



# Twin Lakes Secondary School Thunderbird News February 2017



**Principal: Irfan Toor**

**Vice-Principals: Michelle Morris & Mark Harvey**

## Principal's Message

As we dig ourselves out from under piles and piles of snow, it's hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year. It is amazing how fast five months can go at a school as busy and successful as Twin Lakes. It has been another excellent year at Twin. There have been so many events and activities for students happening throughout the fall and the winter.

The change in semesters also marks the distribution of the Semester 1 Final Report Card. This provides you with information regarding students' progress, credit achievement and final mark for Semester 1 courses. Many of our courses have focussed on feedback rather than marks and the Report Card is an opportunity to reinforce what learning has occurred, areas for future improvement and a final mark.

Please take a moment to review this feedback with your son or daughter and acknowledge their effort as well as guide them towards making suggested improvements. It is halfway through the school year and there is a lot of time to make a change.

One of the most important events coming up is the course selection process. Please consider your son or daughter's interests as well as recommendations from their teachers as they select courses for next year. Remember to consider the pathway to their post-secondary destination, whether that is College, University, Apprenticeship or the Workplace. Different courses in secondary school are geared for different pathways. As always, our staff are always willing to provide guidance or answer questions about pathways and course selections. In addition, there are many reminders in this newsletter for graduating students to make sure they are on track to complete all the graduation requirements. We look forward to seeing everyone at the graduation ceremony in June.

Lastly, don't miss out on an opportunity to watch our students in action in a performance or on the sports field. Semester 2 brings the school dramatic performance as well as many sports teams such as soccer and rugby. Your support is always welcome.

All the best for semester 2.

## STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

**During busy bus drop-off and pick-up times, we would ask that parents delivering or picking up their students, please do so at the top of our entrance driveway on Birch Street. This would help tremendously with vehicle congestion during these busy times.**

## SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE SCHOOL BUS DELAY NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know you can subscribe to receive school bus delay notifications from the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium? Sign up on the Consortium's website: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions> and remember that you can also follow the Consortium on Twitter @SCSTC SchoolBus. Twin Lakes is located in the North weather zone.

## From the Guidance Office

### Course Selections for 2017 - 18

Guidance Counsellors will be hosting assemblies, February 16-21, to inform students about their course selections for the 2017-18 school year. During the period from February 21 to

March 3, the students will be entering their course selections online. All course selections must be submitted by March 3, 2017. This is the first important step in planning for next year for both the students and the school. Decisions about which courses are offered next year are based on data from students' course selections. **Therefore, it is very important that all students along with their parents/guardians complete the course selection process with care and on time.**

Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to review Twin Lakes' Course Calendar for 2017-18 very carefully, with attention to diploma requirements, prerequisites, and future plans. It can be accessed at <http://twi.scdsb.on.ca>

Any questions should be directed to the guidance counsellor assigned by grade/program.

grade 9 – Mrs. McCullough

grade 10 – Mrs. Pellarin

grade 11 – Ms. McGoey

grade 12 – Mrs. Pellarin

eLearning courses - Mrs. McCullough

SHSM students – Mrs. McCullough

## Financial Assistance Assembly

There will be a **Financial Assistance for Post-Secondary Education** assembly on April 24 @ 1:05 p.m. in the library. Sign up in the Guidance Office. This will include information on OSAP but for updated OSAP information, regularly check the OSAP website [www.osap.gov.on.ca](http://www.osap.gov.on.ca) Parents/guardians are welcome to attend the assembly.

## NEW PROGRAM PEAC

PEAC (*Partners in Education, Adventure & Community*) is a new grade 9 & 10 program that will begin with our new grade 9 students in September 2017. It is a two year venture where students will experience in-class components and out-of-class adventures. Students will be timetabled together for one compulsory course per semester to integrate the experiential opportunities with the enhanced curriculum. Candidates should be motivated to work with other community-minded peers, to develop leadership skills and community initiatives, amongst other valuable learning opportunities. **Applications for grade 8 students are due April 5, 2017 @ 3:00 p.m.** and are available in guidance and on the school website.

