



## **TRILLIUM WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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### **Information for Elementary School Students – September 2021**

Welcome back Tornados!

As the new school year quickly approaches, we wanted to welcome you to either distance learning or in-class learning. Our hope is that you have had a chance to rest and recharge this summer. Please note that if you have indicated that your child(ren) will be participating in distance learning, you will be receiving further communication in the days ahead. We have heard that many families and students are excited to get back to a routine, and I know I speak for the staff of Trillium Woods when I say that we are all also very excited to reconnect with our students. We have missed you!

**We are jumping into the 2021-2022 school year with the following mindset:**

**“Your attitude is an expression of your values, beliefs, and expectations.” - Brian Tracy**

**All of our staff are working and preparing to their absolute best to welcome your child back to Trillium Woods. We will be following the recommendations from public health to improve the safety of our school and reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission. Our educators are prepared to do what they do best, support and teach our students. Every day they plan to make a difference through either their in-person or distance learning program.**

Outlined in this email will be very important information that we ask you to read and review with your child(ren) prior to their first day of school, beginning next week. As you read all the information, please know that the decisions were made to keep students and staff safe at every possible time. There may be items that you are questioning as you read this, but we ask that you please be patient and understanding as we navigate another school year TOGETHER during the pandemic.

**Our school day begins at 8:40am and ends at 3:00pm.** We will not be using bells during the first week of school. The beginning of the day, lunch, recess, and end of the day will all be communicated to students by their teachers, along with teachers greeting their classes in their cohort area on the schoolyard. In the case of an absolute emergency, a bell may go, but please discuss with your child that they will not be hearing the school bells throughout the day. Staff will be outdoors for duty beginning at 8:25am. Staff are easy to identify as they will be wearing fluorescent vests.

At this time, **classes are tentative** as we will be determining if changes will take place once we have students in the building. More communication around this will be forthcoming if necessary. Your child's teacher will be communicating with you on Friday, September 3rd regarding details about class placement.

**The parking lots to the school, as well as the school property including the tarmac area, will be closed to parents and visitors.** This will assist us in ensuring a safe re-opening of our school. The only parents who will be permitted on the schoolyard will be those parents who are dropping off their children in Junior Kindergarten, Senior Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2, and **only on their student's first day**. Please know that these measures are in place to keep all our students and staff safe while on the school property. We appreciate your understanding, patience and flexibility.

**Once your child enters the school property, they must head to the school sign with their teacher's name.** Also attached (and on our website) is a map indicating where your child's class will be any time they are outdoors before school and at dismissal. If you wish to come to the school to show your child their location on the property prior to the first day of school, you are free to do so and you can direct your child as to where they will stand. If your child walks to school, it is very important that they arrive on school property between 8:25am and 8:40am. Please remember for dismissal that you are not to access the school property so it is important that you have procedures in place for the end of the school day if you are choosing to pick up your child, and that these procedures are reviewed with your child.

*Kindergarten families:* drop off and pick up information will be shared in a separate communication being emailed directly to you.

As you prepare for the first day of school, here are some important things you'll need to know.

#### **Elementary school start date (Kindergarten to Grade 8):**

The first day of school for students in Year 2 (Senior) Kindergarten to Grade 8 (in-person and remote learning) is Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Year 1 (Junior) Kindergarten students will begin school on Thursday, September 9, 2021.

#### **Health and safety**

Students from Kindergarten (JK and SK) to Grade 8 will be required to wear a face mask while inside the school building. Families are encouraged to provide cloth masks for their children that securely cover the nose and mouth. We will provide cloth masks to students who do not have them.

Each morning, students are required to complete a self-screen prior to attending school. The self-screening tool can be found here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>.

There is a PDF version also attached in this email.

Students who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home. We ask that parents/guardians report their child's absence as part of our Safe Arrival program.

## Well-being

We believe that looking after our physical and mental health is essential to our well-being. We are committed to creating an inclusive school environment where students feel safe, welcome, and included.

For helpful information and resources to support student mental health and well-being, visit the [SCDSB website](#) or [School Mental Health Ontario](#).

