



Tecumseth South Central Public School

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

P: 905-936-3711

F: 905-936-3712

Twitter @tecsouthps

Webpage: <http://tso.scdsb.on.ca/>

Principal: Tana Ward

Superintendent: Dean Maltby

Trustee: Sarah Beitz

Hello, Ravens families!

Welcome winter! We were excited last week to have some snow to play in and build with. Hopefully, the snow returns soon and stays for a while. Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather throughout the winter months. The wind can be biting up here on the hill and our policy is to be outside unless the temperatures dip below -25 Celsius and/or a windchill below -28 Celsius.

We are looking forward to welcoming the community to come together at our Kaleidoscope event on December 13th. Please see the flyer sent out last week and also attached to this email for your reference. It will be a fun evening for all with refreshments, crafts, reading, photos, games, and more!

Our next character assembly is also coming up in December. Please join us December 23rd as we recognize the character traits of courage and empathy. Various classes will share performances, teams will be recognized, and student awards will also be presented.

On December 23rd, we anticipate many classes will spend a portion of the day celebrating the conclusion of our first four months in school. In order to avoid sugar overload and leftover food at the end of the day, and also to promote healthy eating over the holiday, we will be providing all students with a special, healthy alternative treat on December 23rd. Please do not send any food items with your children that day.

A reminder that schools will be closed from December 26th to January 5th. Wishing you all the best and brightest of the season and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on January 9th!

Warmly,
Ms. Ward



The character attribute for the month of December is **Empathy** - we strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others.

More information about character education can be found here:
www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education.



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 a class set of crazy carpets that may be used for Daily Physical Activity (DPA), physical education classes, and at recesses. We have also ordered an additional class set. We are asking that all personal sleds, crazy carpets, snow racers, etc. remain at home.

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.



Banting Memorial High School

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will take place in-person this winter! Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Learn about courses offered, as well as information about teams and clubs.

Banting doors will be open on **Thursday, January 19th from 6:00 - 7:30 pm** for tours of the school. This event will give Grade 8 students and their families a chance to come into Banting and see the opportunities that await them at high school next fall. The inclement weather date is: Tuesday, January 24th.

Grade 1 French Immersion information

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

The SCDSB board-wide electronic applications for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will open Thursday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16. Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system.



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 weather 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>.

[Join us! A learning series for parents/guardians with Pine River Institute](#)

Mental health and well-being continues to be a key strategic priority within the SCDSB. We are pleased to continue our partnership with the Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) to provide several curated learning sessions focused on student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families, staff and within the SCDSB's broader school communities. There are five webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents, guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

[Dec. 8, 2022 - How to Manage Another's Anxiety](#)

[Feb. 9, 2023 - Guide to Attuned Limit Setting](#)

[March 2, 2023 - Emotional Regulation for Kids and Adults](#)

[April 27, 2023 - The Biology of Stress](#)

For more information and to register, please visit the SCDSB website: <https://bit.ly/3jGaC74>.



Beginning in 2019, the Ontario Human Rights Commission conducted a public inquiry into human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system. The report issued 157 recommendations. Among these recommendations is the need for an updated language curriculum that includes explicit, systematic, and direct instruction in foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding, and word reading proficiency. The Simcoe County District School Board is committed to shifting our instructional practices to align with these recommendations.

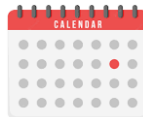
What does this mean for my child? Primary educators are shifting from using leveled texts as they encourage reliance on guessing strategies to solve unknown words. Instead, educators are beginning to use a scope and sequence to systematically teach phonemic awareness and phonics. Students may apply the phonics skills they have learned by reading 'decodable' or 'phonetically controlled' texts. As a result, educators are moving away from using PM Benchmarks and moving towards assessments that measure foundational reading skills. To support your child at home, the following documents provide activities that may help foster these foundational skills:

Phonological awareness activities for families

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrSSU-HhNzjSRv6_CKiJBue32B-n6ggy/view?usp=sharing

Supporting reading development at home

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12jf50KLLzZP9q82HN-w39jrHFgYEIf45/view?usp=sharing>



UPCOMING DATES

Dec 5 - Council Meeting

Dec 13 - Kaleidoscope event (see flyer also linked in this email)

Dec 14 - Chef a L'Ecole in school field trip Grades 4-8 (tentative), Gr 8s to Banting

Dec 23 - Ugly Sweater Day, Character Assembly at 11:45am

Dec 26-Jan 6 - Winter Break

Jan 9 - Back to School

Jan 19 - Gr 8 Info Night at Banting

Jan 26 - Grade 6 -8 Snow Valley trip

Jan 27 - PA Day