



# GEORGIAN BAY DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL

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## IMPORTANT DATES:

<b>Oct. 19</b>	Parent/Student/Teacher Conference 5:00 PM	<b>Nov. 14-18</b>	Grad Photos
<b>Oct. 20</b>	OSSLT Test	<b>Nov. 18</b>	P.A. Day
<b>Oct. 21</b>	P.A. Day	<b>Nov. 21</b>	Mid-Semester Report Cards Distributed
<b>Oct. 28</b>	Award Recognition Assembly-Gr 10-12	<b>Nov. 23</b>	Grade 8 Parent Night 5:30-7
<b>Nov. 2</b>	Take Our Kids To Work Day	<b>TBA</b>	Learning Centre Holiday Bazaar
<b>Nov. 7-8</b>	Civics/Careers Final Evaluations	<b>Dec. 26</b>	Winter Holiday – no classes

**Attached to this newsletter you will find an altered schedule for October 20<sup>th</sup> due to the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test which affects all students as well as information for our upcoming interview night on October 19<sup>th</sup>.**

### Message from the Principal:

It is once again mid-October. The weather is now feeling like fall and the leaves are turning. It has been a busy and exciting start for Georgian Bay District Secondary School with the blending of students and staff for the inaugural school year. Our clubs and sports teams, as well as in-class activities are up and running with gusto. We have been given word that the fencing will be installed around the construction area next week which will result in a few changes to our busing routine. Strategies are in place to ensure students arrive and depart without too much disruption to their routine. Some exciting times ahead.

The routine of the school is getting well establish and with a few small changes. The Ministry of Education asks that, in addition to the six fire drills and two lockdown drills, the school conduct two controlled evacuations which may need to occur in the case of a bomb threat or environmental issue such as a chemical spill. All schools are involved in this including the elementary schools.

Our school has a team focusing on Math initiatives as well as a team working to implementing the new On-Line Literacy Test. The OSSLT will take place on Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> with a modified day. Only students writing the OSSLT will be at the school for the morning, with the remainder of the students attending in the afternoon.

We hope that you are able to attend the Parent-Teacher interviews on October 19<sup>th</sup>. If you are not able to attend, please contact the teachers on the student timetable for input and feedback. Enjoy the fall weather.

Regards

John Playford  
Principal

### Message from Director of Education Kathi Wallace

At the Sept. 28 Board Meeting, it was shared publicly that I will retire as of December 31, 2016. As I'm sure you can imagine, this decision was challenging for me. I love what I do—I have felt this way in every role during my 39 years in this board.

It's truly been an honour to serve the students and families of Simcoe County throughout my career. I've had the privilege of working with fantastic staff, parents and community partners. I've been surrounded by skilled, passionate and caring people.

My focus remains on our work as I complete my time here. The Board of Trustees have now started the search for a new director. We will also continue with our strategic planning consultation and analysis. The input provided by our staff, students, parents and community members will be invaluable to the board and senior administration, including the new director, as they move the system forward. If you haven't already, I encourage you to add your ideas by visiting [www.scdsb.on.ca/difference](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/difference).

I am also looking forward with optimism to this next stage of my life. It's a chance to spend some more time with my family. This includes my growing group of beautiful grandchildren who provide that daily reminder of life's wonder and simple joys. It's that same reminder I cherish from my days as a classroom teacher.

### Student Activity Council

Student council and our Leadership group have already planned some great activities for the school year, which include semi-formal dances and spirit days. Our first spirit day is Jersey Day on October 18th day! We will also have food drives, coffee houses, intramural lunch time activities, and so much more in the coming months.

### Terry Fox 10KRun

"Even if I don't finish, we need others to continue. It's got to keep going without me." Terry Fox 1980.

GBDSS Annual 10K Terry Fox Run and BBQ was held on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and was a great success. Our over 900 staff and students walked or ran through the community to show support for the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope, and raised \$1,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Way to go, Bears!

## **Student Fees**

Student cards are now on sale through School Cash On-Line. If a student wishes to purchase a bundle of student card, yearbook, or student athletic fee, they can do so online. School events and sports require a student card for participation.

The GBDSS Student Card is a plastic card that identifies each student by name, photo and student number, and indicates his/her right as a student to be on school property, to be in the school building, to ride a bus if eligible under Board Policy, and to participate in school sponsored activities. Some of these activities include sports, clubs, student council events such as dances, drama and music events. The fees collected are used to support the various student events that occur throughout the year. Every student receives a student identification card. When the Student Activity Fee is paid, a sticker will be placed on the back of the card by the main office. The Student Activity Fee can be purchased on School Cash Online and is also being sold in front of the Cafeteria during lunch hour.

## **Parent Portal – Real-Time Access to Attendance, Grade Information**

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and, in secondary school, grades.

The program includes the option to sign up for email notifications. It will be available at all Simcoe County District School Board schools.

To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's Student Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The access ID will be provided in a sealed letter with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the access ID, you can visit us in the school main office, and we will provide it to you after verifying your identity.

***Parent Portal access letters will be available during Parent/Student Teacher Night on Wednesday, October 19, 2016. If you are unable to attend this event the letters will be mailed to parents the following day at the address that we have on file in the office.***

## **Network Change as of November 1, 2016**

The current "scdsbgw" network will be disabled November 1, 2016 and all staff and students will need to switch to the new "byodscdsb" network before this in order to continue to have BYOD access on their personal devices.

The new **byodscdsb** is available **now** and is designed for SCDSB staff and students who bring personal devices like tablets, smartphones and computers to schools and require Internet access. Once you connect and login, your device will automatically connect at all SCDSB locations.

ITS Computer Software Technicians (CTSs) have created documentation to help users to connect their personal devices to the new Wi-Fi Network based for Apple, Android and Window devices. Go to:

<http://scdsb.sharepoint.com/sites/Community0365/SoftwareResources/Connecting%20to%20WiFi> ITS does not support personal devices beyond attempting to provide some documentation of the most popular devices/operating systems.

## **Free math help for students in Grade 7 to 10**

Homework Help is a free online math help resource for students in Grades 7-10. Homework Help provides FREE, live one-on-one tutoring from Ontario teachers, and is funded by the Ontario government and administered by TVO.

Students can ask their math questions during chat room hours, Sunday to Thursday, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. For more information and other math resources, visit: [www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org](http://www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org)

## **Bus cancellation information in case of inclement weather**

Although fall has just arrived, winter is just around the corner in Simcoe County. With it, comes the possibility of severe weather, challenging winter driving conditions and, as a result, possible bus and school event cancellations.

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's bus information website at [www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). Our school is in the **North** zone. When buses are cancelled, please remember that schools are still open (unless otherwise noted) for student learning.

The Consortium, in conjunction with bus operators, will make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and as such, will make every effort to post announcements between 6 and 7 a.m. Parents should also note that 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 also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions> and you can follow the Consortium on Twitter @SCSTC\_SchoolBus. You can also access information on the GBD Announcements Page – [gbd@scdsb.on.ca](http://gbd@scdsb.on.ca), on our Twitter feed, @GeorgianBay\_DSS, on local radio stations, and through the bus consortium.

## **School grounds smoke-free 24/7**

This is a reminder to students, parents, guardians, and community members that under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act it is against the law for any person to hold lit tobacco or to smoke anywhere on school property at any time. Please respect this law when visiting the property to pick up students, to meet with staff and to attend school performances and sports events. Your actions encourage youth to obey the law and to choose tobacco-free lifestyles. Have questions? Contact the Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).