



## Twin Lakes Secondary School

<http://twi.scdsb.on.ca/>

Thunderbird News

October 2023

Attendance Reporting Line

1-888-885-8065



Principal: Tammy Rodaro

Vice-Principals: Mike Fogarty and Katie Prentice

### Student/Parent/Guardian/Teacher Interviews

Save the date: October 12th, 2023, 5-7 pm.

Keep a look in your emails for a link to sign up to meet your student's teachers.

If you are unavailable this evening, but would like to speak with teachers, please leave a voicemail message or an email for the individual teacher and an alternate meeting time can be arranged. [Staff Email and Voicemail](#)

### Midterm Report Cards

Midterm report cards will be coming home with students on Thursday, November 23.

### Student Medical Forms

A completed Student Medical Form (FORM A1420 - 1) is required each school year, for all students with life-threatening and non-life-threatening medical conditions and when administration of medication is required.

Parents/guardians and adult students are responsible for ensuring that a current, completed Student Medical Form is on file at the school. Parents/guardians and adult students are also to complete a Plan of Care for students with life-threatening medical conditions, such as anaphylaxis, asthma, type 1 diabetes, or epilepsy/seizure disorder.

Some students may experience severe life-threatening allergic reactions to bee, hornet, wasp or other insect stings or to certain foods or food ingredients such as peanuts. For students with life-threatening allergies, it is recommended that two doses of an epinephrine auto-injector are available on site at school.

Specific to asthma, every student under the age of 16 is permitted to carry their asthma medication if the student has the permission of the parent(s)/guardian(s).

Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions you may have.

### October PA Day

Please note that Friday, Oct. 20 is a PA Day for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2023-24 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information: [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/school\\_year\\_calendar](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar).

### School Council

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.

Twin Lakes Secondary School's School Council co-chairs Trish Parkin and Ken Szijarto invite all parents to attend School Council meetings. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for November 29, February 28, April 24, and May 29. All meetings are scheduled to be in person in the Twin Lakes library starting at 6pm unless inclement weather arises where meetings will take place virtually.

### Community Involvement Hours Update

The Ministry of Education has announced that as of September 1, 2023, the guidelines around Community Involvement Hours are returning to what they were pre-pandemic. Please see PPM 124 in the link below for reference:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/education-ontario-policy-and-program-direction/policyprogram-memorandum-124>

Any student who completed hours this summer still fall under the pandemic exceptions. Students who have completed Community Involvement Hours prior to September 1, 2023 are strongly encouraged to submit them to the Guidance Office no later than October 30, 2023 for record keeping purposes.

## **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)**

Students in Grade 10 will have the opportunity to attempt the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on November 21<sup>st</sup> and November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students in Grade 11 & 12 who have not yet successfully completed the literacy requirement for graduation will have the opportunity to attempt the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

Students will work collaboratively with their teachers and the school's Literacy Lead to prepare for the test and preview the test in a practice session prior to the November test dates.

Students will be notified of the specific day and location of their scheduled assessment in the near future. If successful, this will count towards satisfying the literacy requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The normal school day schedule will be unaffected and will continue as normal. If a student is scheduled to write on a specific day is absent, their test day can be rescheduled to a later day in November or in the spring writing window.

Additional information and materials about the OSSLT are posted on the EQAO web site at <http://www.eqao.com> or access additional review material and an online practice test on our website: <http://twi.scdsb.on.ca>

### **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)

### **Guidance Communication**

#### **Google Classroom**

All students should be connected to this as information about courses, post-secondary, wellness, community resources, community service hours, graduation etc. is posted here. Parents are also welcome to join the Classroom. Classroom code is: 4sft3wj

### **School emails**

Every student has a Twin Lakes email account and lots of school information is relayed via this email. Access to email is available on our school computers or on home systems. Students are aware of this and are encouraged to check their accounts *frequently* to stay current with school news.

## **Post-Secondary Information**

Our graduating students are busy planning for their life after high school. Besides individual counselling, which students sign up for with their guidance counsellor, there are many resources and workshops to assist with post-secondary planning. Check the Google Classroom regularly for updates.

Additionally, grade 12 students all received a Grad Newsletter, via their school email account, which highlights important dates and relevant graduation topics.

### **LINK Crew – Grade 9's**

LINK Crew started off this year with an Orientation Day and ice cream social for our Class of 2027. Your student has been invited to meet with their LINK Leader at any time and you may contact Mrs. Kerrie Pellarin if you would like more information about this mentoring program. More exciting events are upcoming – stay tuned...



### **Cooperative Education & Other Forms of Experiential Learning**

Co-op students are continuing to earn secondary school credits while completing work placements in our community through the mentorship of our amazing employers. The goal of all co-op experiences is to ensure a mutually beneficial partnership between the training supervisor, the teacher, and the student. We are always seeking new opportunities to partner with the business community for student co-op placements.

Our Co-op teachers Jodi Kerr and Robyn LaChapelle invite you to contact the Co-operative Education office (Room 303) at 705-325-1318, Ext. 43212 or 43178, if you want to get more information, develop a placement description, or become connected with today's future employees.

