

★ **Tecumseth South** **Times** ★

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Respect * Responsibility * Reaching for Excellence
Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year!

Dear Families,

Welcome Back

The staff at Tecumseth South Central P.S. is pleased to welcome our students and parents back to the school. If you are joining us as a new member of our school community, we are so pleased that you have come to Tecumseth South. This is an exciting school where we support Simcoe County District School Board System Priorities of Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Well Being and maintaining a sense of Community. Our particular school focus will also be centered around math learning and teaching. On behalf of the staff here at Tecumseth South Central- Welcome Back!

Parents often ask how to prepare their children for their return to school. Families can help to ease the transition by maintaining regular bedtimes during the week and creating routines such as packing backpacks, agendas and lunches at night to avoid the hustle and bustle in the morning. Students will need a change of shoes and should always dress for the weather. If your child experiences anxiety about new beginnings, be supportive and listen to their concerns. It is normal for students to feel anxious and nervous when returning to school. If the feelings persist, please take connect with the classroom teacher so we can all work together and create a safe and happy environment for all of our students.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome back Mme. MacArthur, as well as Mrs. Leaist and extend a warm welcome to Ms. Caughey who will be teaching in our JR/INT division. Our secretary, Mrs. Rosie, will be very busy in the first week of school preparing reports and all the necessary program preparations required by the board. We would appreciate your consideration and patience in these first weeks. Please make all student arrangements for the day re: lunches and transportation before your child comes to school. Please also be aware that it is possible that reorganization may occur at the end of September as the Board confirms enrolment and staffing.

Finally, agendas are distributed to students in grades 1 to 8 during the first week of school. It is expected that all students will use the agenda on a daily basis to build a strong organizational foundation and to facilitate communication between home and school.

Thank you for all of your ongoing support, we look forward to working with you this year. As always, please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns. All the best for the 2017/2018!

Sincerely,
M. Bongard

Keep connected with our school and with the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB):

- you can subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://tso.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. 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' on the SCDSB's website: www.scdsb.on.ca. The SCDSB Education Centre can be reached at 705-734-6363.
- follow Tec South on Twitter (@tecsouthps), the SCDSB (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook ([facebook.com/SCDSB](https://www.facebook.com/SCDSB)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/scdsb](https://www.instagram.com/scdsb)).
- through SCDSB's Sharing Simcoe blog (www.sharingsimcoe.com), we share stories of our amazing staff, students and school communities.

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

Procedures help keep our school safe

The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations

Parents should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off.
- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites (www.facebook.com/SCDSB and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (www.scdsb.on.ca), through local police and local media.
- All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.
- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** to enter the building. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, please be patient.** All visitors, including school volunteers, are required to **sign in** at the school office and wear **visitor identification**.
- Staff and volunteers must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All Simcoe County District School Board schools have **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**.

When parents are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Student dress code

Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive, and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at www.scdsb.on.ca. If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact the principal or the SCDSB Equity and Inclusive Education Team at 705-728-7570.

School bus 'Bus Tag' program helps students get to and from school safely

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent or guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour coded Bus Tag with the assigned p.m. route number to be attached to the student's backpack and a colour coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the Bus Tag is matched to. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site childcare centre to make sure they don't get on a bus in error.

For more information, visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the 'Safety' tab.

Your child can learn a new language for free this fall in Barrie and Bradford

The SCDSB offers children in Grades 1 to 8 an opportunity to learn and/or maintain a language other than French or English. Whether you enrol your children in this program to learn a new language, understand a new culture or to extend their knowledge of their first language, every student can benefit from this program. The Barrie Learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) is offering Arabic, Russian, Mandarin, Korean, German, Spanish and Ukrainian. The Bradford Learning Centre (157 Holland St. E, Suite 200) is offering Arabic, Tamil, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. The course takes place Saturday mornings, 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 16. There is no charge for this program. Most classes fill quickly on a first come, first served basis. Register your child by visiting www.thelearningcentres.com and clicking on 'Elementary Student.'

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.schoolcashionline.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.

