
Director's Blog: Perspectives Along the Path of Learning
~ *By Kathi Wallace, Director of Education, SCDSB*



I am honoured to serve Simcoe County's public education system as Director of Education. Our dynamic learning and teaching community has been an integral part of my life journey, both as a student and as an educator. Thank you for letting me share my thoughts and ideas with you. Feedback is welcome through the email address: webadmin@scdsb.on.ca (While I won't be able to respond to all comments, I will read every one of them.)

A Time to Remember

It's hard to believe it is almost the middle of November. The school year is moving along so quickly! I have visited many schools this fall, and I have seen so many amazing achievements and initiatives. I very much appreciate your wonderful work.

Remembrance Day

Today we honour the brave men and women who have courageously stood up for freedom and peace. Schools across our board are hosting special Remembrance Day events, and staff at the Education Centre will also be participating in the national observance of silence. I hope everyone has an opportunity to take a moment to recognize this important day.



Rogers TV created an award-winning documentary which features students from Eastview Secondary School as they toured Canadian battlefields and participated in the Dutch liberation anniversary ceremonies. "*Through Their Eyes*" follows these students walking the ground their grandfathers and great grandfathers fought over at Vimy, Ypres, the Somme, and Normandy, as well as the liberation anniversary ceremonies in the Netherlands. You can watch this documentary at this link: http://contests.rtdna.org/entries/public_view/3803

Working together to end bullying

Our schools have numerous exciting initiatives in place to deter bullying. November 13 to 19, 2011, has been designated by the Ontario government as [Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week](#). This is a good time for staff and students to be reminded of the many of the great resources available about bullying prevention. Here are just a few:

- Ministry of Education – Preventing Bullying and Harassment:
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/bullying.html
- Bullying: We Can All Help Stop it – A guide for parents of elementary and secondary school students
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/bullying.html>
- SCDSB's Parent e-Bulletin, *Bringing School Home*:
<http://scdsb.on.ca/media/files/parent-corner/parent-ebulletin/Parent%20eBulletin%20May%202011.pdf>
- Bullying Awareness Week website:
<http://www.bullyingawarenessweek.org/>
- Bullying.org: www.bullying.org

We will continue to work together in our communities to put an end to bullying.

Premier's Safe School Awards Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2011-2012 Premier's Safe Schools Awards. This award recognizes schools for their initiative, creativity and leadership in promoting a safe and inclusive school climate. For more information or to nominate a school, visit <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/award.html>

All the best,

Kathi Wallace
Director of Education