



Principal's Message

Principal

Ms. J. Moore

Secretary

Mrs. S. Reeb
905-358-9121

Email

SIM@dsbn.org

Important Dates for May

Asian Heritage
Month—all month

May 3th to 7th:
Education Week
and Mental Health
Week

5th Cinco de
Mayo

9th Mother's Day

24th Victoria Day

13th Eid-al-Fitr



As I reflect on the past few weeks, I am truly grateful for the help and hard work of our staff to ensure that every student has access to on-line learning from home and for keeping our students engaged. In the past two weeks we have distributed over 85 chromebooks to our families. Thank you to all of our staff and Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Preston, Mr. Felton (custodian) and Mrs. Carr (custodian) and Mrs. Reeb with your help preparing and distributing the devices.

We know it is not easy to learn new technology and we are also very thankful for our wonderful parents/guardians for working through this process, with your child's teacher. It is obvious that great things are happening as students are continuing to learn on-line and continuing to stay connected to our school community.

If you are having difficulty with the online platform, setting up routines that work for your child, or with physical or emotional well-being, we can help. Please reach out to us! If you need to connect with the school, please either send an email to sim@dsbn.org or call and leave a message (905)-358-9121. Both the email and phone messages are checked several times a day.

Our virtual spirit day '**Maker Space Day**', was April 30th! Many thanks to all of our students and families who were able to participate. We hope you enjoy our [Stingers Celebrate April video](#) that captures the spirit of problem solving, experimenting, designing, creating, being resilient, having fun and risk taking!

We are better together! Thank you!

Stay safe and healthy.

Ms. Moore :)

Did you know that the Easter bunny visited us last month? :)



DSBN Support Staff Day!

Please mark your calendar for **Wednesday, May 12, 2021** as it is **DSBN Support Staff Day**. I would like to thank our amazing support staff team for all they do to ensure our students have a safe and caring school. Thank you to Ms. Reeb, Mr. Felton, Mrs. Carr, Mrs. Preston, Mrs. Trcovic, Mrs. Elliot-Krause, Mrs. Lowes, Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Funovitz, Mrs. Sethi, Mrs. Perault, Ms. Barrow and Mrs. Bennett. If you would like to send a special greeting to our support staff, please email it to sim@dsbn.org and we will make sure they receive your "Thanks".



Graduation

Our Grade 8 Graduation is tentatively scheduled for **Friday, June 25th**. More information will be shared with our families as our planning is based on information and direction we receive from the Ministry of Education and Niagara Public Health, moving forward.



School Advisory Council

Our School Advisory Council met virtually on April 27th.

- We had a visit from **Nicole Soble a Community Outreach Worker from Niagara Falls Community Health Centre**. Nicole discussed various programs that families may access virtually. (see posters of programs in our newsletter)
- We also had a visit from our **Social Worker, Sue Bennett**. Sue shared information of webinars that are being offered through Contact Niagara that help to explain various supports that are being offered in our community, for families. For more information visit: <http://contactniagara.org/en/webinars>
- Other topics that were discussed:
 - Destreaming in Grade 9 (see more information inside this newsletter)
 - Student Census Survey
 - Kindergarten Registration
 - Maker Space Day
 - Virtual Family Night Ideas (details to follow)

Our next School Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for May 25, at 9:30 am.

This year, our School Council meetings are being held virtually. In order to attend the meeting, you will require an email invitation for the Microsoft TEAMS meeting. Please email sim@dsbn.org if you have not attended a meeting but would like to do so. If you have a topic you would like to have considered during this meeting, please include that in your email. We are looking forward to having parents join us in this meeting.

Twitter Account

Check us out at Simcoe Street Public School @PSSimcoe for the latest in school and DSBN updates!



Simcoe Street PS @PsSimcoe · Apr 23

Our Grade 7/8 students @MrHowiesonDSBN have co-created a spoken word poem that honours Earth Day (which should be everyday!). 😊 They describe their poem as 'powerful.' Thank you for sharing. @dsbn

Earth Day

The earth is our home
So Blue and so Green
So let's do our part
To keep the Earth clean

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need
But not every man's greed .

Without the rain, there would be no trees.
Without trees, there would be no life.
With no life, the earth would be filled with green.
And with it, the green slowly turns grey.

