



Tosorontio Central Public School

7016 County Road 13, Everett ON LOM 1J0

Mr. Akram Shehata, Principal Ms. Andrea Evans, Vice Principal

September Newsletter

Welcome (back) to the 2023-24 school year! We are excited to be returning to a new year of learning at Tosorontio Central P.S. We are looking forward to getting to see old friends and meet new friends (in-person) through our wonderful and caring school. As a school community, we wish to extend a very warm welcome to our new families at Tos, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to get to know you. Through our newsletters, we will attempt to keep you informed of upcoming events, news at our school, and the outstanding achievements of our students. We will provide you with a newsletter each month. Please check these carefully for notice of upcoming events and school news. The monthly newsletter is sent home using the email address you have provided to the school. Please contact the office if you wish to add or change your preferred email address in order to receive school communication. We are hoping for the 2023-24 school year to be interesting and exciting. This newsletter describes many of the practices that will continue to be in place for the 2023-2024 school year at Tosorontio Public School. Please read carefully and retain this document for further use. We look forward to working with you in what promises to be a very exciting and interesting year. Tosorontio Central P.S. staff

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 22 - PA Day

Tosorontio Open House: Wednesday, October 4th from 5:00-7:00pm

Meet the Teacher, Check out the classroom, Book Fair and Food Truck. See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information.

Book Fair: October 4-6 in the library. Students can visit the library during the week, and it will also be open during the Open House. Payment methods: Cash, debit and credit card.

Hot Lunches: Our hot lunch program starts on Monday, October 2nd. Lunches can be purchased through your child's School Cash Online account. If you need assistance setting up an account, please contact the office at 705-435-6023.

CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE FOR SEPTEMBER

Caring - we show kindness towards each other.

More information about character education can be found here:

www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education

SCDSB launches updated character education program for 2023-24 school year

This year the SCDSB will begin implementation of the updated character education program. Rather than focus on one attribute each month, the program has been changed to reflect that character is a fluid concept that includes a variety of attributes.

The updated character attributes are:

Bravery	Helpfulness	Listening	Responsibility
Caring	Honesty	Love	Trustworthiness
Compassion	Humility	Loyalty	Truth
Cooperation	Inclusiveness	Optimism	Sharing
Courage	Integrity	Perseverance	Wisdom
Empathy	Kindness	Respect	

For more information on the updated character education program, visit the character education page on the SCDSB website: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education.

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

The Tosorontio School Council will be holding a meeting in the library on Monday October 2 at 6:00 p.m. Please forward agenda items to Tosorontio School Council Chair via the school office by Thursday, September 28.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Each fall the annual School Council formation process takes place. Our School Council is made up of the school principal and vice-principal, a teaching representative, and parent/guardian representatives.

The executive will be elected in October. Here's your chance to get involved! If you are interested in being part of this year's Council, please contact the office to request a Nomination form which will be sent electronically. If elections are required, they will be held during the first school council meeting.

Please note that any current or previous members of the School Council must re-apply by submitting a parent nomination form for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

DAILY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

(Please keep it handy for future reference)

Staff Supervision has been scheduled to supervise students from 8:55 – 9:10 am.

Entry	9:10 am
Period 1	9:10-10:00 am. (50mins.)
Period 2	10:00-10:50 am.(50mins.)
Nutrition Break	10:50-11:10 am.
Recess	11:10-11:35 am.
Period 3	11:35-12:25pm.(50mins)
Period 4	12:25-1:15pm.(50mins)
Nutrition Break	1:15-1:35 pm.
Recess	1:35-2:00 pm.
Period 5	2:00-2:50 pm. (50mins.)
Period 6	2:50-3:40 pm. (50mins.)
Dismissal Bell	3:40 pm

PLEASE ARRIVE ON TIME

Our school day begins at 9:10 a.m. and students can arrive between 8:55 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. (There is no supervision before 8:55 a.m.). For students who are not arriving by bus parents must park their vehicles in the parking lot (avoiding the bus lane) and students are to use the indicated crosswalk to enter the school yard to their designated area.

Parents/guardians are not to be on the school yard at anytime.

