



**Twin Lakes Secondary School**  
**<http://twi.scdsb.on.ca/>**  
**Thunderbird News**  
**September 2022**



**Principal: Julie Richardson**

**Vice-Principals: Michael Fogarty and Katie Prentice**

### **Principal's Message**

We are so happy to welcome our students back to school. I hope that you and your families have had a very restful and enjoyable summer break! Education is a shared partnership among staff, families and community and I encourage you to become involved with our school. Stay tuned for an email regarding upcoming school council nominations and meeting dates. We'd love to have you join us! We have an enthusiastic staff who are committed to creating the best possible environment for learning. We provide students with education and support that meets their needs. Your input is valued and your communication with the school is always appreciated. Together, let's make 2022-2023 a wonderful year!

### **Character attribute for the month of September**

Caring - we show kindness towards each other. More information about character education can be found here:

[www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education)

### **Significant days, holy days, holidays and heritage recognition**

[Holy Days and Holidays Calendar](#) and [Heritage Recognition](#)

### **September PA Day**

Please note that Monday, Sept. 26 is a PA Day for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information:

[https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/school\\_year\\_calendar](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar)

### **SCDSB schools are mask-friendly environments**

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, staff and visitors are not required to wear masks in schools, school board offices and on student transportation. SCDSB schools will continue to be mask-friendly environments. Masks will be available to students and staff who choose to continue to wear them while in schools. Please encourage your child(ren) to be respectful and understanding of everyone's choice with respect to masking so that SCDSB schools remain the safe, inclusive and welcoming teaching and learning environments they are meant to be for all.

For more information visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website at [simcoemuskokahealth.ca](http://simcoemuskokahealth.ca)

### **Self-assessment**

All students and staff are encouraged to complete the daily COVID-19 self-assessment screening tool prior to entering SCDSB schools and buildings and

follow the direction of the screening tool. The COVID-19 self-assessment screening tool can be accessed here: [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#)

### **Standard Acknowledgment And Permission Form/Student Information Computing Technology Appropriate Use Agreement 2022-2023**

The 2022-2023 Standard Acknowledgment and Permission Form and Student Information Computing Technology Appropriate Use Agreement are required forms for all Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students. The forms have been made available electronically through School Cash Online. School Cash Online is our preferred method for forms. If you are unable to submit these forms electronically, please contact the office for paper copies of the forms.

### **Student Accident Insurance 2022-2023**

Student injuries at school during school events, extra-curricular activities (e.g. athletics, clubs, etc.) and out-of-province/out-of-country trips, are not covered by the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen. A variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices can be found through StudyInsured at [www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com](http://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com). Participation in extra-curricular activities (e.g. athletics, clubs, etc.) and/or out-of-province/out-of-country trips require the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage.

### **School council nominations for 2022-23 school year**

School council is a committee made up of elected parents/guardians, community representatives, staff, and sometimes students that help to provide the community voice and parent/guardian perspective on important school topics. School council is a good way for parents/guardians to get involved in their child/children's education while playing an important role in the partnership between home and school.

School council nominations take place every Fall. If you are interested, please watch your email for upcoming communication and for more information visit

[www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent/school\\_councils](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent/school_councils)

## Pay for school related spending with School Cash Online

If you have not already done so, be sure to sign up for School Cash Online. This is our preferred method of payment for all school related spending. School Cash Online allows you to pay with your credit card or echeck. Follow these steps to get started:

1. Go to [simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com](http://simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com) or from our school website click on “Pay Fees”
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through echeck or credit card

The School Cash Parent Helpdesk is available 24/7 to help you with registration, password recoveries or any other payment issues. Call the helpdesk at 1-866-961-1803 or email [parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com](mailto:parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com)

## 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. Please call the school office to obtain your Access ID.

## Keep Connected With Our School And With The SCDSB

It’s important to get accurate information about what’s going on at our school and at the SCDSB. Here are some ways to do that:

- Subscribe to our school’s website by visiting the ‘What’s New’ section at <http://twi.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It is easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the ‘Subscribe’ link at the very top of the page. Provide your email and click ‘Subscribe’; a message 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.
- Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the ‘Subscribe’ button at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca).
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB\_Schools), Facebook ([facebook.com/SCDSB](https://www.facebook.com/SCDSB)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/scdsb](https://www.instagram.com/scdsb))
- Follow TLSS on Twitter (@TwinLakes\_S.S.)
- Follow Guidance on Twitter (@TLSSguidance)

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium’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.

## Procedures help keep our school safe

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/guardians 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 temporarily.
- 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 exterior 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. Interior 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/guardians do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites ([www.facebook.com/SCDSB](https://www.facebook.com/SCDSB)) and ([www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](https://www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://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/guardians will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.

