



Simcoe County District School Board

Report to the Community



Your Future... Our Priority

About the SCDSB



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Message from the Board Chairperson and Director of Education



We have nearly 50,000 reasons to be very pleased and proud to present the Simcoe County District School Board's Report to the Community for 2011-2012. Our exceptional team of dedicated and skilled staff has supported outstanding progress and achievements on behalf of the nearly 50,000 students who attend our public elementary schools, public secondary schools and learning centres. They have been supported by trustees, parents, guardians, volunteers, organizations and communities throughout Simcoe County.

Guided by our multi-year plan, *The Simcoe Path*, and its key component, the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being, our system has made great strides forward in aligning strategies to support current and future needs in our large learning community. We invite you to read the following pages and learn about the wonderful educational achievements of SCDSB students and staff in 2011-2012 and the progress we have made together in the focus areas of: literacy; numeracy; community, culture and caring; and program and pathways.

We know that the education strategies and progress we are helping to bring about for this generation of young people will have long-lasting benefits for their futures and their communities.

Robert North,
Chairperson

Kathryn Wallace,
Director of Education



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Barrie, Wards 4, 5, 6: **Krista Mayne**
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First Nations Representation: **Jeff Monague** (to March 2012) and
Amanda Monague (starting March 2012)
Innisfil: **Donna Armstrong**
Midland, Penetanguishene, Wasaga Beach & Tiny: **Michele Locke**
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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 2011-2012 school year, the SCDSB had 87 elementary schools, 17 secondary schools and seven learning centres, with more than 6,000 employees and nearly 50,000 students. Guided by *The Simcoe Path* multi-year plan, 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.



Supporting the Path to Success for All Students

Multi-Year Plan Aligned with System Needs

The SCDSB Multi-Year Plan, *The Simcoe Path*, sets out the board's priorities. The plan was developed in 2010 with input from trustees, staff, parents, community members, and students.

The SCDSB continues to align itself with the plan's goals and directions that reflect key areas relating to increased student achievement and increased parental and community engagement. The tagline to *The Simcoe Path* is *Your Future...Our Priority*, and it 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 objectives of the multi-year plan are supported through a series of continually updated action plans which outline specific strategies to meet the board's goals. These action plans can be viewed on the SCDSB's website at www.scdsb.on.ca.

Board Improvement Plan Supports Success

As a key component of *The Simcoe Path*, the SCDSB Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being (BIPSA-WB) is designed to help guide educators and administrators along the path of supporting success for all students. This plan is updated yearly to maintain focus on goals that are relevant to the current needs of Simcoe County students and staff.

The BIPSA-WB focuses on three main priorities:

Reach Every Student: All students will have access to differentiated instruction and assessment that is responsive to the unique needs of the learner to support high achievement, well-being and learning for life.

Closing the Gap: All students will benefit from classroom instruction and specific interventions that are informed by provincial, system, and classroom assessments, and achievement and learning skills trends for specific student groups including but not limited to First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI), Special Education, English Language Learners (ELL) and gender.

Assessment: All students will participate in instruction that is informed by assessment for, as and of learning.



The goals of the BIPSA-WB centre on the following areas: Literacy; Numeracy; Community, Culture and Caring; and Program and Pathways.

Literacy and **numeracy** strategies are based upon a major board-wide assessment and are updated yearly to ensure a board-wide focus on current trends and achievement needs.

Community, Culture and Caring guides schools in implementing a whole-school approach related to both equity and inclusion and positive school climate in order for students to see themselves reflected in the curriculum, co-curriculum and the culture of their learning environment.

The **Program and Pathways** goal fosters an individual pathways plan for each student so that they will have an improved understanding of their personal interests, strengths, abilities and learning styles. Students can use these skills to plan both educational pathways and future career opportunities.

The full BIPSA-WB can be found online at www.scdsb.on.ca.

SCDSB Students Make Gains in Provincial Testing

Every school board across the province participates in the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) provincial tests: the two elementary school assessments of reading, writing, and math, administered in Grades 3 and 6; the secondary school assessment of mathematics, administered in Grade 9; and the Ontario Secondary

Supporting the Path to Success for All Students

School Literacy Test (OSSLT) administered in Grade 10.

The 2010-2011 results (released in September 2011) for SCDSB show that Grades 3 and 6 students have made gains over the past five years in both reading and writing. The largest increases have been made as follows:

Grade 3 Reading - Over the past five years, the percentage of SCDSB students at or above the provincial standard has increased by 9%

Grade 3 Writing - Over the past five years, the percentage of SCDSB students at or above the provincial standard has increased by 15%

Grade 6 Reading - Over the past five years, the percentage of SCDSB students at or above the provincial standard has increased by 12%

Grade 6 Writing - Over the past five years, the percentage of SCDSB students at or above the provincial standard has increased by 14%

In the mathematics results released in September 2011, the percentage of SCDSB elementary school students achieving the standard in Grade 3 increased by 3% over a five-year period while the Grade 6 mathematics results showed a 1% decline over the same period. As with the provincial trend, these math results point to an area that requires continued focus.

In the Grade 9 mathematics results released in September 2011, SCDSB students continued to make gains. Over five years, the percentage of SCDSB students at or above the standard rose from 67% to 81% in the academic course and from 40% to 44% in the applied course. These

findings are consistent with Ontario student achievement on recent international assessments, where, overall, math achievement has been strong in later grades and more modest in earlier grades.

The results of the EQAO assessments, along with other evidence such as the board literacy assessments, are used in an ongoing basis to refine the BIPSA-WB (see Page 4) throughout the year. A number of specific areas were identified for targeted supports in 2011-2012 based on the evidence. These areas included mathematics in the junior division, Grade 9 applied mathematics and literacy to support students in applied programs in meeting the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) requirement for graduation.

The OSSLT is a Grade 10 literacy test and graduation requirement. In 2012, more than 3900 students took this test and 78% of Grade 10 students were successful. This success rate is consistent with the provincial trend.

Supporting Literacy

To support literacy achievement in SCDSB secondary schools, the following strategies were implemented:

- Differentiated instruction and assessment to ensure that all students have an access point for learning and a method through which they are best able to demonstrate that learning;
- Classroom practices that provide students with multiple opportunities to practice their literacy skills in meaningful contexts across all subject areas;
- Explicit reading strategies across all subject areas;
- Daily opportunities for student writing; and,
- Embedded technology as an integral learning tool for all students.

Supporting Numeracy

To support improved achievement in mathematics, the Professional Resources and Instruction for Mathematics Educators (PRIME) Number Diagnostic assessment took place early in the fall of 2011 for all Grade 4, 5 and 6 students. This tool assisted teachers in identifying students' strengths and needs in the mathematics curriculum. The results helped educators monitor progress as well as identify areas where more work was needed. In addition, support was provided to assist teachers in embedding the use of technology in their mathematics instruction beginning in the early junior grades.



Supporting the Path to Success for All Students

Reaching Every Student

The SCDSB aims to reach every student and offer as many pathways to success as possible. There is a broad range of learning opportunities in SCDSB schools that are designed to enrich the educational experiences of students, both inside and outside the classroom.

Differentiated Instruction and Assessment

Schools use a variety of means to enrich and extend the learning experiences of students in the classroom. Differentiated instruction is an approach to instruction designed to maximize growth by considering the needs of each student at his/her current stage of development, and offering that student a learning experience that responds to his or her individual needs.

Specialized Credit Opportunities

Schools offer a variety of specialized credit courses based on student interest. These specialized courses provide students with opportunities to extend their learning, engage in leadership activities or demonstrate prior independent learning. Some examples include:

- Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs which allow students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector and assist with their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university or the workplace;
- e-Learning opportunities which respond to learning style needs of students, permitting students to complete graduation requirements;
- Dual Credits which allow students to reach ahead to college while obtaining credits towards both the secondary school and the college diploma;
- Opportunities which allow Grade 8 students to complete a Grade 9 course while still in elementary school;
- Extended French as a Second Language programs; and,
- Congregated programs for students identified as Gifted.

In addition, all schools have a range of dynamic extra-curricular programming including sports, the arts, clubs and volunteer/leadership opportunities geared to diverse student interests.

Sunnybrae Kindergarten Students Visited by Assistant Deputy Minister



In October, students at Sunnybrae Public School met Assistant Deputy Minister of Education Jim Grieve. He visited the school to see Full Day Kindergarten classrooms in action. The students enjoyed showing the Deputy Minister their work and sharing stories with him.

Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten

The SCDSB is well on its way to having all schools offering Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten (FDEL-K) in all schools by the 2014-2015 school year. During the 2011-2012 school year, the SCDSB had 45 full-day kindergarten classrooms serving approximately 1,170 students.

The FDEL-K program is a child-centred, developmentally appropriate, integrated, extended-day learning program for four-and five-year-old students. The purpose of the program is to establish a strong foundation for learning in the early years in a safe and caring play-based environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development.

The rollout phases for the SCDSB were approved by the Ministry of Education as follows (starting from the first year of FDEL-K):

- 2010-2011 – 16 schools
- 2011-2012 – 4 schools
- 2012-2013 – 24 schools
- 2013-2014 – 22 schools
- 2014-2015 – 19 schools

To read more about the Kindergarten programs at the SCDSB, visit www.scdsb.on.ca.

Supporting the Path to Success for All Students

Opportunities for Adult Learners

The SCDSB offered many opportunities for adult learners during the 2011-2012 school year through the SCDSB Adult & Continuing Education department. Programs ranged from completion of an individual's Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and upgrading for college/university to workplace certificates and English as a Second Language classes. Programs offered at SCDSB Learning Centres in 2011-2012 included:

- Upgrading in English and math
- Ontario Secondary School Certificate (Gr. 10)
- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (Gr. 12 diploma)
- College and University prerequisites
- Apprenticeship prerequisites
- Personal Support Worker Certification
- Adult English as a Second Language Classes
- Co-operative Education
- Computer Training
- Workplace certificates
- Beginner Driver Education program

For more information on Adult and Continuing Education programs, visit their new website at www.thelearningcentres.com.

International Student Programs

The International Student Programs and Services play a vital role in providing SCDSB students with experiences in becoming global citizens. The International Student Programs and Services provide experiential programs and international student/family services.

International Experiential Programs bring students from other countries/cultures to the SCDSB (International Visa

Business Pro Course Offers Real-World Work Experience for Adult Learners

The Business Professional Course, offered at the Barrie Learning Centre, is an 18-week course for adult learners who want to acquire business and computer skills to help start or re-start their careers. The public school board designed the program to enhance students' English, Math, and computer skills while also giving them some real-world work experience.

Business support positions require office procedure skills, excellent customer service skills, and computer skills (including word processing, spreadsheets, and databases). Students acquire these skills as well as a typing speed of 45-60 wpm, efficient and effective work habits, and good teamwork skills. An accounting program is also offered as an elective.

