

# The Southwood Source

DECEMBER 2023



IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT  
OR LATE PLEASE SUBMIT  
ABSENCE ON EDSBY OR  
CALL: 519-969-3470.



## Southwood Staff

2023-2024

JK/SK (EYA)- C. Djelebian

ECE - C. Woschenski

JK/SK (EYB)- S. Tessier

ECE - A. Dinham

Grade 1 (IA)- A. Mamo

Grade 1/2 (1/2A)- C. Coulter

Grade 2 (2A) - S. Forget

Grade 3 (3A)- Z. Hamadani

Grade 3/4 (3/4A) - M. Pfaff

Grade 4 (4A) - J. Piescic

Grade 5 (5A) - M. Dragicevic

Grade 5 (5B) - A. Noble

Grade 6 (6A) - K. Trudell

Grade 6 (6B)- J. Scherer

Grade 7 (7A) - J. Dunlop

Grade 7 (7B) - M. Cichon

Grade 8 (8A) - D. Chisholm

Grade 8 (8B) - N. Fitzsimmons

LST - D. Edgar

Library/LST - V. MacDonald

GAINS A - A. McKane

GAINS B - A. Bonadonna

GAINS C - S. Lysay

French - T. Laurendeau

French- S. Ruffolo

Prep Coverage - S. Drouillard

Gains Prep - S. Curley

ESL Itinerant - B. Beneteau

DSW - D. Branch

DSW - A. Quinn

DSW - T. Mickle

EA - A. Renaud

EA. - A. Parent

EA - A. Kaur

EA - F. Sami

EA - M. Ashton

EA - V. Lopez

EA - A. Carter

CYW - J. Glover

Day Custodian - J. Pomponio

Afternoon Custodian - G. McMullen

Afternoon Custodian - M. Roy

Clerk - C. Holley-Lord

Secretary - J. Millar

Vice Principal - T. Dugan

Principal - M. Lowes

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE PRINCIPAL ...

Dear Southwood Families,

We had a very busy and exciting November! We hosted Cyber Safety Specialist, Paul Davis who shared his impactful message with us. Our students and parents/guardians learned how to avoid cyberbullying and safely navigate the Internet. We celebrated the winners of our Frozen Food fundraiser success with a grand assembly and celebrations of pizza. We honoured those that fought for our freedom during our Remembrance Day ceremony presented by Mr. Scherer and Ms. Noble's classes. We sent home progress reports and shared our successes and set new goals with our families during Interview night. We also brought in 479,958 grams of cereal for GECD SB schools with Breakfast programs. That is an increase of 146,287 grams! Way to go Sabres!

As we approach the holiday season, we feel it is important to celebrate Southwood's inspiring sense of community! We encourage all Sabres to seek out opportunities that promote our "Culture of Kindness" by being respectful to one another and lending a helping hand when possible. We encourage you to consider how you might brighten someone else's season. To continue our school's kindness goal, our Southwood Student Council led by Mme. Laurendeau will be collecting non-perishable foods and canned goods for St. Mary's Food Cupboard. Please consider supporting this wonderful cause.

Winter weather has arrived! Please ensure that your child(ren) is/are suitably dressed for the weather. It is important that students come with winter jackets, boots, gloves, and winter hats (winter pants, if available). Students are expected to go outside twice a day during Nutrition Breaks. When dressed for the weather, fresh air, and playtime/socializing with friends is enjoyable.

Please enjoy a well-deserved holiday break beginning on December 23rd. We hope you celebrate with your family and friends and look forward to seeing everyone again on January 8th, 2024!

Your Partners in Education,

Mrs. Lowes

Mrs. Dugan

Principal

Vice Principal

### School Bell Times

Supervision Begins - 8:00 AM

Instructional Time Begins - 8:15AM

1st Nutrition Break - 9:55 to 10:35

2nd Nutrition Break - 12:15 to 12:55

Dismissal: 2:35PM

Scan this  
QR code to  
access our  
website!



Promoting Spirit, Strength,  
Success and Kindness!



At the Greater Essex County District School Board, we encourage schools to actively participate in environmental stewardship using these principles:

- Refuse
- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle

Mr. Edgar and the Sabre Eco-Team have been inspecting classroom recycle bins. They look for Red bins with only paper and cardboard in them. Superstar Recyclers receive a Green Star on their door and the top Recycling class is honoured with the coveted Golden Recycle Bin! Sabres, thank you for doing your part to help keep the Earth clean!

## Student Council presents... Sabre Care and Share Food Drive

As the cold and snowy weather is here, please consider donating

- \*Non-perishable Food Items
- \*Canned Goods



By **Monday, December 18th, 2023**

ALL OF YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS WILL GO TO  
WINDSOR'S

**St. Mary's Food Cupboard**

Grade 8 to Grade 9

# Out of District Application

Grade 8 students wishing to attend a secondary school other than their designated secondary school:

**Out of District applications  
will be accepted during the  
following dates only:**

**January 8-19, 2024**

Parent/guardian will be notified the week of  
February 5th, 2024 by the secondary school principal.

If a student is accepted to the **International Baccalaureate Program (IB)**, the **Enriched Program**, **eSTEAM Program** or **Walkerville Centre for the Creative Arts (WCCA)** they do not need to complete the Out of District application.

**Application for Out of District can only be made for ONE secondary school.**

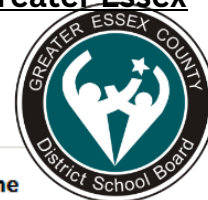
To apply, please go to: <http://outofdistrict.publicboard.ca/>

\* Access Code: (YOUR STUDENT NUMBER)



## Secondary School Information

At the Greater Essex County District School Board (GECD SB), we do our best to make the transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 as smooth as possible for our students. We've provided information and resources about high school and what to expect so students can confidently transition to this next stage of their education. For more information go to: [Secondary School Information - Greater Essex County District School Board \(publicboard.ca\)](https://www.publicboard.ca)



### 2023-2024 Grade 8 Information Nights

School	Date	Start Time	End Time
Belle River DHS	November 29th, 2023	5:30 p.m. (Doors Open)	9:00 p.m.
Essex DHS	January 18th, 2024	6:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Herman Academy	November 29th, 2023	5:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Kennedy C.I.	November 28th, 2023	5:30 p.m. (Doors Open)	8:00 p.m.
Kingsville DHS	January 17th, 2024	6:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Leamington DHS	January 18th, 2024	6:00 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
Massey Secondary	December 7th, 2023	6:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
North Star HS	January 17th, 2024	6:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Riverside Secondary	November 22nd, 2023	6:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
Sandwich Secondary	December 13th, 2023	6:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Tecumseh Vista Academy	December 13th, 2023	5:30 p.m. (Doors Open)	8:00 p.m.
Walkerville C.I.	December 14th, 2023	6:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Westview Freedom Academy	December 6th, 2023	5:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.

### Program Application Deadlines

School	Program	Deadline
<a href="#">Riverside Secondary School</a>	International Baccalaureate	December 15th, 2023
<a href="#">Leamington Secondary School</a>	International Baccalaureate	December 15th, 2023
<a href="#">Vincent Massey Secondary School</a>	Enriched Courses (Out of District Students Only)	December 18th, 2023
<a href="#">Tecumseh Vista Academy</a>	E-STEAM (Enhancement of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)	January 12th, 2024
<a href="#">Walkerville Collegiate Institute</a>	Walkerville Centre for the Creative Arts	November 3rd - <b>CLOSED</b>



# SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

*"It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us."*

A School Advisory Council (SAC) is a peer elected, collaborative team that works to improve student achievement, effective teaching in the classroom, and parent and community engagement in the educational process.



## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCILS HAVE THREE MAIN GOALS:



Support Academic Achievement



Improve School Climate



Strengthen Family Engagement

**WHAT DO MEMBERS DO?**

Meet 4 times a year.

Participate in Strategic Conversations by using and addressing school data.

Focus on supporting Academic Achievement, Improving School Climate, and strengthening Family Engagement.

Build consensus with fellow SAC members.

Be at the heart of your child's learning.



School Chair: Andreas Maniatis  
School Vice-Chair: Shana Holmes  
Treasurer: Thi Thi Phan  
Secretary: Elita Laios



## We need your help!

We are looking for:

- Snack program volunteers
- Bingo volunteers

Call the school at 519-969-3470 for more information.



DECEMBER

# Cyber Scams and Phishing:

## Don't be a victim!

A cyber scam is a criminal online activity designed to scam people out of money or personal information.

### Most Common Types of Online Scams

- **Phishing and Smishing** is a technique to “fish” for usernames, passwords, and other sensitive information, from a “sea” of users – through emails or text messages.
  - Phishing emails and smishing text messages may look like they're from someone or a company you know or trust.
  - These messages urge you to click a link, open an attachment, call a number or contact an email address.
  - The victim is then tricked into providing their personal information and credentials to other websites or services.
- **Fake apps are apps** created by cybercriminals to cause harm to users and their devices. They are designed to resemble legitimate apps but instead monitor your activity, install malware, or steal your personal information.
- **Websites that sell fake products.** These sites offer low-priced, high demand products that never arrive.
- **Formjacking** is when a legitimate retail website is hacked, and shopper information is stolen.

