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**NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER**

**Principal’s Message**

Hello SCS Families, it’s Mrs. Ippolito, the Principal. I know you hear this a lot through automated messaging, but my goal is to always keep you informed and share all the amazing things going on at our school. But, where to begin? For it’s certainly been a busy two-and-a-half months here! In review, along with “regular” daily classes, we’ve held the following special events: Grade 9 Day, a Back-to-School Dance, an Open House Barbecue, Young Canada Day (also known as Fair Day for those of you new to this phenomenon, like me!), Commencement, a Halloween Dance, Parent-Teacher Night, Take Our Kids To Work Day for the Grade 9s, the return of our feeder schools’ visit to SCS for Grade 8 Day, and a Coffee House evening. SCS is certainly a very busy and “happening” place!

All these events have highlighted the pride our staff and students feel for Simcoe Composite. Both groups have put in a great deal of hard work preparing for these events, and their enthusiasm has been contagious. We’ve had lots of fun, showcased our school spirit, and celebrated being Sabres in a multitude of ways. In addition, sports and clubs have been up and running to enhance the high school experience. Many of our athletes and teams have done very well during this fall sports season. Our Students’ Council has been busy planning and running Spirit Days, dances, and other activities. Our Diversity Club meets bi-weekly, the Indigenous Student Association will be starting up shortly, and our Junior Reporters are again publishing articles in the Port Dover Maple Leaf newspaper. There are also two new clubs this year: Cookie Club and Dungeons & Dragons. Indeed, Grand Erie’s vision / mission statement to “Learn, Lead and Inspire” is certainly alive and well at SCS!

**Vice-principal’s Message**

Hi Sabre Families. Here we are into mid-November already! As mid-term progress reports go home, please review with your student and discuss opportunities for ensuring success. Please keep the lines of communication open and reach out to the subject teacher with any concerns. Please also review the lates and absences. If your student is going to be away for any reason, please remember to call the main office attendance line or use the Safe Arrivals App. Should you require any assistance with this program, please connect with our main office clerical team for support. One of the number one attributes for helping ensure overall student success is attendance, of course. If I can be of any help, please do not hesitate to reach out. Keep up the good job, SABRES!

Mr. Malcolm

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**Principal**Jennifer Ippolito

**Vice-Principal**  
Matt Malcolm

**Acting Office Coordinator** Megan Allen

**Student Services Head** Pam Robinson

**Specialized Services Head** Jenn Reid

**Student Success Teacher** Jason Dale

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**Student Services Information**

Students in all grades need to **complete 40 Community Involvement hours**; those planning to graduate this year must complete and hand in 40 hours by June 1st! Grand Erie has details of acceptable activities and required forms at granderie.ca or come to Student Services for a copy. Please hand completed forms into the main office as soon as possible.

**For Grade 12 graduating students**: College and University application information is available in Student Services. If applying to University for September 2023, come in to pick up your login information envelope and an instructional sheet. Remember: the deadline for application is January 12, 2023. If planning to apply to College, pick up a “How to Apply” information sheet to help guide you through the application process. Remember: the deadline for application is February 1, 2023.

**Specialized Services Update**

Grade 9 and 12 IPRCs (Identification, Placement & Review Committee) for students who require them, will be held on December 7th and 8th, 2022 here at SCS. Invitations will be sent home to families to whom this applies. Grade 10 and 11 IPRCs will take place in Semester 2.

**Math Help Available Every Day**

Lunchtime math help is available to all students every day. Please see posters around the school for individual teacher availability or go to 3rd floor and ask any Math teacher for more details. Note: students do not have to seek help from their specific Math teacher!

**Remembrance Week**

SCS participated in the “Christmas Treats for our Troops” campaign organized by Port Dover’s Linda Butler and her crew. Sweet treats, holiday decorations, decks of cards, and many other useful or treat items were collected, which will be shipped in shoeboxes decorated by elementary students to bases around the world. Students & staff also wrote postcards to soldiers serving overseas this Christmas, thanking them for their service and wishing them well for the holidays.

Our annual in-school Remembrance service was held on Thursday, Nov. 10. We heard poetry; the names of the 46 SCS War Dead were spoken aloud; and we stood for a Minute of Silence after “The Last Post” played in their honour. On the Nov. 11th P.D. Day, various students and staff observed the Legion’s annual service at the Carillon Tower. Lest we forget.

The Newspaper Club’s new Junior Reporter, Samantha Ridler, also wrote a Remembrance-themed article, published in the Port Dover Maple Leaf on Wed. Nov. 16. Other students interested in writing / reporting / having pieces published, please see Mr. Dale.

**After-school Program Four Days a Week!**

**T**he After-school program runs Mon – Thurs from 3 to 4 pm in the Library. All students may access one-on-one support from two SCS teachers, use desktop or tablet computers, the printer/photocopier, etc. Extra help IS available – students only need to show up!

**International Travel Opportunities**

At this time, there is 1 spot left for the SCS March Break 2023 trip to Italy: Venice, Verona, Florence & Rome.

5 of 24 spots are available for the 2024 March Break trip to Paris & Rome.

A meeting will be held next April to discuss trip options for March Break 2025.

Please contact Mr. Dale as soon as possible at [Jason.dale@granderie.ca](mailto:Jason.dale@granderie.ca) for more information about any of these student travel opportunities.

