

# The Southwood Source



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

E.A. - F. Sami

JK/SK (EYB)- S. Tessier

ECE - A. Dinham

E.A. - A. Carter

Grade 1 (1A)- 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/S. Clark

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

DSW - T. Mickle

E.A. - A. Kaur

GAINS B - A. Bonadonna

DSW - A. Quinn

E.A. - A. Parent

GAINS C - S. Lysay

DSW - D. Branch

E.A. - V. Lopez

E.A. - M. Ashton

French - T. Laurendeau

French- S. Ruffolo

Prep Coverage - S. Drouillard

Gains Prep - A. Seibel

ESL Itinerant - B. Beneteau

Integration EA - A. Renaud

CYW - J. Glover

Day Custodian - G. McMullen

Afternoon Custodian - M. Roy

Clerk - A. Slade

Secretary - J. Millar

Vice Principal - T. Dugan

Principal - M. Lowes

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

Dear Southwood Families,

April is Earth Month and it will include a full solar eclipse which will occur on Monday, April 8, 2024. This phenomenon happens when the moon passes between the sun and earth, casting a shadow on the earth that blocks the sun's light in some areas. In Windsor-Essex County, we will experience some of the most intense effects of the eclipse between 1:57 p.m. and 3:17 p.m. Out of concern for student safety during that period of almost complete darkness, the Greater Essex County District School Board has decided to **dismiss all students at 1:00 p.m. on April 8th**. All after-school extracurricular activities will also be canceled that day. Buses will run at their regular times in the morning but, families will be required to make arrangements for their child to be picked up from school when they are dismissed at 1:00 p.m. **There will not be student transportation services at the end of the day.**

Here are a few resources which contain safety information that you can review and share with your children:

An [excellent resource from Prevent Blindness.org](#), a U.S. organization to help protect you and your children during the solar eclipse.

[This resource from the Canadian Association of Optometrists](#) offers some great tips on how to watch the eclipse safely.

Here is [another excellent resource from NASA](#) that describes the path of the eclipse, as well as additional details on safety.

Each year, great time and effort are made to determine the appropriate classroom placement for our students. Classroom placements are a school decision that is based on careful collaboration with our school team, including sending and receiving teachers. Considerations for classroom placements include classroom dynamics, specific grouping needs such as academic, behavioural, and social needs, student profiles, personalities, gender balance, and the availability of support services. We always keep in mind the learning needs of the child when determining class placement. With this said parents/guardians are invited to write a letter to our Principal, Mrs. Lowes, where there are specific requests regarding class placement based on what is best for a child's learning. While we cannot accept requests for specific teachers, we do try to grant requests based on our students' learning needs. **All requests must be made in writing, dated and signed, before May 10th, 2024.** If you have made the same request in a previous year and it is still relevant, please make the request again this year. Please note that all class placements are TENTATIVE until after the reorganization day in September.

As always, please feel free to email, message us on Edsby, or call the school if you have questions, concerns, suggestions, or compliments!

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!

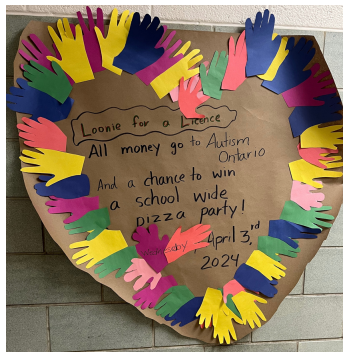


Promoting Spirit, Strength,  
Success and Kindness!



## World Autism Month

April is World Autism Month and April 2nd, is World Autism Day. This is a time where we come together to raise awareness about autism. This is meant to highlight the issues affecting people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families, educate the public on support services, and celebrate and destigmatize the perspectives of those living with ASD. Autism affects how the brain functions, and those on the Autism spectrum have unique strengths and differences in how they communicate, interact with others, and see the world. This month emphasizes the celebration of the diverse experiences of those living with ASD.



We continue to promote understanding, support, and inclusion for students living with ASD.

On April 5th, 2024 Southwood will raise funds for Autism Ontario by hosting a Loonie for License Day!

Students may bring in \$1.00 to participate in a class-approved license (e.g., wear a hat, bring a stuffie, wear pajamas, etc.).

Please see your child(ren)'s class Edsby page or agenda for options.



On March 21st, 2024, several Southwood Sabres received the opportunity to attend the Greater Essex County District School Board's "Celebrating Black Joy - Black Excellence Student Symposium".

The students who attended the symposium had the opportunity to hear a spoken artist Mbonisi Zikhali Zomkhonto as well as view a dance performance by Black Kids in Action. Student participants also attended breakout sessions featuring Black professionals to learn about their pathway and contributions to our community and their perspective on Black Joy - Black Excellence.

They heard Kianna Porter (Artist and Community Activist), Bobbi Day (Technical Trades and Community Activist) and Brandon McBride (Professional Athlete and Community Activist) speak. The students also had the opportunity to visit approximately 20 kiosks of community resources. Lastly, student participants also had the chance to listen and engage with a student panel of present and recent alumni.

It was a wonderful celebration of Black Joy & Excellence!

## School Advisory Council

School Advisory Council continues to welcome parents/guardians to join Southwood School's School Advisory Council. New SAC members are welcome to attend. Our next SAC Meeting is

**Thursday, April 4th at 5:30pm**

in the school library.

**SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCILS HAVE THREE MAIN GOALS:**



**We need your help!**

We are looking for: • **Bingo volunteers**

## Attendance

The school must follow a very strict protocol as established in the Ontario Safe Schools Act 2000, that requires us to attempt to make contact with parents/guardians of absent students.

**Please remember to enter your child's absence in Edsby or call the office to advise us of your child's absence.**

Alternatively, parents/guardians can also leave a note in their child's agenda the day before an absence. By working together, we ensure the safety of our children.



Please ensure that the school has at least **2 emergency contacts** for your child. If your information needs to be updated, please contact the office at **(519) 969-3470**.



# KINDNESS



This is a reminder that at Southwood Public School, we must be kind to everyone and accept one another in the ways we are different and the ways we are the same.

We do not say mean or hurtful things.

Discrimination, bullying, and hate of any kind have no place in our school.

If you feel hurt or need help or if you hear something that makes you or someone else feel bad at school, please tell an adult.

Students needing support can also call or message one of the helplines from the flyers providing Mental Health and Well-Being support that are located throughout the school.

At Southwood Public School, we are kind to one another; we are proud of one another; and we are here for one another. Remember that each of you is respected and welcome as you are, and we need you as you are. For more information about human rights, please visit the GECSB webpage: [publicboard.ca/humanrights](https://publicboard.ca/humanrights)



## Celebrate our Earth!

Founded in 1990, Earth Day Canada inspires people of all ages across the country to connect with nature and build resilient communities as well as foster an intrinsically motivated, enduring commitment to stewardship and conservation. <https://earthday.ca/about/>

**April is Earth Month.** Classes will be encouraged to create art, engage in a school yard clean up and wear green and enjoy our **Litterless Picnic on April 24th** to recognize Earth Day at Southwood!

## Ideas for your family to celebrate Earth Day!






















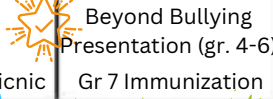






- **Help end plastic pollution.** Make a pledge to always carry a reusable shopping bag, use alternatives to Ziploc bags, buy in bulk, refuse to buy over packaged products and make litter-less lunches. Download your Plastic Pollution Primer to learn more about this problem help End Plastic Pollution! <https://www.earthday.org/yourjourney2018/>
- **Spend a day outside.** In the garden with your family, plant vegetables, trees or native flowers and attract native animals and pollinators. Or join a local community event to help clean your neighbourhood or restore local plant life.
- **Make commitments to cut down on your energy usage.** Turn lights off, power down electrical devices, turn down your thermostat and only do full loads of laundry and dishes.
- **Learn more about the environment and the effects of global warming.** Encourage awareness and promote the Reduce (buy less), Reuse (repurpose it) and Recycle (sort it right!) way of life.

Remember that every day is Earth Day! Don't restrict yourself to just one day a year. Make environmental actions and caring about the planet a habit - on Earth Day and every day!



# APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 	1 HAPPY Easter No School!	2   World Autism Day!	3  Earth Month Virtual Assembly	4  Pizza Day  MEETING School Advisory Council Meeting in library @ 5:30pm	5  Loonie for License Day	6
7	8 Solar Eclipse - School dismissal @ 1:00pm   Ramadan Ends! Eid al-Fitr!	9 	10  Popcorn Day  International Day of Pink	11  Pizza Day	12	13
14	15	16   Gr 8 Pizzeremo Pizza Fundraiser PICK-UP!	17  Popcorn Day	18  Pizza Day	19	20
21	22	23 	24  Popcorn Day  Litterless Picnic	25  Pizza Day  Beyond Bullying Presentation (gr. 4-6) Gr 7 Immunization	26 GAINS & Gr 8 Bowling Trip 	27
28	29	30 	1  Kindergarten registration continues	2 	3	4

## April is Sikh Heritage Month



In 2013, history was made with April proclaimed as Sikh Heritage Month by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario (Bill 52). The first of its kind in the world, Sikh Heritage Month is a celebration of arts, culture and heritage.

