



Governor Simcoe Secondary School

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March 7, 2024

Progress Reports & Parent-Teacher Interviews:

- Progress reports will be sent home electronically to student's DSBN email accounts today, Thursday, March 7th 2024.
- Parent-Teacher interviews will be held at Governor Simcoe on Thursday, March 21st, 2024 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Interviews will be scheduled through our online scheduler at this link: [schoolappointments](#).
- **The interview scheduler will be open Thursday, March 7th and it will close at midnight on Wednesday, March 20th.**
- Instructions for using the school appointments scheduler are found attached.

Parent Workshop - Accessing Community Autism and Developmental Supports (see attached flyer)

The focus of DSBN Parent Engagement work in March will be on helping families navigate community funding and support for children and youth with ASD and Developmental Diagnoses. Bethesda is partnering with the Social Work and Special Education Departments for a virtual workshop March 22nd at 12 Noon – available to all DSBN families to register. The workshop will also be recorded and posted to the DSBN website for you to share with families and school staff moving forward. The workshop will focus on common questions brought to us by families looking to navigate the ASD and Developmental system in Niagara.

The workshop will be delivered by Bethesda staff with Sarah Lichter (Parent Engagement Social Worker) and Dave Morrison (DSBN Spec Ed ABA) supporting. It will answer questions such as:

- I think my child/teen may have ASD/Developmental needs, how do we get an assessment in the community?
- We have a new ASD or Dev Dx, how do I begin to access funding and support in the community?
- I have a child/teen living with ASD/Dev Dx and would like more info about specific programming available to support us in the community?

Please see the attached flyer for instructions on how to register.

NRPH Newsletter:

Please see the attached newsletter from Niagara Region Public Health for the month of March.

School Council:

- The next school council meeting will be held on Monday, March 25th, at 6:00 pm. This meeting will be through the Microsoft Teams platform, and will be the only online meeting this year. The link to the meeting is: [School Council - March 25th, 2024](#). A reminder email will be sent out after March break.
- Monday May 13th, 2024 will be the following school council meeting. It will start at 5:30 pm and be held in the Governor Simcoe library. Following this meeting, there will be an OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) presentation for interested parents that have children attending post-secondary education studies. The presentation will cover the application process; as well, there will be an opportunity to ask questions about individual situations after the presentation.

Ramadan:

As you may know, Ramadan this year is from March 10th – Apr 9th /10th. Ramadan is the holiest month in the Islamic year. It commemorates the period during which Prophet Mohammad received divine revelations of the Holy Scripture, the Qu’ran. During this time, Muslims fast from dawn until sunset each day, refraining from all food or drink. Those fasting awake early in the morning for a pre-dawn breakfast called Suhoor and complete their fast after sun sets with a meal called Iftar. Muslims will also pray at various times throughout the day. We have talked with some students that celebrate Ramadan and ensured that they have an opportunity for a prayer space. We realize that there are other students in the school that celebrate Ramadan that were not part of our discussion, therefore, students should know that there is a prayer space available for them, and to check-in with the office if they have any other needs during that time. Teachers will provide accommodations in courses to support students if needed.

As we head into March break (March 11th - 15th), we wish all families a safe and enjoyable week!
If you have any questions about the above information, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

T. Thompson