## LINK Crew

Our LINK Leaders and A-Teamers will continue to mentor our grade 9's this semester. We will host a Recruitment Assembly on Monday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 to invite application from grade 10 and 11 students for LINK Leader positions next year. This is a wonderful leadership opportunity for our senior students. Specific dates for 2017-18 leader activities will be in the June newsletter.

## Specialized High Skills Major (SHSM) Programs – Culinary/Cosmetology/Transportation (pending approval)

Senior students in all levels (applied, academic, or locally developed) have the opportunity to pursue a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program at Twin Lakes. A SHSM program allows students to pick a "major" or a specific focus for their high school studies. Students who may be considering a career in **Cooking/Baking, Hairstyling/Aesthetics or Transportation (pending approval)** are encouraged to register for either the Hospitality and Tourism SHSM in

Cosmetology or Culinary Arts or the Transportation option. Students get **FREE** certifications, field trips and career-related information as part of the program.

This is a wonderful way for students to gain valuable work experience and knowledge about their chosen field. All of these experiences allow our SHSM students to make themselves more marketable in the competitive job world after high school. Many of the certifications we do in SHSM apply to all employment sectors (e.g. CPR, First Aid, Customer Service, WHMIS, etc.) and so the learning they do in the program would be beneficial even to other career paths.

This means that students do not need to be absolutely certain of their career path. Should a student sign up for a SHSM program at TLSS and change their mind about the professional direction that they want to follow after graduation, they won't have a problem. As long as they have taken the courses they need to get into the post-secondary program of their choice, they are absolutely free to pursue a different field of interest. In short, SHSM is a risk-free opportunity.

The program begins in Grade 11, so any **Grade 10 students interested in a SHSM should come to the Guidance Office to learn more about these opportunities.** Participation in the program requires a meeting to explain the details further and a completed application form signed by parents. Contact Ms. McCullough for more information.

### International Students

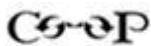
Twin Lakes is excited to welcome and host 23 International Students from Tokyo Japan. They will be staying with us until March 3<sup>rd</sup> and while here will be instructed in ESL learning as well as engaging in experiential activities throughout Simcoe County. The International Students have been paired with some of our TLSS students which will allow them to be fully immersed in our school academics and culture.

### Student Success

Student Success is busy preparing current Grade 8 students for their transition to Grade Nine for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Corry and Ms. McGoey will be visiting all of our feeder schools to help build excitement, calm nerves and share all the wonderful extracurricular and academic opportunities available at Twin Lakes.

In addition, Mr. Corry & Ms. McGoey will be holding monthly Blitz Days to assist students who may have fallen behind in their course work. Blitz Day provides opportunities for students to stay on track and earn credits successfully. Visit us in room #303!

### Cooperative Education & Other Forms of Experiential Learning



We currently have approximately 90 students who have taken advantage of the Co-op Education opportunity. This program allows students to work for one half day (2 credits) or one full day (4 credits) to try on a future job, trade or career while working with an employer.

A big THANK YOU to Orillia and area employers who have once again supported the Cooperative Education Program. Your efforts to share with us in the education of our students, has and will continue to provide our community with a more informed and productive work force.

### Apprenticeship

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students and employers who have partnered for OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) this term. These students will graduate with their diploma, a whole new skill set, experience in the working world and a head start on a skilled profession. While earning school credits, OYAP students are able to use their Co-op hours toward their training time and government money will help fund their education. We continue to encourage

partnerships with employers in the community so stay tuned for more student signings!