Fee Paying Student Program and International Student Groups) and creates global education opportunities for SCDSB pupils (International Exchange Student Program and Kenya Study and Leadership Program). The International Student/Family Services are varied. Some services include the Newcomer Welcome Centre for families new to Canada and the Ontario education system, and the Adult English as a Second Language program. Adult English as a Second Language (ESL).

During the 2011-2012 school year, the Adult ESL program was redesigned to allow students to be placed in a class at their specific skill level in all four areas of ESL learning (speaking, listening, reading and writing). The Adult ESL program also established a Guest Speakers' Series to help English language learners connect with community services and to better understand life in Canada. As part of this series, Revenue Canada provided a free income tax clinic for low-income earners.

Special Education in the SCDSB

During the 2011-2012 school year, the SCDSB Special Education department outlined strategies focused on the main goals of the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being: literacy and numeracy; programs and pathways; and community, culture and caring.

Literacy – Analysis of EQAO data shows that the SCDSB saw a significant increase over the past five years in the percentage of students with special education needs or an Individual Education Plan (IEP) who participated in EQAO testing. In primary grades, EQAO exemption rates decreased from approximately 32% to 9% and from 24% to 9% in junior grades. Over the past five years, results for Grade 3 students with special education needs have improved 22% in reading and 38% in writing. For Grade 6, results have improved 19% in both reading and writing.

Numeracy – Analysis of EQAO data shows that there has been a significant increase over the past five years in the percentage of SCDSB students with special education needs or an Individual Education Plan (IEP) who participated in EQAO testing. In primary grades, EQAO exemption rates decreased from 28% to 9% and from 27% to 9% in junior grades.

During the 2011-2012 school year, the following initiatives were accomplished in Special Education:

Literacy and Numeracy

- Continued to support teachers and students with software and integration of technology in daily instruction and on EQAO

Supporting the Path to Success for All Students

- Supported the focused use of the resource Essential Practices K-12 – Classroom Practices in coaching schools, secondary learning centres and classes
- Continued to implement the Alternative Curriculum Expectations (ACE) and Assessment Companion Tool (ACT) for students who are not accessing the Ontario Curriculum and extended implementation to all schools
- Increased participation of students identified with special needs in EQAO assessments
- Assessed a range of opportunities for integration of students in special education classes into regular education classes
- Analyzed data from early intervention programs to continue to inform professional development focus
- Continued to focus on resources and professional development for secondary learning centre teachers
- Enhanced programming for students with special education needs in regular classrooms at the secondary level

Program and Pathways

- Continued to extend implementation of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) principles for special education students with a focus on data collection and analysis and transition planning
- Analyzed results from IEP Review and provide inservice programs for identified areas of focus for students with a learning disability and for students who are gifted
- Revised and implemented SEA Multi-Year Plan.
- Developed a Transitions Multi-Year Plan to Adult Pathways plan
- Implemented Transitions Multi-Year Plan
- Implemented yearly action plan based on Individual Education Plan (IEP) review

Community, Culture and Caring

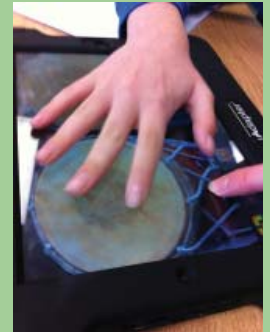
- Introduced Ministry Document *Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario – Supporting Students with Special Education Needs Through Progressive Discipline Kindergarten to Grade 12*
- Continued to develop partnerships with community agencies to enhance student achievement and well-being

Student Success

The SCDSB is committed to supporting the achievement and well-being of all students through the Ministry of Education's Student Success/Learning to 18 strategy. The Student Success focus in the 2011-2012 school year reflects four key areas:

ASD Classroom Explores Technology in Pilot Project

The Simcoe County District School Board and Apple Canada partnered for a pilot program which involved students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) using iPads and iPods for learning at Terry Fox Elementary School during the 2011-2012 school year.



The classroom used Twitter, iPads and SMART Boards as part of

the project designed to utilize technology to increase communication and reduce negative behaviour. While the results have not yet been fully tabulated, it is already clear that the technology is helping in a variety of ways.

Jeffrey MacCormack, the classroom teacher, worked with Jay Crerar, an Educational Assistant at Terry Fox ES, and other EAs to create a vibrant learning environment.

"We choose apps that match the needs and interests of each student," said MacCormack. "One student may



need to practice adding single-digit numbers, while another student may need to practice sorting shapes by two attributes. By accessing the world of 'apps', programs can be developed that accurately address the students' needs directly."

At the core of the project is an augmentative language app called "Proloquo2Go." That app has been used to help non-verbal students increase their vocabulary. The students' visual schedules have been transferred to the iPads using an app called "First-Then". This app allows the student to see the entire day's schedule at a glance or on a full-size scrolling list. Social stories were video recorded and shown to the students, rather than simply read. Using free video-updating apps, the staff edited the videos so the students can see themselves reading and acting out the social story.

- identification, monitoring and tracking, and the understanding of intervention strategies for students "at-risk" of not graduating;
- improving educational opportunities for all students based on student strengths, needs and interests;
- providing students with effective supports through major transitions; and,

Supporting the Path to Success for All Students

- improving instruction and assessment practices.

During the fall of 2011, Student Success staff worked with teachers to provide a variety of professional development opportunities aimed at improving instructional practices and ensuring timely interventions for students considered to be “at-risk”. Work also centered on developing new partnerships and building upon existing ones to support enhanced student achievement and well-being. Ensuring the existence of a variety of pathways to graduation for all students continued to be a priority.

Alternative Learning Program

Alternative programs offer students ages 16 to 18 who find it difficult to earn high school credits, or who leave school before graduation, continued opportunities to obtain their diploma.

In the fall of 2011, a review of the SCDSB Alternative Learning Program took place. The delivery of the program was reviewed to ensure that it was being provided in such a way that it offered students the best possible opportunities to achieve success. Since 2009-2010, the SCDSB Alternative Education program has served over 1,100 students in Grades 9 to 12.

The SCDSB currently operates 11 alternative learning sites. Each program is supervised by the principal of a neighbouring public secondary school. These programs offer programming to over 500 students per year. The locations and school affiliations are:

Alliston Alternative – Banting Memorial High School

Barrie Central Alternative – Barrie Central Collegiate Institute

Barrie North Alternative – Barrie North Collegiate Institute

Barrie Young Parents – Barrie Central Collegiate Institute

Bradford Alternative – Bradford District High School

Collingwood Alternative – Collingwood Collegiate Institute

Essa Alternative – Nottawasaga Pines Secondary School

Midland Alternative – Midland Secondary School

Nantyr Alternative – Nantyr Shores Secondary School

Orillia Alternative – Twin Lakes Secondary School

7th Fire – Midland Secondary School (First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) focus).

The 7th Fire program involves a partnership with the Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre. While it is designed to benefit the Aboriginal community, it also serves other youth who are disenfranchised. It is a unique and ‘one-stop’ opportunity for youth to obtain a high school education. In addition, housing, basic economic, cultural, and social/emotional needs of the students are addressed and supported under one roof at the Friendship Centre.

Students Take Part in Summer Learning Opportunities

In the summer of 2012, SCDSB students took part in various learning programs to get a head-start for September.

Co-op Program - The SCDSB Summer Co-op Education program was offered to students in specialized courses such as the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) and ‘Over the Top’. The program ran from July until mid-August and gave students the opportunity to earn two credits towards their secondary school diploma.

Assistive Technology Camp - In August, the SCDSB, in collaboration with Vocalinks, provided a dynamic learning opportunity for students with specialized equipment received through Special Equipment Amount (SEA) funding. The camp reinforced and strengthened the computer and assistive technology skills of students in Grades 4 to 9 with learning disabilities. The program also offered a parent and caregiver component.

Literacy Camp - In August, many students entering Grade 2 throughout the SCDSB took part in the Summer Literacy Learning Program. The three-week program supported the SCDSB’s ongoing focus on improved student achievement in literacy and built on school year instruction. The curriculum at the camp focused on strengthening students’ literacy skills before they returned to school in the fall.



Supporting the Path to Success for All Students

Leading the Way in Information Technology

Information and Technology Services are an essential element in the education of students in the SCDSB. With direction from the SCDSB Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategic Plan and *The Simcoe Path*, there has been a collective focused effort for the SCDSB to become a lead board in the province in this area. The SCDSB has strived to not just provide these services for staff and students, but to develop an information and communication technology system that is built for the present and the future.

Some of the 2011-2012 initiatives in information technology included:

- System and server upgrades and replacements – including a new storage area network to replace older equipment;
- Teacher Notebook Computer Project (Phase 2) – The provisioning of over 1,300 teaching notebook computers for Grade 4, 5, and 6 teachers and Grade 9 math teachers;
- Projectors – Installation of 275 projectors (one projector for every four teaching notebook computers) in the schools receiving Phase 2 teacher notebook computers;
- Replacement of Wireless Access Points (AP) in Elementary Schools – This is phase 1 of 3. This initiative brings the APs in elementary schools up to the current standard of connectivity; and,
- Additional Wireless Equipment – The increase in the use of wireless devices (teacher notebooks,

additional student laptops, additional SEA equipment and personal devices utilizing the guest wireless network) required additional access points to be added where demand warranted. Additional access points require additional wireless controllers to manage these devices.

Public Website Development

The SCDSB public website, www.scdsb.on.ca, underwent a complete change – both in design and in functionality – during the summer of 2012, in preparation for launching in the fall. The Communications team worked with Information Technology Services staff to coordinate the redesign the website and move it to a SharePoint software management platform.

The SCDSB public website is a key information resource for parents, staff, students, and community members. Website analytics are gathered, analyzed and reviewed monthly and a comprehensive report is written in March of each year. In the 2012 SCDSB Public Website Analytics Report (covering the period of March 1, 2011 – March 1, 2012), the following statistics are noted:

- 635,303 visits from 162 countries/territories
- 1,891,098 page views
- The top pages viewed: Home, Careers, School Search, School Calendars and Bus Information
- Some top site search terms included: tenders, French Immersion, human resources, report cards and careers



Safe and Caring Environments



Creating Welcoming Places to Learn and Work

It is a priority of the SCDSB to create safe and caring environments for learning and working. Many related initiatives were undertaken in the 2011-2012 school year. Some of these initiatives included:

Student Voice

Student voice forums were held in SCDSB secondary schools to gain a greater perspective on the student experience in our schools, and to inform how we move forward in become more caring, inclusive and responsive to the needs of our students. A focus on students who are under-engaged, under-credited and at-risk helped staff learn how the board can more effectively engage and support the success of this population.

Roots of Empathy

The Roots of Empathy pilot program started at Regent Park Public School in a Grade 7/8 class. Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based program internationally recognized for its power as an empathy-building bullying-prevention program. A plan was developed to provide Roots of Empathy training to school community members to increase capacity within our schools to run the program.

Student Senate Leadership

The SCDSB continued to support leadership development for traditional and non-traditional student leaders through Student Senate and related

initiatives. Student Senate attended a leadership training day at Youth Leadership Camps Canada (YLCC) in April 2012. In May, two Grade 8 students from every elementary school in the SCDSB attended a leadership development day to support transition to secondary school at YLCC hosted by the Student Senate.

Fostering Positive Relationships

The SCDSB continued to support school-wide programs that promoted positive relationship building through groups such as Link Crew, Anti-Bullying Teams, and Gay-Straight Alliances in schools and through the use of strategies such as peer mediation, conflict resolution, restorative practices and character education.

Bridges out of Poverty

A “Train the Trainer - Bridges Out of Poverty” session was held for 25 SCDSB staff and 50 partner organization leaders. Also, six full-day workshops were delivered to SCDSB staff and workshop training was provided for one elementary teacher per school.

Crisis Response

The Crisis Response Team met regularly to debrief about school situations and to share best practices. The Crisis Response Manual was updated for system use by Crisis team members.

Crime Stoppers

A partnership was established with Crime Stoppers in Simcoe County to help support a reduction in school vandalism by adopting a community approach to deterring vandalism. Students also created bumper stickers, signs, and a video to help kick off and support the Crime Stoppers initiative.

Police/School Board Protocol Signing

The SCDSB was one of four area school boards who partnered with the Ontario Provincial Police this past May in a renewed joint Police/School Board Protocol, which establishes a coordinated approach for the investigation of school-related occurrences. This protocol is a result of a 2011 policy directive from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The document supports a coordinated approach between school boards and police services.

Safe and Caring Environments

Equity and Inclusive Education

The SCDSB is committed to an equitable education system that upholds and reflects the principles of fair and inclusive education. The board recognizes that equity of opportunity and equity of access to the full range of programs and the delivery of services and resources are critical to the achievement of successful educational and social outcomes for those served by our school system as well as for those who serve our system. Some 2011-2012 SCDSB initiatives that supported equity and inclusive education included:

Equity and inclusion-focused Student Voice Forums and First Nation, Métis and Inuit-focused Student Voice Forums

These forums engaged a diverse body of students from each of SCDSB secondary schools in a dialogue about their experience in our schools. They were designed so

that students see themselves reflected in their school community and curriculum, and to help educators structure academic and non-academic programming and supports that inspire, connect, and reach every student in a culture of caring and high expectations.

Crown Ward Education Championship Team/Maximizing Educational Outcomes

The SCDSB joined other community stakeholders on these two initiatives, which support the educational success of elementary and secondary students in the care of the Children's Aid Society.

School Climate Surveys

School climate surveys help principals assess perceptions of safety by students, parents and school staff to inform prevention and intervention plans.

More than 250 Attended SCDSB's 'Equity in Action' Symposium



The SCDSB hosted more than 250 students and teachers from four Ontario school boards at the Equity in Action student symposium on Friday, March 2, 2012.

This symposium was designed to provide secondary students an opportunity to explore the issues of equity and inclusion in their schools and communities. Participants attended from Simcoe County District School Board, Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, Bluewater District School Board and Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board.

Highlights included a powerful performance from the group *Elevated Grounds* that addressed mental health issues, and many relevant workshops developed and facilitated by teachers, administrators, board staff and students.

"It was an impactful event where many ideas and experiences were shared," says Denise Cole, Itinerant Resource Teacher – Equity and Inclusion, SCDSB. "I feel that students went back to their home schools empowered to take a leadership role in equity and inclusiveness."



SCDSB Students SpeakUp

During the 2011-2012 school year, SCDSB students received more than \$24,000 in funding to support 35 student-led projects through the provincial Student Voice/SpeakUp initiative. The SpeakUp program is designed to provide students with another avenue to connect what is happening in the classroom and school to real-life experiences. SpeakUp project grants are awarded to projects which offer students opportunities to:

- create more student-friendly and engaging school experiences;
- develop an understanding of what helps or hinders their own learning;
- develop stronger and more collaborative relationships with teachers;
- express themselves in creative ways;
- make school relevant to their interests;
- connect learning with real world;
- strengthen relationships with peers; and
- create leadership opportunities.

The programs funded this past year ranged from gay-straight alliances to stress relief for students to global action clubs.

Healthy Eating in Schools

To support students in making healthy food choices while at school, the Ministry of Education introduced a new Ontario School Food and Beverage Policy requiring healthier food and beverage options to be sold in all schools. The SCDSB's policy took effect in September 2011 and applies to food and beverages for sale in schools.

Three basic categories spell out what and how much food can be sold:

Sell Most - At least 80% of the food and beverages sold must be high in healthy nutrients and low in fat, sugar, or sodium (salt).

Sell Less - Moderately healthy food and beverages can make up no more than 20% of what is sold.

Not permitted - Anything with few nutrients, tending to be high in fat, sugar or sodium is simply off limits and cannot be sold.

SCDSB teachers, school staff, parent/school council members, school board administration and foodservice operators were trained to assess school food and beverage choices and to select healthier options to sell to students. The policy does not apply to the foods students bring from home or buy while off school property. Schools also have exemptions for up to 10 "special event" days when they can choose to sell food and beverages that do not comply with the policy.

First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education

SCDSB Project Improves Educational Outcomes for Urban Aboriginal Youth

Successfully meeting the educational needs of urban Aboriginal youth has been the focus of a dynamic pilot program implemented by the SCDSB during the past four years. The final report of the Urban Aboriginal Education Pilot Project (UAEPP) was presented during the 2011-2012 school year.

The UAEPP was implemented from September 2008 to June 2010 in the following SCDSB schools with First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) student populations: Andrew Hunter, Cundles Heights, Barrie North, and Barrie Central (2008-2009). During the 2009-2010 school year, the program was expanded to include Eastview, Terry Fox, Johnson Street, and Steele Street. Through the unique program, SCDSB educators incorporated best practices in addressing FNMI student achievement and success in local schools, and built strong partnerships with community organizations.

Through the program, strategies were put in place to:

- integrate FNMI cultures and histories for all SCDSB students and staff;
- provide professional development opportunities for SCDSB staff with a focus on enhancing greater understanding of FNMI perspectives, values and

cultures;

- enhance FNMI resources in schools such as curriculum support, literacy resources, and creating displays in schools to enhance the awareness of FNMI cultures for all members of the school community;
- enhance parental engagement; and
- partner with local First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities, and organizations serving the Barrie area.

Native Studies/Languages Professional Learning Circle

In 2012, the SCDSB hosted the Barrie Regional Native Studies/Native Languages Professional Learning Circle. This event was designed to let people in the fields of Native Studies and Native Languages get together to share their knowledge and learn from each other. Participants shared teaching resources and strategies, and broadened their understanding of First Nation cultural knowledge and the importance of treaties to First Nations. Guest speaker Maurice Switzer, Communications Director for the Union of Ontario Indians/Anishinabek Nation, also hosted a treaty discussion.

Sharing Our Learning – A Celebration of FNMI Education



The SCDSB hosted *Sharing Our Learning*, a celebration of First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) education, in May 2012. More than 100 students enrolled in SCDSB Native Studies programs were at this event, which had a theme of visual arts. This event provided a wonderful opportunity for SCDSB Native Studies students to learn about the arts with a focus on FNMI traditions and cultures. Through a combination of local artists and SCDSB staff workshops, students received a hands-on experience in FNMI visual arts.



Circle of Learning Conference Attracted More Than 100 Parents

More than 100 parents attended the fourth annual *Circle of Learning* conference. Keynote presentations were made by Dr. Karyn Gordon, author, and Annie Kidder of People for Education. Participants also attended breakout sessions focusing on reading and writing, healthy schools, math homework, and technology and character development in the 21st century.

SCDSB School Councils Awarded \$34,000 to Reach Out to Parents

Through the Ontario Ministry of Education's Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants, SCDSB schools connected with parents through a wide range of workshops, activities, and programs designed to enhance student success and further engage parents in their child's education. In the 2011-2012 school year, the ministry awarded grants to 39 SCDSB school council projects, totalling over \$34,000.

Translation Services for Parents

A tool for parents who speak a language other than English was launched in the 2011-2012 school year. Language Line Interpretation Services provides over-the-phone Language Line Services. Through the use of the conference call feature on school phones, this service provided the assistance of a third-party language interpreter for school-related phone calls and meetings between educators and parents/guardians who speak a language other than English.

Partnership Meetings

The SCDSB held meetings to discuss facility partnerships relating to Barrie Central Collegiate, Elmvale District High School and Orillia-area secondary schools. Proposals

and input from all individuals and organizations were accepted at the three meetings (and in writing afterward). The proposals and ideas gathered are helping to inform future capital directions.

PSS Partnered with Waypoint to Increase Awareness of Mental Health

Penetanguishene Secondary School (PSS) and Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care created a partnership in the 2011-2012 school year to increase awareness among youth of mental health issues. This past March, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care's HERO (Housing, Employment and Education, Recreation, Our Place Social Club) Centre and PSS started a pilot project aiming to decrease the stigma and increase awareness of the facts surrounding mental illness. Waypoint staff and a HERO Centre client made presentations to PSS students from Grades 10 through 12 on mental illnesses, their impact, and the services available to students ages 16 and over.

Transitions for Students with Special Needs

In April 2012, the SCDSB hosted an event to help students, parents and educators plan transitions for students with special education needs. The Planning Transitions for Students with Special Education Needs event helped parents and educators learn more about resources and services available for transitions. As well, information sessions on topics related to planning for all types of transitions were presented.

All participants received the SCDSB's *Planning Transitions for Students with Special Education Needs: A Handbook for Parents*. The handbook provides guiding questions, calendars of events and tips for supporting students.

Celebrating Students and Staff

Student Receives Youth Spirit Catcher Award



Kealey Clarke, a student at Innisdale Secondary School, was named winner of the 2011 Youth Spirit Catcher Award in Barrie. The Spirit Catcher Awards is an annual program run by the City of Barrie which recognizes adults and youth who: are dedicated volunteers; make significant long-term contributions to the lifestyle of the community; and benefit others and bring honour to the city through their exceptional achievements. Kealey was nominated for this award because she is an accomplished organizer, volunteer and fundraiser in her commitment to raising money for children living with cancer.

Eastview Teacher Receives Provincial Agriculture Award

An Eastview Secondary School teacher was recognized by Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. (OAFE) for his efforts in integrating agriculture concepts into classroom learning. Jason Beer, who teaches Canadian and World Studies at Eastview, received the OAFE Teacher Recognition Award at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock in September 2011.

Huron Park Teacher Honoured for Inclusion Efforts

Heather Black, a Developmental Skills teacher at Huron Park Public School, received a Simcoe Community Services Inclusion Excellence Award in September 2011. The award recognizes the exceptional efforts of SCDSB staff and students who exemplify inclusion by seeing possibilities and opportunities for those who have an intellectual disability, and by showing a genuine desire to see all students become contributing members of their school community.

SCDSB Principal Chosen as One of Canada's Outstanding Principals

Russell Atkinson, Principal at Barrie Central Collegiate Institute, was recognized by The Learning Partnership as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals. Forty principals from across Canada were selected for this recognition. In the Canada's Outstanding Principals program, which is now in its eighth year, principals are nominated by their peers, school staff and community members in an extensive nomination and selection process. Nominations are reviewed and final winners chosen by the National Selection Committee.

Cameron Street Wins \$90,000 Grant

Cameron Street Public School was one of 12 winners from over 2,000 entries in the Aviva Community Fund. The competition had three phases of online voting followed by an evaluation period performed by a panel of judges. The school's project was to have their school yard revitalized, including completing the school's outdoor classroom (this included installation of a mural, planting a sensory garden, planting bushes for screening, and a rain garden), re-landscaping the front of the school and creating a natural playground.

Public Secondary Students Win Gold and Silver at Skills Ontario Competition

SCDSB students won three major awards at the Ontario Technical Skills Competition (Skills Ontario) competition held in Waterloo in May 2012. They were among more than 1,900 student participants at the event, with approximately 30,000 spectators in attendance.

The winners were:

Gold, Nikki Stadnyk, Collingwood Collegiate Institute, Aesthetics.

Silver, Scott Forest, Banting Memorial High School, Small Powered Equipment.

Silver, Mikaila Magee, Banting Memorial High School, Hairstyling

Banting Students Recognized for Creativity with Provincial Award

Two students at Banting Memorial High School received a Student Achievement Award from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF). This writing and creative arts competition is open to all public secondary school students in Ontario, and is designed to encourage

SCDSB Students Collect Record Number of Science Fair Awards

In May 2012, Maya Burhanpurkar and Kyle Potts helped make Simcoe County history by collectively winning five major awards at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Charlottetown, PEI.

Maya, a Codrington Public School student, saw her project, *Uncovering the Cardiac and Gastrointestinal Safety of Two Amyloid Beta-Inhibitors*, win a gold medal, a platinum Award for Best Junior Project, the Junior Actuarial Foundation of Canada Award and the Junior Discovery Challenge Award. She won \$7,500 in prize money, a 64 GB BlackBerry PlayBook, and a Western University entrance scholarship, should she choose to attend this school when the time comes.

Kyle, who attends Eastview Secondary School, won



a silver medal and \$700 in prize money as well as a scholarship to Western University for his project entitled: *The Little Piggy With The Right Idea, I "Wood" Build A House From Straw*.

the intellectual development of students and an interest in society through various media: prose and poetry, visual art and audio/visual/animation. Judging was held at the school, district, regional, and provincial levels. Sophie Poppe-Richter's written piece, *Midnight*, and Reid Nielsen's film, *Wait Wait Cut*, were awarded top place during the regional judging.

Twin Lakes Secondary School Extended French Class Wins Video Contest

In 2011, the Grade 11 Extended French class from Twin Lakes took part in a video contest organized by Ottawa University. The contest, "Quelle est la meilleure classe de Français en Ontario?", is part of the Faculty of Immersion Studies and invites students from Grades 10 to 12 in Core French, Extended French and French Immersion across Ontario to create a two-minute video that promotes bilingualism, leadership and community involvement. Twin Lakes was named "La meilleure classe de Français en Ontario" (the best French class in Ontario)! In recognition of the students' efforts, the University of Ottawa's French Immersion Studies offered each student an entry scholarship of \$2,000.

Teacher Recognized for Advancement of Mathematics

A Bradford District High School teacher was recognized by the University of Waterloo's René Descartes Foundation for the Advancement of Mathematics for his work in raising the level of mathematics education in Ontario. Teacher Jim Sparks is one of three mathematics teachers in the province to be honoured with the René Descartes medal this year. He received his award at a special event

at the University of Waterloo in June. The award comes with a lifetime membership to the Society of Descartes Medallists.

Public Students Appointed to Minister of Education's Advisory Council

Two SCDSB students were appointed to the Minister of Education's Student Advisory Council. Maya Burhanpurkar, Codrington Public School, and James Sahanatien, Twin Lakes Secondary School, were selected from applicants across Ontario to sit on the 60-student council. The council meets with the Minister of Education twice during their term, and each member is expected to participate in at least one regional student forum. The council then meets online during the school year, and may form sub-committees on topics of importance to them. During their term, the students learn about strategic planning, peer engagement strategies, and the formation of government policies, programs and practices.

Mountain View Receives National Award from Big Brothers Big Sisters

Mountain View Elementary School in Collingwood received a national award from Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Canada for their continued support of the organization's In-School Mentoring and Co-op Mentoring programs. Mountain View was nominated for the Scholastic Partnership Award by the BBBS of the Georgian Triangle. In addition to the programs at the school, Mountain View also hosts the BBBS Homework Club in the school library, and teachers drop in to remind students of upcoming assignments and to offer extra help as needed.

Celebrating Students and Staff

Trustee Tributes

The following individuals were honoured with Trustee Tributes during the 2011-2012 school year:

Russell Atkinson, Principal, Barrie Central. Russ was named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals by The Learning Partnership.

Arlana Bickell, Student, Twin Lakes. Arlana was a panelist at the Ministry of Education's Circle of Light 2011 First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) education conference.

Nadine Dodds-Cormack, Teacher, W.H. Day. Nadine has

exhibited exceptional teaching skills and leadership.

Dave Clark, Teacher, Uptergrove. Dave created the highly successful "Stamp Out Hunger" program.

SCDSB Design and Construction Department and Greenland International Consulting Engineering Firm.

This department and firm won a major environmental engineering award from Consulting Engineers of Ontario for their work on the Nottawasaga Pines Secondary School project.

Bradford Aviation Teacher Receives National Award



Bradford District High School (BDHS) Aviation teacher Michael Cino was awarded the Youth Initiative Award by the Canadian Council for Aviation and Aerospace (CCAA). This national award is presented to a secondary school teacher who has contributed significantly to the development and advancement of education and training in the field of aviation and aerospace. A component of part of BDHS's Transportation Technology Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM), the Aviation program provides students with hands-on, industry-specific learning. The program was also being featured in the fall edition of the CCAA's national magazine, *AviNation*.

Responsible Growth

Newest Public Secondary School Opens its Doors

In September 2011, the doors of Simcoe County's newest secondary school opened. During 2011-2012, Nottawasaga Pines Secondary School was home to its first population of 560 students. The school's award-winning design features 45 general and specialty classrooms, a multi-purpose cafetorium, a double gymnasium and a three-storey atrium. The school was designed with sustainable and environmentally-friendly features, including the use of geo-thermal ground-source heating and cooling systems and the types of materials used to construct the facility. It is also a community hub, incorporating a shared public library and a community policing office.

This past April, the SCDSB and Greenland Consulting Engineers in Collingwood won the 2012 Consulting Engineers of Ontario Environment Award of Excellence for their joint project submission titled: *Nottawasaga Pines Secondary School - Building for the Stewards of*



Tomorrow. This is a major environmental engineering award for the eco-friendly design of Nottawasaga Pines. The sustainable development of the school building provides social and economic benefits to the immediate and surrounding areas, as well as environmental benefits in terms of cleaning the air and water, addressing climate change and carbon footprint impacts, and restoring local habitat and biodiversity.

Students return to Newly-Renovated Schools

Harriett Todd Public School welcomed students back in the fall of 2011 after undergoing major renovations during the 2010-2011 school year. While construction was taking place, students were housed off-site at the former Hillcrest PS (Orillia) and Mount Slaven PS.

Also in September 2011, Cookstown Central PS and Hillcrest PS opened the doors to their new renovations and building additions.

Public Elementary and Secondary Schools Certified as EcoSchools

For the 2011-2012 school year, 10 SCDSB schools were recognized for their environmental efforts by the Ontario EcoSchools program. Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education program for Grades 1 through 12 that helps students develop ecological literacy while engaging in practices to become environmentally-responsible citizens. To become certified, the schools established eco-teams, assessed their school needs, developed and implemented eco-action plans, and monitored and evaluated progress. SCDSB schools certified in 2011-2012 include:

Hillsdale Elementary School - Gold
Lions Oval Public School - Gold
Terry Fox Elementary School - Gold
Wyevale Central Public School - Gold

Huronian Centennial Elementary School - Silver
Maple Grove Public School - Silver
Nantyr Shores Secondary School - Silver
Nottawa Elementary School - Silver
Sir William Osler Public School - Bronze
Waubashene Elementary School - Bronze

Summer Construction 2012

Over the summer of 2012, SCDSB Design and Construction staff were busy with initiatives relating to three new schools, full-day Kindergarten classroom additions and renovations, and over 50 additional projects.

Site preparation and construction of the new Fred C. Cook PS started in July and the new Innishore South PS design was well underway with construction set to begin in September 2012 for an intended occupancy date of September 2013.

Additions and renovations to accommodate full-day Kindergarten classrooms took place at Hillsdale PS, Huronia Centennial PS, Cundles Heights PS, Tosoronto Central PS, Uptergrove PS, W.R. Best PS, Worsley ES, East Oro PS, Connaught PS and Maplevue Heights PS.

Additionally, there were over 50 projects underway during July and August 2012 at various SCDSB schools, including roofing replacements, parking lot improvements, masonry replacements, window and door replacements, heating and cooling replacements, electrical and fire alarm replacements, renovations of change rooms, and special needs upgrades.

SCDSB Approves Balanced Budget

In June 2012, SCDSB board trustees approved a balanced budget for the 2012-2013 year totaling \$507,647,000. The operating budget reflects a projected average daily enrolment of 31,183 elementary students and 17,056 secondary students, for a total of 48,239 students.

"The achievement of this balanced budget reflects not only the expertise and efforts of our staff during the development process, but also the collective work of our board in making key decisions and being fiscally responsible over a number of years," noted Robert North, Chairperson of the Board. "These

are challenging economic times and yet we've maintained a strong focus on ensuring the appropriate supports and resources are in place to achieve our education goals and deliver effective programming to the students we serve."

"Our staff and trustees have worked diligently throughout the demanding budget development and review stages," stated Kathryn Wallace, Director of Education.

"Everyone involved in the process adopted a key guideline of ensuring our allocations align with the goals and priorities of the board's Simcoe Path multi-year plan and our improvement plans for student

achievement and wellbeing."

"The budget is compliant, in every respect, with all regulatory and contractual obligations of the board, and reflects a commitment to reaching every student, and teaching and leading through an ongoing commitment to schools and school-based supports," stated Brian Jeffs, Superintendent of Business Services. "Most importantly, the proposed budget is responsive to the educational needs in our communities."

To view the budget, visit www.scdsb.on.ca.

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.



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