For students arriving late (after 9:10 a.m.), they will need to go to the front entrance of the school and ring the bell while waiting for a staff member. We will ask for your co-operation and assistance with this matter.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

First day of school Tuesday September 5, 2023
(SK – Gr. 8 students)

First day of school Thursday September 7, 2023
(JK students)

P.A. Days – No School for Students

Friday September 22, 2023	Friday, April 28, 2024
Friday, October 20, 2023	Friday, June 7, 2024
Friday, November 17, 2023	Friday, June 28, 2024
Friday, January 26, 2024	

Thanksgiving Day Monday October 9, 2023

Holidays Monday December 25, 2023 Friday January 5, 2024

Back to school Monday January 8, 2024

Family Day Monday February 19, 2024

School Holiday Monday, March 11 -
March Break Friday, March 15, 2024

Back to school Monday, March 18, 2024

Good Friday Friday, March 29, 2024

Easter Monday Monday, April 1, 2024

Victoria Day Monday, May 20, 2024

Last day of school Thursday, June 27, 2024
for students

September PA Day

Please note that Friday, Sept. 22 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 Sept. 22 PA Day:

Length: Full day
Topic: Reading and Literacy, Social Studies, Assessment
Host: Simcoe County District School Board
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s): School board staff and school administrators

Educators will participate in person to review the newly revised Language Curriculum, *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language, 2023*, and new de-streamed *English, Grade 9, and Français, 9e année* courses and explore resources to support their implementation with students. Through group discussions and hands-on activities, elementary educators will learn about early reading instruction and the use of screening tools to help ensure that students with reading difficulties are identified and supported early. They will also explore and plan for literacy instruction across the curriculum, including the new Holocaust Education curriculum in Grade 6. Secondary educators will also engage in assessment activities and the collaborative planning of student tasks and opportunities to inform both course instruction and evaluation.

TENTATIVE STUDENT/CLASS PLACEMENTS

Please note that our class placements are tentative and subject to change should our enrolment be significantly different than what was projected last spring. We will notify affected families if changes to our tentative class lists will be necessary. When students arrive on their designated first day of school, they will be assigned a temporary class for the first several weeks. Later in September, we will have a school reorganization of classes if necessary. Families and students need to anticipate that their educators may change, as will their classmates. We would ask that you communicate regularly with your child's educators throughout the course of the school year.

We look forward to your partnership in creating a successful school year.

LUNCHES

Students will need to come prepared daily with their snacks, lunch and a reusable water bottle for the day. The hot lunch program will begin in the next few weeks. Stay tuned for further information. Water fountains and water bottle refill stations are available for student and staff use.

FIELD TRIPS/ASSEMBLIES/CO-CURRICULAR:

Plans are underway for school assemblies, presentations, field trips and co-curricular activities. Further information will be provided through the classroom teachers in the coming weeks.

STUDENT PERSONAL BELONGINGS

It is essential that students label the personal belongings that they bring to school.
Please label your child's belongings.

STUDENT DISMISSAL

In the best interest of student safety, students not participating in school sponsored extra-curricular activities are requested to leave our school grounds promptly once dismissed by our staff at the end of the day and board their designated bus to go directly home or to the designated caregiver.

PARKING LOT UPDATE

Thanks to all our TOS families who have previously demonstrated safety, understanding and patience when using our parking lot/driveway to pick up and drop off students. In the interest of the safety of all TOS students and staff, please continue to drive slowly and carefully through the designated area. Please park in designated parking areas keeping the bus lane free. We continue to require the daily co-operation of all families in order to maintain a safe parking lot.

STAFF CHANGES

We have a few new staff members at Tosorontio. Welcome to all new staff. Once our complete staff complement is in place we will publish our complete staff list for your reference.

PLEASE BE AWARE!

We wish to request that all parents/guardians help staff assist students/staff with potentially life-threatening allergies to nuts by ensuring that all lunch and snack items brought to school are nut-free. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter. **WE ARE STRIVING to REDUCE THE RISK of ALLERGIC REACTIONS to PEANUTS/TREE NUTS.** Please do not bring ANY foods containing these products upon school premises.
Thank you for your co-operation.

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) CHECKS

Parents/guardians should check their children's heads on a weekly basis for head lice. At school we do our best to keep you informed of outbreaks of head lice reported to us by parents. It is the responsibility of each parent/guardian to monitor this situation and inform the school of an outbreak. Such reports will remain confidential but general notification will be sent home to affected classes of students.

SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTIONS OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION ADMINISTERED AT SCHOOL

Some students experience severe discomfort from stings of insects and/or contact with specific foods. In some cases, the reaction is so severe that an injection is required immediately. If your child is subject to severe allergic reactions or has some other life-threatening condition which requires the immediate administration of medication or medical assistance, please contact the office promptly to discuss the need for an appropriate emergency plan.

