

2014  
Report to the  
COMMUNITY



better  
together





Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) schools are full of caring staff who want the best for students. Our students also benefit from the involvement and support of families, volunteers, local business, organizations and other community members. Our *2014 Report to the Community – Better Together* includes success stories and updates on some of the many projects happening within the system that help our students reach their potential.



## International Languages Program connects students to ancestry

For some students, class is still in on Saturday – or Samstag or sábado, depending on which language class they are in.

The Learning Centres offer free International Languages Programs for elementary students and credit language programs for secondary students so they can learn a new language or maintain their native language.

“Every Saturday, my daughter gets up excited about going to class,” said Slava Chernousov, whose daughter Margo is studying her native language of Russian. “We’ve been in Canada two years, and we speak Russian at home, but we wanted Margo to keep learning. The teachers make it fun and the kids enjoy it, and that makes it easier for them to go on a Saturday.”

Christa Culhane’s daughter Katarina is learning German in order to speak with her family overseas.

“We have family in Germany, and having my daughter take this class helps her connect with them,” Culhane said. “It’s great for her to be able to learn another language and speak with her family.”

“Grammar is not the only aspect of learning in our classes—the cultural component is an important part of it,” said Irina O’Keeffe, who teaches Russian.

“Students learn the language through the culture and arts. They learn about the nation’s way of life to better understand the language.”

More information about International Languages is available at [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com).



“Every Saturday, my daughter gets up excited about going to class.”

# inspire



## French Immersion program popularity sparks new school sites

The first SCDSB French Immersion (FI) students started Grade 1 in September 2013. The program expanded to 12 elementary school locations in September 2014. For more information about French Immersion, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) in the 'Programs' section.

## Advanced Placement courses now available at SCDSB high schools

Grade 11 and 12 students at 10 SCDSB high schools have the option to take Advanced Placement (AP) courses starting September 2014. The courses are designed to cover the Ontario Curriculum, while providing accelerated and advanced level programming. Students can earn a university credit while still in high school, gain admission to university or both, depending on the university. More information about Advanced Placement is available at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) in the 'Programs' section.



## EQAO Five Year Trend: SCDSB and Province

Year		2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
<b>Primary</b>						
<b>Reading</b>	<b>SCDSB</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>70%</b>
	<b>Province</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>Writing</b>	<b>SCDSB</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>74%</b>
	<b>Province</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Math</b>	<b>SCDSB</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>69%</b>
	<b>Province</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>Junior</b>						
<b>Reading</b>	<b>SCDSB</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>76%</b>
	<b>Province</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Writing</b>	<b>SCDSB</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>70%</b>
	<b>Province</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>Math</b>	<b>SCDSB</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>52%</b>
	<b>Province</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>Grade 9</b>						
<b>Applied</b>	<b>SCDSB</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>45%</b>
	<b>Province</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Academic</b>	<b>SCDSB</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>82%</b>
	<b>Province</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>OSSLT</b>						
	<b>SCDSB</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>78%</b>
	<b>Province</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>82%</b>

Standardized testing in Ontario is administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). The results of standardized tests are analyzed and used to improve student learning. This data helps to inform the development of the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being.

Board and provincial reports are available at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com). The results of the 2013-14 tests will be released in fall 2014.

## Outdoor classrooms planned for all SCDSB elementary schools

Work is continuing on elementary outdoor classrooms. The spaces include elements of dramatic play, music, line games, sand and water play, visual arts, native tree species and gardens. The outdoor classrooms are designed to address children's emotional, physical and mental development, and support the Ontario early learning curriculum's play-based programming goals. The SCDSB has installed outdoor classroom components at 50 schools, with more being installed over the next five years.

## Education Service Agreements support partnerships with First Nations

The SCDSB signed Education Service Agreements with the Chippewas of Rama First Nation and the Beausoleil First Nation during the 2013-14 school year. These agreements allow for the transfer of funding and outline a cooperative relationship between the First Nations and the SCDSB for the shared use of supports.





