



Dear Tecumseh Families,

Greetings! So nice to see all our children, parents and our beloved teachers at drop-off and pick-up this week! It's in these brief moments that we find our grounding and community joy! Also, our absolute favorite time of year has come! There is so much beauty and love around, if you read February's calendar on pg 2-3 you'll agree it's packed with days that can be turned into instant mini-celebrations with your loved ones. Either you choose to celebrate the strength and resilience of black community through [Black History Month](#), wear [SWEATER DAY](#), [count Birds in your Backyard](#), order takeout for [Tibetan New Year](#) or [Chinese New Year](#), share beaming love on [V-day = WE Day](#), [wear PINK](#) to stand up for anti-bullying, or take steps towards Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve [Social Justice](#), it's ALL here for us to act on and get involved. Let's count our blessings and Be the Change WE want to See! Also coming up is the Virtual [Home & School Meeting on Monday, February 22 at 7PM](#). Link will be emailed close to date.

As a village, we hope to form a group of volunteers (possibly including you!) who continue to help those who are vulnerable with shopping and errands, or a simple phone call outreach to combat loneliness. The challenges of today leave many of us juggling to meet the needs of our children and other family members. If you, or someone you know in the Tecumseh community would benefit from more support, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here for you! We are aware that some families may feel awkward about asking for help, but all needs will be treated in the strictest of confidence. We're here to reassure you that you're not alone.

If you plan to spread the joy with gifts to friends & family, near and far, consider purchasing online through [FlipGive Tecumseh PS Firebirds](#) **Team reference TS27WJ**. Percentage of your purchases with the brands you already love, will go to support school initiatives. The fundraiser will continue through the end of the year.

If you would like to share a story, pictures, or have suggestions for topics for the next newsletter please email us. Till then please stay safe, be well, heart to heart.

Sincerely,

Asha Hodura and Sara Jane dela Torre, Co-Presidents,

On behalf of the Home & School Association Team at Tecumseh PS.



CALENDAR 2021

"Embracing our Differences". Our shared values define us more than our differences. Acknowledging those common values can see us through our challenges today as we work toward what needs to be done to reconcile that.

February

Monday 1 Return to school in-person learning TVDSB.

Tuesday 2 Groundhog Day

Wednesday 3 National Carrot Cake Day

Thursday 4 **NATIONAL SWEATER DAY + Eco School Points towards Certification**

- since 2010, more than a million Canadians have shown their support for limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by turning down their thermostats by the same amount (or more) and wearing their favourite sweaters to stay warm. National Sweater Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about climate change and energy conservation, and show how together – classroom by classroom, school by school, household by household– we can be a part of the solution. Make an impact beyond National Sweater Day by reflecting on personal carbon footprint and make personal commitments in your own lives to help keep climate change in check. Collectively, we can have a powerful impact. Take a picture in your sweater and send it to us!

Monday 8 Clean Out Your Computer Day

Tuesday 9 National No One Eats Alone Day

Thursday 11 National Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day

Friday 12

- Losar, the Tibetan Buddhist New Year, a time of renewal through sacred and secular practices. February 12-14
- Chinese New Year- Lunar New Year, one of the most sacred of all traditional Chinese holidays, a time of family reunion and celebration. The Lunar New Year is also celebrated at this time in Japan, Korea, Vietnam and Mongolia.

Tecumseh PS Home and School Association – February 2021

- Darwin Day <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/fun/darwin-day>

Sunday 14 Valentine's Day- typically associated with romantic love and celebrated by people expressing their love with flowers and gifts. Make it V day = WE Day!

Monday 15 Family Day

Tuesday 16 Carnival / Shrove Tuesday Shrove Tuesday, although named for its former religious significance, it is chiefly marked by feasting and celebration, which traditionally preceded the observance of the Lenten fast. It is observed by various Christian denominations.

Wednesday 17

- Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent on the Christian calendar.
- February 17 National Random Acts of Kindness Day

Saturday 20 - [World Day of Social Justice](#)

Monday FEB 22 Tecumseh Parent Engagement- links will be emailed closer to the date

- School Council Meeting @6:00PM
- Home & School Council @7PM.

Wednesday FEB 24 Pink Shirt Day will be recognized across Canada on February 24 this year. Wear pink on this day to stand up for anti-bullying, kindness, empathy and inclusion.

Friday 26

- Purim- a Jewish celebration that marks the time when the Jewish community living in Persia was saved from genocide. On Purim, Jewish people offer charity and share food with friends.
- Lantern Festival, the first significant feast after the Chinese New Year, named for watching Chinese lanterns illuminate the sky during the night of the event.