You pull apart my plants, and take away their leaves
You destroy what was made for you without worrying about it's replace
You waste away the resources and throw it all away
You destroy the earth made for you, you fall astray

We need to realize that the earth has rights too.
It has the right to live without pollution.
If we are chopping trees down we need to
replace them and take a new view.
On the earth and let it go through its own
evolution

Plant more trees
For the amazon
Stop burning trees
Pick up trash on the streets and recycle
And I will be thankful.

Class Placements

The staffing process for a new school year continues throughout the school year and often requires “fine tuning” during the first weeks of September. The teachers assigned to each class and class organizations have not been finalized at this point. When we organize classes, a great deal of consideration goes into the placement of students for the next year. The staff takes into account the children’s learning style, ability, interests and strengths, relationships and parent input, in order to provide an appropriate academic and social environment.

As parents, you have an unique perspective on your children and their school experiences. If you have any information that could help to inform our decision, please send an email to Jennifer.Moore@dsbn.org by Friday, June 4th, 2021.

Moving Before September?

In order to assist us with making the best decisions possible with respect to class organization and student placements for Simcoe Street Public School for the 2020/2021 school year, we would appreciate if you would let the office know (905-358-9121) if your family is planning to move in the next few months. Providing us with this information in the spring will also facilitate transportation arrangements for September. Thank you!

Online Registration available for Kindergarten and all Grades...

Has someone moved into the area or do you need to register for Kindergarten? Online registrations are available and are encouraged in order for us to keep up-to-date and current in regard to our students for September. If you need to register or know someone who needs to, please have them email the school at sim@dsbn.org and we can get the registration completed online. The most accurate information will allow us to plan appropriately.



DSBN Virtual Art Show!

Our school is excited to be participating in the DSBN Elementary Virtual Art Show this year! Take a “virtual tour” and join in the celebration by viewing art-work from all participating DSBN schools on the DSBN website www.dsbn.org from May 17 - 31.



Motivational Message Day to Support our Front Line workers!

Simcoe Street would like to celebrate the amazing contributions of our front-line and essential workers who are a part of our community. On **Friday, May 14th** we encourage our students, staff and families to create messages of hope, thanks and inspiration for our front-line and essential workers. Please submit a photo of your motivational message to your child’s teacher and/or email a photo to sim@dsbn.org. We will compile our thank you’s in the form of a slideshow that we will share via our social media platforms.

Motivational Message Day is one way we can say **THANK YOU** to our community members who have played such an essential role in keeping our families safe and healthy, over this past year.

Pick your Theme Day— Spirit Day!

On **Friday, May 28** we are encouraging you to pick your own theme for Spirit Day!

Have some fun! What Spirit Day do you love the most? Hat Day, Beach Day, Games Day, Maker Space, Coding, Sports Day? You pick it! We will have fun in our virtual classrooms determining what we all have picked!

Don’t have a favourite spirit Day? What about Simcoe Street Spirit? Show us your Stinger pride!



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

If you have any concerns about your child’s mental health or well-being, please connect with your child’s teacher. Although we are not in our school building, there are still many supports we can offer.

How can I access mental health support in the community?

- ◆ Pathstone Mental Health has walk-in clinics and a call centre available for immediate support. Parents and students may phone the Pathstone Mental Health Crisis and Support Line at 1-800-263-4944. Please visit <https://pathstonementalhealth.ca/> for more information.
- ◆ Support from Kids Help Phone can be accessed by calling 1-800-668-6868, texting CONNECT to 686868, or live chatting at www.kidshelpphone.ca.
- ◆ Youth Wellness Hub Niagara: <https://youthhubs.ca/en/sites/niagara/> or on Facebook and Instagram @YWHNiagara
- ◆ Canadian Mental Health Niagara: <https://niagara.cmha.ca/>
- ◆ Contact Niagara will be hosting one-hour Zoom sessions every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday for the next month to disseminate information about community resources for child and adolescent mental health and developmental services. Here is where you may find more information: <http://contactniagara.org/en/webinars>

How can I support myself and my family in coping during COVID-19?

The National Association of School Psychologists has provided a link with tips for talking to your kids about COVID-19.

[A Parent Resource: Talking to Children about COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)

[Supporting Kids During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

[Video: How to Talk to Kids About the Coronavirus](#)

[Mental Health and COVID-19.](#)

The District School Board of Niagara is working closely with Niagara Public Health on Coronavirus (COVID-19) communication to ensure students and their families receive relevant and timely information to keep them healthy. If you would like information, please use the following contacts:

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Info Line

905-688-8248 ext. 7330

Toll free: 1-888-505-6074

SPIRIT WEAR— ON-LINE

Visit <https://www.bigbearspritwear.com/simcoe-street/> to order our Spirit

Wear on-line!