## All high schools will have revitalized technology labs, programs thanks to renewal project

The Technology Education Program Renewal started in 2012 and continues until 2017. This \$7.5-million project invests in our technological education programs with renovations and renewals at our secondary schools. This project includes:

- installation of new, state-of-the-art equipment, replacing old equipment
- development of teaching resources and assistance for teachers to support the new programs
- aesthetic upgrades like new floors, fresh paint, brighter lighting
- the introduction of industry-standard software in all programs
- enhanced health and safety standards

- new and renovated classroom spaces to meet the needs of students and the demands of technological education programs

For more information, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under 'Programs'.

## Technological Education Programs available at SCDSB schools

- Grade 9 Integrated Technologies
- Health Care Technology (in development)
- Communications Technology
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Computer Technology
- Manufacturing Technology
- Construction Technology
- Technological Design
- Green Industries
- Transportation Technology
- Hairstyling and Aesthetics



## Innovative pilot project transforms learning, teaching

Starting September 2014, Grade 9 students at Midland and Penetanguishene secondary schools will take part in a pilot project to introduce Blended Learning—the fusion of traditional classroom teaching with online resources and an increased use of technology. All Grade 9s are asked to bring their own device to school daily, and if they don't have a device, one will be provided for them.



## Local employers offer hands-on learning for students

We have many partnerships with local employers through our Co-operative Education (Co-op), Specialist High Skills Major programs (SHSM) and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP).

In November 2013, Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood and Grove Park Home in Barrie were recognized by the Ontario Cooperative Education

Association with the Employer Champion Awards for providing SCDSB students with work experience. In April, Roberta Place Long-Term Care in Barrie was honoured with the Provincial Partnership Council 2014 Employer Champions Award on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Ontario Cooperative Education Association.

Employers interested in becoming involved with SCDSB schools should call 705-734-6363 ext. 11465.



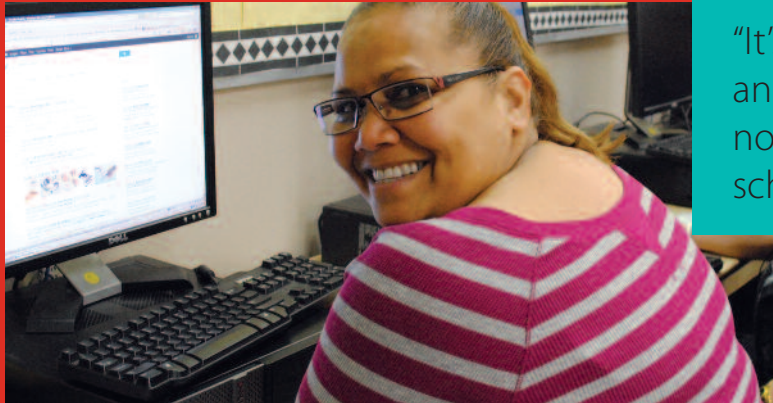
## Program helps adults get diploma, upgrade skills for employment

Vanda Bisnath was nervous to go back to school. At the age of 53, she found herself looking for a new job and, with no high school diploma, that wasn't going to be easy. A door opened when her Ontario Works agent recommended she take the Literacy and Essential Skills program at the Barrie Learning Centre.

"It's so hard going back—life is so different now and

so is school," she said. "But I thought, 'Why not give it a try?' And here I am today, back in school and loving it!"

The Literacy and Essential Skills program helps people improve their academic skills to increase employment opportunities and get ready to earn high school credits. It is for people who may struggle with math, have difficulty reading and filling in documents, have low or no computer skills and/or have issues with time management and problem solving.



"It's so hard going back—life is so different now and so is school," she said. "But I thought, 'Why not give it a try?' And here I am today, back in school and loving it!"

# nurture

"Students learn the fundamentals to help them gain the literacy and numeracy skills necessary to either finish high school or find employment," said Charlotte Parliament, Literacy and Essential Skills Program Coordinator, The Learning Centres. "It's wonderful to see students gain skills and confidence as they progress through the program."

Vanda plans to finish her diploma and take the Personal Support Worker (PSW) program, which is also offered through the Learning Centres.

The free Literacy and Essential Skills program, which is partially funded by Employment Ontario, allows students to set their own learning plans and is self-paced to meet each learner's needs. Visit [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) for more information.



