

February 2017 NEWSLETTER

Stephanie D'Ambrosio
Principal

Mike Wilson
Vice Principal

Titans' Times



**Terry Fox
Elementary School**

Safe Arrival # 705-727-4267 press 1

Twitter: @VP_Terry_Fox or @TFTitans

Website: <http://ter.scdsb.on.ca/>

From the Office...

February is a busy month at Terry Fox. We have many field trips taking place this month, sports teams are playing games, our violin club is preparing for the Barrie Music Festival and teachers are busy completing final assessments for the report cards that go home on Friday, February 17th. I encourage you to maintain excellent communication with your child's teacher, to give your child a committed space to complete homework and to ask your child about their learning at the end of each school day.

Please remember to check out the school website and follow us on Twitter to keep up to date.

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 3 – Hat Day
Feb. 10 – Gr. 7 immunizations
Feb. 10 – Honesy & Inclusiveness assembly
Feb. 14 – Red & Pink Day (Valentine's Day)
Feb. 16 – Gr. 5's at Springwater Park
Feb. 17 – Report Cards go home
Feb. 17 – Music presentation by Eastview
Feb. 20 – Family Day (no school for students)
Feb. 21 – Eastview visits gr. 8 students
Feb. 22 – Pink Shirt Day & Gr. 5 – Wasaga Nordic
Feb. 23 – Gr. 3 Highlands Nordic
Feb. 27 – Gr. 5/6 Camp Info Night for
parents (6 - 6:30 p.m.)
Feb. 28 – Gr. 6 - Wasaga Nordic
Mar. 2 – Grad photo day

February marks Black History Month. This yearly event exists to remind us all of the rich contributions within our society from people of all backgrounds, and of their ongoing struggle for equity and social justice. Teachers have the opportunity to engage their students, not only during this month but throughout the school year and recognizing the strengths and resiliency of communities that historically have been marginalized, as well examining issues of racism and the impact of discrimination on these communities. Please take a moment to talk to your child about why it is so important to celebrate human diversity and individual strengths!



School Council Corner

School Council is a group of parent/guardian volunteers whose focus is to support the school and its community through fundraising events, and activities. Some of our ongoing efforts include Eat Well to Excel, pizza lunches and the milk program.

Our next fundraising event is with Hewitt Farms. Order forms will be sent home February 28. Support a local farm and our school - purchase fresh and frozen meal items as well as ordering your whole Easter dinner! There are still some Snow Valley coupons available for purchase in the office for \$20 (\$10 goes right back to Terry Fox). This is a great deal with much of the ski season ahead of us – it is valued over \$350, including a FREE Night lift ticket, a FREE 10 – pack of snow tubing, plus more. School council was approved again for the Metro Green Apple Grant, and classes will get to enjoy some great tasty vegetables every Thursday in March. Save the date for a Family Math Night **April 4, 2017** – more information to come. The Dance – a – Thon will take place on **April 21, 2017**.

We are always looking for new volunteers and all parents are always welcome at our meetings.

Next School Council meeting is Wednesday April 5, 2017 at 7pm in the library. Contact us at councilchairter@scdsb.on.ca

TERRY FOX ATHLETICS

As part of our physical education program every child in the school (K- 8) has been placed on a team (Red, Green, Blue or Grey). Every time a child comes to phys. ed class prepared and ready to participate they earn a point for their team. Twice a year we tally the points and reward the top team with incentives to keep up the great work and encourage them to participate actively on their own time too. We have totaled our points for 2016 and our Green team has the most participation points. As part of our phys. ed program at Terry Fox, we hope that students become inspired to be active in our local community. We have covered skill development activities in tennis, skating, swimming, volleyball, ball hockey and basketball this term. We are hoping students and their friends and families will continue to pursue these activities outside of school too. East Bayfield Community Centre has graciously donated free passes to our prize table so that students can continue to be active in our community. Team points have started fresh again for 2017, so please encourage your child to come to phys.ed prepared and wear their team colour.



Grade 2 Swimming

The second group of grade 2's (Mrs. Metzger and Mrs. Thomson's classes) will start swimming lessons at the Bayfield Recreation Centre. The lessons will take place on Wednesday, February 8, 15 and 22 (2:00 – 2:40) and March 1, 8, 22 and 29 (1:45 – 2:25) for a total of 7 weeks. Swimmers are put into groups based on ability and led by the supportive staff at the pool. It's a real confidence booster and swimming is fabulous exercise. Lots of seating is available if you want to pop in and see your child swim.

Homework Help, the online math support for all Ontario grade 7 to 10 students, is hosting an Open House from **February 13th - 24th** by offering online math tutors during the day between **8:30 am - 3:00 p.m.**

They will continue to have online tutors available during the evenings from 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm each evening from Sunday to Thursday. To register your students and to learn more about this offer, please click this attached link - <https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/open-house/>. Students will need their OEN numbers in order to register.

Your top eight snow day questions answered

Bus cancellations and snow days are inevitable in Simcoe County. Each time buses are (or aren't!) cancelled, the SCDSB and the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) receive many questions from students, parents and community members. Check out the Sharing Simcoe blog for the top eight questions and answers - visit www.sharingsimcoe.com and search for 'snow'. Remember to follow the SCSTC on Twitter @SCSTC_SchoolBus for bus updates and cancellations.



School bus safety tip from the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)

Winter weather is here, so please be sure your child's clothing provides the appropriate protection against the weather while waiting for the bus. Students are requested to be at their bus stop at least five minutes before their scheduled pick-up time. School vehicle delays of 15 minutes or more are posted under 'View Bus Delays' at the SCSTC website: <http://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca>.

Student information notice for parents of Grade 8 students

As students progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared which eases each student's transition to secondary school. Sharing this information also improves our ability to program effectively to benefit all students. Select student information will be shared at different times as appropriate. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes is authorized under sections 170, 171, 190 Part X and Part XIII of the Education Act. All information used for the transition process is limited, secure and protected at all times. Please contact Stuart Finlayson, Superintendent of Education for this area, if you would like more information about the transition process at Terry Fox E.S.

Operations Appreciation Day a chance to say 'thank you'

Feb. 8 is Operations Appreciation Day in the Simcoe County District School Board. We celebrate and recognize our custodians and operations maintenance employees for the great work they do every day to keep our schools safe and clean. We'd like to say thanks to Mrs. Kent, Mrs. Lavalee, and Ms. Archer. Please take a moment to thank these very important staff members on Feb. 8. Share your support on social media using #props2ops.

Is your child turning four this year? It's time to register for Kindergarten Our school is now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.

Get the flu shot, not the flu!

Influenza (the flu) is a serious respiratory illness caused by a virus. Anyone can get influenza but young children, those over 65 and people who are pregnant or who have chronic medical conditions are more vulnerable and at higher risk of complications like pneumonia. By getting your shot you are protecting yourself as well as those around you. Flu shots are available at many pharmacies and from health care providers throughout Simcoe Muskoka. Protect yourself, protect your family – get the flu shot! For more information, contact Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

The facts of lice: How to prevent and treat this nuisance

Like everywhere else, there are head lice in Simcoe County. Lice are a nuisance, but do not pose a public health hazard as they are not known to transmit any infectious diseases. Anyone can get head lice but kids tend to get them more often because they can have head-to-head contact with other children during school and play. The best way to keep head lice in check is to work together to prevent the spread.

Schools are required to inform parents when a case of head lice is confirmed, to provide parents with timely information to begin their own checks at home. Head lice management and treatment is a responsibility of parents/guardians.

Here are some tips to help prevent and treat lice:

- Teach your child not to share personal things like hair brushes, combs and hats
- Set a schedule to check your child's head regularly. Use an area with bright light and look carefully for nits (shells containing eggs) and live lice in the hair, behind the ears and around the neck and hairline. Nits looks like half the size of the head of a pin, shaped like a teardrop and stick to the hair so you can't blow, flick, or easily side them off. Lice are about the size of a sesame seed and are very hard to see because they can crawl and hide but they cannot hop or fly.
- If you find nits or live head lice, you'll need to use a head lice treatment to kill them. Make sure to follow the directions, and then to do a second treatment 7 to 10 days later to help stop the lice from returning. Head lice are not likely to live in clothing, furniture or bed linen but it's a good idea to wash bed linen and hats in hot water and dry them in a hot dryer just in case.

For more information, visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's website www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Kids fighting? Here are some tips for a more peaceful household

It's common for children to disagree or argue at times. They may fight or get aggressive with when things don't go the way they want, or if they feel jealous or competitive, especially with siblings. So what can you do to stop fighting before it starts?

- Let your child know what behaviour you expect by explaining rules for playing with others, such as "be gentle" and "keep your hands and feet to yourself."
- Praise your child when they are playing well with others.
- Help children to solve problems before fights start.

Remember, you and other adults play a big role in setting expectations and teaching children better ways of behaving. For more tips, call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and talk to a public health nurse about the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program or visit www.tripleontario.ca.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Developing leadership skills in your kids

There are many reasons why developing youth leadership skills at a young age is important – it builds confidence, perseverance, problem-solving and communication skills. While leadership skills can come naturally, children learn lessons along the way that significantly impact them later in life. The right words at the right time can make all the difference. Here are some ways you can teach your children how to develop leadership skills at a young age:

- Encourage team activities: Identify your children's interests and encourage their participation in group activities. Whether it's participating in afterschool sports or joining the school band, children learn valuable lessons about teamwork through these activities.
- Enrol in camp: Overnight and day camps are filled with opportunities to participate in team-building activities and build self-confidence. Once youth reach a certain age, they can also become counsellors, where they'll be tasked with leading groups of younger children – the ultimate leadership experience!
- Find volunteer and community service opportunities: firsthand experience is one of the best ways to teach leadership skills to children. Look for local opportunities that will welcome youth helpers and volunteers in your community.

The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka offers Youth Leadership Development programs for youth in grades 5 to 12. Participants in our leadership programs often adopt healthier lifestyles, become volunteers in their community, make new friends, earn volunteer hours for school, acquire training certifications, travel to other countries and gain an understanding of their potential impact on their community.

For more information about the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka Youth Leadership Development Programs and opportunities, visit <http://ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/ymca-youth-leadership-development/>.

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka