

Tottenham Public School

December 2022 Newsletter

tot.scdsb.on.ca

From The Desk of Mr. Pattison...

Time sure has gone by very quickly this Fall. Students have been busy with many clubs and opportunities within the school. As the weather gets colder, I would remind families to ensure that students have proper clothing as we are outside for two 20 minute recesses and many classes go outside for daily physical activity or in kindergarten for outdoor learning. Sending an extra pair of mitts/gloves is recommended as they often get wet during the day. Extra socks are also a good idea! As we moved into early December we got to see the musical 'Making the Band'. We are eagerly anticipating both our Kindergarten (Dec 14th @ 6pm) and our Primary (Dec 15th @ 6pm) concerts. The next few weeks will be busy as we approach the holidays. Just a reminder that the last day for students is Friday, December 23rd, and students return to learning on January 9th. I sure hope that everyone has a terrific holiday season. I hope that during the winter break, everyone gets the chance to spend some time with family, rest, and recharge. Wishing everyone a terrific holiday!

Sincerely

Mike Pattison
Principal



LET'S FILL THE FOOD BANK, TPS!

Our annual food drive in support of Our Town Food Bank will take place on **December 21**. Our Town Food Bank has expressed a need for protein foods such as canned meats and fish, peanut butter, beans, and canned stews. Additionally, personal hygiene products such as soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste and shampoos would be appreciated. Further details about our food drive will be shared soon. Let's show our community we care by helping families in need in our community.



Festive Sweater Day December 17th

As we look forward to the winter break, students are invited to show their school spirit by participating in festive sweater day. Wear your favourite festive sweater or our school colours (red and black) on Friday December 23rd.

We can't wait to see everyone show their school spirit on the last day of school before the winter break.



SCHOOL DAY

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

*For safety reasons, students should not arrive at school prior to 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 KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE!

**Character attribute for the month of
December**

Empathy - we strive to understand and appreciate the feelings and actions of others. More information about character education can be found here:
www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education.

Subscribe to our school website

Stay up to date with all that is happening at Tottenham Public School!

tot.scdsb.on.ca



Pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with SchoolCash Online

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees"
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

It's safe, fast, convenient and our school's preferred method of payment!
Contact the office with any questions.



**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 to find details on your high schools' info night, and contact the school directly for more information.



Days of awareness and recognition taking place in December

Dec 6 - National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is about remembering those who have experienced gender-based violence and those who we have lost to it. It is also a time to take action. Achieving a Canada free from gender-based violence requires everyone living in this country to educate themselves and their families and communities on gender-based violence, centre the voices of survivors in our actions and speak up against harmful behaviours.





School playground structures are closed for the winter



Every winter, school playground structures are closed. Students are made aware of this during school hours through announcements and staff reminders during breaks. This may not be well known throughout the community, despite signs indicating that playground structures are a winter hazard and are closed. The Canadian Standards Association regulations make recommendations for the depth of ground cover required to minimize injuries (e.g., sand, pea gravel or wood chips). These surfaces cannot be maintained when the ground freezes. Injuries from falling would be more significant on frozen ground. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your children to play on any structures while the ground is frozen.

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](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>.



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.

The SCDSB board-wide electronic applications for the Grade 1 FI program for all sites will open Thursday, Dec. 1 at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16. Entry into the FI program is determined through a digitally randomized lottery system.

Support your child's mathematics learning at home

Looking for ways to support your child in their math learning at home? The Ministry of Education has a page with ideas on how to support your child and make math part of your day-to-day routine. There are general routines and grade-level ideas to explore. Learn more: www.ontario.ca/page/support-your-childs-math-learning.



Right to Read Inquiry Report

Beginning in 2019, the Ontario Human Rights Commission conducted a public inquiry into human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system. The report (www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report), released this past spring, issued 157 recommendations.

Among these recommendations is the need for an updated language curriculum that includes explicit, systematic, and direct instruction in foundational reading skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding, and word reading proficiency. The Simcoe County District School Board is committed to shifting our instructional practices to align with these recommendations.

What does this mean for my child? Primary educators are shifting from using leveled texts as they encourage reliance on guessing strategies to solve unknown words. Instead, educators are beginning to use a scope and sequence to systematically teach phonemic awareness and phonics. Students may apply the phonics skills they have learned by reading 'decodable' or 'phonetically controlled' texts. As a result, educators are moving away from using PM Benchmarks and moving towards assessments that measure foundational reading skills. To support your child at home, the following documents provide activities that may help foster these foundational skills:

Phonological awareness activities for families https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrSSU-HhNzjSRv6_CKiJBue32B-n6gqy/view?usp=sharing

Supporting reading development at home <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12jf50KLLzZP9q82HN-w39jrHFqYElf45/view?usp=sharing>



Ontario Ministry of Education tutoring services



The Ontario Ministry of Education is supporting tutoring services in schools and in the community until the end of March 2023. Schools offering after school tutoring services will advertise this service directly to parents/guardians. Community tutoring agencies provide free of charge tutoring to Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students after hours in the community and online. Contact information for community tutoring agencies can be found at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring_programs. Tutoring is available to all SCDSB students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12. The SCDSB is also seeking members of the community to act as tutors in our schools during the school day. All candidates must apply through Apply to Education Posting #3361243. Candidates are required to be interviewed by SCDSB administration, provide professional references and complete a Vulnerable Sector Screen through their local police service. For more information, please email tutoring@scdsb.on.ca.





December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 TIGER STORE 	2	3	
4	5 Parent Council 6:30	6  Making the Band Performance 6:30	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14  Kindergarten Holiday Concert 6:00	15  Gr..1-3 Holiday Concert 6:00	16	17	
18	19	20	21 Character Ed assembly — Food Bank Walk	22	23 Festive Sweater Day 	24	
25	26	Holiday Break				30	31

Tottenham Public School

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Mike Pattison, Principal
Heather Booth, Vice Principal

Subscribe to our school website
for updates!
Tot.scdsb.on.ca

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Upcoming Events...

- **Back to School— Jan 9th**
- **PA Day— January 27th**

Have a safe & happy holiday break!