



Tecumseth South Central Public School

2124 10th Sideroad, Tottenham, ON, L0G 1W0

Twitter @tecsouthps Webpage: <https://scdsboncatso.ss14.sharpschool.com/>

P: 905-936-3711 F: 905-936-3712

Principal: Tana Ward
Beitz

Superintendent: Matthew Webbe

Trustee: Sarah

Greetings, Raven Community!

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope that everyone enjoyed the winter holiday break to the fullest and that you are returning to school ready to make 2024 a positive one!

As we think of goal setting and resolutions to start out the new year, our school continues to focus on our ongoing equity work. As a school and a Board, we value the need for students to develop their equity literacy alongside all of the other educational and global skills they are gaining in school. To that end, we will be inviting Board central staff members to Tec. South to support learning in some of our classrooms this winter. Please read further down in our newsletter for reminders about SCDSB policy and the Ontario Human Rights Code when it comes to any instances of racism, bias, or hate.

When using personal devices at school, including when accessing social networking sites, students are reminded that information computing technology is available for student use at school to support instructional practices only. Students receive instruction on digital citizenship that is rooted in the areas of respect, education, and protection. Please also read further down in our newsletter for some helpful tips. If your child brings a personal device to school, please remind them of these expectations. Please add in as a very important safety reminder that if students must contact home during the school day, that they do so through the proper process of asking for permission to use the school phone system from an adult at school who is responsible for them and their safety during school hours.

To wrap up our notes this month and focus on another important safety concern, here are some reminders to parents regarding the use of our Kiss 'n Ride drop off/pick up lane: In order to avoid any accidents or injuries, it is necessary for drivers to remain in their vehicle while students are being dropped off or picked up. If your child is unable to do this independently, please park in a designated parking spot and walk over to the sidewalk to drop off/pick up your child. Please also ensure your children can load/unload on the passenger side of the vehicle, This prevents student pedestrians from being in the line of traffic exiting on the driver side. Drivers remaining in their vehicles also helps to keep the line moving quickly and allows for easier supervision in the sidewalk area.

Thank you for your ongoing support! Your attention to these items will help make Tecumseth South a safer and more pleasant place to be.

Warmly,
T. Ward



Stay healthy at school this year

COVID and other respiratory infections can spread easily from person to person. These germs can spread quickly when someone coughs or sneezes directly on another person, or when germs land on hard surfaces like doorknobs, desks, and keyboards and then are touched by someone else. These germs can then enter the body through the eyes, nose, or mouth.

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick and stop the spread of germs is wash your hands. Wash with soap and warm running water for at least 15 seconds (or try singing Happy Birthday twice). If your hands are not visibly dirty you can use alcohol-based hand sanitizer for 15 seconds. Also, make sure you are up to date with your immunizations, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home if you are sick. Teach your kids to do the same!

For more tips to keep you and your family healthy this school year, contact Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.



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.

Parents' Guide to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Learn to navigate the world of assessment, evaluation, and reporting with this new guide for parents/guardians. Created to support parents'/guardians' understanding of assessment, this guide was designed to effectively empower you to actively engage in your child's educational journey. The guide has been posted to the Simcoe County District School Board's website and can be accessed at: https://cdns5-ss14.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_210898/File/Secondary/Parents-Guide-to-Assessment.pdf.



Reporting Achievement in Language

Student achievement in language will be reported as one overall grade or mark on the term one report card. The mark will reflect a student's integrated learning across the four strands:

- Strand A - Literacy Connections and Applications
- Strand B - Foundations of Language
- Strand C - Comprehension; Understanding and Responding to Texts
- Strand D - Composition; Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

The grade will be accompanied by supporting comments that will indicate the student's strengths, describe growth in learning, and identify next steps for improvement. For more information regarding the revised Language curriculum, visit www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/key-changes-language to view a guide for parents/guardians on the Ministry of Education website.



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.



Standards of behaviour and consequences for student action related to racism, bias or hate

At the SCDSB, we are committed to maintaining safe, inviting, and supportive school environments, and recognize that all students have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in our schools. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate.

We want you to know that any incident of racism, bias, or hate will not be tolerated. Any such incident is treated very seriously with immediate action and consequences in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act, and consistent with our values and obligations under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Students who engage in acts of racism, bias, or hate will face severe consequences as a result of their actions. Please take a moment to review the SCDSB Code of Conduct with your child(ren). The Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour and specifies consequences for student actions that do not comply with these standards. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools to learn more.

The SCDSB's Human Rights and Equity Office (HREO) has an advisory titled Prohibiting the Use of the N-word. Please take a moment to review this advisory with your child(ren) by visiting the HREO page on the SCDSB website <https://tinyurl.com/3jsvhan6>.

We are dedicated to educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism. We continue to work with students, staff, parents/guardians and community partners to ensure that our schools are the safe places they are intended to be for all students.



@Home parent and caregiver series

It's back! The SCDSB math team is pleased to offer three virtual sessions for parents and caregivers of SCDSB students. These sessions will focus on practical and fun ways to support children with their mathematics learning and engagement at home. The first 200 registrants will receive a Math @Home kit of resources to use at home. Participants must pre-register for each of the sessions.