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**Students’ Council 2022/23**

Prime Minister Lily Cathcart; Deputy PM Alaine Crabb; Treasurer Kiana Littlemore; Deputy Treasurer Emily Knowles; Recorder Madison McCann; Social Convenor Maggie Baker; Publicity Director Avaia Bergan; Assistant Pub. Dir. Lyla Bourque; Resource Rep Liam Burnside; Grade 12 Reps Sarah Dolina & Grace Dedrick ; Grade 11 Rep Marley Kitchen; Grade 10 Reps Reese Sharpe & Remi Nadrofsky; Grade 9 Reps Leora Dewolfe-Lifshiz & Oliver Tilson. Council is still seeking an Indigenous Rep - see staff advisors Mr. Dale, Mrs. Nix, or Ms. Metselaar if interested.

This year’s Council has been very busy organizing in-school and after-school events for the student body, such as Grade 9 Day, Fair, the Fall Spirit Week, and the Back-to-School and Halloween dances. They have also helped subsidize class trips; provided start-up funding and supplies to various school clubs; purchased items for classrooms as requested by teachers; organized a fundraiser to benefit local youth mental health; led the recent “Christmas Treats for Our Troops” campaign; and organized our in-school Remembrance service.

Council plans for December include decorating the school; running a 5-day holiday-themed Spirit Week; hot chocolate + cookie day; candy cane-grams; the return of our December Semi-formal (Winter Wonderland theme); and supporting events running on the last Friday of school for 2022.

Council meets every Monday at lunch in Room 208. All students are welcome to sit in on meetings, share their ideas, and have a say in what they would like to see happening here at SCS.

**How to Stay Informed**

**To stay updated on SCS events, students and parents are encouraged to follow our social media pages: Instagram (*scssabres* & *scs\_studentco*); Facebook (*Simcoe Composite Excalibur* & *Simcoe Composite School Parent Community*); and Twitter *(@SimcoeSabres, @SCSStuCo, @ScSguidance*).**

**Drama Productions Return to SCS**

The SCS Drama Club is up and running and has been working hard on their upcoming play, *A Seussified Christmas Carol.*We are excited to present this production on Thurs., Dec. 15 at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria.  Tickets $10 for adults, $5 for children 12 and under, available via school cash online and at the door (cash only).  See you there!

**Mac Lab Update**

The SCS Mac lab has all but five new machines needed to reach our goal! Thanks to the generosity of community members and local businesses, we now have a set of brand new M1 iMacs (half are blue, half are silver, keeping as close to our school colours as possible). Thanks again to our donors!

**International Travel Opportunities**

The **New York City** trip runs April 27 - 30 and there are a few spots left. Students will see the highlights of NYC and take in a Broadway show. See Mrs. Busk for more info or to reserve a spot.

The **2023 March Break in Italy** trip has one spot left. Trip meeting #2 is on Tues. Nov. 22, 6:30 pm start, SCS Library – must bring your passport!

Students interested in **the March Break 2024 in Paris & Rome** or the as-yet-undetermined travel location(s) for March Break 2025 should see Mr. Dale for more information.

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**Coffee House or Music pic here?**

**SCS Music Department**

October’s Coffee House showcased many of our multi-talented Sabres; similar events to follow later in the school year.

Music students will be playing at Lakewood Elementary & Walsh Public on Dec. 2 + Elgin, Lynndale Heights & West Lynn on Dec. 9.

The annual SCS Holiday Community Concert takes place Dec. 14. Doors open at 6:30, tickets via School Cash Online or at the door ($7.50).

**Looking Ahead Dates**

Tues. **Nov. 22** – March Break Italy trip meeting 6:30 pm in the Library (must bring passports!)

Wed. **Nov. 23** – School Parents Council meeting, 6 pm in the Library

Tues. **Nov. 29** – Awards Night, 6 pm start in the main gym (by invitation to recipients)

Wed. **Dec. 14** – Graduation photos in the Caf (by appointment); annual Holiday Concert 7 pm

Thurs. **Dec. 15** – Student Learning Support Day (teachers to notify students who should attend); “A Seussified Christmas Carol” show, 7 pm start in the Caf on 2nd Floor

Fri. **Dec. 16** – Semi-formal Dance 7 – 10 pm in the Caf; tickets $25 via School Cash Online

Fri. **Dec. 23** – Christmas Assembly + turkey dinner + Staff-Student hockey game (Talbot arena) or pm holiday movie & snacks in the Library

**Sabres Sports**

The SCS Swim Team is back in the pool after a two-year Covid-caused hiatus. Please see Mr. Smith for more information.

Tuesday morning indoor soccer (7 -8:15 am) is open to all grades and genders for anyone wanting to show up and play a fun game of soccer to get their day going.

Junior & Senior Boys Volleyball teams played in the AABHN finals and the Juniors came away as champs! Both teams made it to CWOSSA in Walkerton on Fri. Nov. 18. Good luck, boys!

The Cheer Squad is fundraising to help pay for new uniforms and competition costs. Laura Secord chocolates, SnackCity popcorn, as well as pepperettes and jerky are currently available (orders due Dec. 2). Please see Cheer Squad members or SCS staff for more information or an order sheet. Note: bottle drive coming early in the New Year, so please keep your holiday empties for us!

**Friendly Reminder From Attendance Secretaries**

When notifying the office of your student’s attendance, please be sure to call in advance, leave a message on the attendance line OR use the Safe Arrivals app as soon as you know of their absence. To allow for minimal class interruptions, we ask that if your student needs to be excused early for an appointment, please notify the office in the morning; we will then notify the teacher that the student has permission to leave at a certain time. We appreciate your help in keeping class time as uninterrupted as possible. The Safe Arrivals app can be found on android and Apple. Please call the office if you have questions on how to navigate the app.