Information about student accident insurance for the 2017-2018 school year

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country trips) are not covered by the board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen. The Simcoe County District School Board has selected the "insure my kids" program through Old Republic Canada as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com. Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities and out-of-province or out-of-country trips.

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, you can visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

Register for Before & After School/Childcare at our school

Register now for before and after school programs/childcare. The Before and After School Program is for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 who need care before and/or after the regular school day hours. The fees are as follows:

Before and After School fee: \$18.90

Before School only fee: \$9.45

After School only fee: \$13.80

PA day, holiday fee: \$34.20

Please contact Laura Di Bartolomeo at 905 965 4896 to register your child(ren).

Want to volunteer at our school?

Current volunteers who do not submit an Annual Offence Declaration for Volunteers on or before December 31, 2017, will be deleted from the database on January 1, 2018, and will have to submit a new Criminal Records Check and Vulnerable Sector Screen. Please see the office for more information or if you have questions about volunteering in our school.

There's still time to register for Night School

Night School courses for 2017-18 start Tues. Sept. 12 for semester one and Tues. Feb. 13 for semester two. Courses run on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Barrie Learning Centre, 320 Bayfield Street in Barrie. Each course offers a hybrid of in-class and online learning. For a list of available courses and to register, visit: www.thelearningcentres.com/adult-student/night-school.

Career Centre provides job search help for free

Are you looking for work? Would you like help with your job search at no cost to you? The Career Centre is available to help. Visit www.barriecareercentre.com for more information.

Safety reminder: School buses are back on the roads

As students return to school, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) reminds everyone that school buses are back on our roads. The majority of school buses in Simcoe County are on the road in the morning from 7 – 9:30 a.m. and again in the afternoon from 2 – 4:30 p.m. As a reminder to drivers:

- **Take caution** – Be extra cautious in the vicinity of school buses and around school bus loading and unloading zones
- **Be alert** – Watch for school bus chrome yellow colouring, flashing red lights and stop arms. Drivers travelling in both directions on a road without a median must stop for a stopped school bus that has its upper red lights flashing
- **Know the repercussions** – Any driver that fails to stop for a school bus with its lights engaged is subject to a fine of up to \$2,000 and six demerit points for a first time offence
- **Be empowered** – Anyone who witnesses a driver failing to stop for a school bus can report the incident to police.

Visit the SCSTC web site at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca, click on the 'Home' button and then the 'Safety' tab for more information.

Eye See...Eye Learn program offers free glasses for Junior Kindergarten students

The *Eye See...Eye Learn* program provides comprehensive eye exams by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten (JK) students. The eye exams are covered under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) when parents show their child's health card. There is no out-of-pocket cost for the eye exam and if the child requires a pair of glasses, they will receive them free of charge courtesy of a participating optometrist. For more information, visit www.Eyeseeyelearn.ca.

Ideas for packing healthy school lunches

A school lunch should give children the energy and nutrients they need to be ready to learn, be more alert and perform better at school. When planning lunches keep these tips in mind:

- Include one serving from at least three of the four food groups from Canada's Food Guide
- Rather than buying pre-made lunch kits, make your own healthy lunch kit with divided containers and small 'bite-sized' cheese cubes, left over chicken chunks, veggie sticks or fruit slices
- Get your kids to eat more veggies! Send cucumber coins, zucchini sticks and pepper strips with dip
- Fill whole wheat or multi grain wrap/pits/tortilla shells with your child's favourite foods such as hummus and grated carrot or sliced turkey with honey mustard.
- Water is the best option for hydration

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

Reminder from the Health Unit: School grounds are smoke free 24/7

Protect yourself and your children from the health hazards of secondhand smoke. Remember, it is against the law to smoke ANYWHERE on school property at ANY TIME. This includes smoking in your vehicle while picking up or dropping off students. It is also against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco in a vehicle carrying anyone under age 16. The fine for ignoring the law is \$250. For more information, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Free dental care for children under 18 from Healthy Smiles Ontario

Free dental service is available to your child through Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Healthy Smiles Dental Clinic in Barrie, or on the dental bus that visits many communities across Simcoe Muskoka throughout the year, as long as you qualify for the program. To find out if your child qualifies or to book an appointment, call the health unit (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) oral health team at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720, extension 8818. Healthy Smiles Ontario is a government-funded program that provides free dental care for children and youth 17 years old and under from low-income households. This dental program provides free preventative, routine and emergency dental services.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

How exercise can help with homework

It's the start of a new school year and students need to get back into the swing of things! Many students and parents adopt a similar philosophy for success – clear your schedule, buckle down and focus. Although the intention is great, by focusing solely on the books and neglecting the body, students are not actually reaching their full potential. Here are three reasons why exercise can make students more productive:

- Better sleep – it's a fact that our brains work better with a good night's rest. Getting enough sleep contributes to the brain's capacity to store and retrieve information, complete tasks efficiently, maintain focus and manage stress – all of which will improve student success.
- Stress release – exercise is proven to release endorphins that reduce stress. We all know how hard it can be to focus with an aching back, cramped neck or jittery leg. These physical distractions are often a result of excessive time spent in sedentary activities. A quick body break can relieve tension, stress and excess energy, making it easier to focus on the tasks at hand.
- Retain more – blood pumping exercise increases the flow of oxygen to the brain making it more receptive to the flow of new information coming in. Studies prove that students who exercise three times a week or more get higher grades.

In addition to exercise, students should ensure they are eating healthy, staying hydrated and getting lots rest and fresh air.

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

Simcoe Community Services' Grandparent System Support Program

Simcoe County is home to approximately 4,000 grand-families. The Grandparent System Support Program (GSSP) was established in response to the increased needs and unique challenges experienced by grandparents with the sole responsibility of raising their grandchildren. The GSSP Support Groups take place in Barrie, Bradford, Orillia and Midland. For more information about the support group, meeting dates/times or if you have questions about the GSSP, contact Trish Longo at gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca or 705-726-9082 x2321.

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 September 6th and 20th

Tottenham Library – Pam Kirkpatrick Branch – 10:15am – Wednesdays September 13th and 27th

DA Jones Library, Beeton – 10:15am – Friday September 1st and Tuesday September 19th

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.

TECUMSETH SOUTH CENTRAL P.S. CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER



Dear Parents and Friends:

We are excited to begin our Lamontagne Nut Free Belgian Boutique Chocolate fundraiser, it was a huge success last year and would greatly appreciate everyone's participation this year! All fundraising money will go to our 'Little School' to assist in our everyday school needs. You can help us reach our goal by selling chocolate to friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers. Lamontagne delicious chocolate is certified peanut free and Kosher!

1 Carrier (box) will contain 30 assorted bars (caramel, chocolate, crisp rice, bite-size caramel and sea salt chocolates). Each bar will sell for \$3.00

At the end of our selling campaign \$90.00 per carrier must be returned to the school!

Chocolates will be available for pick-up by parents at our Meet the Teacher BBQ on Wednesday, September 20th, 2017– please return this form prior to the BBQ! Or contact Krista (elford20@hotmail.com) to arrange alternate pick-up!

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

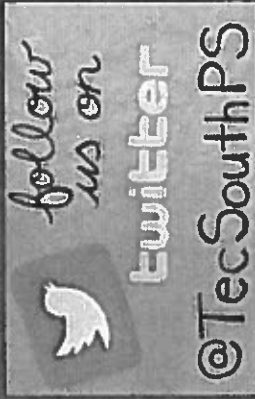
Parent's Name & Phone Number: _____

On behalf of Tecumseth South, we agree to sell _____ carriers and return the earned money to the school by October 16th, 2017.

Thank-you for your continued support!

September 2017

Tecumseth South Central Public School



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Please subscribe for alerts from our website tso.scdsb.on.ca/ for school updates, monthly newsletters and school information.

				First Day of School For Year 1 (JK)	Spirit Day - Wear school bus yellow!	
Beeton Run/Walk for Mental Health		First Day of School Welcome Back!	Meet the Teacher BBO 5:30-7:30 -Pick up Chocolates tonight	Terry Fox Run (Tentative Date)	Chocolate fundraiser forms due today	
	School Council meeting and elections - 6:30 in our library			Assembly 9:30 a.m.	All signed forms due back to the office Orange Shirt Day to honour residential school survivors	