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, 7 to 8 p.m. - Exploring the new SCDSB family math resources - This session is for parents and caregivers. Join members of the SCDSB math team for a guided exploration of the new SCDSB family math resources. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the resources that are available to support their child's math learning at home. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length. During the final 15 minutes, the math team will be available to answer questions about the resources available.

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024, 7 to 8 p.m. - Tips for engaging in math conversations with your child @Home - This session is for parents and caregivers and will explore opportunities to discuss math with their child(ren) at home. Participants will learn about how events such as shopping, preparing food, engaging in a building project, or going for a walk can be used as a starting point for math conversations, and will receive prompts to get the discussion rolling. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length. During the final 15 minutes, the math team will be available to answer questions about the session.

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 7 to 8 p.m. - Games to support your child's math learning @Home - This session is for parents, caregivers, and their children. Playing games at home is a great way to support child(ren)'s math development. In this session, several games will be explored, and participants will have the opportunity to try the games with their children during the session. The guided portion of the session will be 45 minutes in length followed by 15 additional minutes for further game play or to ask questions of our math facilitators. Bring your child(ren) and your math kit to this session!

Participants must pre-register for the sessions they wish to attend. Registered participants will receive a kit of hands-on resources that will be sent to the school indicated on the registration form. Use this link to

register: <https://bit.ly/24MathAtHome>.



**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 for Tecumseth South is "4 Finger Affirmations". The purpose of affirmations is to help students think positively in the face of stress or challenges by using affirmations to promote confidence, a growth mindset, self-regulation and resiliency.

To promote this strategy at home:

- Provide your child with an explanation of affirmations.
- Ask your child to write or think of a four-word affirmation. Consider brainstorming examples together ("I can do this", "I can do division", "I'll try my best", "I am loved today", "I believe in me", "Today will be awesome", "I know my alphabet", "I can decode words").
- Say "Each word you have chosen will match a finger in your hand. As you say your affirmation in your head, match each finger with your thumb; one finger per word."
- Invite your child to use their four finger affirmation privately to feel more confident in stressful situations.

Links to supplementary resources: <https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/sel-posters/>

Follow the Mental Health and Well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

Interested in learning more about the ways that the SCDSB supports students with special education needs and their families?

Join us for a virtual special education information series During the 2023-24 school year, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/guardians in learning more about programs, supports, and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs.

Feb. 13th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Transition planning

March 19th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Reading strategies

April 16th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Supporting students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

May 14th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Every day mental health strategies

Participants are asked to register in advance. Information to access the sessions will be shared via email with individuals who have pre-registered. Learn more about each session and how to register on the SCDSB

website: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions.



Keeping your information private

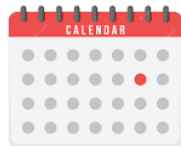
As parents/guardians, we work to support our children's well-being and to protect them from harm. At a time when internet use can pose risk to our children, how can we support them in keeping their information private and secure when using social media, games, and/or other digital apps? Each month we will highlight one cyber awareness topic to support parents/guardians with the information and tools they need to navigate these topics with their children.

January's theme is "Keeping your information private". For helpful tips related to managing your child's privacy and security settings on mobile devices, read through the info sheet from the Educational Collaborative Network of Ontario (ECNO) by visiting:

https://ecno.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/ECNO-CAM-Calendar-23-Aug3023_KeepInformationPrivate.pdf.

For additional activities and information, please refer to the Digital Citizenship resources for parents/guardians that are available on the SCDSB website

https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/safe_schools (see button for Mental Health & Well-being in Online Environments).



UPCOMING DATES AT TECUMSETH SOUTH

Jan 8 - Back to School; School Council Meeting 6pm
Jan 18 - Grade 8 Open House at Banting (Snow date Jan 23rd)
Jan 19 - Beach Day and School-Wide Treat Day Fundraiser
Jan 22 - Grade 8s to Banting (rescheduled from December)
Jan 26 - PA Day
Feb 5 - School Council Meeting 6pm
Feb 8 - Grad Pictures
Feb 12/13 - Dental Screening

SCDSB Days of Awareness for January

Jan. 1-31 Tamil Heritage Month
Jan. 1 - New Year's Day Temple Day/Solar New Year (Buddhism)
Jan. 4 - World Braille Day
Jan. 6 - Epiphany (Christianity)

Jan. 7 - Christmas (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
Jan. 10 - Linji Memorial (Buddhism)
Jan. 11 - Sir John A. Macdonald Day
Jan. 13- Lohri (Hinduism), Maghi (Sikhism)
Jan. 14 - New Year's Day (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
Jan. 15 - Makar Sankranti (Hinduism), Thai Pongal (Hinduism – Tamil)
Jan. 19 - Epiphany (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
Jan. 20 - Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikhism)
Jan. 21 - Lincoln Alexander Day
Jan. 24 - International Day of Education World Day for African and Afro Descendant Culture
Jan. 25 - Bell Let's Talk, Honen Shonin Memorial (Buddhism), Mahayana New Year (Buddhism)
Jan. 27 - Family Literacy Day, International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
Jan. 29 - National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia