

WELCOME BACK NOVEMBER 2023

SOUTH BRANCH



SCHOOL UPDATE

Fall has arrived and we are starting to see the need for hats and mitts to enjoy our outdoor time. We have several donated winter coats/snow pants. If your child is in need, please reach out to the office.

We want to let our South Branch families know that Mrs. Somerville has decided the time has come to take a step back from her full time role. She has accepted our half time office position. We are so happy to have her support continuing for our afternoons.

Progress Reports are coming home Friday, Nov. 15. We encourage you to continue to have on-going conversations with your child's teacher. Together, your child's teacher and you can find ways to ensure your child is growing in their learning. Please reach out directly to your child's teacher if you wish to set up a meeting to discuss your child's progress.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DROP OFF

School Supervision begins at **9:15 a.m.-9:25 a.m.** Student drop off cannot be prior to 9:15 a.m. to ensure student safety.

END OF DAY PICK UP

Please call the office by 2:00 p.m. if you are picking up your child at the end of the day. Pick up lists are distributed and we want to make sure our lists are accurate. This reduces interruptions to the classroom learning.

MIDDAY PICK UP

Once you are buzzed into the school, please report to the office and wait for your child to be brought down.

SAVE THE DATE- Winter Concert



Our Winter Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20th with a snow date of Thursday, December 21st.

There will be 2 performances of the same concert. The morning performance will start at 10:00 a.m. and the afternoon show will start at 1:00 p.m. In order to make this event run smoothly, we are asking parents to attend only the performance that has been designated for their child/children's last name A-L 10:00 a.m. and M-Z 1:00 p.m.



South Branch Elementary School - UCDSB



southbranch_ucdsb

SOUTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL WELLNESS PLAN

School Mental Health Of Ontario-

<https://smho-smso.ca/>

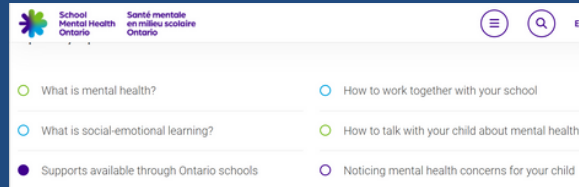
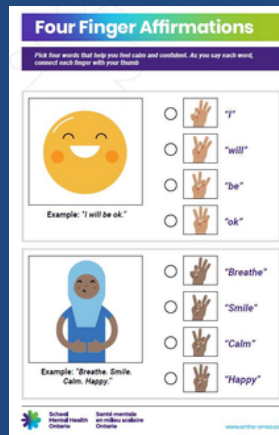


Our school is committed to ensuring that our students feel safe and included at school which we believe encourages regular attendance patterns and greater learning. Our goal aligns with the UCDSB Improvement and Equity Plan.

To support this goal, one of the resources we use is the School Mental Health Ontario. This website provides several strategies we can use with our students throughout the week to help reinforce mindfulness and calming.

This month we have been practicing 4 Finger Affirmations as a school in each of our classrooms to start each day.

Included within this website are a variety of resources to support parents. We encourage you to check it out.



SCHOOL TIMETABLE

9:25-11:55 Instruction Block 1

11:55-12:35 Break 1
(K-3 outside, 4-6 eat 20min)
(K-3 eat, 4-6 outside 20min)

12:35-1:55 Instruction Block 2

1:55-2:35 Break 2
(K-3 outside, 4-6 eat 20min)
(K-3 eat, 4-6 outside 20min)

2:35-3:40 Instruction Block 3

3:40-3:45 Dismissal



SCHOOL LITERACY & MATH

Our staff have been working hard this fall to complete a variety of reading and math assessments with our students. This information helps support the work we do each day to provide instruction for your child's learning.

This information may be communicated to you through your child's IEP, Progress Report, through teacher meetings, teacher communication or the activities we send home for practice.

We encourage you to look for ways to practice and play at home to reinforce the skills we are working on at school.



SOUTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY

My Family Room

Why Is There A Fee?

All payment processors (such as PayPal) charge fees of some nature for handling online payment transactions. In order to keep operating costs low, the UCDSB has decided to transfer this fee to parents as a 'convenience fee' for using the Online Payments service, which will help offset the costs that the UCDSB incurs for using PayPal to secure the payment transactions. We call them a "convenience fee" because a parent could say that the fee incurred for loading money into their MFR account and using the Online Payments service offsets the time saved in not having to write cheques, keep spare coin around, put money into ziploc baggies, and fill out paper forms.

Fee details are as follows: a charity rate of 1.6% + flat fee of \$0.30 per transaction are charged to parents.

Here's how the fees are structured currently:

- A parent must "Load Funds" to their MFR account first before they can pay for a school event. They can select any amount they wish and they pay less overall fees if they load more funds than they initially need (see table below). They are charged a fee for this transaction. (Note: we transparently display these fees to the parent).

Example:

Mr. Smith loads \$100 to his MFR account. **He is charged an additional \$1.93 for this transaction**

Over the next several months, the school offers a hot lunch program that costs \$65, a Christmas Wreath sale that costs \$20, and a field trip which costs \$10. Mr. Smith opts-in and pays for all three events, totaling \$95.00. **No fees are charged for any of these.** Mr. Smith is left with an account balance of \$5.00.

The school then offers another field trip with a \$10 entry fee. Mr. Smith does not have enough funds in his account so he must "Load Funds" again to top-up his MFR account. He loads \$50. **He is charged an additional \$1.12 fee for this transaction.**

Fee Table (to demonstrate how the overall fees are lower if you load more funds)

"Load Funds" Amount	Fee	% of "Load Funds" Amount
\$10	\$0.47	4.70%
\$20	\$0.63	3.15%
\$50	\$1.12	2.24%
\$100	\$1.93	1.93%
\$200	\$3.56	1.78%
\$500	\$8.43	1.69%



Your School Council leaders have reached out to our school and taken action to communicate with MFR Developers some MFR improvement ideas . Thanks to their efforts MFR is currently working on adding detailed itemized receipts so you can see exactly what was ordered, not just the amount charged.



SCHOOL COUNCIL
THURS. NOV 9
6:30-7:30P.M.

School Council

Our Voice counts....



Reaching the school council executive, committee leads, or directing inquiries from parents is simple too. All inquiries related to school council business can be sent to southbranchcouncil@gmail.com

Your executive includes:

Chair – Steve Ibbotson

Vice-chair – Laurel Cardy

Secretary – Serena Bobbitt

Treasurer – Ashley Beland

Please see attached SBSC Newsletter



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Our staff and students will be taking time on Friday, November 10 to commemorate Remembrance Day. Due to the limited space in the gym, we cannot accommodate any additional visitors or family members.

TIGER TRIBUTE

If you have a family member who has/is currently serving with the, Canadian Armed Forces, we would love to honour them during our Remembrance Slide Show presentation that will be shared with our students.

With their permission, we ask that you:

Please send a clear photo.jpg of the member in uniform to tanya.preston@ucdsb.ca

Include the name and title of the member

Include the name(s) of the South Branch student and relationship to the member being honoured (Grandfather of ____, Mother of __). **Photos must be to Mrs. Preston by Nov. 3.**