Since the arrival of the first Sikh immigrants in the late 19th century, this community has helped make Canada a more diverse and inclusive society. With more than 500,000 members of the Sikh community here in our country, Canada is the proud home to one of the largest Sikh diasporas in the world.

For more than 125 years, the Sikh community has made immense contributions to the social, economic, political and cultural fabric of our country. This month gives us the opportunity to celebrate these accomplishments and educate future generations about them.

The values of equality, humility, generosity and compassion are core principles of Sikhism. In fact, these values will be also highlighted during Vaisakhi later this month. We invite everyone to celebrate and learn about the culture and history of Sikh communities here in Canada throughout April and beyond.



Easter is one of the principal holidays of Christianity. For many Christian churches, Easter is the joyful end to the Lenten season of fasting and penitence. Canadians commonly refer to Easter as the period from Good Friday through Easter Monday. Good Friday and Easter Monday are statutory holidays in Canada. Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox, and thus takes place between 22 March and 25 April. For many Christians, the celebration of Easter is preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of penance that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Orthodox Christians in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East celebrate Easter later than most in the Western world. It's because they use a different calendar to work out what day Easter should fall on. Some of the symbols we associate with modern Easter have more to do with spring than with religion. Eggs, chicks, flowers and rabbits are all related to spring and to the renewal of life after winter.



THANK YOU OSNP!



Follow us on Twitter @SPSSabres



BLACK JOY BLACK EXCELLENCE

FLOOR HOCKEY CHAMPIONS!



GUEST TEACHER: MS. SHERI GAETZ TEACHES US ABOUT HOW OUR WORDS CAN HARM OTHERS




**WHAT IS PASSION?**  
 Passion is the long-term commitment to a goal or activity

**TIPS FOR DISCOVERING YOUR PASSION:**

- Trying New Things
- Reflecting on Activities Where You Lose Track of Time
- Considering What You Enjoy Learning About
- Reflect on what you loved doing as a child
- Be patient and persistent

**WHAT IS PERSEVERANCE?**  
 Perseverance is the continued effort and determination to achieve one's goals despite facing difficulties, obstacles, or delays.




LEARNING ABOUT GRIT FROM OLYMPIAN BRANDON MCBRIDE!



# Spotlight

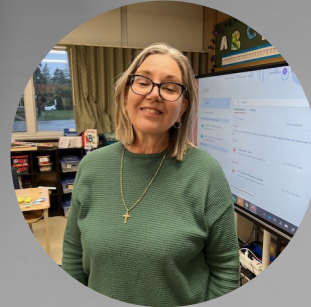
ON OUR GAINS TEAM!



**GAINS 1 - Teacher**  
**Mrs. McKane**



**GAINS 2 - Teacher**  
**Mrs. Bonadonna**



**GAINS 3 - Teacher**  
**Mrs. Lysay**



**GAINS Prep - Teacher**  
**Ms. Seibel**



**GAINS 1 - DSW**  
**Ms. Mickle**



**GAINS 2 - DSW**  
**Miss. Quinn**



**GAINS 3 - DSW**  
**Mrs. Branch**



**GAINS 1 - EA**  
**Mrs. Kaur**



**GAINS 2 - EA**  
**Mrs. Parent**



**GAINS 3 - EA**  
**Miss. Ashton**



**GAINS 3 - EA**  
**Mrs. Soufan**

This month, we put the spotlight on our GAINS Team! With boundless patience, empathy, and expertise, these dedicated educators create nurturing environments where every child feels valued and understood. They embrace the unique strengths and challenges of each student tailoring their teaching methods to ensure personalized support and meaningful progress.

These educators are masters of creating structured and predictable routines, providing the stability and security that children with special needs thrive upon. They employ innovative strategies and evidence-based interventions to foster communication skills, social interactions, and independence. Through creativity and compassion, they unlock the potential within each child, celebrating every milestone and breakthrough along the way. They are true champions of inclusion, empowerment, and possibility! #SABREPROUD!