

# Twin Lakes Secondary School

## Thunderbird News January 2023

Principal: Julie Richardson

Vice-Principals: Michael Fogarty and Katie Prentice

### High School Information Events for Grade 8 Students

We are excited to begin the transition to Twin Lakes with the grade 8 students in our family of schools. To ensure this process promotes a smooth transition and successful start to high school, a number of events are planned (and more to follow):

- First week of January 2023 – TLSS guidance staff visit grade 8 classes to discuss grade 9 course selections
- January 18, 2023 – Grade 8 Open House for students and families (6:30pm – 8:00pm)

Please contact the guidance office if you have any questions. We look forward to welcoming our newest Thunderbirds!

### Grade 9 EQAO Math Tests

Will take place Tuesday January 24 and Wednesday January 25 for students enrolled in MTH1W1 this semester. This is a regular class day. The EQAO assessments will be written on Chromebooks and extra time is available for all students.

If students are absent Tuesday and/or Wednesday, arrangements will be made for them to write their assessment Thursday, January 26 or Friday, January 27.

For additional information, visit [eqao.com](http://eqao.com).

### Immunization Records

Has your child already received their routine immunizations? As a parent or guardian, **you are required to report your child's immunizations** to your local public health unit if your child attends school, or a licensed child care centre.



Students currently in high school are required to be vaccinated against:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio and Pertussis (whooping cough) - booster required between 14-16 years old
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella
- Meningococcal Disease

The health unit does not receive immunization information directly from doctor's offices. Please submit immunizations records to the health unit each time your child receives a vaccine from their health care provider.

What you can do:

Check – your child's yellow immunization card  
Contact – your child's health-care provider to obtain records, or to get missing vaccinations

Submit an immunization record – go to [smdhu.org/immsonline](http://smdhu.org/immsonline) to enter the complete record or fax a completed record to 705-726-3962.

### Twin Turns 50!

There will be a celebration for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Twin Lakes Secondary School.

On the weekend of April 28 and 29, 2023, activities are being planned.

Please stay tuned for more information and details.



### School Bus Status



Please visit <https://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/> to sign up to receive email notifications for when your school vehicle route is delayed 15 minutes or more.

### 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 <https://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/>



Our school is in the **North** 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 6:00am and make every effort to post announcements before 7:00am. 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.

### Character Attribute for the Month of January

Honesty - we behave in a sincere, trustworthy and truthful manner.



More information about character education can be found here:

[www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character\\_education](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education).

## Significant Days, Holy Days, Holidays and Heritage Recognition Occurring in the Month of January

For information regarding holy days and holidays, visit the SCDSB website here:

[www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity\\_and\\_inclusion/holy\\_days\\_and\\_holidays\\_calendar](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion/holy_days_and_holidays_calendar)

For more information on heritage days, visit the SCDSB website here:

[https://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity\\_and\\_inclusion/heritage\\_recognition](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion/heritage_recognition)

## Standards of Behaviour and Consequences for Student Action Related to Racism, Bias or Hate

At the SCDSB, we are committed to maintaining safe, inviting and supportive school environments, and recognize that all students have the right to be safe, and feel safe, in our schools. With this right comes the responsibility to contribute to a positive school climate. We want you to know that any incident of racism, bias or hate will not be tolerated. Any such incident is treated very seriously with immediate action and consequences in accordance with the requirements of the *Education Act*, and consistent with our values and obligations under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

Students who engage in acts of racism, bias or hate will face severe consequences as a result of their actions. Please take a moment to review the [SCDSB Code of Conduct](#) with your child(ren). The Code of Conduct sets clear standards of behaviour and specifies consequences for student actions that do not comply with these standards.

We are dedicated to educating our students and staff about the injustice and impact of systemic racism. We continue to work with students, staff, parents/guardians and community partners to ensure that our schools are the safe places they are intended to be for all students.

## 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](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/tutoring_programs).

Tutoring is available to all SCDSB students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12.



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## Interested in Learning More About the Ways that the SCDSB Supports Students with Special Education Needs and Their Families? Join Us for a Virtual Special Education Outreach Series

In 2023, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is hosting virtual special education outreach sessions to assist parents/caregivers in learning more about programs, supports and ways that we work together to support students with special education needs.

### IEPs and school-based assessments – information for parents/caregivers

January 12-6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

### Supporting students with autism spectrum disorder

February 14-6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

### Supporting students as they transition into school, from one school to another, and from school upon graduation

April 20-6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

### Working with families to create safe and supportive environments for children who have experienced trauma

May 9-6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Participants are asked to register in advance. Information to access the sessions will be shared via email with individuals who have pre-registered. Learn more about each session and how to register on the SCDSB website at [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special\\_education/special\\_education\\_outreach\\_sessions](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/special_education/special_education_outreach_sessions).

