



Georgian Bay District Secondary School

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First Semester Report

Attached is your teen's first semester report. This covers the courses taken between September 2016 and January 2017. If you have any questions about the final grade, learning skills or comments, please contact the teachers. (For teachers on leave, contact the office)

Second Semester Courses

A reminder that your teen now has up to four new courses and up to four new teachers. We have found that email is becoming the preferred method of communication between parents and teachers. It eliminates playing "phone tag" and allows updates and attendance reports to be sent electronically. Email addresses for our teachers are included in this newsletter. Also, ask to be connected to your student's online account so you can check attendance and marks. See the Parent Portal section in this newsletter for information.

Failed a Course? Now What?

Some students were unsuccessful in a course in Semester 1, and they may be able to make it up:

- through credit recovery – Student Success Team will contact students who are eligible.
- in summer school - call or drop in to Student Services to speak to a guidance teacher about your options.

Get a Good Start for Semester 2

Now that the results of your student's effort in Semester 1 are clear, it is a good time to develop habits for Semester 2 success. Communication with teachers about a student's progress is an important strategy. In addition, extra support can also be arranged through Student Services, Special Education and Student Success.

Course Selections

Over the next four weeks, all students will be selecting courses for next year. Again this year, students will be making their course selections "on-line", meaning they can do it from home if they wish. We encourage parents to be involved in this process: talk to your teen about their long term plans, courses they need and courses they would like to take. Once each student has selected his/her courses, we will send home a print copy with the interim report card for parents to review. Course selections are due Monday, March 7, 2016. If you wish to request changes, please feel free to contact Student Services at 705-526-7817 ext. 41961.

Community Involvement Hours

We would like to emphasize the importance of completing **40 hours of Community Service** and getting completed community service sheets to Guidance as soon as possible so that this important graduation requirement may be recorded in the student's records. 40 hours committed to giving to the community can be easily achieved if started in Grade 9.

Students in **Grade 12** are encouraged to complete their service hours ASAP and **hand in the required documentation so that graduation dates are not delayed.**

Graduation Retake

The final day for grad photos and grad retakes is March 3rd.

Appointments can be booked online at www.bookmygrad.ca

The school code is GBY

If booking a retake, please remember to return your proofs to the photographer.

Upcoming Events

February 6

Semester Two – Term 1 classes begin

February 17

Semester One final report cards distributed to students

February 20

Family Day – no classes

February 21

Grade 8 Student Day

February 22 @ 5:00 p.m.

School Council Meeting

February 22 @ 6-7:30 p.m.

Grade 8 Parent Information

Night / @6:30 Coffee House

March 3

Graduation Photo Retake Day

March 7

Course Selection Due

March 9

Interim Reports

March 13-17

March Break – no classes

March 23 @ 6:30 p.m.

Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

March 30

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

April 1

Semi-Formal

April 13

Civics/Careers Final Evaluation

April 14-17

Good Friday & Easter Monday – No classes

April 27

Mid Semester Report Cards Distributed to Students

April 28

PA Day

May 22

Victoria Day – No School

June 9

Prom

June 15

Athletic Awards Night

June 22-28

Evaluation (Exam) Days

June 29 @ 7:00 p.m.

Graduation

July 6

Semester Two Report Cards can be picked up in the Office from 8 to 3 pm

July 6

Semester Two Report Cards Mailed Home



Rotary Student of the Month

The following students were chosen by the GBDSS staff and honoured by the Rotary Club of Midland for their positive impact as a role model and a reflection of their hard work and commitment to GBDSS.

Congratulations!



September – Connor Robbins
October – Matthew Thorhauge
November – Scott Thorhauge
December – Dustin Barkley
January – Liam Alexander

Your Top Eight Snow Day Questions Answered

Bus cancellations and snow days are inevitable in Simcoe County. Each time buses are (or aren't!) cancelled, the SCDSB and the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) receive many questions from students, parents and community members. Check out the *Sharing Simcoe* blog for the top eight questions and answers - visit www.sharingsimcoe.com and search for 'snow'. Remember to follow the SCSTC on Twitter @SCSTC_SchoolBus for bus updates and cancellations.

SCSTC & GBDSS on Twitter

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) recently announced that school vehicle cancellations are now available via Twitter. Simcoe County students and parents can follow @SCSTC_SchoolBus for timely updates on school vehicle cancellations. Follow @GeorgianBay_DSS on Twitter for school updates.

With the winter weather season in full swing, everyone is also reminded that this information can also be found on the SCSTC website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Efforts are made to post and announce school vehicle cancellations between 6:00 and 6:30 a.m. on the SCSTC website (www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) and via Twitter @SCSTC_SchoolBus.

Subscribe to receive school bus delay notifications. Did you know you can subscribe to receive school bus delay notifications from the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium? Sign up on the Consortium's website: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions> and remember that you can also follow the Consortium on Twitter @SCSTC_SchoolBus. Be the first to know about new programs and initiatives by subscribing to receive news from www.scdsb.on.ca. Find stories and tips on our blog at www.sharingsimcoe.com.

Join the conversation: Follow us on Twitter @scdsb_schools and 'Like' Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) on Facebook.

PARENT PORTAL GIVES PARENTS 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, or a recent report card, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID is provided in a sealed letter in the instructions on how to create an account. Letters were mailed to all parent/guardians in September 2016, and to new student parents/guardians after Semester 2 startup. If you did not receive this information and would like to access this online tool please contact the main office.

OSSLT Preparation

Grade 10s and any other eligible students will be writing (no online version) the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on the morning of Thursday, March 30th, 2017. A change in transportation will allow students who are not writing the test to arrive 3½ hours later in the day so all students can attend afternoon classes. Classes will begin that day at 12:35 p.m., and GBDSS will have all four periods condensed into a reduced day. Students and parents can learn about the test and look at sample questions by following the links at the Education Quality and Accountability Office website: www.eqao.com. Please see attached for further information regarding the Literacy Test.

EQAO Math

All grade 9 students taking Applied or Academic Mathematics this semester will be writing the EQAO Mathematics Assessment in June. Resources are available at www.eqao.ca and through your student's mathematics teacher. The Assessment is worth 10% of your student's final mark, so **please start preparing now!** Any questions should be directed to your student's mathematics teacher.

Student Council

What a busy term this has been! Student Council has organized and supported events such as the Halloween Spirit Week, Christmas Spirit Week and GBDSS first semi-formal. We look forward to a Spring Semi-Formal Dance and Mental Health Awareness Week in May. We will continue to have spirit days on Fridays.

Student cards are on sale as needed, and will be sold at the office. New members are always welcome to Wednesday meetings at lunch in room 101. We thank everyone for their awesome school spirit this semester!

High School Information Nights Coming Soon to a High School Near You

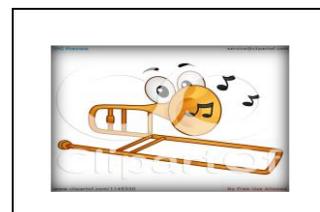
Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this winter. Information nights give an overview of what's new and what to expect, and are a chance to ask questions.

High school is an exciting time—there are so many programs, clubs and activities for students to try. Attend an information night to find out what's offered at your local high school. See the info night schedule and more information on the SCDSB's website at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.

GBDSS Information night is February 22 @ 6:00 pm. We would love to see you and talk to you about how we can help your son/daughter transition from grade 8 to graduation.

From the Arts Department

GBDSS will present The Music Man on May 9-13. The Music Man is the story of a small town set into an uproar with the arrival of conman musical instrument salesman, Harold Hill. It features classic show tunes such as *76 Trombones* and *Till There Was You*. You won't want to miss it!



From the GBDSS Library/Learning Commons

Please return Semester 1 books – Semester 1 Library books and materials are now past due. Please return all materials to the Library so that other students enjoy them too!

Books! DVDs! Audio CDs and much more!

Due to the merger of our two local high schools, we now have access to all of the Penetanguishene Secondary School collection. That means new titles for all GBDSS students to peruse. Don't see what you need? Make a suggestion to your friendly librarians. We will make every effort to get it into our collection!*

*Suggested titles must be appropriate to our collection policy.

Relax at the GBDSS Library/Learning Commons

We offer a wide range of options for student to relax. Grab a book and read in one of our comfy chairs, colour in adult colouring books, make or tinker in our Maker Space or play a game of chess with a friend. COMING SOON: a relaxation and meditation room! This room will be available as a quiet space for students to relax, meditate or pray. Ms. Dewar or Mr. Podolski's art students are hard at work creating murals to adorn the walls. It is a welcoming, multi-faith safe space. Stay tuned for the upcoming grand opening!

Find yourself at the GBDSS Library/Learning Commons!

Home access to our subscription databases

Need to complete your research at home? Now you can access all of our subscription databases at home. Just go to our school homepage and click on the large Library Databases button.

To Login: **username:** gbdrocks **password:** growl

This is a paid subscription for the use of GBDSS students and their family. Elementary siblings are welcome to use the databases. Please do not share this info with students from another school and please do not post our login information on the web.

Databases include:

- eLibrary Canada: a general reference
- History Study Centre
- Literature Study Centre
- SiRS Issues Researcher: current topics and pro/con arguments

MakerSpace

The MakerSpace has been well used this semester - Adult Colouring is still a big hit for relaxation and meditation; the glue guns have been busy; the vinyl cutter has been used a number of times for student class projects and general interest projects; Lego building and modeling clay usage is still very high. We have Arduino kits and Sphero robots available too!