## Workshops offer support for parents of students with special education needs

Every year, we host *Navigating Special Education*, a series of workshops for parents and guardians of students with special education needs. These workshops are designed to increase understanding of the supports available, and to help parents take an active and informed role in their child's education. For a full list of parent workshops available, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) in the 'Parents' section.

## Focus on equity supports character development, well-being

We encourage staff and students to keep equity and inclusion in their minds at all times. At the *Equity in Action* symposium, secondary students discussed ways to ignite positive change, and the *Raise Your Voice* symposium encouraged students in Grades 6 to 8 to share their ideas about equity, inclusion and social justice at school and in their community. For more information about our equity and inclusion programs, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under 'About Us.'

## Online Parent Portal provides another connection between parents, school

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents and guardians quick access to children's attendance, assessment information and important school announcements. The Parent Portal will be available at all schools during the 2014-15 school year. Click on the 'Parent Portal' link at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under 'Parents' for more information.

## School websites roll out across SCDSB

Watch for your school to have a new website soon—we're launching elementary school websites during the 2014-15 school year. The new design is consistent from school to school, but allows for customization. Parents will be able to subscribe to receive updates from the website. During summer 2014, 15 websites were launched.





## Chase McEachern Memorial Garden finds new home at SCDSB Education Centre

The Chase McEachern Memorial Garden, originally at Prince of Wales Public School, was re-constructed at the Education Centre in spring 2014. Chase advocated for Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in all schools and arenas. His legacy continued after his death in 2006. Today, all schools in the SCDSB are equipped with an AED thanks to his work, the continued efforts of his family through their foundation, and a partnership with the Public Access Defibrillator program with the County of Simcoe and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

## SCDSB schools recognized for green efforts

Thirteen SCDSB schools became certified Ontario EcoSchools for their environmental efforts in the 2013-14 school year. To become certified, schools establish an eco-team, develop and implement eco-action plans and monitor and evaluate the progress throughout the school year. There are four levels of certification: platinum, gold, silver and bronze. Terry Fox Elementary School was one of only 30 schools in Ontario to achieve platinum status.



## Life Skills students discover green thumbs through hands-on learning project

The students in Bradford District High School's (BDHS) Life Skills class are cultivating their green thumbs as they grow plants in the school's greenhouse.

Life Skills classes are a part of the Special Education programming at the SCDSB. This class is a non-credit program that focuses on literacy, numeracy, social, employability and personal skills.

The BDHS students have been learning how to pollinate plants to produce vegetables using a Q-tip to retrieve and spread the pollen. The goal is to produce vegetables and herbs that can be used by the class, in the hospitality program and sold to the community as a school fundraiser.

"This project gives students the chance to learn about agriculture and horticulture, and provides a therapeutic aspect as well," said Kimberley Robertson, Life Skills teacher at BDHS. "Students find the repetitive motion of filling the organic pots with soil quite relaxing. The texture and smells are calming."

Students are taught to work as a team, follow instructions, support each other, ask for help and share responsibilities, while learning about horticulture and agriculture.

"This project gives our Life Skills students valuable work experience that can be transferred to the real world," Robertson added.

For more information about Special Education, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) in the 'Programs' section.



"This project gives our Life Skills students valuable work experience that can be transferred to the real world."



## **SCDSB supports student mental health**

When students are preoccupied with emotional concerns, they cannot participate fully in learning. We're committed to improving student well-being. Training is provided to staff to help them recognize signs that a student may need additional support. We have a team of professionals available to assist, including a mental health leader, social workers, child and youth workers, psychologists, attendance counsellors and mental health and addiction nurses. We also work closely with agencies in our communities. For more information about

student mental health in the SCDSB, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under 'Parents' and 'Safe and Healthy Schools'.

## **Employee Health and Wellness program launched**

In fall 2013, we launched our Health and Wellness program for all employees. In the first year, more than 160 Wellness Champions with representation from all employee groups have helped to encourage healthy bodies and minds across the SCDSB. Together, employees are modeling healthy living for students.





