

# Tottenham Public School

## September 2021 Newsletter

[tot.scdsb.on.ca](http://tot.scdsb.on.ca)

### From The Desk of Mr. Pattison...

It was great to see our returning students and meet our new students this week. It has been a terrific first few days of school. Our staff worked very hard in preparing for start up, and that work has been evident with such a smooth start. Thank you to our parents and guardians as well, for ensuring students are following protocols and for your continued support of what we are doing at school. We are sure that there will be some changes along the way with regards to protocols but we know that everyone will adjust, as we have all had to do in the past year and a half. As well, with September comes the chance that we have to re-organize classes to account for the students that moved into our school area. This summer we underwent a renovation in the library area, as well as in the pod area where our grade 2 classes are. Our library renovation is not quite complete, but we are hopeful to have it in full use in a few weeks. We had 2 new water filling stations installed as well. We appreciate your continued patience, flexibility, understanding and kindness. As always, if there are any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Mike Pattison  
Principal

### **Self-assessment**

All students and staff will be required to complete the daily COVID-19 self-assessment prior to entering SCDSB schools and buildings, using the provincial self-assessment tool. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit <https://covid->

### **Parent Council**

If you are interested in becoming an executive member of our Parent Council, please fill out the form on the next page and send it with your child to school by September 24th. If you need a paper copy, please call the office and we will send one home with your child.

**Our first meeting & elections will take place virtually**

**October 4th @ 6:30pm.**

### **SCHOOL DAY**

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 8:45 am        | Yard supervision begins  |
| 9:00 am        | Entry                    |
| 10:40-11:20 am | Nutrition Break & Recess |
| 1:00-1:40 pm   | Nutrition Break & Recess |
| 3:20 pm        | Dismissal                |
| 3:30 pm        | Yard Supervision Ends    |

*For safety reasons, students should arrive at school after 8:45 am, when staff supervision begins.*

*Please use the **Kiss & Ride** to drop off or pick up your children. There is **NO PARKING** permitted on Rogers Road. **PLEASE HELP TO***

**KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE!**

### **A SAFETY REMINDER**

We ask that all parents/caregivers who are dropping off or picking up students practice social distancing and wear a mask in the parking lot. Thank you for your cooperation.

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**SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT/GUARDIAN CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM****Nominations are due to school administration by:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (time) on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Name

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (name and date of birth)  
who is currently registered at this school.

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the school council. I understand the role and responsibilities of a member of the school council as described on the reverse side of this form.

I understand that as a school council member, my contact information including email address will be shared with school council members for the sole purpose of open and transparent communication amongst council members and that it shall not be used for any other purpose.

I understand that employees of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) cannot run as parent/guardian representatives for school councils if they are employed at the school. If they are employed elsewhere in the board, they can run providing they inform their school community of their employment.

Candidate's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received by \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Nomination Form Receipt**

The nomination form for parent/guardian representative on the School Council for

\_\_\_\_\_ has been received.  
*School*\_\_\_\_\_  
*School Official*\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

## 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)

## Terry Fox Run

This September, the Terry Fox Foundation is recognizing the 41st anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope. Terry Fox was a young man who developed bone cancer in his leg and needed to have his leg amputated. Terry didn't let this stop him. He had a dream to help fight cancer and decided to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. Unfortunately, Terry passed away before he could finish his run. To keep Terry's dream alive, people around the world participate in the Terry Fox Run. This year, classes are helping to keep Terry's dream alive by doing laps around the track or creating "Try Like Terry" goals for themselves. If you would like to support the Terry Fox Foundation, please use the link below to access Tottenham Public School's fundraising page. Thanks in advance for your support of this important event.



<http://www.terryfox.ca/TottenhamPSTottenham>



We are thrilled to announce that our school has been adopted by Chapters and Coles in Newmarket! From September 13 to October 3, these stores are going to help us fundraise to purchase new books for our newly renovated library. We're also going to be raising funds to support our library through an Adopt a School online fundraising page, which you can find by searching our school name at [loveofreading.org](http://loveofreading.org).