### **Sports Summary**

The Fall Sports Season is in full swing with Cross Country Running, Girls Flag Football, Girls Basketball, Boys Volleyball, Boys Soccer and Sr boys golf all with teams for Twin Lakes. The Thunderbirds are off to an excellent start and our students are excited to bring home some amazing results this year. Go Twin!!!  
Curling and Swimming have already had meetings for our next round of sports. If students are interested in participating in either sport, all students are welcome, please see Mrs. Armstrong or Mrs. Bosco for more information.

## **Culture Appropriation and Halloween Costumes**

Simcoe County District School Board schools are spaces where we value student inclusion and diversity every day of the year. However, Halloween is a time when we need to remind our students that “Culture is not a costume!” #IAmNotACostume

Schools are permitted to celebrate Halloween by dressing up in Halloween costumes. Dressing up at Halloween is fun and exciting, depending upon the choice of costume we choose to wear, it also runs the risk of being offensive to other cultures. Halloween is the opportunity to discuss costume choices with your students. It is important not to inadvertently mimic culture by culturally appropriating racial, religious or ethnic groups.

Some critical equity questions to ask yourself about your costume. Am I reinforcing stereotypes with the image I am portraying? Is my costume a form of exploitation of another culture?

### [Inclusive Halloween Costumes](#)

### [Halloween Costumes & Cultural Appropriation: Home](#)

### [How to celebrate Halloween WITHOUT cultural appropriation ...](#)

## **Communication to families regarding inclement weather days**

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Our school is in the North Zone. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted. 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 cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day. You can follow the Consortium on Twitter [@SCSTC\\_SchoolBus](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

## **School bus transportation information available from the SCSTC**

In order to receive delay and cancellation notifications, families can check the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) or download the ‘BusPlanner Delays’ app from the Apple or Android app stores to receive delay notifications to their devices. Users would need to select Simcoe County STC as the transportation authority. The app will need to be forced closed, but you will be able to select your student(s) routes or school to receive delays.

The app will send a general notice for any cancellation in Simcoe County. You only need to know which ‘zone’ you’re in, so you would know which one to look out for in the app. You can find your student’s zone by visiting the School Bus Status page at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) and clicking the dropdown for the area you live in.

## **School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day**

School Bus Safety Week takes place Oct. 16 to 20, 2023. Please visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) for information on school bus safety and links to school bus safety resources. Oct. 19, 2023 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in the province of Ontario. It’s a great opportunity for the school community to thank our bus drivers for all their hard work transporting students to and from school safely.

## **Get on the move**

There are many benefits to walking or wheeling to school. Walking or wheeling to school reduces traffic, helps students establish healthy lifestyles, is better for the environment and enhances community safety. Wherever possible, we encourage students within walking zones to get on the move and walk or wheel to school. For more information please visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website here: [bit.ly/3OC4CJ9](https://bit.ly/3OC4CJ9)

## **Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 8 to 14**

This year, the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, ‘Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™’, works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking. For more information about Fire Prevention Week and this year’s theme, along with a wealth of resources to help promote the campaign locally, visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org).

## 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 via the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

## 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 outreach series The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/caregivers in learning more about programs, supports, and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs. The first session, IEPs and school-based assessments – information for parents/caregivers, will be held on Oct. 24 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This virtual presentation will include an opportunity for participants to share some of their questions regarding IEPs and special education programming.

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 upcoming sessions and how to register on the SCDSB website:

[www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special\\_education/special\\_education\\_outreach\\_sessions](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions).

## Have you met Sora?

Our digital ebook/audiobook collection contains over 4,000 titles waiting to be checked out by our SCDSB students. Students simply download the app, use their SCDSB login and start reading for free on their phone or tablet. The collection can be accessed at: [meet.soraapp.com](http://meet.soraapp.com)

## 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 eight webinars in the learning series specifically planned for parents/guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

Oct. 26, 2023 Understanding and managing screen time, part one - gaming edition

Nov. 9, 2023 Understanding and managing screen time, part two - social media edition

Nov. 30, 2023 Helping parents align

Jan. 11, 2024 Sleep hygiene

Feb. 8, 2024 Self regulation for kids

Feb. 22, 2024 Self regulation for teens

March 28, 2024 Building parents' resiliency

April 18, 2024 Vaping, weed, and alcohol

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).

## Supporting your child with math

Are you curious about how you can support your child's growth as a mathematician? Visit the Parents Guide to Mathematics at [www.ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8](http://www.ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8), where you can find a summary of the knowledge and skills your child will be learning as they progress through the grades, information about how you can support your child's learning, and how the curriculum was developed.

TVO Mathify offers free 1:1 online Grade 4-12 math tutoring to SCDSB students. Connect with an Ontario Certified Teacher of your choice. It is anonymous and secure, and can be used from a phone, tablet, or computer. Math tutors are available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday to Friday, and 3:30 to 9 p.m. ET Sunday. All SCDSB students from Grades 4-12 have been pre-registered for this amazing service. For quick access to TVO Mathify:

1. Find the link in your child's Google waffle to the SCDSBhub.
2. Look for the TVO Mathify icon on their dashboard.

Your child will not need to enter their OEN number or any identifying information when TVO Mathify is accessed through the SCDSBhub.