



Tecumseth South Central Public School

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Principal: Tana Ward

Superintendent: Matthew Webbe

Trustee: Sarah Beitz

Greetings, Raven Community!

The second month of the year is upon us, and it has brought some interesting “winter” weather with it. Warton Willie did not see his shadow today, so there is an early spring predicted. We are still hoping to see some snow again soon so that students can get back to the sledding hill here at the school and our upcoming Carnaval de Neige can be celebrated as its name suggests, in the snow.

February marks the end of Term 1 of the school year and report cards will be sent home mid-month for families to review, celebrate growth, and set new goals for Term 2 of the school year. Coinciding with the change in term, attendance is also reviewed as part of SCDSB policy and the Education Act. Maintaining consistent attendance plays a crucial role in a student's academic progress and overall development. By attending school regularly, students can fully engage in classroom activities, build upon learning, and establish strong relationships with peers and staff. School attendance is vital to success and our system automatically notes a student at risk of developing challenges in these areas with 12 or more days of school missed in a year.

In connection to attendance, please also be sure to report absences using SCDSB's new Safe Arrival system by calling 1-888-885-8065. Callers will be prompted to identify the school before leaving a message. Parents/guardians should include the student's name, teachers' name, dates, and reason for the absence. When we do not hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, we will call home and begin to contact other emergency contacts as needed to ensure student safety and find out the reason for the absence. Please help to make this process smooth and efficient by calling the number above when you know your child will be away.

Warmly,
T. Ward



The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) recognizes and celebrates Black History Month every February. The SCDSB is committed to improving equity of access, positive identity affirming experiences and opportunities for Black students, staff, and parents/guardians, and to creating a safe and caring learning environment that promotes the human rights of students, staff, and parent/guardians. The initiatives undertaken by the SCDSB have been embedded in teaching and learning at all school levels, and centrally, for Black History Month and throughout the year. Follow the SCDSB on social media to see how schools are recognizing Black History Month and celebrating Black excellence.



[Inclement weather and bus cancellation information reminder](#)

All information regarding canceled 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 canceled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted. School staff are expected to plan for such emergencies in order to transition students who are unable to attend due to inclement weather, to their online platforms (Google Classroom) and continue with academic programming. 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 canceled in the morning will not run at the end of the day. You can follow the Consortium on Twitter @SCSTC_SchoolBus for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.



[Sledding Safety at School](#)

Student safety is our first priority and we do allow 'crazy carpets' at our school under supervision and with frequent reminders of safety rules.

Please note that we have two class sets of crazy carpets that may be used for Daily Physical Activity (DPA), physical education classes, and at recesses. We are asking that all personal sleds, crazy carpets, snow racers, etc. remain at home to alleviate concerns on school transportation and with safe storage in our hallways.

We want to inform parents that if students are sledding at school, OPHEA recommends that they should wear a properly fitted (as per manufacturer's guidelines) and properly worn CSA-approved hockey helmet or snow sport helmet certified by a recognized safety standards association. If you wish to send a helmet (optional) for use during DPA, physical education, or recess, please let your child's teacher know to expect it here at school.

If you have any questions, please contact the school.



Grade 8 to 9 Transition

As students progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared, which eases each student's transition to secondary school. Sharing this information also improves our ability to program effectively to benefit all students. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes are authorized under the Education Act. Please note that all information used for the transition process is limited, secure, and protected at all times. Please contact Matthew Webbe, Superintendent of Education, if you would like more information about the transition process at Banting Memorial High School.



Summer eLearning opportunities for students entering Grade 9!

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is offering summer school eLearning courses in July 2024. Current Grade 8 students wishing to reach ahead and earn a credit before high school can now register through their elementary school principal. eLearning is fully supported by certified teachers who are available electronically daily. Available courses include:

CGC1D – Grade 9 Geography
PAF1O – Grade 9 Personal Fitness
CHV2O & GLC2O – Grade 10 Civics and Careers
CHC2P – Grade 10 Applied History
CHC2D – Grade 10 Academic History

Summer school program details can be found on the Learning Centres website at www.thelearningcentres.com/programs/summer_school.



Kindergarten registration for September 2024 is open!

Kindergarten is the beginning of a wonderful journey of learning, and we want your child to begin their journey in a SCDSB school! Do you have a child who is turning four in 2024? If so, we invite you to register your child for Kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit: www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Subscribe to Kindergarten Connections! Will your child be turning four in 2024? If so, the SCDSB invites you to Kindergarten Connections! This is a monthly e-newsletter informing families of everything they need to know about preparing their child for school, as well as registering them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB. To learn more and subscribe, visit the Kindergarten page on the SCDSB website:

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



**School
Mental Health
Ontario**

Mental health promotion strategy of the month

Well-being is a Strategic Priority in the Simcoe County District School Board, and our mental health and well-being department provides monthly strategies to support student and family well-being.

This month's strategy is Just Breathe. The purpose of this strategy is to help students develop a mind/body connection, self-regulation, awareness of emotions, and resiliency by practicing deep breathing.

To practice Just Breathe at home, follow these steps:

- Place your hands flat on your stomach or pay attention to your stomach.
- As you breathe deeply in through your nose, send this breath all the way to your stomach.
- Feel your stomach expand and your hands move out.
- Breathe out. Feel your stomach contract and your hands move in.
- Repeat 5-6 times.

