



Tosorontio Times

NOV 2023

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Mr. Akram Shehata, Principal

Ms. Andrea Evans, Vice Principal

The Character Attributes for November are... Courage, Bravery & Loyalty



We do the right thing even when it's difficult.
We seek strength and face life with courage.
We do not back down, we continue to be devoted.



Please no nuts!

We request your understanding and co-operation in our need to continue to make our school safe in order to assist students who have a potentially fatal allergy to nuts.

Please send lunches and snacks with students that are nut free.
Thank you for your co-operation.

Nov. 15 is Picture Day!

Individual and class student photos will be taken by Edge Imaging on Wed., Nov. 15 in the morning - more information will be sent to families.

Safe Arrival Reminder

If your student is going to be late or absent please call our Safe Arrival Line at **1-888-885-8065** before 8:30 a.m. Thank you for your cooperation.



Tosorontio Times

Tosorontio Central Public School

NOV 2023

Important Dates

- Nov 5-11: Veterans Week
- Nov. 5-11: Treaties Recognition Week
- Nov. 6: School council meeting @ 6pm in library
- Nov. 9: Gr.1-8 Progress Reports & Kindergarten Communication of Learning
- Nov. 10: Remembrance Day Ceremony at school
 - students may wear formal attire/red/white/uniforms
- Nov. 10: Poinsettia Fundraiser Order Forms Go Home
- Nov. 13: World Kindness Day
- Nov. 13-17: Student/Family/Educator Conferences
- Nov. 15: Picture Day
- Nov. 17: P.A. Day (no school for students)
- Nov.22-Dec.8: Lions Club Hamper Challenge
- Nov. 24: Poinsettia Order Forms Due
- Nov. 29: Tosorontio Spirit Day- wear TOS gear or green & yellow

Looking ahead...

- Dec. 7: Poinsettia Pick Up Day
- Dec. 25-Jan. 5: Winter Break



Tosoronto Times

Tosoronto Central Public School

NOV 2023

Remembrance Day Service

Give Thanks - November 10



Remembrance Day Service

In our Gym

Friday, November 10, 2023

Kindergarten-Grade 3 at 9:30 AM

Grades 4-8 at 11:45 AM

Parents are welcome!

- **Our ceremonies will consist of readings and presentations from students.**
- **These ceremonies will be for all students in the school**
- **All parents are welcome to share in these special ceremonies with our students.**
- **Ceremony 1 will begin at 9:30 AM: Kindergarten to Grade 3**
- **Ceremony 2 will begin at 11:45 AM: Grades 4-8**



Tosorontio Times

Tosorontio Central Public School

NOV 2023

School Council Update

At the Oct. 2nd meeting the following parents were installed as Members-at-Large (voting members) of the 2023-2024 School Council:

Chair- Devon Altena

Secretary- Terri-Lyn Haufe/Nikita Popplow

Members-at-Large- Devon Altena, Terri-Lynn Haufe, Katie Higgins, Nikita Popplow, Ashley Chalmers, Mallorie Reid, Caitlyn Nicholson, Britanee Arsenault, Jackie McCallum, Kerri-Lyn Cuppage, Cindy Bulman

The next meeting of School Council will be held on Nov. 6, 2023 in the school library. Any parents who wish to join us are welcome!

Please submit all agenda items by Fri., Nov. 3rd.

Working towards a scent-reduced environment

In order to protect those individuals with fragrance sensitivities and those who have respiratory issues, the Board is asking for voluntary cooperation towards a scent-reduced environment. Staff, students and all other persons who are invited to or who work on Board property are strongly encouraged to avoid or reduce the use of fragranced products, and to replace them with unscented alternatives. This is a request to voluntarily reduce the use of chemical-based scented products. Thank you for your consideration.





Tosorontio Times

Tosorontio Central Public School

NOV 2023



Lion's Hamper Challenge

We are kicking off our annual Lion's Club Hamper Challenge here at Tosorontio!

The Lions Club will be distributing a large basket of necessities and food to families in need for family holiday celebrations. Each year, staff, and students at Tosorontio Central are encouraged to contribute 100 items per class that are specific to the community needs.

Details to follow

Please help Tosorontio exceed their **over 2,100** contributions from last year!

Let's go TOS!!





Tosorontio Times

Tosorontio Central Public School

NOV 2023

NOVEMBER PA DAY

Please note that **Friday, Nov. 17 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.

