



Principal's Message

Principal

Ms. J. Moore

Welcome back! We hope that your holiday season was filled with many happy moments.

Secretary

Mrs. S. Reeb
905-358-9121

This new year provides us with an opportunity to find the 'silver linings' during challenging times. At Simcoe Street we are very grateful for the relationships we have developed with our community partners. We want to highlight our partners below and make sure they know how grateful we are with providing our students with resources, funding for special projects, sports equipment and contributing to our food program. **This funding helps us focus on the most important aspect of a student's school life....learning. Thank you!**

Email

SIM@dsbn.org

Twitter

@PsSimcoe



Check out
the calendar
for important
dates!



Niagara Falls
Community Health
Centre



COMMUNITY
CREW

On behalf of our entire staff, whether we are learning virtually or in-person, we look forward to working with you this year.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2021!

#CountUsIn2021!



Virtual Celebration Assembly and Spirit Day!

Our next Celebration Assembly and Spirit Day will be on **Wednesday, January 27th**. On January 27th we will be celebrating **Family Literacy Day** and **Pajama Day**!

Wear your pajamas to school (clean ones please-lol) and we will snuggle up and read together.

December Jersey Day! Thanks Caleb for wearing a different jersey every hour!! :)



Protocol Reminders

As we welcome our students and families back on January 25th, this is a great opportunity to review the protocols that remain in place. We continue to require masks for staff and students in Grades 4-8 and recommend masks for our younger students. We will continue to maintain our physical distancing protocols, handwashing and sanitizing routines. We also need to ensure all families are actively screening your children and ensuring anyone with symptoms stays home. These protocols are in place to ensure the safety of our school community and we thank you for following these



School Council 2020-2021

Our next School Council meeting will be the week of January 25th– exact date and time TBA.

All parents and guardians are welcome. If you have not participated in a Microsoft TEAMs School Council meeting and you would like to, please give our office a call 905-358-9121 and we will help you sign up.

Updates: Thank you to Ms. Patterson for partnering with Small Scale Farms to acquire a book donation for our Junior and Intermediate students! Our Junior and Intermediate students received these brand new books, before winter break. We are very grateful.



December Highlights!



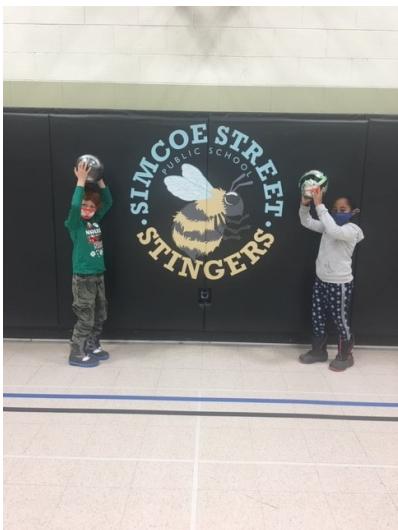
Friends



Family



Gratitude



Community



Kindness



'Parenting in a Pandemic' - Virtual Speaker Series

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is very excited to welcome Canadian Parenting Author, Ann Douglas in a free, virtual presentation on **Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6:30p.m.**

Parenting doesn't happen in a bubble. As parents, we can't help but be affected by what's happening in the wider world. Is it any wonder then that so many of us are feeling so anxious, so guilty, and so overwhelmed right now? In this thought-provoking conversation, parenting author Ann Douglas will acknowledge the challenges that we are facing in this moment and share strategies and solutions for parenting through a strange and uncertain time. Expect a conversation that is kind, encouraging, and real and that leaves you feeling anything but alone.

You'll learn:

- ◆ why this is such a challenging time to be a parent and a child or teen!
- ◆ how to calm yourself and calm your child
- ◆ how to parent in a way you can feel good about and that will actually strengthen your relationship with your child
- ◆ how to give yourself permission to be a gloriously imperfect parent and to give your child permission to be a gloriously imperfect kid
- ◆ how to recognize and celebrate your many strengths as a parent.

