



# Nantyr News



## November 2023

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## Upcoming Events:

- Nov 10: Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Nov 11: Remembrance Day
- Nov 17: PA Day (All schools)
- Nov 20-30: OSSLT
- Nov 23: Midterm Report Cards
- Nov 28: Eat Well to Excel Day
- Nov 30: Semi Formal
- Dec 2: Holiday Market
- Dec 25 to Jan 5: Winter Break
- Jan 29: Last day of Semester 1
- Feb 5: Semester 2 Begins



### Parents' Guide to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Learn to navigate the world of assessment, evaluation, and reporting with this new guide for parents/guardians. Created to support parents'/ guardians' understanding of assessment, this guide was designed to effectively empower you to actively engage in your child's educational journey. The guide has been posted to the Simcoe County District School Board's website and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/2urcm2tm>.

### Student Cards

\*\* Student cards are available on SchoolCash Online under "Student Activity Fee \$25 2023/2024". Your student card will be needed to attend school activities and dances. \*\*

**REMINDER!!** Students are to be in class when at the school. Guardians are not able to sign their student out of class to work on homework in the cafeteria or library.

### Community Involvement Volunteer Hours Opportunity!!

Scan the QR code below to sign up to help with outdoor gardening on the school property. A date and time for this project will be chosen at a later date.



### Feedback, Recovery, and Improvement Days

At the end of each semester, all secondary schools will run feedback, recovery, and improvement days for students. Culminating assessments such as portfolios, essays, examinations, and interviews will take place during instructional days and will be returned to students with feedback.

**The last day of regular instruction for students in semester one is Monday, Jan. 29, 2024. The period from Tuesday, Jan. 30 to Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024 is reserved for students who require an opportunity to receive feedback from an assessment, to rescue or recover a credit, or to improve on an area of missed expectations. Teachers and support staff will communicate with students who will benefit most from attending this opportunity; however, all students will be invited to attend. There will be no new instruction these days. Feedback, recovery, and improvement days are an opportunity for students to work closely with their teacher if they require feedback, credit recovery, or an opportunity to improve on an area of missed expectations.**



**Indigenous Map activity**



**GBSSA Girls Golf High School Division Champ**



**Happy Halloween**



**200 students helped pick up over 50 bags of garbage including a rice cooker, fireworks, a car seat and 10 bricks!**



**Shore Wars!**



**Shore Wars!**



**International Students from Japan**



**Shore Wars!**



**Thanksgiving Food Drive**

## **News from Guidance:**

### **Researching College, University, Apprenticeship & Workplace Options**

Parents and students are encouraged to consult the following websites to help with post-secondary planning (resources can be found on the google classroom):

Programs and entrance requirements for Ontario colleges: [www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca)

Programs and entrance requirements for Ontario universities: [www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca](http://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca).

Information about Apprenticeships and the skilled trades: [www.oyap.com](http://www.oyap.com) and [www.apprenticesearch.com](http://www.apprenticesearch.com)

Exploring workplace opportunities: <http://www.barriecareercentre.com>

Want to learn more about careers that match with your interests and abilities? Explore all that [www.myblueprint.ca/simcoe](http://www.myblueprint.ca/simcoe) has to offer! Click “log in with school account”, students then enter their school login and password, then give MyBlueprint’s “Who am I” surveys a try, or explore options under the “post-secondary” menu.

### **Scholarships, Bursaries and Financial Planning for Post-Secondary Education**

It is never too early to start your scholarship search! Students are encouraged to visit the following websites to create profiles and be matched with scholarships / bursaries:

<https://yconic.com/>   <https://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>   <https://scholartree.ca>

[www.schoolfinder.com](http://www.schoolfinder.com)   [www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org)   <https://grantme.ca>

In addition, further scholarship and bursary opportunities arrive in the guidance office regularly. These will be advertised during daily school announcements, on the google classroom, through school email and also on the @NantyrGuidance Twitter feed. Of particular interest is ‘The Scholarship Report’ that is a one-stop digital resource for Ontario high schools, students and parents. This is offered to SCDSB students and paid for by the SCDSB. It can only be accessed via the Google classroom.

**OSAP** stands for Ontario Student Assistance Program. It is a combination of grant and loan from the Ontario government. It is too early to apply for next year however; you can visit <http://osap.gov.on.ca> to find out more information. Want an estimate of how much you may be eligible to receive? Go here [OSAP AID ESTIMATOR](#)

### **Grade 8 Students who will be Tritons next year**

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? Transition activities are well underway and will help your child transition well to high school. The first step is to join our ‘Nantyr Graduating Class 2028’ google classroom using the code ‘3rfqdub’. This classroom is currently under construction, but eventually, everything that you need to know about grade 9 at Nantyr will be available in this classroom. Check it out!

Here is a link to more information to help you and your child with the transition from elementary school to high school.

[https://www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning\\_for\\_high\\_school](https://www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning_for_high_school)



## Post-Secondary Planning for Potential Graduates

Guidance counsellors have met one-on-one with potential graduates to go over graduation requirements, post-secondary options, application deadlines, scholarship opportunities and OSAP information.

Ask your potential graduate about this meeting. If they missed their appointment, they can still book one with their guidance counsellor. Please do this ASAP so that you do not miss timely information! All potential graduates were encouraged to join our **'Triton Graduating Class of 2024'** **google classroom** where all the above information and more can be found. The classroom join code is

**'x67bw3x'**.



Counsellor	Student Alpha	Request a Guidance Appointment - Click link	Email
Ms. Kalbfleisch	A - F	<a href="https://nssguidancekalbfleisch.youcanbook.me">https://nssguidancekalbfleisch.youcanbook.me</a>	akalbfleisch@scdsb.on.ca
Ms. Weymark	G - N	<a href="https://nssguidanceweymark.youcanbook.me">https://nssguidanceweymark.youcanbook.me</a>	nweymark@scdsb.on.ca
Ms. Shaw	O - Z	<a href="https://nssguidanceshaw.youcanbook.me">https://nssguidanceshaw.youcanbook.me</a>	jshaw@scdsb.on.ca

Guidance Assistant		
DeeDee Partridge	Ext 40290	Email - dpartridge@scdsb.on.ca

Student Success		
Shaughna Ainsworth (Sem. 1)	Ext 40374	Email – sainsworth@scdsb.on.ca
Matt Rietkoetter (Sem. 2)		Email - mrietkoetter@scdsb.on.ca

### **Online Learning Graduation Requirement and Opt Out Options**

Students are required to earn two online learning credits to graduate from secondary school, beginning with every student who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year. The online learning graduation requirement also applies to adult learners that will be entering the Ontario secondary school system starting in the 2023-24 school year. The graduation requirement is intended to support students in developing familiarity and comfort with learning and working in a fully online environment, as well as developing digital literacy and other important transferable skills that they will need for success after secondary school, including in post-secondary education and the workplace.

#### **Opting out**

Parents/guardians may choose to opt their children out of the mandatory online learning credits required for graduation.

To opt out, a parent/guardian must submit the [Secondary Online Learning Graduation Requirement Opt-out Form](#).

Exemption from the online learning graduation requirements may be requested by:


- the parent/guardian of the secondary student
- students who are 18 years of age or older
- students who are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control

Check with your local school if you have questions regarding the registration or opt-out process.



**COPE's Canines in the Classroom** program is looking for volunteer drivers who might be able to drive some students to local elementary schools during period 2 and/or 3 in December and January. The students will be doing Reading Buddy at those schools. Drivers will only be driving students (not dogs). There will be 2 dates at each school. Exact dates and times TBD. Please contact Jane Boake [jboake@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:jboake@scdsb.on.ca) for more information.

## Cooperative Education Employer Appreciation

Thank you to all of our employers for hosting co-op students throughout the year, without your support this program would not be made possible. Every month we will be highlighting local employers as well as showcasing our students on Instagram; follow us all year  [@nsscoop](https://www.instagram.com/nsscoop).



A big shout out goes to **Gord Wagg at Gordie's Garage** and **Ben Crombie at Ren's Pets** for being supporters of the Co-op Program at Nantyr Shores Secondary School. These employers go above and beyond to help engage and train our students to become valuable employees within our community.