## Lunch

Elementary students will eat lunch in their classroom. If weather permits, consideration will be given to eating lunch outdoors. Students should bring a refillable water bottle that is labeled with their name and kept with them during the day. Water fountains will be unavailable for use; however, water fill stations will be available.

**Students will not be permitted to leave school property at lunch.** Students will remain in their class cohort during nutritional breaks. This means our intermediate students will not be able to leave to go to the store at lunch. The Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit has recommended that the lunch period be cohorted.

## Learn@Home

Parents/guardians who indicated in June that their child(ren) will be participating in the Learn@Home program, will be contacted by their child(ren)'s teacher with instructions for logging on to the remote learning platform. If you did not indicate that your child would be a remote learner, then your child is registered to attend in-person. New requests or changes to learning modes for September 2021 are not being accepted. Students may move between remote learning and in-person learning at the natural term transition time at the end of Term 1 in February 2022, where space exists. Learn@Home classes begin on September 7, 2021.

**At this time, parents will not be permitted access to the school building.** If you need to pick up your child for any reason, we ask that you buzz at the front door and someone will assist you at that time. Please be patient as it may take a few minutes to respond to the buzzer if our office staff are not immediately available. If your child is heading home with you, they will be brought to you at the front doors. It is VERY important that at the end of the day, you are not buzzing into the office to pick up your child. Especially during these times, it is important to keep end of day routines as consistent as possible. As well, the end of day becomes very busy regarding safe dismissal and busing.

Currently, there will be no parent volunteers, visitors, hot lunch programs, assemblies, in-school presentations, or field trips. Some extracurricular activities and clubs will resume for students. We will begin introducing these in the coming weeks. As new information develops regarding these activities, we will be sure to communicate this with you.

**Please ensure that your child is prepared to learn outdoors as much as possible.** This means that our students should come to school prepared for all weather conditions. If it's raining at recess or during outdoor learning times, we are still going outdoors. Our youngest Tornados do such a great job at outdoor learning at

all times. The young students are outside learning during snow, rain, and poor weather conditions. They set such a great example for the rest of the school!

**Student belongings should all fit in one backpack.** We are trying to maintain as much distance between our students as possible. All student items will be at their desk/workspace. Indoor shoes are permitted. The following is a list of supplies that are recommended from the office. This list may be modified according to grade and teacher, and items will be discussed and communicated shortly by your child's teacher.

- Whiteboard marker
- Pencils
- Markers
- Pencil crayons/crayons
- Eraser
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Ruler
- Refillable water bottle (**New this year, each floor of the school now has a water bottle filling station installed.**)

Your child will not be permitted to share their items with a friend. Please ensure that everything is **LABELLED** and that all items fit in your child's backpack.

**We have heard that some families are thinking of sending hand sanitizer with their children.** Please know that this is not necessary as students will be supplied with hand sanitizer upon entrance to the classroom along with access to sanitizer throughout the school day in each classroom, and at each entrance to the school. If you do send sanitizer in with your child, please ensure that it is non-scented as we are a scent-free school. As well, students will be given opportunities throughout the school day to wash their hands with soap and water. .

**The gymnasium and library will be OPEN this year.** Each space will have one class permitted at a time. Your child(ren) will be participating in an outdoor physical education program, therefore, it is essential that they are dressed for all weather conditions.

Staff will ensure that distance is maintained and respected as much as possible in the classrooms and in the hallways. For example, directional arrows are on the floor in the hallways to assist students in identifying where to walk. We are working on various plans to limit students and staff in the hallways. Staff will be working with students to ensure that there is an understanding of the procedures. We have also designated specific entry/exit doors with staggered times. Staff will be reviewing this with classes on their first day of school.

During this school year we will continue to adjust to protocols within our community. Our outstanding staff, students, and families have previously demonstrated how well we can all come together to make the best of learning during the pandemic, and we know that your ability to adjust will ensure that the year will be a successful one. Your continued patience, flexibility and support are very much appreciated as we work through new processes for all our staff and students.

We will continue to send updates on Twitter (@TrilliumWoodsES) and on our school website (<http://trw.scdsb.on.ca/>). You can also visit the SCDSB website for board-wide updates [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca).

Sincerely,

Sean Ealey  
Principal

Sue Collingbourne  
Vice Principal