### How to avoid scams:

- Do not open attachments, do not click links and do not respond to suspicious messages – ask questions, consult people you trust, or contact the sender using an alternative communication method.
- Avoid suspicious apps and deny permissions for something the app shouldn't be doing.
- Always use secure sites (**look for the S in https://**) when shopping or logging into your accounts online.
- Buy products from known marketers only.
- Do not post personal information on social media.

### If you think you may be a victim of a scam:

- Stop all communication with the scammer.
- Seek help from an adult you trust.
- Report the scam to your local police.












For more information: [www.ecno.org/cyber-awareness](http://www.ecno.org/cyber-awareness)

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# December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Spirit Day - Wear your favourite jersey 	
	3 	4	5 	6 	7	8
	Scholastic Book Fair from Dec 4th to Dec 7th		Special Presentation: "The Spirit of Harriet Tubman"	Scholastic Book Fair ends Massey Grade 8 Open House		9
10 		11	12	13	14	15
International Human Rights Day			Special Presentation: "Crystal Shawanda: Blues in the Schools"			Spirit Day - Wear your tacky holiday sweater! 
17	18 	19	20	21 	22	23 
	Canned Food Drive Ends			Winter Solstice	Last day of school before Holiday Break - Spirit Day	

**Happy Holidays! No School-Dec 23rd, 2023 to Jan 7th, 2024**



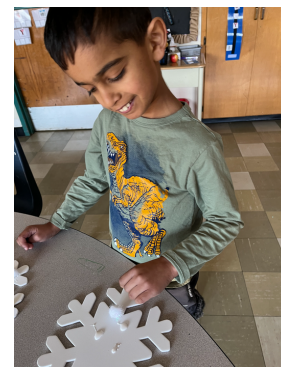
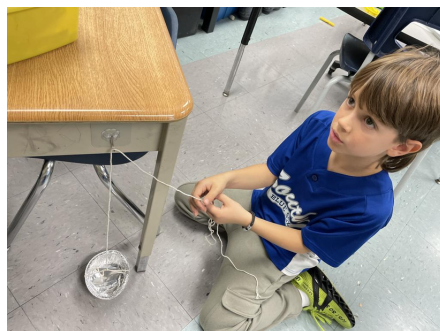
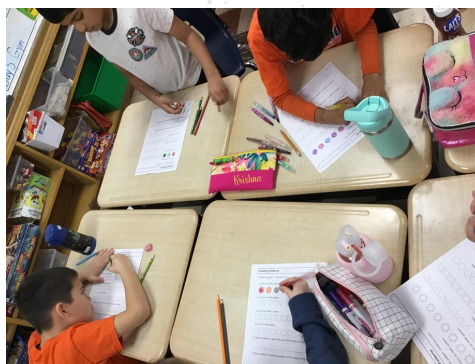
**Christmas** Christmas is the annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on December 25th. It is a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. Christmas dinners are also an important part of the celebrations. Families and friends will share food together, eating traditional foods, such as turkey, mince pies and Christmas puddings.



**Hanukkah** Hanukkah is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime "festival of lights," celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods. It begins on the 25th day of Kislev, the ninth month of the Hebrew calendar and continues for eight days. This year it lands on December 18th to December 26th. The Hebrew word Hanukkah means "dedication," and is thus named because it celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple. To celebrate the ancient miracle of the oil burning a candle for eight nights, Jews celebrating Hanukkah light a candleholder called a menorah for eight nights. The menorah holds nine candles—one for each night plus a candle called the shamash used to light the other candles. People recite special blessings and prayers, sing songs, and exchange gifts to celebrate.



**KWANZAA** Kwanzaa is an annual holiday affirming African family and social values that is celebrated from December 26 to January 1. Both the name and the celebration were devised in 1966. The name Kwanzaa is derived from a Swahili phrase (matunda ya kwanza) meaning "first fruits," and is a seven-day celebration that comprises traditional African harvest festivals and draws on activities from cultures across Africa. The seven-day celebration represents the seven values of nguzo saba: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith).





# Spotlight

## ON OUR REMARKABLE OFFICE STAFF!



**Ms. Millar**  
**Secretary**



**Mrs. Holley-Lord**  
**Clerk**

We are so lucky to have these two amazing individuals take care of our school office. They are always willing to go the extra mile to ensure that students, parents/guardians, and visitors are greeted with a warm smile and a helpful attitude everyday. Their hard work and dedication make our school a better place for everyone. We appreciate them more than words can express and are grateful for all that they do. Thank you for being such an integral part of our school community! Please wish Mrs. Holley-Lord a fond farewell as she leaves Southwood to join the office team at Glenwood Public School. We will miss you Mrs. Holley-Lord!