### **How can you help?**

We are always seeking partners in experiential learning. Fill out the google form below and we will be in touch! <https://forms.gle/Rv5ALjdgx1tWNGqu6>

# I AM A PROUD FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, INUIT STUDENT

"I'M PROUD ᐃᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ"  
 "MOUIN CHU FIÈR DÈT MÉTIS"  
 "N'GCHI NENDAM  
 ANISHINAABE AWYAAAN"



Voluntary, Confidential  
Self-Identification



*"The Simcoe County District School Board acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people. The Anishnaabeg include the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people."*

**Simcoe County  
District School Board**  
Your Future... Our Priority

For more information, please contact:  
Simcoe County District School Board  
Indigenous Education  
**705-734-6363**  
info@scdsb.on.ca

For an accessible version of  
this information, contact  
info@scdsb.on.ca.

## SELF-IDENTIFICATION FORM

Parents: Please return this completed form to your child's principal.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings at this school: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child identify as: (Check all that apply)

- First Nation     Métis     Inuit     Ojibwe

Does your child speak an Indigenous language?     Yes     No

Language spoken: \_\_\_\_\_

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is self-identification?

- ✓ The choice to self-identify is up to you and does not require proof of documentation (i.e. no status card is required), regardless of where you live. Self-identification information is confidential, securely stored and used only to support Indigenous student success.

### Who can self-identify?

- ✓ Parents or guardians of Indigenous students
- ✓ Anyone over age 18

### Is it too late to identify my older child?

- ✓ You can identify your child at any age or identify yourself if over age 18

### Will this information be made public?

- ✓ No. Data collected will be treated the same as information in the Ontario Student Record and is protected by both the Municipal and Provincial Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts
- ✓ No data that can personally identify a student will be released



### Why should I self-identify my child?

Self-identification helps schools support the needs of Indigenous students and track their achievement. Student achievement and other data is collected and used to help improve student success.

### Other benefits to self-identifying:

- ✓ Increasing school awareness of the diverse needs of Indigenous students
- ✓ Providing culturally-specific learning opportunities
- ✓ Giving access to support staff designed to meet the specific needs of Indigenous students
- ✓ Connecting students to community services and supports
- ✓ Helping to identify schools that need additional Indigenous programming
- ✓ Providing the ability to track the effects of the services provided to students

### Did you know?

- Over 1,700 Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students have self-identified as Indigenous since 2007.
- ✓ That's 3.5% of our total population!
- ✓ 20 SCDSB staff have self-identified as Indigenous

**The SCDSB is committed to meeting the learning needs of Indigenous students through responsive programming and services.**

In partnership with First Nation and Métis community members, the SCDSB has:

- ✓ Dedicated Indigenous student advisors and resource teachers
- ✓ Classroom resources and staff professional development on Indigenous culture
- ✓ Hosted mini pow-wows and a Métis rendezvous
- ✓ Started developing policies on cultural practices in our schools

## November PA Day

Please note that Friday, Nov. 17 is a PA Day for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2023-24 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information: [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning\\_for\\_school/school\\_year\\_calendar](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar).

Below is a summary of the activities planned for the Nov. 17 PA Day:

### Secondary

<b>Length:</b>	Full day
<b>Topic:</b>	Multilingual learners; assessment, evaluation and reporting; school action and equity planning
<b>Host:</b>	Simcoe County District School Board
<b>Presenter(s)/facilitator(s):</b>	School board staff, school administrators, and school leads

Educators will learn about using STEP assessment data to plan responsive instruction for their multilingual learners (ML), including the use of tools and resources to support learning. They will participate in collaborative discussions and tasks in small and large groups facilitated by school leaders and ML lead teachers. This learning was collaboratively planned by members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Multilingual Learner team and the school-based ML leads to be responsive to the needs of the MLs in each school (100 minutes).

Educators will collaborate with department colleagues to develop culminating course tasks and consolidation activities which provide students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning. They will be supported with planning resources developed by the Student Achievement 7-12 department (100 minutes).

Educators will work with school and curriculum leaders in their schools to identify evidence-based strategies and actions to support students through the achievement of their school's School Action and Equity Plan goals. These goals connect to safe and inclusive learning spaces, achievement in mathematics, and graduation and transitions (100 minutes).