Ann Douglas sparks conversations that matter about parenting and mental health. She is a regular contributor to CBC Radio and a bestselling parenting book author. Ann is the creator of The Mother of All Book series and the author, most recently, of Happy Parents, Happy Kids and Parenting Through the Storm. A passionate and inspiring speaker, Ann delivers keynote addresses and leads small-group workshops at health, parenting, and education conferences across the country.

A limited number of Ann's book, Happy Parents Happy Kids are available to those who register for her presentation.

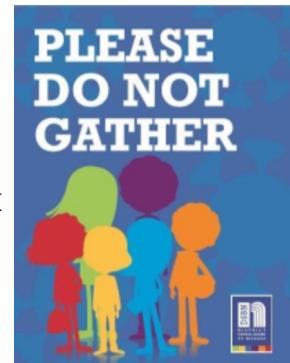
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Registration link: <https://www.dsbn.org/pic/speakerseries.html>

Parent Access to the School

One of our goals is to maintain a school environment that minimizes the number of potential contacts for students and staff. For that reason, parents should not enter the school. Pick-up and drop-off of students can only happen outside of the school. Parents will not have access to classrooms and unscheduled visits are not permitted. We thank you for cooperating with our protocols to keep all members of our school community safe.



Grade 1 French Immersion Registration

The French Immersion program (offered at French Immersion sites) is open to all Year 2 Kindergarten students. If you want your child to develop a high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer. [Check out this video about our program!](#)

Registration will open January 4th, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. and will close February 16th, 2021. For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara visit www.dsbn.org/fi.

Parents Role in Keeping Schools Safe

Everyone has a role to play in keeping families safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children on a daily basis before sending them to school. We ask parents to use this link: [Ontario Ministry of Education Covid-19 School and Childcare Screening Tool](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/) (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>) to screen their child(ren) daily. The screening tool will provide direction and information to determine if students should attend school, remain home, or seek medical advice. Additionally, parents must have a person available to pick up their child right away, should they become sick during school. We thank our parents for being diligent with following the screening guidelines and being available to pick up your child when needed!

Winter Weather Reminders

We remind students to bundle up and dress appropriately for outdoor play this winter. Except in extreme cases, such as when Niagara Public Health issues Extreme Cold Weather Alert, physical education classes and fitness breaks will continue outdoors to provide our children a much-needed change of pace and scenery. Niagara Public Health will issue a cold weather alert when the temperatures are **-15°C** or when weather conditions are severe enough to warrant alerting the community to the risks involved with prolonged exposure to the outdoors, such as a blizzard or wind chill warning. Depending on the wind chill factor, outdoor breaks





Family Literacy Day Theme: Travel the World Together!

The national **literacy** organization is once again running **Family Literacy Day**, which takes place on **January 27** to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other **literacy**-related activities as a **family**. Studies indicate that:

- Children spend five times as much time outside the classroom as they do in school, so parents and caregivers need the tools to support their learning (*The Read-Aloud Handbook*, Jim Trelease, 2006).
- Parents' reading habits play a large role in determining how often kids read: 57% of kids who are frequent readers have parents who read books 5–7 days per week, compared to only 15% of kids who are infrequent readers (*Kids and Family Reading Report – Scholastic*, 2017).
- Children whose parents are involved with them in family literacy activities score 10 points higher on standardized reading tests (*The Effect of Family Literacy Interventions On Children's Acquisition of Reading: From Kindergarten to Grade 3, Conducted by Monique Séchéchal for the National Center for Family Literacy*, 2006).

On January 27th we encourage your family to 'Travel the World Together.' Use your imagination to go exploring and travel the world together as a family – you never know what you'll learn! Plan your dream trip, learn about another culture and open your mind to the world. To find more information and to get more ideas about how to spend time engaging in literacy related activities, please visit www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca.

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.dsbn.org](http://simcoestreet.dsbn.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.

SCHOOL MESSENGER: Using the School Messenger program, all families will receive a phone call and email on Friday afternoon with reminders about events for the upcoming week. If you are not receiving these emails/phone calls, 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: All newsletters will be posted to the school website (September and January newsletters will be sent home as a hard copy). Monthly calendars will also 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.

