

Parent eBulletin – *Bringing School Home* Winter 2009/2010 edition



The Simcoe County District School Board produces this e-bulletin to help parents support children on their journey of lifelong learning. We know positive connections between home and school support student achievement. In each edition you'll find practical tips and strategies to help your child achieve success in those important years of learning from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Bringing School Home is available through the Simcoe County District School Board website (www.scdsb.on.ca). As well, parents, guardians and other interested members of our school communities may [subscribe](#) through our website and have the bulletin e-mailed directly to their e-mail accounts (readers may also unsubscribe at any time). Please send your comments and feedback to: webadmin@scdsb.on.ca.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

What information will I find on the Simcoe County District School Board's public website?

The Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) public website (www.scdsb.on.ca) contains a wealth of information for students, parents, staff and community members. The site features 155 main web pages, along with an additional 500 pages featuring media releases and individual school listings, and over 1500 documents. Here is a website overview to help you become familiar with www.scdsb.on.ca.

Homepage

The website's [main page](#) welcomes you to the SCDSB. Important and relevant links, bus cancellations, recent news releases, and emergency messages are some of the items that are posted on the home page.

About Us

The '[About Us](#)' section of the SCDSB website contains general information about Simcoe County's public school board. [Departments](#) and [contact information](#) are listed. This area also includes [SCDSB Careers](#), [SCDSB publications](#), [News & Events](#) (media releases and board meeting decision updates), [Capital Planning](#) items, and [Access & Privacy](#) information.



Board Highlights

This section contains information about [Trustees](#) and [Board/Committee](#) meetings. Each Committee's mandate is described, and there is a [calendar](#) that lists Board meetings, along with agendas and reports which are posted in advance of each meeting. [Procedures, policies, by-laws](#) and [financial information](#) are also located in this section.

Schools

The '[Schools](#)' section of the website helps you find information about SCDSB schools. You can search for schools by using the [School Search](#) tool, or by viewing the [Elementary](#) or [Secondary](#) School directories. Information on PA Days, March Break and other important dates can be found in the [School Calendars](#) section. Other sections of interest here include: [EQAO](#), [Student Transportation](#) (including [inclement weather zone information](#)), [Families of Schools](#), and the [Newcomer Welcome Centre](#).

Student Street

This section of the website highlights areas of interest to students, such as the Student Success programs the SCDSB offers: [Specialist High Skills Majors](#), [Dual Credits](#), [Co-op and Experiential Learning](#), and the [Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program](#) (OYAP). There are also links to help secondary students with their [course selections](#), and [guidance and career education](#) to help them explore [post-secondary destinations](#). The [Elementary Athletics](#) program information and other links of interest are included in this section.



Parents' Corner

'Parents' Corner' is a great source of information for parents and guardians of children in the SCDSB system. Key sections within this area of the website include: [Safe & Healthy Schools](#), [Kindergarten](#) (take a look at our [new Kindergarten video!](#)), [School Councils](#), [Parent Resources](#), [Parent e-Bulletin](#), [Emergency Info Hotline](#), and [General Notices](#).

Programs & Services

This section of the SCDSB website outlines the various programs that are offered in schools, including [Special Education](#), [Literacy initiatives](#), the [Extended French](#) program, [Aboriginal Education](#), [Learning Assessment](#), [Environmental Initiatives & Programs](#), and [Summer School](#).

Mark Your Calendars!

The **2nd Annual Circle of Learning Conference for Parents** is scheduled to take place at the SCDSB Education Centre on **Saturday, April 17, 2010**. The SCDSB Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is currently planning the event. The PIC will post details about workshops and registration on the following web page as soon as they are finalized: <http://scdsb.on.ca/parents-corner/circle-of-learning-conference-2010/>. This **FREE** event features workshops, keynote presentations, lunch, and much more!



LINKS

We invite you to visit www.scdsb.on.ca often for news, facts, school information, Board highlights and hundreds of other pages about Simcoe County's public education system. This month we are featuring our recently released [SCDSB Annual Report 2008-2009](#), entitled "Sharpening the Focus

in Learning, Teaching and Leading."

Our Internet surfing this month leads to three resources that are websites that are linked from www.scdsb.on.ca:

- **The Learning Centres**

www.thelearningcentres.com

More than 20,000 adults a year access SCDSB programs in lifelong learning. Our Learning Centres offer customized classes and flexible learning and teaching environments that are geared to the needs of the adult learner. The Learning Centres also offers a Driver Education Program, an International Language Program for students, as well as free Parenting courses.

- **Dual Credits - Central Lakes Regional Planning Team**

<http://www.centrallakes.ca/>

The Central Lakes Regional Planning Team is a partnership designed to increase connections and understanding between college and secondary school communities in Simcoe County, Muskoka and Grey Bruce.

- **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)**

<http://www.oyap.com/index.cfm?SchoolBoardID=54>

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) is a School to Work program that opens the door for students to explore and work in apprenticeship occupations starting in Grade 11 or Grade 12 through the Cooperative Education program.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We are well positioned for our journey forward along the Simcoe path to success for all students. Happy travels!"

~ Kathryn Wallace, Director of Education, SCDSB

About the SCDSB

The Simcoe County District School Board is deeply committed to ensuring all learners have the opportunity to realize their dreams within a vibrant and successful public education system. We are very proud of our 50,000 students who are learning and achieving in more than 100 schools and seven adult learning centres throughout our urban and rural communities. Working with school communities, our dedicated and skilled staff members provide quality programs to help students develop lifelong learning skills in safe, caring environments. Our schools are located in the Huronia and Georgian Bay regions of south-central Ontario.