Practice deep belly breathing any time you feel stressed or upset. Find more information to support your child's mental health here: <https://smho-smso.ca/parents-and-caregivers/>.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

At the Character Recognition Awards Evening being held on May 23, 2024 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Roy Edwards Room, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB), through the Character Education Development Project Team, recognizes students, staff, and volunteers who demonstrate good character in their daily lives. This evening of recognition links directly to the SCDSB Strategic Priorities (2022-2027) in the areas of Well-being, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Community, and Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Each year nominations from schools, work sites, and the Education Centre are received, highlighting the good character of our students, staff, and volunteers. From this group, randomly selected nominees are invited to the Education Centre in a celebration of those who exemplify the SCDSB character attributes.

The nomination process begins on Jan. 24, 2024 and ends on Feb. 23, 2024. Recommendations must be made by administrators with input from staff, students, and members of the community. If you would like to suggest a nomination, please contact Ms. Ward at the school.



Developing fluency through repeated reading

Fluency, the ability to read smoothly, accurately, and with expression, is a fundamental skill that significantly impacts a child's overall reading proficiency. When children read fluently, they can focus more on comprehension, understanding the meaning behind the words, rather than struggling with decoding.

Repeated reading is a highly effective strategy that involves a child reading the same text multiple times. This method aims to enhance fluency, comprehension, and overall reading proficiency. By revisiting a text, readers become more familiar with the words and structure, leading to increased speed and accuracy. Additionally, repeated reading allows children to focus on expression and intonation, promoting a more natural and engaging reading style. This approach is particularly beneficial for struggling readers, as it builds confidence and reinforces word recognition. As parents/guardians, incorporating repeated reading into your child's routine not only reinforces the joy of reading but also cultivates a strong foundation for improved fluency and comprehension skills over time.



Online luring and grooming

As part of our shared commitment to educating our students about digital citizenship and cyber awareness, this month we are highlighting online luring and grooming. The following info sheet has been created by the Educational Collaborative Network of Ontario (ECNO) to overview:

- What online luring and grooming is
- Commonly used tactics that online predators use
- Helpful tips to stay safe
- How to report if necessary

https://ecno.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/ECNO-CAM-Calendar-23-Aug3023_GroomingLuring.pdf

For additional activities and information, please refer to the digital citizenship resources for parents/guardians that are available on the Safe Schools page on the SCDSB website (www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools). The Ministry of Education has also provided information and resources in PPM 166 Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols:

www.ontario.ca/document/education-ontario-policy-and-program-direction/policyprogram-memorandum-166.

Alliston Union is hosting a social media & online safety presentation for parents/guardians at 6:00pm on February 12. Please call Alliston Union directly with questions (705) 435-7391. This is a great opportunity for families to learn strategies for keeping their kids safe online.



Register your child for the YMCA's Escape in the Landscape program

Register your child for an outdoor education experience like no other. The YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka's Escape in the Landscape program offers nature immersion activities led by qualified staff for children ages 4-12. Through experimentation, peer-to-peer learning, and storytelling, your child will be encouraged to discover new experiences and skills, all while making lasting friendships and developing a love of the great outdoors.

During this memorable program, your child will:

- Learn about the land and how to be environmental caretakers.
- Connect with nature and build self-confidence.
- Improve their mental and physical health.
- Be curious, resilient, and motivated to make a difference.

The program runs for eight weeks from March to April 2024 and is offered in Alliston, Innisfil, Midland, Wasaga Beach, and Barrie.

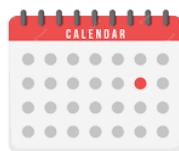
Cost:

Ages 4-6: \$125.00

Ages 7-12: \$175.00

For more information and to register, visit <https://ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/escape-in-the-landscape/>.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka.



UPCOMING DATES AT TECUMSETH SOUTH

Feb 5 - School Council Meeting 6pm

Feb 8 - Grad Pictures

Feb 9 - Carnival

Feb 12/13 - Dental Screening

Feb 14 - Grade 6-8 Snow Valley Trip

Feb 16 - Term 1 Report Cards go home

Feb 19 - Family Day

Feb 22 - Anti-Bullying Pink Shirt Day and Popcorn Day

Feb 23 - School-wide Assembly at 9:40am

Feb 26 - Intermediate Girls' Volleyball and Boys' Basketball Zones

Feb 29 - Bus Safety Presentations

Mar 11-15 - MARCH BREAK

SCDSB Days of Awareness for February

Feb. 1-29 Black History Month

Feb. 1 World Hijab Day

Feb. 1-2 Imbolc (Wicca)

Feb. 2 Groundhog Day; World Wetlands Day

Feb. 4 World Cancer Day

Feb. 6 Isra'a and Mi'raj (Islam)

Feb. 10 Losar/Tibetan New Year (Buddhism); Lunar New Year/Maitreya Bodhisattva's Birthday (Buddhism) Feb. 11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday (Christianity); Valentines Day; Vasant Panchami (Hinduism)

Feb. 15 National Flag of Canada Day Nirvana Day (Buddhism, Jainism)

Feb. 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day

Feb. 19 Family Day

Feb. 20 World Day of Social Justice

Feb. 24 Magha/Sangha Day (Buddhism)

Feb. 24-25 Mid-Sha'ban (Islam)

Feb. 26 - March 1 Ayyám-i-Há/Intercalary Days (Bahá'í)

Feb. 28 Pink Shirt Day (Anti-Bullying Day)

Feb. 29 Rare Diseases Day