is a new online portal that allows you to begin the process for volunteering at our school. Here is some information to share as we've been receiving some questions:

- Only NEW volunteers or those who received a letter in June indicating you require an updated Criminal Background Check Vulnerable Sector Screening (5-year renewal) are able to register as a volunteer on the Community Apps website at this time.
- If you're a current, approved school volunteer, you can still volunteer at our school for the time being. You should have recently received a letter with your access code. This code will allow you to register as a volunteer on the Volunteer Portal through the Community Apps website.

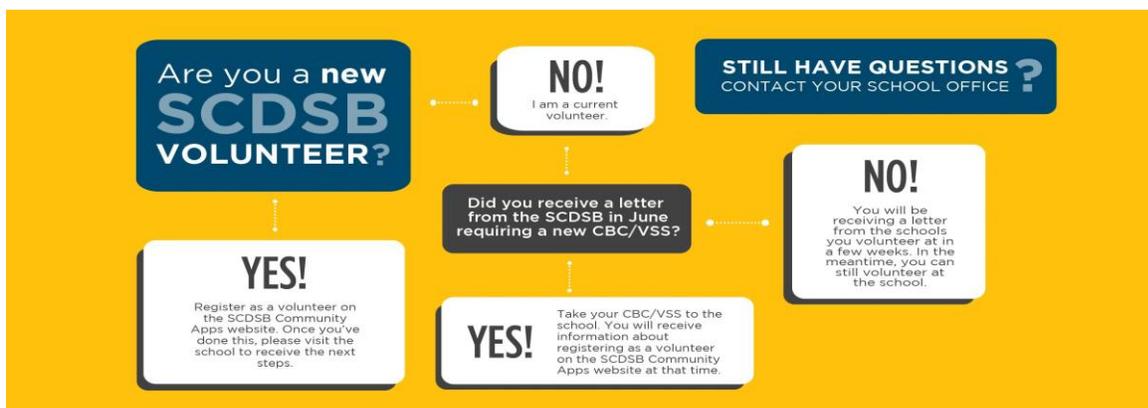
## Reorganization balances class sizes to support your child's success

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 Central Public School. 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](http://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



It's safe, fast and convenient. Contact the office with any questions.

### **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 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.

### **Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 7 to 13**

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme focuses on three fundamental actions people can take to be fire-safe:

- LOOK for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.
- LISTEN for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.
- LEARN two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

### **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](http://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*

## Gifted Screening Deadline October 4, 2018

Some children who display an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential.

In consultation with parents, the school staff determines who these students are through the gifted screening process.

Parents/Guardians of a student who is in or above Grade 3 this school year, who wish the school to consider their child for screening, are asked to contact Mrs. Michelle Davidson.

The gifted screening process consists of three components:

- A Teacher Rating Scale;
- A Parent Questionnaire; and,
- Standardized test results (usually Otis Lennon School Ability Test).

After signing a permission form, parents/legal guardians will complete the Parent Questionnaire. Information obtained from this questionnaire will help the school gain a better understanding of your child's early development as well as his/her strengths, interests, needs and abilities, which the standardized test may not identify. The teacher will complete a Rating Scale, which examines areas such as learning, motivation, creativity and leadership, which he/she has observed in the classroom. Group testing will be completed and the results will provide a standardized measure of school abilities. The information gathered from all three components will assist the school in programming for your child.

If you require information about the gifted screening process, please contact Mrs. Davidson at [midavidson@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:midavidson@scdsb.on.ca) or 905-936-3711.



# OCTOBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Deadline to request gifted screening grades 3+	5	6
7 Chapters Adopt a school ends today	8 Thanksgiving- no school	9 Pizza Fire Prevention Week	10 Subs Cold Creek Grade 2&3/4 Grade 8s to Tawingo	11 Grade 8s to Tawingo Area Cross Country	12 Grade 8s to Tawingo	13
14	15 Pizza	16	17 Subs Picture Day	18 Junior Volleyball Tournaments	19	20
21	22 PA day- No school & School Council 6:30	23 Pizza	24 Subs Bus Driver Appreciation day	25	26 Assembly 2pm	27
28	29 Pizza	30	31 Subs			

Thank you to the Szolopiak family for the fall pumpkins and to all our families who supported us at Chapters!