



# REPORT TO THE **COMMUNITY** 2010-2011



**Simcoe County**  
*District School Board*



## Chair's Message

The 2010-2011 school year was a wonderful year of progress at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB)! As you turn the pages of our 2010-2011 Report to the Community, you will read about:

- the work our professional and committed staff accomplishes to advance student achievement and help every student reach their full potential
- how the SCDSB creates dynamic and safe learning and teaching environments, and nurtures character and leadership development for all staff and students
- the many innovative advances we have made with First Nation, Métis and Inuit education programming

- how Simcoe County's public education system is working with community partners on behalf of students and giving back to the region
- how the SCDSB's 2011-2012 budget was developed with a focus on strong, purposeful financial management to ensure the appropriate supports are in our classrooms
- the multitude of amazing accomplishments of our students and staff

This report provides only the highlights. So many successes, achievements and advancements take place throughout the school year through the efforts of dedicated staff, students, parents, volunteers and members of the public who make up our school communities. So, to all of you, I thank you on behalf of the SCDSB Board of Trustees for your commitment to public education in Simcoe County.

**Debra Edwards**  
Chairperson of the Board



## Director's Message

Welcome to the SCDSB's 2010-2011 Report to the Community. We are delighted to highlight and communicate the outstanding achievements of our staff and students, and provide an outline of accomplishments the SCDSB has made in key areas such as programming, facilities, business and human resources during the past year.

We made the decision to publish a Report to the Community in September because we feel it is important to communicate the wonderful successes that occur at the SCDSB as soon as possible after the conclusion of the school year. This publication will also be linked with annual reporting data which is mandated by the Ministry of Education. As much of the required annual reporting data

is not available until late in the calendar year, the Annual Report must now be released at the end of December, well after the conclusion of the previous school year. In order to meet both needs, we created this Report to the Community for an earlier release and will publish the connecting Annual Report during the 2011-2012 school year.

I hope you enjoy reviewing this new SCDSB publication and reading about how we are reaching our goals for public education, with a key focus on student achievement, well-being and learning for life. These pages are packed with a wealth of information about how we are implementing our multi-year plan, The Simcoe Path, and about what has been happening at your local public elementary and secondary schools, learning centres and SCDSB facilities throughout the past school year. Together, our trustees, staff, students, families and community members are building strong futures.

**Kathryn Wallace**  
Director of Education

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## About the SCDSB

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is one of Ontario's largest public education systems. It covers 4,800 square kilometres in central Ontario. During the 2010-2011 school year, the SCDSB had 88 elementary schools, 16 secondary schools and seven learning centres with more than 6,000 employees and nearly 50,000 students.

The number one priority for our dedicated and skilled team of teaching, administrative and support staff is to help all students learn, achieve success, reach their full potential and continue along a path of lifelong learning.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Simcoe County District School Board, serving diverse growing urban and rural communities in the Huronia and Georgian Bay region, is to ensure students reach their full potential to become responsible and contributing members of an ever-changing global society through quality programs which develop the skills of lifelong learning in a safe, caring environment enhanced by community support.

## Trustees 2010-2014

Adjala-Tosorontio & Essa: **Robert North**

Barrie, Wards 1, 2, 3: **Suzanne Ley**

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Barrie, Wards 7, 8, 9, 10: **Christine Williams**  
Collingwood and Clearview: **Caroline Smith**

First Nations Representation: **Jeff Monague**  
Innisfil: **Donna Armstrong**

Midland, Penetanguishene, Wasaga Beach, & Tiny: **Michele Locke**

New Tecumseth & Bradford West Gwillimbury: **Nicole Black**

Orillia: **Debra Edwards**, Chairperson (2011)

Oro-Medonte & Springwater: **Peter Beacock**  
Severn, Ramara and Tay: **Jodi Lloyd**

## Trustees 2006-2010

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Oro-Medonte & Springwater: **Peter Beacock**  
Severn, Ramara and Tay: **Jodi Lloyd**

## Student Trustees 2010-2011

**Melissa Knowlton**, Banting Memorial High School

**Matt Stergiou**, Bradford District High School

**Molly McFarlane**, Orillia District Collegiate Vocational Institute

## Senior Administrative Team 2010-2011 (to July 2011)

Director of Education: **Kathryn Wallace**

Associate Director: **Carol McAulay**  
(to February 2011)

Associate Director (as of February 2011)/  
Superintendent of Human Resource Services  
and Organizational Development:  
**Janis Medysky**

Superintendents of Education:

Area 1: **Anita Simpson**

Area 2: **Stephen Blake**

Area 3A: **Kathy Bailey**

Area 3B: **Phyllis Hili**

Area 4: **Paula Murphy**

Area 5: **John Dance**

Area 6: **Paul Sloan**



# Supporting Student Achievement



## Multi-Year Plan Sets Priorities

The Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) Multi-Year Plan, *The Simcoe Path*, was approved by trustees on September 15, 2010. This plan sets out the SCDSB's priorities for the next three to four years. Developed with input from trustees, staff, parents, community members and students, the goals and directions listed in the plan reflect key areas relating to increased student achievement and increased parental and community engagement. The plan also outlines processes and procedures to ensure outstanding services to support learning.