## Communication to Families Regarding Inclement Weather Days



*Please note that APM A3020 – Inclement Weather, 3.1.2 states that “parents/guardians are to be reminded, in writing at appropriate times (October and January) each school year, that it is their responsibility to decide whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.”*

### Inclement weather and bus cancellation information reminder



All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Our school is in the [insert zone for your school] zone. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted. School staff are expected to plan for such emergencies in order to transition students who are unable to attend due to inclement weather, to their online platforms (Google Classroom and/or SCDSBhub [Brightspace by D2L]) and continue with academic programming. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions. The Consortium and bus operators try to make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and make every effort to post announcements before 7 a.m. Inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day. You can follow the Consortium on Twitter [@SCSTC\\_SchoolBus](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

## Nov. 28 is Eat Well to Excel Day in Simcoe County

Eat Well to Excel is a Simcoe County non-profit community partnership that supports our school's student nutrition program. The funding provided by Eat Well to Excel allows us to supply students with access to healthy snacks during the school day.

The pandemic and increasing food costs have caused a significant financial strain on many families in our region and new data shows that 1 in 3 kids in Canada are at risk of going to school hungry. Kids that are hungry struggle to retain knowledge and keep focused throughout the day. They are also at an increased risk of experiencing poor mental health and a compromised immune system. With your support we can maintain and hopefully improve our program to provide a consistent supply of healthy food to our students.

You can make a donation by visiting [eatwelltoexcel.ca](http://eatwelltoexcel.ca). You can either support the county-wide program or direct your donation to our school. Please include our school name in the comment box to ensure the donation goes directly to our program. A tax receipt will be emailed to you.

For more information about Eat Well to Excel visit [eatwelltoexcel.ca](http://eatwelltoexcel.ca).

## Mental Health Promotion Strategy of the Month

Well-being is a strategic priority in the Simcoe County District School Board, and our mental health and well-being department provides monthly strategies to support student and family well-being.

This month's strategy is *Let It Go*. This practice helps students focus their attention, calm feelings of anxiety, and manage stress. To practice *Let It Go* at home, have your child/youth sit comfortably and take a deep breath. Share the following exercise with your child/youth:

- Use your fingers to gently massage the top of your head
- Still in massaging motion, bring your fingers to your forehead, eyebrows, temples, around your eyes, cheeks, and jaw
- If you notice tension anywhere – let it go
- Finally, massage each of your ears and end by gently pulling your earlobes

Keep in mind to take your time with each area, especially where you hold the most tension.

Practicing *Let It Go* can be done any time of the day or at regular times, such as at mealtime or before bed. You may try this technique on your hands using a massaging motion to focus on each finger, thumb, and palm. Consider doing *Let It Go* with your child/youth to model the strategy.

Visit the links below for *Let It Go* posters from School Mental Health Ontario:

Elementary - <https://smho-smso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/SEL-Posters-Let-It-Go.pdf>

Secondary - <https://smho-smso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SEL-Posters-Secondary-Let-It-Go.pdf>

Find more easy and fun mental health activities to do at home visit: <https://smho-smso.ca/online-resources/easy-and-fun-mental-health-activities-for-home/>

Follow the mental health and well-being social media accounts (@SCDSB\_MHWP) to see how well-being is being supported in our schools.

## Looking for Employment? Join Our Team!

Curious about what employment opportunities are available at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB)? The SCDSB is hosting several job fairs throughout Simcoe County during the month of November; come by and speak with one of our representatives at any of the following events!

### **YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka Employment Services (Midland)**

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[Job Seekers | YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka \(ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca\)](http://ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)

### **TRACKS Employment & Resource Service (Collingwood)**

Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[TRACKS Employment Services - One-stop resource centre for Employment Ontario Services | Located in Collingwood and serving Georgian Triangle communities of Clearview, Wasaga Beach, and Town of the Blue Mountains](#)

### **FOCUS Employment Services (Alliston)**

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023

3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

[Job Seekers - FOCUS Community Development Corporation \(focuscdc.on.ca\)](http://focuscdc.on.ca)

### **Agilec Employment Services (Orillia)**

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023

12 to 5 p.m.

[Employment Services - Agilec](#)

For more information about employment opportunities at the SCDSB, visit: [www.scdsb.on.ca/joinourteam](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/joinourteam).

## High School Information Events for Grade 8 Students (January 17th @ Nantyr!)

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information events will take place in-person this winter! Student leaders and staff at the school will give an overview of what's new and what to expect. Learn about courses offered, as well as information about teams and clubs. Please visit the SCDSB website at [www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning\\_for\\_high\\_school](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/secondary/planning_for_high_school) to find details on your high school's info night, and contact the school directly for more information.