## Building unique learning environments that inspire

The Facility Services Department is committed to creating unique, inspiring learning environments, built with environmental principles in mind. Design features of our new buildings include:

- maximum natural light in all learning spaces
- functionally efficient spaces to allow travel throughout the building while reducing noisy, chaotic corridors
- a focus on community use
- historical features of original schools incorporated into replacement schools

We strive to outperform conventional energy saving standards in all construction projects. Our construction and energy efficiency is a teaching tool – our newer schools have monitors that allow teachers and students to track the energy used in the new buildings. Our schools are built to meet the needs of the school community, while following strict construction budgeting, which is allocated to school boards from the Ministry of Education per student, per square foot.

## Funding announced for new schools, addition

During the spring and summer of 2014, the Ministry of Education announced capital funding for a new elementary school in Innisfil, a replacement school for Ardtrea-Cumberland Beach Public School, and an addition and renovation at Victoria Harbour Elementary School.





## **New schools that opened in 2013-14**

Hyde Park Public School  
Fred C. Cook Elementary  
School

## **New schools opening in 2014-15**

Alliston Union Public School

## **Future schools under design and construction**

Orillia Secondary School  
Chris Hadfield Public School  
Alcona South Public School  
South Barrie Secondary School  
Ardrea-Cumberland Beach  
Public School



## Retrofits and other investments save energy

We completed projects at 35 elementary and secondary school to improve energy efficiency and conservation, including:

- lighting retrofits and mechanical upgrades
- Building Automation Systems (BAS) installations and enhancements
- window replacements

We also created a standards document to outline energy performance criteria for renovations and new construction projects.

The SCDSB's Energy Conservation and Demand Plan outlines more improvements with a projected elimination of over 2,700 tonnes of greenhouse gas emission. View the plan at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under 'Programs' and 'Environmental Initiatives'.

In 2013, the SCDSB was recognized by the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, as well as Natural Resources Canada, for leadership in energy conservation.

## SchoolCash program offers option to pay online

Parents/guardians now have the option to pay online for field trips, school lunch days and other items through SchoolCash Online. The program is designed to save paper, as well as eliminate the need for students to travel with money, and for money to be counted and stored at school.

Create an account at  
<https://simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com/>



## Multi-year plan sets priorities, guides direction

Everything we do is guided by our strategic plan, *The Simcoe Path*. *The Simcoe Path* sets the priorities for the system. It includes four goals:

- Relevant, purposeful learning supporting high achievement, well-being and learning for life
- Inclusive, equitable and safe learning and working environments
- Responsible stewardship of resources

- Confidence in public education

An important component of *The Simcoe Path* is our Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being (BIPSA/WB). It's updated annually to align with current needs and priorities. *The Simcoe Path*, our action plans and BIPSA/WB are available on our Multi-Year Plan page at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under 'About Us'.



## Balanced budget aligns resources and priorities to support student success

In spring 2014, the Board of Trustees approved a balanced budget for the 2014-15 school year.

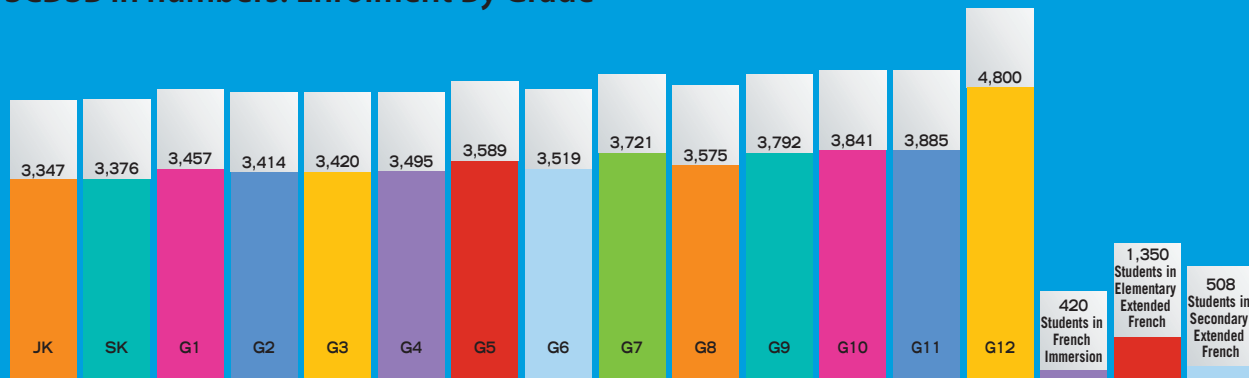
### 2014-15 Operating Expenses (000's)