The tagline to *The Simcoe Path*, *Your Future... Our Priority*, embodies the core student-centred purposes of the plan: to deliver exceptional public education services to Simcoe County's students and to support Simcoe County's students in achieving their highest potential.

The goals and directions of the multi-year plan are supported through a series of action plans which outline specific strategies to meet these goals. These action plans, developed during the 2010-2011 school year, were presented to the Board of Trustees.

 = These plans can be viewed on the SCDSB's website at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)

## Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being

Every school year, a plan is developed to help guide educators and administrators along the path to success for all students. This plan is called the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being (BIPSA-W). It sets out clear strategies which align with the goals and directions set out in *The Simcoe Path*.

The 2011-2012 BIPSA-W was shared with trustees in June 2011 and, as in 2010-2011, it focuses on four main areas:

- literacy
- numeracy
- programs and pathways
- community, culture and caring

The focus of the *literacy* and *numeracy* goals and strategies has been sharpened based on the assessment completed in the 2009-2010 school year and updated in 2011. These goals set out expected knowledge and skills of students from Kindergarten through to Grade 12.

The *programs and pathways* goal is intended to ensure that programs, learning

pathways and career planning meet the needs and interests of all students.

The *community, culture and caring* goal aims to ensure that students see themselves reflected in the curriculum, program and culture of their school. This goal emphasizes the need for the school, home, and community to work together to support students.

The 2011-2012 plan includes three additional goals that strengthen our work to support student achievement and well-being in all areas:

- reaching every student
- close the gap
- assessment

The first focuses on "*reaching every student*" by ensuring that instruction and assessments respond to the unique needs of each learner.

The "*close the gap*" goal focuses on making equity and inclusiveness in education a priority, by ensuring that achievement trends for specific student groups are monitored at the classroom, school and board levels.

The "*assessment*" goal focuses on ensuring that all students participate in instruction that is informed by assessment results and that students receive feedback that will help them improve their learning.

# Supporting Student Achievement

The SCDSB regularly monitors and evaluates the impact that initiatives have on student achievement. The goals set out in the BIPSA-W are designed as 'SMART' goals: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-based, and Time-bound. SMART goals make sure practices have the greatest potential to improve student achievement, reach equitable outcomes and strengthen teaching, learning and instructional leadership.

 = The 2011-2012 BIPSA-W can be found online at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)

## SCDSB Students Achieve Substantial Gains in EQAO Results

Every school in Ontario participates in the provincial assessment tests created and evaluated by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). The EQAO tests are done in Grades 3 and 6 with a focus on math, reading and writing, and in Grade 9 with a focus on math. In Grade 10, students take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), which students need to complete successfully in order to graduate. Students who are not successful on this test may take it the next school year or fulfill the requirement by successfully completing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.

The results of the Grade 3, 6 and 9 EQAO tests from the 2009-2010 school year were released in September 2010. These results indicate that students in the SCDSB achieved substantial gains in nearly all areas. In order to see a better picture of student achievement gains, the five-year trend is included in the results. The 2010-2011 results will be available in September 2011. Result information will be posted on [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca).

### SCDSB EQAO test results (percentage achieving at or above provincial standard) and five-year trends:

#### Grade 3

**Reading 09-10: 65%**

(Change from 05-06: +8%)

**Writing 09-10: 67%**

(Change from 05-06: +14%)

**Mathematics 09-10: 69%**

(Change from 05-06: +7%)

#### Grade 6

**Reading 09-10: 73%**

(Change from 05-06: +14%)

**Writing 09-10: 63%**

(Change from 05-06: +10%)

**Mathematics 09-10: 55%**

(Change from 05-06: +2%)

#### Grade 9

**Academic Mathematics 09-10: 80%**

(Increase from 05-06: +17%)

**Applied Mathematics 09-10: 44%**

(Increase from 05-06: +12%)

The OSSLT was written in March by more than 3,800 Grade 10 students in the SCDSB and the results were released in June. The results showed that 80% of Grade 10 students were successful. This success rate is consistent with achievement levels in 2007, 2008 and 2009, and, like the 2011 provincial average, slightly lower than the success rate in 2010.

## Full Day Kindergarten Rolls Out in the SCDSB

The 2010-2011 school year marked the first phase of the provincial rollout of Full Day Kindergarten (FDK). This program offers full day, every day learning for four- and five-year olds. In this first phase, the SCDSB offered the program at 16 elementary schools with more than 800 students enrolled. Each class was supported by one teacher and one early childhood educator. Teachers and early childhood educators worked together to provide learning opportunities and offer support to our students.

The rollout phases for the SCDSB have been approved by the Ministry of Education as follows:

2010-2011 – 16 schools

2011-2012 – 4 schools

2012-2013 – 24 schools

2013-2014 – 22 schools

2014-2015 – 19 schools

 = To view the list of schools per year, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)

In February 2011, Minister of Education Leona Dombrowsky visited Codrington Public School to see a Full Day Kindergarten classroom in action and meet with students, staff and parents.

## Students Earn 8,000+ Credits Through Adult & Continuing Education

The Adult & Continuing Education department supports *The Simcoe Path* multi-year plan, and the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being, through its many programs and services. During the 2010-2011 school year, more than 610 adults graduated with their secondary school diploma. In addition, department programs and services helped students earn over 8,000 credits through night school, summer school, correspondence and adult day school programs.

## International Language Program Expanded

The SCDSB offers free International Language classes to students from Grade 1 to Grade 8 through the Learning Centres. During the 2010-2011 school year, classes for Spanish and Punjabi were added at the Bradford Learning Centre. In addition, the Learning Centres started to offer Adult English Language classes at the same time and location as the International Language classes for children. This initiative supports parents who need to develop their English skills and require child care in order to take part in the program.

## Welcoming Newcomers to the SCDSB

The Newcomer Welcome Centre continues to provide support for families and their children who are new to Canada. Since opening in 2007, more than 700 new Canadians have been welcomed to the SCDSB. In 2010, the Centre partnered with the Newcomer Settlement Services Mobile Unit from Newmarket, which provides newcomer families with access to settlement services. The Centre also partnered with the Barrie Career Centre and Bradford Immigrant Settlement Services to host a Newcomer Parent Information Night.



# Supporting Student Achievement



## Right Turn Program

The Right Turn Program offers academic and non-academic support to students on suspension or who have been expelled. The Right Turn teachers and the Student Success school team work closely with students to support academic achievement, student well-being and personal development.

## Strengthening Students' Literacy Skills in the Summer

In the summer of 2010 and 2011, SCDSB students entering Grades 2 and 3 who would benefit from additional support took part in Summer Literacy Learning programs. The two-week programs supported the SCDSB's ongoing focus on improved student achievement in literacy and built on what was learned during the school year. The lessons focused on strengthening the students' literacy skills before returning to school in the fall. The lessons also included recreational activities such as dance, music, art, games, physical activity and cooking.

## Helping Students Find Pathways to Success

The SCDSB Student Success department focuses on helping students find effective pathways to success. The programs and services of the department support student credit accumulation, increased graduation rates and targeted academic support. During the 2010-2011 school year, the SCDSB Student Success team continued to build on many

innovative programs that allowed students to customize their school experience around learning in a way that was relevant to them.

### These programs include:

*Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)* – SHSM are a bundle of credits, experiences and certifications that focus on one sector within a specific career area. The SCDSB currently offers 39 SHSM programs in a wide range of sectors. Approved in the 2011-2012 school year, Stayner Collegiate Institute will now offer a SHSM in the Environment sector and Midland Secondary School will offer an Information, Communications & Technology SHSM program.

*Dual Credits* – Dual Credits give secondary students an opportunity to experience college and gain credits in both secondary school and college at the same time. Students take a college credit course taught by a college faculty member. When the student successfully meets the requirements to pass, they are given credit at secondary school and are issued a college transcript. The course will be recognized at college if they choose to attend a program for which the course is a requirement, and counts towards their secondary school diploma.

*Experiential Education* – Experiential learning opportunities provide real-life work experiences for students in the community. There are four main types of experiential learning programs in SCDSB schools: cooperative education, job shadowing, job twinning and work experience.

## Using Information and Communication Technology to Improve Student Achievement

During the 2010-2011 school year, the SCDSB continued to follow the direction laid out in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategic Plan. This plan focuses on the need to use technology effectively to help improve student achievement for all students in the SCDSB. An action plan was developed to link the use of technology to improved student achievement through a number of strategies. These strategies were put in place during the 2010-2011 school year.

Part of the ICT Strategic Plan ensures that classroom instruction includes details about how to access resources, connect with others, and create e-communities to promote digital literacy. Students also learn about the ethical, legal and safety issues involved with the use of information technologies.

### ICT highlights during the 2010-2011 school year include:

- Implementation of teaching notebook computers for all teachers in five families of schools
- Training in the taking of attendance using computers
- Professional development in the use of software available
- Introduction to video streaming
- Installation of LCD projectors - one for every four rooms in the five families of schools with notebook computers
- Establishment of Advanced Broadband Enabled Learning (ABEL) accounts for all teachers in the SCDSB
- Training on the effective use of collaboration tools within this environment
- Introduction of the Guest Wireless system across the SCDSB allowing the use of non-Board devices in all schools by staff and students
- Investigation of digital text resources and implementation of other technology enabled initiatives (e-learning and video streaming)

# Creating Outstanding Learning Environments

## Creating Safe and Caring Schools

Four major initiatives to help support *The Simcoe Path* goal of “Inclusive, equitable and safe learning and working environments” took place during the 2010-2011 school year: Exploring Student Leadership courses, Bridges Out of Poverty training for administrators and school staff, school and board Character Education programs, and the implementation of the 2011 School Climate Survey with students in Grades 4 to 12. These school and board strategies were designed so that students could see themselves reflected in the culture of their schools.

## Exploring Student Leadership

In 2010, the Exploring Student Leadership program was created by teachers and vice-principals to promote student leadership and character education. A four-day leadership training and character development opportunity was created with the focus on equipping and empowering students and teachers with the skills and motivation to advance positive changes within their schools. This initiative was designed to promote inclusive, supportive school climates where all students feel safe and valued. Two sessions of Exploring Student Leadership have been offered at the Ontario Education Leadership Centre with 56 SCDSB elementary schools and 11 SCDSB secondary schools participating. In the next two years, the goal is to have every SCDSB school supported through this leadership training experience to help foster greater student leadership and increased positive school cultures in the board.

## Bridges Out of Poverty

In 2008, the SCDSB Adult & Continuing Education department centered their professional development on meeting the needs of their Adult Day School student population, which was largely comprised of students living in poverty (working poor, in receipt of social assistance or employment insurance). Dr. Ruby Payne’s work, *Bridges Out of Poverty* and *Under Resourced Learner* were excellent resources. Her model provided a broad base for training those who support people moving out of poverty. Its great

strength lies in the concept of building relationships between people of different economic classes.

To better support teaching and learning with poverty in mind, four members of the Continuing Education staff became certified trainers in Bridges Out of Poverty and, as a result, have the license to deliver workshops to all SCDSB staff.

### During the 2010-2011 school year, Bridges Out of Poverty initiatives included:

- Creating a partnership with the County of Simcoe’s Social and Community Services department
- Receiving endorsement of the initiative from the Child, Youth and Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County
- Hosting guest speaker Gayle Montgomery, Certified Bridges Trainer and Ontario Works Manager for Lambton Kent County, in May, for 200 coalition members and service providers
- Presenting the Bridges Overview to all 9 COMPASS (Community Partners with Schools) groups in the county
- Delivering the Bridges Workshop to all SCDSB principals and a teacher from every school, and to staff in the Student Success, Instructional Services, Right

Turn, and First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education departments

## Character Education

Character Education is supported through many grassroots initiatives in our schools on a daily basis, from connections with global and community agencies to monthly Character Recognition assemblies for students, staff and volunteers. SCDSB schools have embraced the involvement of the 10 Character Education attributes – integrity, responsibility, cooperation, empathy, optimism, respect, honesty, caring, inclusiveness and courage.

In May 2011, the fourth annual Character Recognition Evening formally recognized and celebrated 100 of our students, employees and community volunteers who had been recommended by their peers and colleagues for outstanding demonstrations of our Board’s Commit to Character attributes. The evening was a student-centred celebration with a team of students providing the music, food and entertainment as well as leading the evening program.

## 2011 School Climate Survey

One of the SCDSB goals in the BIPSA-W is to provide a safe, supportive learning environment that supports all students in





# Creating Outstanding Learning Environments

being successful. From late March to May, students in Grades 4 to 12 completed an anonymous online survey on how they feel about their school. Modified and assistive technology versions of the survey were provided to ensure that students with special education needs could participate.

This survey provided students with the opportunity to say what is great about their school as well as express their concerns. Similar to the 2007 and 2009 surveys, the questions covered a range of topics including:

- the overall tone of the school, often referred to as school climate
- perceptions of peers in terms of the Board's 10 character traits
- involvement in extracurricular activities and academic achievement
- experiences of school safety and bullying

In addition to these topics, the 2011 survey included three questions to assist the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit in their Healthy Schools Initiative. These questions asked students to identify the best thing about their school and the top issues in their school. A summary of the results on these three

questions has been shared with the Health Unit to assist them in planning the programs they provide in SCDSB schools.

The survey results provide valuable feedback to staff about students' experiences at school and help schools to develop and update their Safe Schools Plans. SCDSB Research and Evaluation Services will give each school a highlights report in the fall of 2011 to support schools' planning. In addition, Research staff will share key trends with the teams responsible for Character Education, Safe Schools, Restorative Justice and Equity and Inclusive Education to monitor the impact of initiatives related to safe and supportive learning environments.

## New Teacher Induction Program Supports Growth and PD

The New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) was designed in 2005 by the Ministry of Education to support the growth and professional development of new teachers. The NTIP supports Year 1 and Year 2 contract teachers as well as Long Term Occasional (LTO) teachers who are in their first teaching placement of 97 or more days. In the 2010-

2011 school year, NTIP supported over 200 new teachers and their 100 mentors in both elementary and secondary schools in the SCDSB through various professional learning opportunities. During the year, a total of 35 teachers successfully completed the requirements of the NTIP and received the NTIP notation on their Ontario College of Teachers teaching record.

## Students SpeakUp

During the 2010-2011 school year, SCDSB students received more than \$24,000 in Ministry of Education grants to help them take a more of a hands-on approach to their education. The funding was provided to support 35 SCDSB student-led projects through the provincial Student Voice/SpeakUp initiative. The SpeakUp program is designed to provide students with more avenues to connect what is happening in the classroom and school to real-life experiences. Students work with a team, including a teacher facilitator, to submit the grant application to the Ministry of Education. Students lead the approved project through to completion with the project team.





# Creating Outstanding Learning Environments



## Some SCDSB SpeakUp projects include:

- Anti-bullying campaigns
- Global Action clubs
- Leadership initiatives
- Self-esteem projects
- Stress relief for students

## Every SCDSB School Has a Defibrillator

The SCDSB reached a major milestone during the 2010-2011 school year with its Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) program. Every single one of Simcoe County's public elementary and secondary schools is now equipped with a defibrillator, and staff are trained in the use of this life-saving device. The SCDSB and the County of Simcoe Paramedic Services began implementing the PAD program at public elementary and secondary schools in 2008. The County of Simcoe Paramedic Services developed and launched the program in 2005, and partnered with the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Chase McEachern Tribute Fund in 2006.

## SCDSB EcoSchools Earn Gold & Silver

During the past year, eight SCDSB schools were recognized by the Ontario EcoSchool program with top awards for their environmental initiatives. Ontario EcoSchools is an education program for Grades 1 to 12

that helps students develop environmental awareness while engaging in practices to become environmentally responsible citizens. Certification recognizes a school for its annual achievement in four key areas: energy conservation, waste minimization, ecological literacy and school ground greening. There are three levels of certification – gold, silver and bronze – which are assigned based on the number of requirements met.

## SCDSB schools recognized in 2011 are:

- Hillsdale ES – Gold (second consecutive year receiving this certification)
- Maple Grove PS – Silver
- Nantyr Shores SS – Silver
- Rama Central PS – Silver
- Sir William Osler PS – Silver
- Terry Fox ES – Gold (third consecutive year receiving this certification)
- Tottenham PS – Silver
- Wyevale Central PS – Gold

## SCDSB Builds Environmentally-Friendly Systems

While preparing students for their futures, the SCDSB is also taking steps to ensure that the future is greener for generations to come. With \$1.6 million in provincial funding, the SCDSB built solar electric and ground source heating and cooling systems at two of its schools.

The SCDSB installed a ground source heating and cooling (geothermal) system at Guthrie Public School, and solar electric, solar hot water, and geothermal systems at Nottawasaga Pines Secondary School, opening in September 2011 in Essa Township.

Renewable energy initiatives enable schools to create cleaner sources of power for their own use as well as generate revenue for the school board to invest in its students. Efforts to build renewable energy systems also create valuable opportunities for students to learn science and math lessons through real life experiences.

Using renewable energy helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, assists in saving money on energy costs and earns revenue by selling electricity back to the grid. The SCDSB is reinvesting the resulting savings and revenue to support improved student achievement and success.

## Learning and Living Green

The Learning and Living Green program was launched in October 2010 in partnership with the County of Simcoe and other local school boards. The new initiative provides County collection service for recyclables and organics at more than 100 schools throughout Simcoe County. The name—Learning and Living Green—captures the intent of this initiative: to have students learn about waste reduction and diversion in the school setting and bring the information home for families to live it every day. Based on the results observed during a pilot program, waste diversion in local schools is expected to increase from an average of 37 per cent up to approximately 80 per cent as a result of the program.

## Celebrating Custodian Appreciation Week

The second annual Custodian Appreciation Week was celebrated across SCDSB schools and facilities during the week of February 7, 2011. It was a busy five days of celebrations in the schools. Staff and students thought of creative ways to recognize the custodians for the dedicated support and outstanding service they provide year-round. School communities embraced this opportunity to say thank you to SCDSB custodians for keeping their facilities clean and safe.

# First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education



## First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education

The SCDSB has been working within the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* towards the goal of moving beyond simple cultural awareness to cultural proficiency. In its efforts to achieve this goal, the SCDSB has placed an emphasis on infusing First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) cultures, perspectives and histories within existing instructional and assessment practices. The First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Action Plan, in support of the SCDSB's Multi-Year Plan, outlines strategies to support this focus. The plan is organized using a holistic First Nation framework built around the categories of Vision, Relationships, Knowledge and Actions. The plan has been developed to improve achievement among FNMI students and to close the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in literacy, numeracy,

credit accumulation, graduation rates and advancement to post-secondary studies.

## Voluntary, Confidential Self-Identification of Aboriginal Students

All Aboriginal students have the right to voluntarily self-identify so that appropriate programs may be designed and delivered to improve their educational outcomes. The number of students who self identify as First Nation, Métis or Inuit continues to increase. In 2010-2011, the enrolment for self-identified students was 1,104 compared to 970 reported in 2009-2010.

## Focusing on the Learning Needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Learners

The "Learning for All" goal in the SCDSB 2010-2011 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being (see page 4) focuses on ensuring that achievement and

learning skills data are analyzed for specific student subgroups, including the learning needs of FNMI students. Specific strategies aligned with the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* are being implemented.

## Urban Aboriginal Education Pilot Project Addresses Needs of Youth

The SCDSB launched the Urban Aboriginal Education Pilot Project (UAEPP) in 2008 to address the educational needs of urban Aboriginal youth in the Barrie area. The SCDSB was one of three boards chosen to participate in this Ministry project. Successfully completed in 2011, the program incorporated best practices in addressing FNMI student achievement and success in local schools.

During the 2010-2011 school year, a spring planning session called "Sustaining Success: Planning for Growth" was organized and facilitated by Dr. Celia Haig-Brown of Haig-



# First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education

Brown Research and Consulting. The purpose of this day-long session was to plan for future directions and specific priorities for supporting the success of FNMI students. The planning included examining current initiatives in a historical context and prioritizing new initiatives with students, parents, community members and SCDSB staff.

*"From Faint Spark to Glowing Fire: Priorities for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education in the Simcoe County District School Board"* is the report created through the UAEPP. The document captures strategies to support FNMI student achievement and well-being. *"Opening Many Doors: A Final Report – Creating Conditions for Success for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Students in the Simcoe County District School Board"* is the detailed project

evaluation and research report measuring the success of the project in SCDSB schools. This report recommends a model for other school boards as well as several recommendations to support FNMI learners.

## Seventh Fire Increases Credit Accumulation

Seventh Fire is an alternative, holistic First Nation, Métis and Inuit secondary program of Midland Secondary School and the Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre (GBNFC). It is located at the GBNFC and participating students work towards increased credit accumulation. The GBNFC provides a variety of cultural, social, emotional and physical supports while SCDSB teachers provide the academic programming. The transitional

nature of the program helps students to become re-engaged in their education with the ultimate goal of returning full-time to Midland Secondary School.

## Native Studies/Native Languages Courses Offered in SCDSB Schools

During the 2010-2011 school year, 16 Native Studies courses ran in 12 SCDSB secondary schools. This is an increase of five courses from the previous school year. Teachers are supported through a local Professional Learning Circle. As well, Ojibwe Language is offered at Lions Oval PS, Regent Park PS, Twin Lakes SS and Penetanguishene SS.

## Baskets Filled with Literacy and Learning

Each public elementary school now has a First Nation, Métis and Inuit Literacy and Learning basket. Each basket contains a variety of educational fiction and non-fiction texts and symbols related to FNMI culture. Professional development sessions to explain how to implement the Literacy and Learning baskets in a culturally respectful manner were provided to teacher-librarians and one teacher from each elementary school. The baskets provided schools with excellent resources to implement the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* at the school level.

## Sharing Our Learning: Supporting First Nation, Métis and Inuit Students, Staff and Communities

Over 250 Native Studies students, teachers and community members joined together for the third annual *Sharing Our Learning: Supporting First Nation, Métis and Inuit Students, Staff and Communities* event held at the SCDSB Education Centre in May 2011. The focus this year was on literacy and Aboriginal authors. Métis author and Order of Canada recipient David Bouchard was the keynote speaker. This annual gathering is the culminating event for schools to showcase FNMI student achievement and school activities promoting their knowledge and appreciation of contemporary and traditional FNMI traditions, cultures and perspectives.





# Connecting with the Community



SCDSB Partnership Recognition Evening – May 2011

## SCDSB Develops Facility Partnerships

The SCDSB works with partners to share facilities to benefit students and the community. Offering partners space in schools can reduce facility operating costs, improve services and supports available to students, strengthen relationships between school boards, community partners and the public, maximize the use of public infrastructure through increased flexibility and utilization, and provide a foundation for improved service delivery for communities.

## Health Unit Relocates to Midland Secondary School

A new facility partnership was developed during the 2010-2011 school year between the SCDSB and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. The health unit's Midland office relocated to Midland Secondary School in March. The new location offers the public easy access to all of the agency's services.

## PSS Hosts Stellula Music Room

Earlier in the year, Stellula Music created a permanent home in Penetanguishene Secondary School (PSS). The Stellula Music

Room at PSS is used during daytime hours for musical performances and to provide workshops for students about song writing, music production, CD design and audio equipment training. In the evenings, the room is made available to the community for music performances and workshops.

## SCDSB Has Nine Joint Use Agreements with Municipalities

The Township of Tay renewed its Joint Use Agreement with the SCDSB in May of 2011. This agreement, which is one of nine the SCDSB has with local communities, provides SCDSB schools in the Township of Tay with reduced rates for Township facilities. It also allows the Township to continue taking advantage of the reduced rental rates available through the Community Use of Schools Program.

## Online Community Use of Schools Permitting

In the fall of 2010, a new online application process for Community Use permits made renting SCDSB space even easier than it was before. This new application system at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) allows users to easily and efficiently submit permit applications for the community use of SCDSB facilities via the internet.

## Recognizing 175 Partnerships

In May 2011, 175 organizations were honoured at the *SCDSB Partnership Recognition Evening* for their contributions to the success and well-being of SCDSB students. The evening recognized community partnerships on behalf of public education in Simcoe County. Guests enjoyed special presentations by community partners and students who have benefited from these partnerships. Contributions from community partners help to support student achievement through initiatives such as tutoring, mentoring, personal and social development, leadership skill development and teaching, and learning program enhancements in all areas of the curriculum.

## SCDSB Schools Connecting with Parents

During the 2010-2011 school year, the SCDSB received more than \$32,000 in funding from the Ministry of Education to give parents even more hands-on opportunities to enhance the home-school connection. Through the *Parents Reaching Out (PRO)* Grants, SCDSB schools are connecting with parents through workshops, family math and literacy nights,

# Connecting with the Community

and other programs designed to enhance student success and further engage parents in their child's education.

## Conference Brings Parents into Circle of Learning

In April of 2011, more than 100 parents attended the SCDSB's *Circle of Learning: Linking Parents to Student Success* conference at the SCDSB Education Centre in Midhurst. This third annual conference organized by the SCDSB Parent Involvement Committee featured a variety of parent-focused workshops and an engaging keynote presentation by author and educator Tom Hierck.

## SCDSB Connects Through Social Media

During the 2010-2011 school year, the SCDSB increased connections with parents and communities through social media. In 2010, the SCDSB Facebook and Twitter pages were launched. In January 2011, the SCDSB YouTube channel became live. The Facebook page has more than 500 fans, the Twitter page has more than 300 followers and the YouTube channel has nine videos posted in the first six months. To connect with the SCDSB via social media, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) and click on the icons on the homepage.

## SCDSB Students Collect More Than 500,000 Items in Holiday Food Drive

The fourth annual *Forest Hill Public School Holiday Food Drive Challenge*, held in November and December 2010, was a resounding success. A grand total of 544,183 toys and food items were collected by the 22 participating SCDSB schools. For the fourth year, Forest Hill PS's Global Action Team sent out a friendly challenge to other schools in the SCDSB to collect items for Christmas Cheer. The challenge winner was the school with the most number of items collected on a per student basis.

The top three of the 22 participating schools were:

**Uptergrove Public School** with 291 students  
Total: 500,000 items = 1,718.2 items/student

**Codrington Public School** with 301 students  
Total: 7,913 items = 26.3 items/student

## Building and Enhancing SCDSB School Environments

Below is a summary of major SCDSB construction projects which took place in 2010-2011:

- Angus Morrison Public School (addition and renovations)
- Ardagh Bluffs Public School (new elementary school)
- Cookstown Public School (addition and renovations)
- Couchiching Heights Public School (renovations)
- Harriett Todd Public School (addition and renovations)
- Hillcrest Public School (addition and renovations)

- Maple Grove Public School (addition and renovations)
- Nottawasaga Pines Secondary School (new secondary school)
- Portage View Public School (addition and renovations)

## New SCDSB Schools

During the 2010-2011 school year, the SCDSB's newest secondary school was built in Essa Township. Starting in September 2011, students will be able to call Nottawasaga Pines Secondary School home.

In October 2010, staff and students crossed the threshold of Barrie's newest elementary school, Ardagh Bluffs Public School. This school is home to more than 450 students, and was opened a full three months earlier than projected.



Students arrive at the new Ardagh Bluffs PS in October 2010.

**Forest Hill Public School** with 505 students  
Total: 8,971 items = 17.8 items/student

## SCDSB United Way Campaign Continues to Grow

The 2010 SCDSB United Way campaign was a success with almost \$41,000 raised across the county through the school year. Special events at SCDSB schools and the Education Centre helped raise the awareness of this community campaign. The money

raised in SCDSB schools and central offices helps one in three individuals from Simcoe County access programs and services in the community.

### Results of the 2010 campaign:

SCDSB Employee Contributions:	\$32,324.04
SCDSB Special Events:	\$8,474.07
SCDSB Total:	\$40,798.11



# Honouring Staff and Students

## SCDSB Educator Named Teacher-Librarian of the Year

In January 2011, Paula McNamara was named Teacher-Librarian of the year by the Ontario School Library Association (OSLA). McNamara, who has worked at Algonquin Ridge Elementary School for more than 10 years, was recognized by the OSLA for her leadership and dedication to the school's library program. The OSLA honours one teacher-librarian each year. Award winners are individuals who have made a major impact on student achievement and teaching effectiveness through their work within schools.

## MSS Students Win Provincial Poetry Competition

In November 2010, nine students from Midland Secondary School (MSS) were honoured at a special reception for the *Sounding Out Indigenous Poetics Competition* at Trent University.

Secondary students from across the province were invited to submit a short poem for the competition, which was designed to highlight the importance of Indigenous literature and poetry. Of the 12 poems selected as winners, nine were written by MSS students. The MSS students travelled to Trent University to attend a private dinner, awards ceremony and poetry reading. Also in attendance were local Anishinabe elders, Trent University Indigenous Studies faculty and staff, and published Aboriginal poets/authors from across Canada.

## Orchard Park ES Wins Provincial Challenge

Grades 2 and 3 students from Orchard Park Elementary School won a provincial challenge to promote healthy eating and exercise in March 2011. The students participated in a program offered by the Ontario Physical & Health Education Association (OPHEA) and Novo Nordisk, a healthcare company. The series of lessons in the program included engaging activities to teach students about diabetes and how Type 2 diabetes is preventable. For the challenge, students worked with a partner to plan exercises for muscular strength and cardio endurance. They selected a balance of these exercises to form a classroom circuit, designed a poster for their exercise and created a video



The Innisdale DECA student team with teacher advisors – April 2011.

explaining the exercises and performing the circuit with a warm up and cool down.

## Allandale Heights Student a Winner in National Poster Contest

Allandale Heights Public School student Matthew Bell was the first local winner of the *National Immunization Poster Contest*, a national design contest aimed at promoting the value of immunization. The award was presented in December 2010 at a school assembly. The design was judged the best out of submissions from 40 different schools across Ontario.

## SCI Team Achieves Third Place in International Robotics Competition

The Stayner Collegiate Institute (SCI) robotics team, the Cyber Gnomes, showcased their engineering and technological skills and placed third overall at the FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition in Science & Technology) Boston Regional Robotics Competition, which took place in April 2011. During the multi-national event, professionals and students teamed up to solve engineering design problems in a competitive situation. The talented teams created unique and technologically sophisticated robots to compete against each other in a high-energy atmosphere with hundreds of spectators.

## Innisdale Students Bring Home Medals from International Competition

In April 2011, 11 Innisdale students participated in the international Developing Excellence Celebrating Achievement (DECA) competition in Orlando, Florida. These students qualified for the competition by placing in the top five standings in Ontario, competing against 5,000 other DECA members. The students taking part in this competition were: Joanne Cheng, Erin Ross, Danielle St. Jean, RuiLin Guo, Jenny Xia, William Zhang, Scott Wheeler, Coral Peck, Tommy Tang, Robert Adams and Derek Franceschini. In Orlando, the Innisdale students competed against 15,000 other members. Erin Ross placed top 10 in the written component of her category, and Joanne Cheng placed first in her category. The event included students from across the United States and several other countries.