Below is a summary of the activities planned for the Nov. 17 PA Day:

Parent/guardian-student-teacher conferences

Topic: Communication to parents/guardians about student progress through parent/guardian-student-teacher conferences

Host: Simcoe County District School Board elementary schools, including Grades 7 and 8 in Grade 7-12 secondary schools

Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): Elementary educators

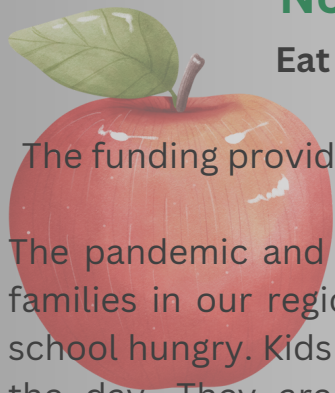
Elementary educators will meet with students and parents/guardians to discuss student progress thus far this school year, including areas of strengths and next steps for improvement.

Nov. 28 is Eat Well to Excel Day in Simcoe County

Eat Well to Excel is a Simcoe County non-profit community partnership that supports our school's student nutrition program.

The funding provided by Eat Well to Excel allows us to supply students with access to healthy snacks during the school day.

The pandemic and increasing food costs have caused a significant financial strain on many families in our region and new data shows that 1 in 3 kids in Canada are at risk of going to school hungry. Kids that are hungry struggle to retain knowledge and keep focused throughout the day. They are also at an increased risk of experiencing poor mental health and a compromised immune system. With your support we can maintain and hopefully improve our program to provide a consistent supply of healthy food to our students. You can make a donation by visiting eatwelltoexcel.ca. You can either support the county-wide program or direct your donation to our school. Please include our school name in the comment box to ensure the donation goes directly to our program. A tax receipt will be emailed to you. For more information about Eat Well to Excel visit eatwelltoexcel.ca.





Tosoronto Times

Tosoronto Central Public School

NOV 2023

High school information events for Grade 8 students

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. Please visit the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning_for_high_school to find details on your high school's info night, and contact the school directly for more information.

Online learning graduation requirement and opt out options

Students are required to earn two online learning credits to graduate from secondary school, beginning with every student who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year. The online learning graduation requirement also applies to adult learners that will be entering the Ontario secondary school system starting in the 2023-24 school year. The graduation requirement is intended to support students in developing familiarity and comfort with learning and working in a fully online environment, as well as developing digital literacy and other important transferable skills that they will need for success after secondary school, including in post-secondary education and the workplace.

Opting out Parents/guardians may choose to opt their children out of the mandatory online learning credits required for graduation. To opt out, a parent/guardian must submit the Secondary Online Learning Graduation Requirement Opt-out Form. Exemption from the online learning graduation requirements may be requested by:

- the parent/guardian of the secondary student
- students who are 18 years of age or older
- students who are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control

Check with your local school if you have questions regarding the registration or opt-out process.



Tosoronto Times

Tosoronto Central Public School

NOV 2023

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. There are eight webinars specifically planned for parents/guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

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.



NOV 2023

Tosorontio Times

Tosorontio Central Public School

Inclement Weather and Bus Cancellation Information Reminder

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. Our school is in the **SOUTH** zone. When buses are cancelled, 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/or SCDSBhub [Brightspace by D2L]) 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 cancelled 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>.

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca.

Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.





Tosorontio Times

Tosorontio Central Public School

NOV 2023

Dental screening and services for kids ages 0-17

Good dental health is an important part of your child's general health. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Oral Health Community Program offers free dental screenings in daycares, schools, and health unit offices for children and youth aged 0 - 17 years. Dental screening can identify and inform families that their child has a dental concern.

Health unit staff can also help children/youth and their families access free preventive services and treatment through the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) Program. For more information regarding these services visit: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Dental.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

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.

Grade 1 FI family information nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, FI family information nights will be held in-person throughout the month of November at the respective FI school locations. The designated Grade 1 FI site for our school is **Ernest Cumberland**. The information night for this school will be at **Ernest Cumberland on Mon. Nov. 20 from 6-7 p.m. in the gymnasium**

The SCDSB board-wide electronic applications for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will open Friday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15.

Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system.



Tosoronto Times

Tosoronto Central Public School

NOV 2023

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://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

Licensed Winter Break School-age Child Care Programs

Child care programs for children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are provided by independent, third-party child care operators in some SCDSB schools. To support your child care needs, some operators offer child care on PA days and holidays including over the Winter Break. Registration in advance is required. Please contact the child care operator directly to discuss fees and to register.