## Routine Immunizations Prevent Serious Diseases and are Free

Did you know that all students in Simcoe Muskoka must have up-to-date immunization records with the health unit? Reporting an immunization is easy, go to [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization). Need to get immunized? Nurses will be visiting all secondary schools in February and March 2023 to offer catch-up clinics.

Immunizations offered include:

- Required vaccines (Tdap booster for 14 to 16 year-olds, Men-C-ACYW [meningitis – usually offered in Grade 7] and/or if missed)
- Hepatitis B, and Human Papillomavirus (vaccines given during Grade 7 that may have been missed)

More information will be sent home prior to the school clinic for review by the parent/guardian and student. No COVID-19 vaccines will be offered at these clinics. Visit [smdhu.org/grade9to12](http://smdhu.org/grade9to12) for your school's clinic dates. Just walk-ins, no appointments. Catch-up clinics are also available at all health unit offices. To book an appointment visit: [smdhu.inputhealth.com/](http://smdhu.inputhealth.com/). For more information about routine vaccinations, visit our school immunization page [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization/Clinics-and-Programs/Secondary-School-Immunization](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization/Clinics-and-Programs/Secondary-School-Immunization).

## Four Ways to Improve Your Child's Study Habits

As we welcome the new year, people often take this time to reflect and make resolutions to form good habits for the year ahead. For some, these resolutions are personal goals, like cooking more meals at home, or joining a local gym – but what about setting family goals? As a parent, you can help your children set goals that will help them succeed at school, such as improving study habits.

It is difficult to see your child struggle with their schoolwork, but with these tips, your child will be able to effectively use their study time to thrive in school this year. Even better, working on these habits now will set them up for success for years to come — both in school and in the workplace. Here are four ways you can help improve your child's study habits:



### 1. Eliminate distraction

Learning requires focus and concentration to be successful. Removing distractions from your child's learning space is crucial. Portable technology is the largest distraction when it comes to studying. While studying, try to choose a location outside of their study space where they can leave their phone or tablet to minimize distractions. Of course, there are other types of distractions as well, such as a nearby TV or other children. If possible, find a study location away from the home's common space. Allow your child to turn on white noise or music if it helps them concentrate. It might aid in blocking out other obtrusive sounds so they can concentrate on their schoolwork.

### 2. Try alternatives to reading

It can get tiresome to read notes and textbooks to learn new information. Your child can only focus for so long before they begin to lose interest and tire of the subject. Try alternative strategies, such as creating flashcards, finding an informative video, listening to educational podcasts or audio books, or asking them to visualize a concept with a graphic or diagram. Kids learn in different ways. Find what works best for your child and use it to their advantage. Just be sure to keep the focus on studying and avoid the online distractions.

### 3. Give regular praise

Positive parenting and recognizing their accomplishments (both big and small) may be all the motivation they require to succeed. Let them know you appreciate all their effort and hard work. Make sure to celebrate effort over outcome to show your child that trying is the most important thing. Some great wins to celebrate include solving a tricky problem, reaching a reading or math goal, or finishing a project or assignment. Let them know you are proud of them and that they should be proud of themselves as well. They'll be eager to advance if you sometimes throw in a special treat or outing!

### 4. Find additional help when needed

Perhaps one of the biggest lessons for students to learn is not be afraid to ask for help when needed. However, as a parent, sometimes we don't have the knowledge or ability to provide the help they need when it comes to schooling. That's when it's important to seek additional help, such as a tutor. Tutors can provide professional, tailored help to students, whether it is with an entire subject or a concept within a subject. Tutors can help your child succeed in school, while giving you peace of mind that they are learning with a professional.

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has teamed up with the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka to launch the Y Achieve Tutoring program. This program provides free tutoring sessions outside of school hours, free of charge for any students who may be struggling. These sessions are open to students from Grades 6 to 12 attending a school within the SCDSB, whether you have a YMCA membership or not. For more information, or to book a session online, please visit [www.ymcasm.ca/tutoring](http://www.ymcasm.ca/tutoring) or contact [morgan.gillies@sm.ymca.ca](mailto:morgan.gillies@sm.ymca.ca).

*Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka*

## Feedback, Recovery and Improvement Days

At the end of each semester, all secondary schools will run feedback, recovery and improvement days for students. Culminating assessments such as portfolios, essays, examinations, and interviews will take place during instructional days and will be returned to students with feedback.

The last day of regular instruction for students in semester one is Monday, January 30. The period from Tuesday, January 31 to Thursday, February 2 is reserved for students who require an opportunity to receive feedback from an assessment, to rescue or recover a credit, or to improve on an area of missed expectations. Teachers and support staff will communicate with students who will benefit most from attending this opportunity; however, all students will be invited to attend. There will be no new instruction these days. Feedback, recovery and improvement days are an opportunity for students to work closely with their teacher if they require feedback, credit recovery or an opportunity to improve on an area of missed expectations.