## SCDSB Student Videos Stomp Out Tobacco

In 2010, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit challenged teens in local secondary schools to create videos that conveyed messages about the dangers of tobacco. Barrie North CI won first place with their video entry entitled *"I Have a Life to Live."* Innisdale SS achieved third place with



# Honouring Staff and Students

their video *"Code Name – Tobacco."* The creation of the minute-long videos was supervised by teachers, and a panel of judges decided on the winning entries. This year there were 17 entries from across the county.

## Connaught PS Student Wins National Writing Contest

Connaught Public School student Sierra McLean won the Grade 4 category of the TD Canadian Children's Book Week writing contest. Her story *"Sky High"* was one of more than 500 entries in this national competition. There was one winner in each category, from Grades 4 to 12, and the work was judged by a Canadian children's author. The winners each received a \$250 gift certificate to a bookstore of their choice.

## Willow Landing Teacher Wins Technology Contest

Leyla Potts-Fay, a Grade 6 teacher at Willow Landing Elementary School, won third prize in a Teaching with Technology contest sponsored by CDW Canada, a provider of technology

solutions. Potts-Fay won the award for her use of technology to keep students engaged and excited in the classroom. As part of the award, she received new computers and other technology for her classroom at Willow Landing.

## Guthrie PS Student Wins National Remembrance Poster Contest

Madison Boylea from Guthrie Public School received national recognition for her Remembrance Day poster. She won first place in the "Primary Division – Colour Poster" competition of the Royal Canadian Legion's Remembrance Contest. There were more than 100,000 entries from across Canada. Madison's poster is on display at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa from June 2011 to May 2012.

## Trustee Tributes

**Jane Dewar**, Teacher, Nantyr Shores Secondary School, Teacher of the Year Award (2010)

**Matthew Podolak**, Student, Holly Meadows

Elementary School, Recipient of Honourable Mention: Earth & Environmental Science Award

**David Hay**, Teacher, Bear Creek Secondary School, Life Saving Efforts (2010)

**Osas Asemota**, Community Member, Life Saving Efforts (2010)

**Ellie Bezzo, Jacob Crowe-Robitaille, Jared Graham, Damien Leduc, Will LePage, Trisha MacMillan, Rachel Miller, Andrew Nickason and Margaret Qutiaquq-Oliver**, Students, Midland Secondary School, Provincial Poetry Competition Winners (2011)

**Paula McNamara**, Algonquin Ridge Elementary School, Teacher-Librarian of the Year (2011)

**Jo-Anne Wilton**, Teacher, Collingwood Collegiate Institute, SCDSB's Educational Outreach Program (2011)

**Judah Page**, Student, Nottawasaga & Creemore Public School, Royal Canadian Legion Public Speaking Contest runner-up (2011)

**Sierra McLean**, Student, Connaught Public School, TD Canadian Children's Book Week Writing Contest winner (2011)

## Financial Overview

### Financial Overview

During the 2010-2011 school year, the SCDSB employed strong, purposeful financial and resource management in response to the current economic environment. This approach allowed the SCDSB to continue working towards the goal of closing gaps in student achievement. In developing the budget for 2011-2012, consideration was given to the efficient and effective allocation of resources to support the goals of The Simcoe Path. A key financial goal is to ensure the appropriate supports are in classrooms while maintaining a balanced budget.

The SCDSB budget reflects a spending of grant and other revenue generated for the 2011-2012 year by the projected enrolment of 31,315 elementary pupils and 17,900 secondary pupils, for a total of 49,215 pupils. This estimate reflects a fifth consecutive year of decline in enrolment and the second

time in many years that total enrolment is projected to be below 50,000 pupils. Declining enrolment creates challenges of its own, and declining enrolment in a recovering economy requires a deep focus on what strategies have worked and will work to support the board in meeting its multi-year goals.

The 2011-2012 budget is balanced, aligned with the strategic goals of the board articulated in the multi-year plan and the Board Improvement Plan, and is compliant with all regulatory and contractual obligations of the board. It reflects a commitment to closing the gap in learning, teaching, and leading through a deep focus on schools and school-based supports.

The 2011-2012 budget also reflects a focus on proven school supports, including professional learning and collaboration, Literacy Coaches, and Student Success teachers. Investments in information and communication technology for 2011-2012 are

focused on the continued maintenance and improvement of the infrastructure required to continue to provide secure data connections between the SCDSB, the Ministry of Education, and all locations in the SCDSB.

The SCDSB utilizes a variety of the Ministry of Education grants available to support public education in Ontario, including funding for provincial framework agreements, reforms and refinements, enhancements to keep up with costs, capital funding, and efficiency and savings measures. Additionally, the SCDSB is utilizing supplementary grants for initiatives such as the Early Learning Program.

### 2011-2012 Budget Highlights:

- Operating Expenditure Budget - \$506,246,100
- Capital Expenditure Budget - \$32,081,737
- 2011-2012 projected enrolment of 49,215 pupils



***Simcoe County District School Board***

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