When parents/guardians are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire, and/or emergency personnel. Parents/guardians 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/guardian 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/elementary/dress\\_code](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code). If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact your school principal.

### Welcoming volunteers back to school for 2022-23

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our schools great places to learn and grow. The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is pleased to welcome back volunteers in our schools for the 2022-23 school year. Volunteers can fill various roles at our schools including school council members, hot lunch organizers, field trip supervisors, and classroom helpers. The requirements for all volunteers prior to starting/returning to your school of choice in September are as follows:

Volunteers must:

- Agree to submit a copy of a Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) executed within the last six months and register and complete all required steps through the [SCDSB Community Apps](#) link (see image below) prior to beginning volunteer duties.

#### How to access the Volunteer Portal

Click this [SCDSB Community Apps](#) link or find the link on the volunteer page of your schools website, under the Parents menu.

If you have previously registered a Community Account, click the **Login To Community Apps** button and login with your username and password.

If you do **not** have an account, click the **New? Register for new Community Account** link at the bottom of the page.



**REMINDER:** Each volunteer will have to have their own community apps account. Each community apps account is created with a separate email address.

- Complete an annual offence declaration through the SCDSB Community Apps – Volunteers page for up to four years to continue volunteering.
- Submit a new VSC at the beginning of the fifth year.
- Be responsible for the cost of the VSC.
- Be responsible to the principal and work under the supervision of teaching staff.
- Work co-operatively as part of a team to support and supplement school programs.
- Respect the confidentiality of the relationship to the school, ensuring that staff issues and student work and behaviour issues are held in confidence.
- Adhere to established SCDSB and school procedures.
- Communicate regularly with staff.
- Complete the COVID-19 screening tool prior to each school visit.
- Be prompt, dependable and regular in attendance, and give advance notice to teachers when unable to attend.

### Picture Dates

- September 15 (Grade 9 – 12)
- November 1 (Retakes)
- December 12 – 15 (Grad photos)
- February 6 (Grade Retakes)

### 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.

- Oct. 20, 2022 - Screen Time 2.0
- 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

We hope you save these dates in your calendar and join us for these learning opportunities. For more information and to register, please visit the SCDSB website: <https://bit.ly/3jGaC74>.

Pine River Institute is a live-in treatment centre and outdoor leadership experience for youth aged 13 to 19 struggling with addictive behaviours and often other mental health issues. Combining therapy with a fully-accredited education program, PRI reinforces the healthy life skills required for a successful future. CFI@PRI extends PRI's knowledge, experience and evidence-informed treatment approach to families and care providers in the community to support youth mental wellness and prevent the need for more intensive interventions. Learn more about PRI by visiting their website at [www.pineriverinstitute.com](http://www.pineriverinstitute.com).

### Free access to community-based tutoring for students

For all students to achieve success, schools, families, and community partners must work collaboratively to increase access to resources, supports, and broader learning experiences. The SCDSB offers a wide variety of tutoring programs to support students and their families in accessing needed supports.

From Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, the SCDSB has funds available to cover costs associated with these tutoring services, when provided by a SCDSB-approved organization. SCDSB families accessing these services are not required to pay the service provider directly.

For a list of approved organizations and to learn more about how you can access these services, visit [scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring\\_programs](http://scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring_programs).

### **Sports @ Twin**

Welcome Thunderbirds, if you are anything like me, than you know the best parts of high school are the things you do to get involved outside class time. Athletics and clubs are a great way to meet new people, stay active and pursue passions and goals. This week at Twin Lakes, there are several sports starting up for their fall seasons. Some of them involve tryouts, but some do not make cuts, if you are willing to attend after school practices. Cross Country Running is a sport that all are invited to attend.

There will be tryouts for Jr and Sr Girls Basketball, Jr and Sr Girls Flag Football, Jr and Sr Boys Volleyball, Varsity Boys Soccer (gr 9-12), Sr Boys and Girls Golf. For more information on tryout and practice times please listen carefully to the announcements. There is a fall sports fee for the season which can be paid on school cash online once the team list has been posted.

Please see Mrs. Hendry for more information on coach's names and season information.

### **Spiritwear @ Twin**

Spiritwear will be available for purchase some time this fall. Hats, hoodies, trackpants, long sleeve shirts, t-shirts, etc. will have a variety of colours and designs. Listen for announcements and check your email to see samples and order forms starting at the end of September.

### **Guidance News**

Students are assigned a guidance counsellor by the first letter of their last name as follows:

A – I Mrs. McCullough

J – M Ms. Racco

N – Z Mrs. Pellarin (and International students)

To request a timetable change, students must submit the form that has been sent to their school email account. Guidance news and events will continue to be forwarded to school emails as well as in the guidance google classroom (code: 4sft3wj). We look forward to working with your student this year!