COUNT US IN!!



CONNECT WITH US!

Technology allows us multiple ways to connect with families. The following is a list of ways we use to connect with families to ensure all families are aware of the many events happening throughout the year.

SCHOOL WEBSITE simcoestreet.dsbnschools.org Please take some time to visit the Simcoe Street Public School website. Our website includes current newsletters, school calendars, code of conduct, a school year calendar and bell times. It also contains all important DSBN news and updates.

SCHOOL MESSENGER: Using the School Messenger program, all families will receive a an email on Friday afternoon with reminders about events for the upcoming week. If you are not receiving these emails, please check your contact information with the office to ensure we have the most current information. We have received many positive comments about this method of communication!

TWITTER: Check us out on TWITTER @PSSimcoe.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER/CALENDAR: All newsletters/calendars will be posted on our school website.

SCHOOL SIGN: We will continue to post important dates on the school sign on the front of the school. Please note that due to space limitations we cannot fit all school events on the sign.



Niagara Falls Community Health Centre

Anxiety and Stress Support Group



Are you struggling with stress and anxiety?
Please join us for this six week online support group via Zoom

Tuesdays from 1-2 PM
beginning May 11, 2021
Call Brian to register at
905-356-4222 ext. 244

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

COVID-19 – Understanding the local stats

Coping with the impacts of COVID-19 in our community has been very tough on everyone and we understand that 'COVID-fatigue' may have set in. This term refers to people getting tired of following the rules set in place to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Although Niagara is well underway with COVID-19 vaccinations, we do not want to let our guard down. We remind everyone to please still follow the [safety measures to help protect you, your family, friends and our community](#).

Check out these videos from Niagara Region Public Health's Dr. Hirji addressing the vaccines: [Vaccine Safety](#), [AstraZeneca](#) and [Which Vaccine Should I Get](#). For more information, visit niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19.

Puberty Information Session for Grades 5&6 Parents

Niagara Parents will be hosting a virtual Puberty Information Session through Facebook Live for parents/caregivers of students in grades 5 and 6. This event will help support parents talk to their child(ren) about puberty, encourage open discussions about puberty and overall health, and share resources to address questions and concerns their children might have around puberty.

Where: [Niagara Parents Facebook page](#)

When: Wednesday May 26, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

May is Vision Health Month

Visual health is an important part of a child's overall health and well-being. Proper vision is important for a child's movement and coordination, independence, play and learning. If left untreated, vision problems may become serious and prevent a child from reaching their full potential. [The Eye See...Eye Learn®](#) program encourages parents to book a comprehensive eye exam for their junior kindergarten child with a [local, participating optometrist](#). The eye exam is covered by OHIP and children may qualify for a complementary pair of eye glasses. A yearly eye exam is **FREE** – the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers the cost of an eye exam every 12 months for children up to the age of 19 with a valid OHIP card. [Find an eye doctor near you](#).

Also, contact an eye doctor if you see **ANY** of these signs:

Squinting or holding objects close to the eyes	One eye that turns out or in
Blinking often	Rubbing, tearing, itchy or burning eyes
Turning or tilting the head to the side often	Reporting blurry or double vision
Covering or closing one eye	Reporting headaches, nausea or eye strain

For more information on vision screening, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>.



FREE!

Adults 18+

Cooking Session

VIRTUAL PROGRAM!

To participate YOU need:

- a computer and the internet
- a quiet space in the kitchen to cook
- basic kitchen equipment/utensils

WE provide:

- recipes
- all ingredients
- qualified staff online to support you

Learn new fun, healthy recipes to try at home!

Pick up materials Mon. May 17th, 2021

Cook online Tues May 18th, 2021, 10:30-11:30am

Contact Nicole 905-356-4222 ext 292 to register



Niagara Falls
Community Health
Centre



YOUTH Youth Cooking Session

FREE!



VIRTUAL PROGRAM!