## Knowledgehook Math Tool

Knowledgehook is a digital math assessment and practice tool that has been purchased for all K-10 SCDSB classrooms. This tool is accessible to students at home so that they can practice math skills, either assigned by their teacher or on their own.

Ask your child about how they use Knowledgehook in class and learn more at: [www.knowledgehook.com](http://www.knowledgehook.com).

## Supporting oral language development at home

Within the revised language curriculum, there is a focus on supporting students to acquire the knowledge and skills relating to the foundations of language. Oral and non-verbal communication are foundational components of language skills. Over the years, students develop their listening and speaking abilities using a variety of strategies and skills, including word choice and syntax, to become effective communicators.

Here are some ways you can support oral language development at home:

- Engage your child in conversations about things that interest them
- Talk to your child and listen responsively
- Ask and answer questions
- Share oral stories
- Read aloud to your child
- Talk about the books you read together
- Singing and playing together

## Join us! A Learning Series for Parents/Guardians with Pine River Institute

Mental health and well-being continues to be a key strategic priority within the SCDSB. We are pleased to continue our partnership with the Centre for Family Initiatives at Pine River Institute (CFI@PRI) to provide several curated learning sessions focused on student mental health and well-being to SCDSB families.

There are eight webinars specifically planned for parents/guardians and other caregivers during this school year.

Nov. 9, 2023	Understanding and managing screen time, part two - social media edition
Nov. 30, 2023	Helping parents align
Jan. 11, 2024	Sleep hygiene
Feb. 8, 2024	Self regulation for kids
Feb. 22, 2024	Self regulation for teens
March 28, 2024	Building parents' resiliency
April 18, 2024	Vaping, weed, and alcohol

We hope you save these dates in your calendar and join us for these learning opportunities. For more information and to register, please visit the SCDSB website: <https://bit.ly/3jGaC74>.

Pine River Institute is a live-in treatment centre and outdoor leadership experience for youth aged 13 to 19 struggling with addictive behaviours and often other mental health issues. Combining therapy with a fully-accredited education program, PRI reinforces the healthy life skills required for a successful future. CFI@PRI extends PRI's knowledge, experience and evidence informed treatment approach to families and care providers in the community to support youth mental wellness and prevent the need for more intensive interventions. Learn more about PRI by visiting their website at [www.pineriverinstitute.com](http://www.pineriverinstitute.com).

## Dental Screening and Services for Kids Ages 0-17

Good dental health is an important part of your child's general health. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Oral Health Community Program offers free dental screenings in daycares, schools, and health unit offices for children and youth aged 0 - 17 years. Dental screening can identify and inform families that their child has a dental concern.

Health unit staff can also help children/youth and their families access free preventive services and treatment through the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) Program. For more information regarding these services visit: [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Dental](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Dental).

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

Nov. 1-31	Albanian Heritage Month Hindu Heritage Month Financial Literacy Month Movember
Nov. 1	All Saints Day (Christianity)
Nov. 2	I Read Canadian Day
Nov. 5	World Tsunami Awareness Day
Nov. 5-11	Treaties Recognition Week Veteran's Week
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day
Nov. 12	Bandi Chhor Divas (Sikhism) Diwali/Deepavali – five-day festival (Hinduism)
Nov. 12-18	Transgender Awareness Week
Nov. 13	Diwali/Lord Mahavir Nirvana (Jainism) New Year/Enlightenment Day of Gautamswami (Jainism) Vikram Samvat New Year (Hinduism) World Kindness Day
Nov. 14	World Diabetes Day
Nov. 16	International Day for Tolerance Louis Riel Day (Indigenous World View)
Nov. 18	Gyan Panchami (Jainism)
Nov. 19-25	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
Nov. 20	National Child Day/World Children's Day Transgender Day of Remembrance
Nov. 20-26	Canada History Week
Nov. 24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikhism)
Nov. 25	Holodomor Memorial Day International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
Nov. 25-26	Day of the Covenant (Bahá'í)
Nov. 25-Dec. 10	The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
Nov. 26	Dev Diwali (Jainism)
Nov. 27	Birth of Guru Nanak Jayanti (Sikhism)
Nov. 27-28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (Bahá'í)