More information and contact numbers can be found by visiting:
www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/childcare_before_after.

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.



NOV 2023

Tosoronto Times

Tosoronto Central Public School

Knowledgehook Math Tool

Knowledgehook is a digital math assessment and practice tool that has been purchased for all K-10 SCDSB classrooms. This tool is accessible to students at home so that they can practice math skills, either assigned by their teacher or on their own. Ask your child about how they use Knowledgehook in class and learn more at: www.knowledgehook.com.

Supporting oral language development at home

Within the revised language curriculum, there is a focus on supporting students to acquire the knowledge and skills relating to the foundations of language. Oral and non-verbal communication are foundational components of language skills. Over the years, students develop their listening and speaking abilities using a variety of strategies and skills, including word choice and syntax, to become effective communicators.

Here are some ways you can support oral language development at home:

- *Engage your child in conversations about things that interest them
 - *Talk to your child and listen responsively
 - *Ask and answer questions
 - *Share oral stories
 - *Read aloud to your child
 - *Talk about the books you read together
 - *Singing and playing together
-



Tosoronto Times

Tosoronto Central Public School

NOV 2023

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

The foundation for lifelong learning and health is built in the early years. EarlyON Child and Family Centres across Simcoe County offer programs for children prenatal to six years of age and their parents/guardians and caregivers. They offer access to play- and inquiry-based learning supported by How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's pedagogy for the early years, information on child development and developmental screening including Early Referral Identification Kits (ERIKs), parent/guardian education, referrals to community resources, nutrition information, and post-natal resources.

Check with your local EarlyON provider: <https://linktr.ee/earlyonsimcoe>

How is your infant, toddler, or preschool child developing?

Is your child meeting their milestones? Age-appropriate speech and language skills are critical to your child's ability to read, write, and be successful in school as well as to their ability to engage with their peers. Free services are available to support you with your child's development. Preschool speech and language programs are located across the County of Simcoe. Call (705) 739-5696 or 1-800-675-1979 to complete a developmental screen. The earlier we work together the better!



Tosorontio Times

Tosorontio Central Public School

NOV 2023

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 Let It Go. This practice helps students focus their attention, calm feelings of anxiety, and manage stress. To practice Let It Go at home, have your child/youth sit comfortably and take a deep breath.

Share the following exercise with your child/youth:

- Use your fingers to gently massage the top of your head
- Still in massaging motion, bring your fingers to your forehead, eyebrows, temples, around your eyes, cheeks, and jaw
- If you notice tension anywhere – let it go
- Finally, massage each of your ears and end by gently pulling your earlobes

Keep in mind to take your time with each area, especially where you hold the most tension.

Practicing Let It Go can be done any time of the day or at regular times, such as at mealtime or before bed. You may try this technique on your hands using a massaging motion to focus on each finger, thumb, and palm. Consider doing Let It Go with your child/youth to model the strategy.

Visit the links below for Let It Go posters from School Mental Health Ontario:

Elementary - <https://smho-smso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/SEL-Posters-Let-It-Go.pdf>

Secondary - <https://smho-smso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SEL-Posters-Secondary-Let-It-Go.pdf>

Find more easy and fun mental health activities to do at home visit: <https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/>

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



Tosoronto Times

Tosoronto Central Public School

NOV 2023

Looking for Employment? Join Our Team!

Curious about what employment opportunities are available at the Simcoe County District School Board(SCDSB)?

The SCDSB is hosting several job fairs throughout Simcoe County during the month of November; come by and speak with one of our representatives at any of the following events!

YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka Employment Services (Midland)

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Job Seekers | YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka \(ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca\)](http://ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)

TRACKS Employment & Resource Service (Collingwood)

Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[TRACKS Employment Services - One-stop resource centre for Employment Ontario Services | Located in Collingwood and serving Georgian Triangle communities of Clearview, Wasaga Beach, and Town of the Blue Mountains](#)

FOCUS Employment Services (Alliston)

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023

3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

[Job Seekers - FOCUS Community Development Corporation \(focuscdc.on.ca\)](http://focuscdc.on.ca)

Agilec Employment Services (Orillia)

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023

12 to 5 p.m.

[Employment Services - Agilec](#)

For more information about employment opportunities at the SCDSB, visit:
www.scdsb.on.ca/joinourteam.