Saturday 27:

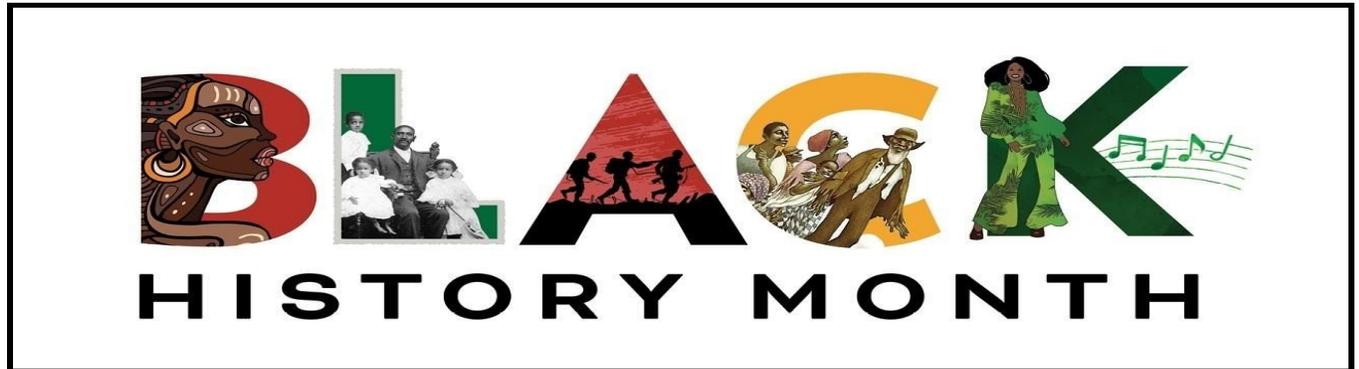
- Maghi-Purnima, a Hindu festival especially for worshippers of Lord Vishnu. Millions of devotees take a holy bath on this day. Devotees also carry out charity work on this day.



CELEBRATING THE STRENGTH & RESILIENCE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Explore the exciting event lineup through the London Public Library

<http://www.londonpubliclibrary.ca/black-history-month>



February is Black History Month in Canada and the US. Since 1976, the month has been designated to remember the contributions of people of the African diaspora.

Lovely short read aloud [Counting on Katherine](#) and Home Activity suggestion.

an inclusive activity for diverse learning

'Counting on Katherine'

subject: Art
Create a space ship of your own; can be by decorating a bottle or by using clay and starting from scratch!

subject: Drama
sit seat; after reading the story, children can ask and answer questions, acting as the characters.

subject: PDMU
Discuss what makes us different and what we like most about ourselves. Could be our talents, best subjects or where we come from.

subject: History
Pick a character from the story to research, emphasise that these were real people and create a poster stating all the workings of their lives and what they achieved. History of Racism in America; discuss figures like Martin Luther King and how they helped abolish slavery in America.
Discuss: How can we show diversity and inclusion today?

subject: Literacy
Diary entry of Katherine on a day she faced Racism or segregation.
Write a News Article of the day the Astronauts reached the moon.

The book cover for 'Counting on Katherine' features a young girl with dark hair, wearing a red jacket and a yellow skirt, standing on a small wooden stool. She is holding a book. The background is a dark blue space with stars and a large white circle representing the moon. The title 'Counting on KATHERINE' is written in a stylized font, with '50' in a gold circle next to it. Below the title, it says 'How KATHERINE JOHNSON PUT US ON THE MOON'. At the bottom, the author's name 'HELAINE BECKER' and the illustrator's name 'Illustrated by DOW PHUMIRUK' are visible.



Help them de-stress, reset, and re-center 52 Sensory Play-Based Brain Breaks for Kids and You!

For many kids and parents, this school year has been chaotic. Whether they've been learning in a classroom, or at home and Zooming, it's a lot for many children to adjust to.

With change often comes stress, which can manifest as trouble sleeping, outbursts, picky eating, and a wide range of other behaviours.

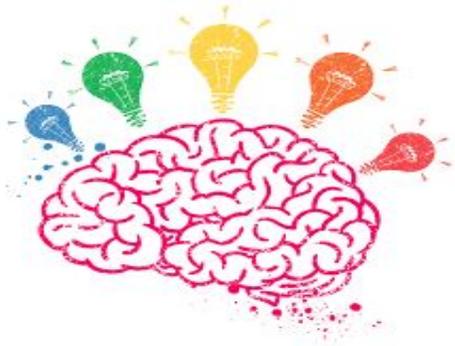
One of the best ways to help our kids is to get them back into play. It allows them to work through stress, get out of their minds, and even solidify what they learn.

What are sensory activities? They can be broken up into categories, like tactile (finger paint), visual (read I Spy books), auditory (sing), body awareness (throw a ball), olfactory (bake cookies), and more.

[See All 52 Simple Sensory Activities](#)



Also <https://www.anxietycanada.com/free-downloadable-pdf-resources/>



Interesting stories on learning and STEM education

STEM and Science Education Updates

Share these headlines with your little ones to encourage their interest in Science

1. Did the Earth really spin faster in 2020?

Last year was certainly a whirlwind for many of us, but did the Earth actually spin faster? Many scientists agree that Earth has never revolved as fast as it did in 2020.

[Read more.](#)

2. STEM's post-COVID moment

The importance of teaching children about STEM has been something we've obviously agreed with for a while now. Has COVID finally forced the rest of the world to catch up?

[Read more.](#)

3. Can you stand on the surface of Jupiter?

Gas giant planets can be confusing. Are they solid, like Earth, or just spinning balls of gas? If you could ignore all the extreme conditions of gravity, temperature, and atmosphere, could you actually stand on Jupiter's surface?

[Read more.](#)

**You can view this Newsletter and find other information on the [Tecumseh PS website](#).
Enjoy winter indoor and outdoors! Look at the Stars...See How they Shine for You..!**