**Brodie Cornick** – Heavy Duty Equipment Technician at Toromont Cat

**Reghen Dawson** – Heavy Duty Equipment Technician at Strongco

**Jake De Jong:** Truck and Coach Technician at the City of Orillia

**Thaison Desmoulin:** Hairstylist at Slickers Salon

**Cole Lapp:** Power Line Technician at Base Borden

**Cole Lovering:** Electrician at Esoc Electric

**Tallon Mallett:** Automotive Service Technician at Kia

**Skylar Stephen:** Marine Engine Technician at Crates Marine

### Job Shadowing

This experience gives grade 10 Careers students the opportunity to follow an employee for one day in order to explore a career area of interest. Through observation, students become aware of the demands in the workplace and recognize the importance of education in getting quality employment.

Our Co-op teachers, Jodi Kerr, Robyn LaChapelle and Lisa Sammon invite you to contact the Co-operative Education office (room 313B) at 705-325-1318, Ext. 4 if you have any questions or want to get involved in the program. Please visit our school website for more information about our department and the Cooperative Education Program and follow us on twitter@CoopTLSS



### TLSS Musical Production: *Legally Blonde*

This year, TLSS is thrilled to be presenting a production of the Broadway musical *Legally Blonde*, a musical adaptation of the major motion picture of the same name. With an inspiring story, engaging characters and fantastic musical numbers, this show promises to be a real crowd-pleaser. Rehearsals are underway and the cast and crew are so excited to share their hard work with the school and the community! **Performances will be held on April 6, 7, and 8, at 7pm in the TLSS Cafetorium. Mark your calendars for what promises to be an outstanding show!**

### NEW Blended Learning Careers/Civics

Students at Twin Lakes are taking it digital! Due to the success of last semester's first formal eLearning Careers/Civics, all three Careers/Civics sections will be Blended this semester. The program blends online curriculum with face-to-face learning in a computer lab, with a teacher. It is a great way to prepare students for future online courses in a safe forum, where they are engaged and have lots of support. Students will use various online portfolios, discussion board posts, submission tools and templates to engage in deeper learning, while also becoming good digital citizens. If you would like any more information, please feel free to contact Ms. LaChapelle or Mr. Kooy. We look forward to expanding this integrated program!

### EXCITING NEWS FROM TLSS INDIGENOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT!

At Twin we are committed to offering a growing variety of Indigenous Studies courses. The federal and provincial governments have agreed that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report Recommendations surrounding expanded education are of top priority. We are seeing huge growth and program development at the college and university levels, and this growth is moving to the secondary and even elementary levels.

Six years ago at Twin we began with Grade 9 Ojibwe (**LNOA0, LNOB0**), and Grade 11 Native Studies (**NBV3C/E0**).

Enrolment was steady. Since then we've expanded to offer a Grade 10 Aboriginal Peoples in Canada History course (**NAC20**), as an equivalent to Canadian History since 1914 (**CHC2D/P**). Furthermore, all Grade 11 College level students now take the Aboriginal Voices English course (**NBE3C**). The

latest addition is the new **Grade 11 College/University level course Current Aboriginal Issues in Canada (NDA3M)**.

With these offerings, students can connect their Indigenous learning to **all the post-secondary destinations** available to them (Workplace, College, and University).

In addition, Mr. Brent Roy is an Indigenous teacher who has a Student Success period each semester dedicated to working with Indigenous students. His role is to offer enhanced learning opportunities, and help students with course selection, class work and post secondary options.

Beyond the classroom we have a **thriving Indigenous Club**, which is open to all students. We meet on Thursdays @ lunch in Rm. 217. We go on trips, create original works of art to display around the school, and are currently working on a collection of Indigenous recipes that we can test drive in our school cafeteria! Potluck lunches are also a favourite activity!

We are fortunate to have such a supportive administration and staff here at Twin, as well as dynamic leadership at the Board, to help us build bridges of understanding and growth between communities.

Parents, it's that time of year when your children select courses for the fall. Why not encourage them to consider taking an Indigenous Studies course to deepen their knowledge of Canada's First Peoples?

Thanks for your growing interest and support!