We would like to personally invite you to join us in making a difference in the lives of the children at Tottenham Public School by supporting us in the upcoming Indigo Adopt a School program. Our school is going to receive every dollar raised to support our library and a 30% discount off books when we shop at Indigo, Chapters and Coles using program donations.

Through the Adopt a School program, we are hoping to raise enough money to put one new book into the hands of each and every one of our students! Our goal is to raise \$5000 through the Adopt a School program.

Please visit [loveofreading.org](http://loveofreading.org) from September 13 to October 3 to show your support for our library. Regular updates about our progress towards reaching our goal will be provided on our school website ([tot.scdsb.on.ca](http://tot.scdsb.on.ca)) and Twitter accounts (@TottenhamPS and @library\_tps). We look forward to supporting our students with new library books this year! We thank you in advance for your support of this fundraiser.

## 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.

## Safety measures in schools

We want to assure you that the health and well-being of our students and staff remains our top priority. We are in regular contact with our local health authority, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), and we continue to take their direction on all matters related to COVID-19. Please visit the COVID-19 Return to School page on the SMDHU website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) for additional information.

The following health and safety measures will be implemented in our schools.

### Masking:

Students from Kindergarten (JK and SK) through Grade 12 will be required to wear masks while indoors. Staff will be required to wear masks while indoors.

### Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols:

Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom for student and teacher use. Students will receive training on proper hand hygiene including instructions on hand washing and sanitizing.

### Ventilation

Standalone high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter units will be placed in all schools without mechanical ventilation. HEPA filter units will be placed in all standalone Kindergarten classrooms.

### Enhanced Cleaning:

Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting at least twice a day of frequently touched surfaces and shared resources such as doorknobs, light switches, toilets and faucet handles. Buses will be sanitized twice daily with frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces.

### Physical Distancing:

Directional arrows and signage will be utilized in schools to support physical distancing measures. Schools will have designated entry and exit doors and staggered entry and exit times. Acrylic shielding will remain installed in school offices.

## Instructions for when children become sick at school

Parents/guardians will be asked to provide multiple contacts who will be available to pick up their child(ren) in the event that they become ill while at school. Children who become ill while at school will not be able to travel on a bus home for the protection of the other riders.

## No visitor access

As we transition into the return to school routine this fall, following the direction from our local health authority, the SMDHU, visitors are not permitted within SCDSB schools at this time. Parents/guardians may ring the doorbell at elementary schools to receive assistance. Parents/guardians will be asked to call the school's main office at secondary schools to receive assistance. School main office phone numbers will be posted on the doors of school buildings.

## 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://tot.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) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb). You can also follow our school on Twitter (@TottenhamPS).

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; and, 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](http://www.facebook.com/SCDSB) and [www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](http://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.

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 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)**.

## 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](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) and click on the 'Safety' tab.



# September 2021 “Caring”

| Sunday | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|--|--|--|--------|----------|
|        |   |  | 1  | 2  | 3      | 4        |
| 5      | 6<br><i>Labour Day</i><br><i>Rosh Hashanah begins</i> | 7<br><br>First day of school<br>SK– Grade 8 | 8  | 9<br>First day of school<br>JKs  | 10     | 11       |
| 12     | 13  | 14   | 15<br><i>International Dot Day</i>   | 16<br><i>Yom Kippur</i>  | 17     | 18       |
| 19     | 20  | 21   | 22<br>Autumn Begins<br> | 23   | 24     | 25       |
| 26     | 27<br><i>National Reconciliation Week</i>             | 28   | 29<br><i>Rowan’s Law Day</i>   | 30<br><i>Orange Shirt Day</i>  |        |          |
|        |   |  |  | <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oct 4 –Virtual Parent Council Meeting</li> <li>• Oct 11 –Thanksgiving</li> <li>• Oct 12 –Picture Day</li> <li>• Oct 22 –PA Day</li> </ul> </div> |        |          |



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Subscribe to our school website for updates!  
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