We are always eager to restart crocheting and knitting (even arm knitting) anytime this winter - just ask Mrs. Bumstead (we need students to share their knowledge with others too!). Stop by the GBDSS MakerSpace in the Library Learning Commons anytime - bring some friends and MAKE something

Horticulture Club

This winter, the Horticulture Club has maintained a number of plants in the greenhouse, despite the low temperatures and reduced light. The front entrance planters have been pulled in to revamp for the spring. We have had a number of student volunteers helping with watering and maintenance of these plants. We hope to start some seeds and seedlings after March Break, in preparation for our plant sale in the spring.

Thank you to all the students that helped out in the gardens and the greenhouse in the fall - this is your work we are showcasing in our gardens for everyone to see! Students are welcome to participate in the club, even though it's winter - there's lots to do! Follow us on Twitter @gbdsshc or our website at ww.msshorticultureclub.wordpress.com. We always welcome donations of cash, gift cards for garden centres, and various tools to help us in the gardens. Contact Mr. Beausoleil or Mrs. Bumstead to get involved.



100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge – April 2017



Georgian Bay District Secondary School is proud to be taking 35 students who will be acting as ambassadors for our school and community at the 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge on April 9, 2017. This ceremony is being facilitated by Veterans Affairs Canada and is being held at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France.

Our trip has us arriving in Amsterdam and then traveling to the Vimy region for our ceremony and tour of the area. From the Vimy region we will travel to the Normandy region via Dieppe. We also have an opportunity to stop at Juno Beach and the Visitors Centre prior to arriving in Paris. After a brief stay in Paris, we move onto London and our flight home.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these students to be a part of history and represent Canada on such a global scale. Eleven days will be spent in Europe travelling in the footsteps of those who fought for the freedoms and privileges that we experience today. Students will be participating in the commemorative activities, ceremonies and events surrounding the 100th Anniversary that will be broadcast live across Canada.

Register Now for Night School Starting in February (*high schools only*)

Semester two of Night School starts February 14. Classes are offered in a blended format with students attending class one night a week for three hours and completing an additional three hours of course work online each week. Current SCDSB students can find course offerings and register online through the student portal.

Notice to Students and Legal Custodians of Students Regarding Out of Area Requests

Under the Simcoe County District School Board procedures (APM A7000), it is possible for students to apply for and receive permission to attend an out-of-attendance-area school.

Students will be permitted to continue in attendance as long as there are pupil places available. They may be required to return to their home school or transfer to another school when the capacity of the school they are attending has been reached and pupil places are required for students residing within the attendance areas.

An approval may also be revoked by the Superintendent of Education after consultation with the receiving school principal for reasons related to the student's behavior, attendance, actions or inactions at a future date.

Even with this permission, however, the responsibility for transportation to and from school is borne by the out-of-attendance-area student and/or parent/guardian.

The Gilbert Centre Offers Support Group for parenting LGBTQ Kids and Youth

The Gilbert Centre facilitates the Parenting LGBTQ Support Group, which is a drop-in meeting group for parents, caregivers, family members and friends. Meetings take place every other Wed. in Barrie. The group offers a safe and confidential space for you to share your experience, hear the experiences of others and grow in your abilities to support your LGBTQ child. Meetings are held every other Wed. at 7 p.m. at The Gilbert Centre, located at 80 Bradford Street (Suite 345) in Barrie. For more information, call 705-722-6778, visit gilbertcentre.ca or email info@gilbertcentre.ca.

 Georgian Bay District Secondary School Staff Email – Semester 2, 2016 - 2017		
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Mr. P. Balabuck pbalabuck@scdsb.on.ca	Mr. J. McEwen jmcewen@scdsb.on.ca	
Ms. D. Bastarache dbastarache@scdsb.on.ca	Mr. J. McLaren jmclaren@scdsb.on.ca	Vice Principal - Students A - K
Mr. T. Beausoleil tbeausoleil@scdsb.on.ca	Ms. J. Millar jmillar@scdsb.on.ca	Ms. S. Beeler sbeeler@scdsb.on.ca
Ms. L. Beckley lbeckley@scdsb.on.ca	Mr. R. Miron rmiron@scdsb.on.ca	
Mrs. W. Bumstead wbumstead@scdsb.on.ca	Mrs. L. Moreau lmoreau@scdsb.on.ca	Vice Principal - Students L - Z
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Mrs. S. Dunn sdunn@scdsb.on.ca	Mr. R. Soden rsoden@scdsb.on.ca	
Mr. S. Fuller sfuller@scdsb.on.ca	Mr. A. St. Amant astamant@scdsb.on.ca	FNMI Support Staff
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Mr. W. Long wlong@scdsb.on.ca		