Mr. Rob Kooy            Mr. Brent Roy

### Gifted Congregated Cluster Program (GCCP) News

Upcoming Events in March include Brain Games field trip, in-school Global Solutions Program and Mental Health 101 Workshop. An additional opportunity over March Break is a "Women in STEM Symposium" at the Barrie Campus of Georgian College. Please look for our newsletter on the TLSS web site or see Miss McCrackin for details.

### ISE Ontario – Student Exchange Program

3 Month Student Exchanges – During the School Year  
French Language – France (all regions) and Switzerland  
Other Languages – Italy – Spain

2 Month Student Exchanges for Elementary Students  
French Language – France and Switzerland

Summer Exchanges – 1 Month France or Spain

3 Weeks Switzerland (French)

Please visit [www.iseontario.on.ca](http://www.iseontario.on.ca) or contact ISE Ontario  
(705) 722-9440                      E-mail [info@iseontario.on.ca](mailto:info@iseontario.on.ca)

### UPCOMING DATES

DATE	EVENT
February 20	Family Day Holiday
February 21 to March 3	Course Selections for 2017/18
March 13 to 17	March Break
March 23	Interim Reports Issued
March 30	Parent/Teacher Interview Night
March 30	Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test for Grade 10
April 6, 7 and 8	Musical – Legally Blonde 7 p.m.
April 14	Good Friday
April 17	Easter Monday
April 27	Mid-Semester Reports Issued
April 28	PD Day
May 22	Victoria Day Holiday
June 12 – 16 (TBD)	Gr. Math EQAO
June 22 to 28	Final Evaluations
June 29	Commencement – 6 p.m.

### 'Relay for Life' is coming to Twin Lakes on Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

In a joint partnership with Orillia Secondary School, student leaders are bringing the **Canadian Cancer Society's** impactful 'Relay for Life' right here to Twin Lakes. This is a unique opportunity for our students to make an incredible impact on the Orillia community, provincially, and beyond. Hundreds of schools and ten of thousands of students across Canada are working to run 'Relay' events, and we are running one here at Twin. Start thinking about how you would like to be involved, because this is going to be big.

For more information, contact **Mrs. Kerr** and **Mr. Lowery** or visit [www.relayforlife.ca](http://www.relayforlife.ca) for details.

Digital Details:

[clowery@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:clowery@scdsb.on.ca), @clowery00075 (twitter)

[jkerr@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:jkerr@scdsb.on.ca), @tuck\_jodi (twitter)

Keep your ears to the ground for information on our upcoming 'Relay Rally,' fundraising events, and specific intel on 'Relay Day.'

Mr. Lowery & Mrs. Kerr

### "Cancer Changes Everything. So Can You"

### SPORTS

The Twin Lakes Thunderbirds are now gearing up for and competing in playoffs. February has been a busy month of athletics. Our Senior Boys Basketball, Girls Hockey and Girls Curling teams finished the year with solid seasons. Boys Hockey is making a push for the SCAA finals for the first time in five years. Riley Richmond is off to compete in the GBSSA finals in wrestling this week. Boys curling is in playoff action in Barrie next week as they hope to bring home another banner. Alpine and Nordic Skiing are off to the GBSSA Championships this week with a few medal hopefuls. The Junior Boys Basketball team earned a bye to the SCAA finals after a perfect 6-0 league record. They will take on Barrie North at Twin on February 16th. Both Senior and Junior Girls Volleyball teams are in the SCAA finals after finishing first overall in league play and big wins this week. The Seniors play on February 16th and the Juniors on February 17th both here at Twin. Let's bring the noise!

With spring around the corner Twin Lakes has plenty of sport opportunities for all. Rugby, Girls Softball, Track and Field, Junior Boys Tennis, Girls Soccer, Girls Lacrosse and Badminton will all be offered again this year. Boys Baseball is also being played for the first time in a long time. With all of these opportunities, students aren't limited to only one option as team and individual sports can often overlap. So get involved, play, have fun, develop and make the most of your spring at Twin Lakes!