Elementary Schools	224,672	42.1%
Secondary Schools	121,099	22.7%
School Support	11,851	2.2%
Adult & Continuing Education	11,368	2.1%
Targeted Programs	4,269	0.8%
Special Education	77,853	14.6%
Supplementary Grants	2,063	0.4%
Other System Services	3,395	0.6%
Transportation	18,908	3.6%
Board Administration	12,466	2.3%
School Operations	45,220	8.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 533,164</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Funding is allocated to school boards from the Ministry of Education on a per-pupil basis, as well as through grants for specific program areas such as the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Supplement, the Learning Opportunities Grant and Special Education. Boards also receive funding for capital priorities.

Detailed financial information is available at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) in the 'About Us' section.

## SCDSB in numbers: Enrolment By Grade





## SCDSB in numbers: Enrolment

Elementary  
**34,913**

Secondary  
**15,948**

Learning  
Centres  
**370**  
(day  
school  
only)

All statistics are as of March 31, 2014



## Trustees: committed to student success

Like every school board in Ontario, the SCDSB is governed by a Board of Trustees. Trustees are elected during municipal elections every four years and are directly accountable to the community.

The SCDSB has 11 elected trustees and one First Nations Trustee appointed by the Chippewas of Rama and Beausoleil First Nations.

## Board of Trustees (2010 to 2014)

- a. Robert North**, Adjala-Tosorontio & Essa
- b. Suzanne Ley**, Barrie, Wards 1, 2, 3
- c. Krista Mayne**, Barrie, Wards 4, 5, 6
- d. Christine Williams**, Barrie, Wards 7, 8, 9, 10
- e. Caroline Smith**, Collingwood and Clearview
- f. Amanda Monague**, First Nations Representation
- g. Donna Armstrong**, Innisfil
- h. Michele Locke**, Midland, Penetanguishene, Wasaga Beach & Tiny
- i. Nicole Black**, New Tecumseth & Bradford West Gwillimbury
- j. Debra Edwards**, Orillia
- k. Peter Beacock**, Oro-Medonte & Springwater
- l. Jodi Lloyd**, Severn, Ramara and Tay

## 2013-14 Student Trustees

Student Trustees are elected annually by their peers to represent the interests of students at the board table.

- m. Brandon Amyot**, Barrie Central Collegiate Institute
- n. Patrick Whitten**, Banting Memorial High School
- o. Cheryne Winstanley-Hayes**, Midland Secondary School

More information about Trustees is available at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under 'Board'. Information about Student Trustees, including contact information for current Student Trustees, is in the 'Students' section.



## The Role of Trustees

Trustees:

- maintain a focus on student achievement and well-being, and participate in making decisions that benefit the entire board
- establish policies and approve the budget to ensure that financial resources are allocated to achieve the desired results
- prepare for and participate in all committee and board meetings
- are accountable to the province and the electorate
- respond to the concerns of parents and others



## Senior Administrative Team

Director of Education: **Kathi Wallace**  
Associate Director/Superintendent of  
Human Resource Services:

**Janis Medysky**

Superintendent of Business Services:  
**Brian Jeffs**

Superintendent of Facility Services:  
**John Dance**

Superintendents of Education:

Area 1: **Stuart Finlayson**

Area 2: **Paul Sloan**

Area 3A: **Paula Murphy**

Area 3B: **Anita Simpson**

Area 3C: **Chris Samis**

Area 4: **John Legere**

Area 5: **Jackie Kavanagh**

Find out more about our Senior  
Administrative Team on [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)  
under 'Board'.

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**Simcoe County**  
**District School Board**



**Mixed Sources**

Product group from well-managed  
forests, controlled sources and  
recycled wood or fibre  
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