Social Worker Support

- Do you have questions about your child's mental health and well-being, such as anxiety, behaviour or self-harm?**
- Do you need support in accessing supports in the community?**
- Do you need advice for setting goals to help with regular school attendance?**
- Do you have any questions or looking for support regarding a certain aspect of parenting?**

If these are some questions that you have, please speak with your child's teacher or Ms. Moore. Sue Bennett is a DSBN Social Worker that works with families in Niagara Falls schools, including Simcoe Street, to provide an additional layer of support to help our students and families achieve success. She is an invaluable member of our



Niagara Falls Community Health Centre

Niagara Falls Community Health Centre



SAME-DAY COUNSELLING

Life may feel overwhelming right now.
You are not alone.
Single session appointments available.

No wait list and no referral needed for same-day counselling.
Our mental health services are free for the community.

OFFERED TUESDAY AND THURSDAY AFTERNOONS.
Call between 8:30am and 12pm to reserve.
First come, first served.

 **905-356-4222**

DSBN Academy

Learn about the DSBN Academy at the Virtual Open House on **Monday, February 4, 2021 at 6:00PM!** Join us to find out:

- ◆ How this unique program prepares students to attend, and succeed at, college and university
- ◆ What extra opportunities are offered and how your child can benefit
- ◆ If the DSBN Academy is a good fit for your child

The DSBN Academy is a Grade 6-12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university. Staff and students are committed to the belief that, with hard work, all students can achieve their dreams.



From January 11-29, Grade 5 and 6 students will participate in a Virtual Roadshow during class time to learn more about the DSBN Academy and everything it has to offer. More information about Registration and the Virtual Open House will be shared in January 2021.

Online registration opens on JANUARY 7, 2021 at [DSBN ACADEMY APPLY](#). Registration will close on FEBRUARY 15, 2021. Limited spots available.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY TO DSBN ACADEMY?

- ◆ Student must live within the Niagara Region
- ◆ Student is entering Grade 6, 7 or 8 in September 2021
- ◆ Student would be the first in their family to graduate from a college or university program. If a sibling has attended post-secondary but the parent(s)/guardian(s) have not, the student is still considered a First Generation Student
- ◆ Student is achieving current grade level expectations or just below
- ◆ Student has demonstrated the potential for achieving “good” or “excellent” learning skills
- ◆ Student is willing to attend a school that may be out of their community with free transportation provided
- ◆ Student understands there are mandatory after-school academic supports and *ENCORE* programs

After-school *ENCORE* options include: Mixed sports, Board games, Photography, Yoga, Makerspace, Choir, Reading, and many more!

- ◆ Families understand that the DSBN Academy is a single track pathway beginning in Grade 9 (academic level only)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT: Derek.Harley@dsbn.org - Elementary Principal

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER

There are times in Niagara when weather conditions are so poor that we must cancel student transportation, and/or close schools to preserve the safety of students and staff.

The decision to cancel transportation and/or close schools is not taken lightly; a variety of factors are considered when making this choice. To learn more about how these decisions are made, please go to <https://www.dsbn.org/inclementweather>.

Transportation Cancellations:

Information about transportation delays and cancellations are posted to <https://portal.nsts.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. When transportation is cancelled, information is shared before 6:00 am on the day of the cancellation. There are times when transportation is cancelled, but schools remain open. If, on those days you feel it is best for your child to stay home, please report your child's absence to our office, so we can make sure they are safe at home.

School Closures:

When the decision to close schools is made, it refers to all schools: both in-person and virtual schools. School closure information is shared before 6:00 am on the day of the school closure. You will find it on dsbn.org, all school websites, DSBN social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

Student Work on School Closure and Transportation Cancellation Days:

For elementary students - On days where transportation is cancelled and/or schools are closed, please visit your child's [school website](#) and click on the "Learn From Home" button. There you will find optional asynchronous learning resources.

For secondary students – Students will be able to access online materials for their courses. If it is a culminating activity day, special arrangements will be made and communicated to students centrally.

