



# Governor Simcoe Secondary School

15 Glenview Avenue, St. Catharines, Ontario L2N 2Z7  
(905) 934-4006 Fax (905) 934-3389



**February 13 , 2025**

## **Reporting Procedures:**

- Final report cards for semester one of the 2024/2025 school year were sent home with students on Tuesday, February 11th, 2025. In addition, an electronic copy was sent to students' DSBN email accounts.
- Progress Reports for semester two, will be sent home electronically on Thursday, March 6, 2025.
- Parent-Teacher Interviews are scheduled at Governor Simcoe for Thursday, April 3, 2025. More information will be provided closer to the date in terms of booking appointments.

## **Guidance Updates:**

### **Next Year: Course Selections**

- Students will choose their courses for next school year (2025-2026) from Monday, February 10th to Tuesday, February 25th.
- Throughout these weeks, Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Tope will meet with one class each period, and they will work individually with students to assist them with the process.
- The schedule: Period 2 = Grade 11 classes, Period 3 = Grade 10 classes, Period 4 = Grade 9 classes.
- Course selections will be done through Xello, an online platform available through students' DSBN D2L/Brightspace account.
- For your reference, the Guidance Department held Grade Assemblies with each grade in December to review OSSD requirements, compulsory and elective course options, and courses pertaining to post-secondary programs.
- The list of course offerings for next year were handed out to each student at the assembly; they are also available on Simcoe's Guidance website: [govsimcoe.dsbn.org](https://govsimcoe.dsbn.org)>Student Services top tab>Guidance drop down>Information For Grade 9/10/11 (select the appropriate tab)>Next Year's Course Selections.
- Grade 12 students interested in applying for 12B for next year are to watch their Guidance Google Classroom of 2025 for the 12B application, as it will be available soon. These are reviewed in late August by the administration.

## **Black History Month**

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the rich contributions, achievements, and histories of Black individuals and communities. At the DSBN, we commit to fostering equity, inclusion, and cultural awareness. We are approaching Black History Month with the following guiding principles:

- **Start With Joy and Excellence:** While acknowledging the challenges and systemic inequities faced by Black communities, we need to start with the stories of joy, creativity, and leadership.
- **Celebrate the Diversity of Black Experiences:** Highlight the wide range of voices, perspectives, and contributions within Black communities, both historical and contemporary.
- **Explore Intersections:** Encourage discussions on how Black identities intersect with other aspects of identity, such as gender, ability, and culture, to create nuanced understandings of experiences.
- **Extend Beyond February:** Use Black History Month as a launchpad to integrate Black history, culture, and perspectives across the curriculum throughout the school year.

At Governor Simcoe, teachers (along with students) are choosing Black Canadians from a variety of different backgrounds to highlight key elements of Black Canadian history. All classes will be engaging with the diverse stories and achievements that have shaped the tapestry of Canada's cultural heritage.

The school will also have an opportunity to listen to some student voices that have been collected by members of the student council. The student voices are answering the question "What does Black History Month mean to you?". We are looking forward to these learning opportunities together.

## **Simcoe Around The World**

Join us for Simcoe Around the World. An event dedicated to celebrating diversity, promoting inclusion, and fostering a spirit of equity throughout our school community.

Explore vibrant cultures, traditions, and ideas from all corners of the globe through fun, interactive exhibits, performances, food, music, and more! From Asia to Africa, Europe to the Americas, each stop on our tour will showcase the beauty of different cultures and highlight the importance of embracing all people, no matter where they're from.

During the week of April 1st - 4th, in the library at lunch, learn about the rich traditions of your classmates' cultures! Participate in hands-on activities and experience global art, music, and food, and help create a more inclusive, understanding, and respectful school community.

If you are interested in featuring your culture during this week please sign up in the main office, fill out the Google form through the QR code posted around the school, or talk to Miracle Okundaye. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity.



## **Niagara Region Public Health**

- Please see the attached NRPH February Newsletter.
- **School Vaccination Clinic**
  - Niagara Region Public Health is offering a vaccination clinic at our school on Friday, February 21st. Students are encouraged to attend the clinic at our school if they received an [Immunization Reminder Notice or Order for Suspension from Public Health](#).
  - Students should bring their immunization record (yellow card) on clinic day if they have one.
  - **\*\*\*\* NOTE: Students can ONLY attend the clinic located at their own school \*\*\*\***
  - **In the event of inclement weather** - When buses are cancelled or schools are closed, school vaccination clinics will also be cancelled. Parents/ legal guardians will be notified by their child's school if their school clinic is being rescheduled.

## **Halt the Haze**

The Lung Health Foundation, in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Education, offered a valuable opportunity for parents and caregivers: a free online webinar titled "**Building a Vape-Free 2025**" in January. They have provided us with the link for parents/guardians to use as a resource. The recording link can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYrphpMy-90>

The webinar was designed to help parents and caregivers understand the dangers of vaping and how to support teens in starting their quit journey. Scheduled midway through the school year, it addresses the role of stress in vaping decisions and provides tools for judgment-free, empowering conversations.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,  
T. Thompson