To participate YOU need:

- a computer and the internet
- a quiet space in the kitchen to cook
- basic kitchen equipment/utensils

WE provide:

- recipes
- all ingredients
- qualified staff online to support you

**Learn how to follow a recipe and
increase confidence in the kitchen!**

Youth 9-13 years old

Pick up materials May 17th from NFCHC 2-4pm

Cook online May 18th 3:30-4:30pm

Contact Nicole 905-356-4222 ext 292 to register



Niagara Falls
Community Health
Centre



Niagara Falls Community Health Centre

BIRTH CERTIFICATE CLINIC

- Canadian Birth Certificate Applications
- Tuesdays from 1-3pm
- Telephone appointments



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Appointments booked
Tuesday morning, for a same day appointment
First come, first served

To register call **905-356-4222**
Dial 0 to speak reception

DE-STREAMING IN GRADE 9

Beginning this September, the DSBN will be de-streaming all Grade 9 compulsory subjects: English, French, Geography, Math, and Science. This means these courses will no longer be offered in both applied and academic. The province is requiring every school board in Ontario to begin moving in this direction. This change does not apply to students who are registered in the Specialized School to Work (SSTW) or Specialized School to Community (SSTC) programs.

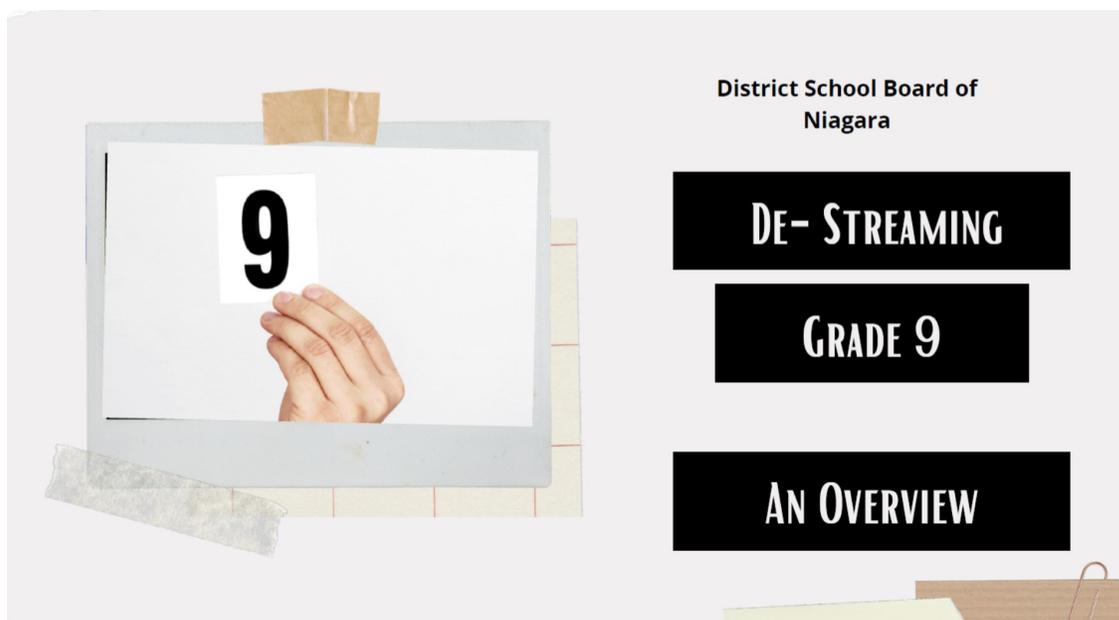
Grade 9 students who originally registered in applied or academic courses will now be studying in the same course, just like they're used to doing in their elementary school. By doing this, more students will be empowered to pursue the futures they want, with doors open to all post-secondary options, including apprenticeship, college, university, or into the workplace.

Why did the province make this decision?

Ontario is the last province left in Canada to implement this change. This decision will give students equal opportunities by keeping all post-secondary choices and options open to everyone. It will help remove post-secondary barriers, and will allow students to have more time to experience secondary school before making decisions about their future.

Why is this good for my child?

It's important that your student, and every student, can access any opportunity they need while they're in secondary school to pursue the path of their choice. When all students take academic courses in Grade 9, everyone is given the chance to better determine their futures.



THANK YOU DELTA MONTE CARLO BINGO!

A huge thank you to Delta Monte Carlo Bingo for continuing to support our students throughout the past year.

#deltabingo #deltabingoathome #charitablegaming



Spend some time with your Bingo buddy (or your furry friend) while you play Delta Bingo at Home! Buy NOW at www.DeltaBingo.Eventbrite.ca