Also, parents/guardians of students who have had medication prescribed by a physician to be administered during the school day are asked to contact the school office in order to receive a copy of the required administration of medication form. This form details the specific medication, information regarding schedule of administration of medication to the student and the signature of the prescribing physician. **Please arrange to have your doctor complete the required forms, which are available from the school office, in advance. For student safety, school personnel are not permitted to administer any medication until the required forms are completed in compliance with school board policy.**

For the safety of all students, any medication, whether by prescription or not, **MUST** be stored in the office and dispensed by staff. ***Students are not to carry medication with them or have medication stored in the classroom or school bag. A medical plan must be in place for students who require medication.***

TELEPHONE USE

We ask that consideration be given to not disrupting students and teachers during their instructional time. All of our teachers would be glad to speak to you over the phone outside of their teaching time. Messages for students should be kept to emergencies and left with our school secretary. Similarly, our school telephone lines are not for regular student use, except for emergency situations.

WHAT A SPARKLING SCHOOL!

The months of July and August have been industrious months for our custodial staff. They have had an extremely busy time cleaning and polishing every square centimeter of our school. We extend a great big thank you to our dedicated custodial staff for their ongoing commitment to prepare our school for another school year and for their continued effort in its maintenance throughout the school year. We will all do our best to assist them in keeping our school clean and tidy. Thank you!

To that end we encourage students to use a pair of **indoor shoes** during instructional time. Also, students will be provided time **indoors for eating, including snacks/drinks**, during two nutrition breaks each day. No food or drinks are to be consumed outside during recess times in order to reduce garbage outside and reduce the attraction of hazardous insects.

SAFETY AND SECURITY AT SCHOOL

We wish to remind all students and parents that all valuable and/or treasured items should be left at home for safe keeping. Those items may include (but are not limited to) cell phones, smartphones, iPods, iPads, computers, personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), MP3 players, tape, video or digital audio recorders, cameras, handheld electronic games, toys, expensive watches and jewellery. The school cannot be responsible for any such items. Cell phones are discouraged, but if parents believe that they are necessary for their child, students are to ensure that all cell phones are shut off, out of sight and not used on school property, inside or outside the building, throughout the entire school day unless being supervised by staff for academic purposes. Students should avoid bringing large sums of money to school.

SCDSB 2023-24 STUDENT HANDBOOK

The SCDSB student handbook contains a variety of information that the SCDSB is required to share with all students and families. This September, schools will be distributing the student handbook to all families via email. The SCDSB 2023-24 Student Handbook can also be found on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent and on school websites under 'students'. If you have questions, please contact the school.

NEW SAFE ARRIVAL SYSTEM FOR SCDSB SCHOOLS **call 1-888-885-8065 to report an absence (elementary)**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has a new Safe Arrival system at elementary schools. This system will support us in continuing to improve our home-to-school communication process and streamline absence reporting. **To report a student absence, call 1-888-885-8065.** Callers will be prompted to identify the school before leaving a message. Parents should include the student's name, teachers' name, dates, and reason for the absence. When schools do not hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, the school will call home to find out the reason for the absence. If you have questions about the new system, please contact the school office.

UNIVERSAL OTIS-LENNON SCHOOL ABILITY TEST (OLSAT) SCREENING PROCESS

The OLSAT is a standardized group test of ability. The results of this test will help us gain a better understanding of students' areas of relative strength and needs as related to their verbal and non-verbal abilities so that we can plan our programs and supports accordingly.

Results may also be used to inform identification (e.g., Intellectual: Gifted).

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction, and through providing program extensions and enrichment. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate, and challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular classroom or in an elementary gifted classroom placement.

A consent form examining the universal OLSAT screening process in greater detail will be sent to parent(s)/ guardian(s) of students in Grade 3 via School Cash Online in September.

If you require further information about the universal OLSAT screening process, please contact the school.

KEEP CONNECTED WITH OUR SCHOOL AND WITH THE SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Here are some ways to do that:

- Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at scdsb.on.ca.
- Follow the SCDSB on X (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb).
 - @TosorontioPS on X
 - @tosorontiopublicschool on Instagram

SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS FOR 2023-24 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.

ANNUAL NOTICE TO ADULT STUDENTS OR PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) OF STUDENTS UNDER THE AGE OF 16

A completed Student Medical Form (FORM A1420 - 1) is required each school year, or when a medical need is identified, or when the student transfers to another school, in order to authorize medical response plan development and the administration of prescribed medication to students who require it during school hours, or when the medication and/or dosage requirements change. Specific to asthma, every student is now permitted to carry their asthma medication if the student has their parent's/guardian's permission.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are responsible for ensuring that a current, completed Student Medical Form is on file at the school. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are also to complete a Plan of Care for students with prevalent 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 flying insect stings or to certain foods or food ingredients such as peanuts. The best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure for these students is to respectfully ask parent(s)/guardian(s) to avoid sending peanut butter or products with peanuts and/or tree nuts listed in the ingredients to school. For students with life-threatening allergies, it is recommended that two doses of an epinephrine auto-injector are available on site at school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions you may have.

STANDARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND PERMISSION FORM/STUDENT INFORMATION COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY APPROPRIATE USE AGREEMENT 2023-24

The 2023-24 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 until Oct. 16. 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.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE 2023-24

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 either: StudyInsured at www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com or by calling 1-833-560-0527; or, Insure my Kids through at www.insuremykids.com or by calling 1-800-463-5437.

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.

VOLUNTEERING IN SCHOOLS DURING THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our schools great places to learn and grow. We value and appreciate the support of our volunteers. Volunteers have various roles at our schools including: School event volunteer, Hot lunch day organizers, field trip supervisors, classroom helpers

Please contact the school's office if you are interested in volunteering and would like to know more about the opportunities available.

To become a volunteer in a Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) school, you must complete accessibility training and submit a current (dated within six months) Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC). Schools require all VSCs to be in their original form and emailed directly to the school for processing. Please note, volunteers are unable to upload VSCs directly to the volunteer portal. Each potential volunteer must create an account within the volunteer portal. Please remember to choose the school you wish to volunteer with.

If you do not have a computer or require assistance, please contact the school.

CURRENT VOLUNTEERS

Current approved volunteers must keep their Community Apps account/Volunteer Portal information up-to-date with email address changes. Communication is sent throughout the year to the provided email address with respect to timelines, necessary requirements, etc. regarding your volunteer status. Instructions on how to change your email address in Community Apps can be found [here](#). Updating your email address in your Community Apps account will automatically update your email address in your Volunteer Portal.

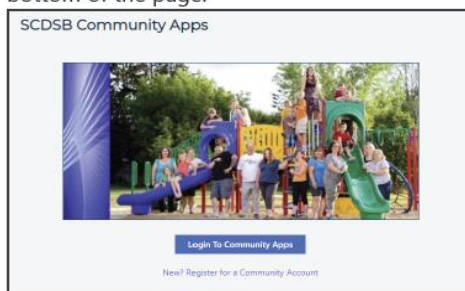
If you are also a parent, check out our [Parent Portal](#).

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.
- Be prompt, dependable and regular in attendance, and give advance notice to teachers when unable to attend.

PROCEDURES HELP TO 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 and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (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

Please note the following:

- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** and wait for assistance. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, so please be patient.**
- Staff must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents/guardians of elementary students to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All SCDSB schools have **automated external defibrillators (AEDs)**.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Our board's dress code is one way that we embed the principles set out in the SCDSB and Ministry of Education documents, Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario, and Equity and Inclusive Education to ensure safe, inclusive and equitable learning environments for all of our students. In SCDSB schools, we believe that students should be able to learn in a safe and caring space that is free of bias and discrimination. When making choices about what to wear to school, we respect your individuality. To ensure that our learning environments are safe and respectful spaces, our board has consulted with students and staff to develop a set of shared standards for student dress.

The SCDSB dress code is available on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code. If you have questions about the dress code, contact your school principal.

SCHOOL BUS 'BUS TAG' PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS GET TO AND FROM SCHOOL SAFELY

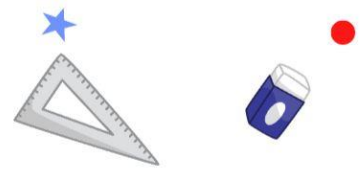
The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school-identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent/guardian at their afternoon bus stop. The program provides a colour coded bus tag with the assigned p.m. route number, to be attached to the student's backpack, and a colour-coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the bus tag is matched to. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site childcare centre to make sure they don't get on a bus in error.

For more information, visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca.



TOSORONTIO CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE!



OCTOBER 4TH 5:00 TO 7:00 PM

MEET YOUR TEACHER

CHECK OUT YOUR CLASSROOM

GET A TOS SHIRT OR HOODIE MADE

BOOK FAIR & FOOD TRUCK

Join us for a fun filled evening of checking out your school and classroom, meeting your teachers and meeting new friends.....

LORI GO-ROUND FOOD TRUCK WILL BE ATTENDING !

ENJOY A NIGHT OFF FROM COOKING

EVENT SPONSORED BY TOS SCHOOL COUNCIL

Have questions? : Reach Out To The Office

