

APSSP

Association of Professional Student Services Personnel

Simcoe Chapter Executive Update Report *Spring 2021*



Message from the President

Hello APSSP Members!

I really hope you are all doing well. There has been so much going on for APSSP that I am excited to take this opportunity to share some of the highlights.

- Meetings between union presidents and SCDSB leaders continue on a regular basis. We use this opportunity to share information and problem solve the many challenges this year is bringing.
- Your executive is working to acknowledge and address systemic anti-black racism within our board. These conversations have been difficult, tense, awkward and very important. Our primary message includes that it is essential to have black people/voices at the table in order to plan any initiatives or interventions and that specifically addressing anti-black racism is essential. History has shown that addressing racism in general often fails to address anti-black racism. What has become clear to me is that I have a responsibility to educate myself on these issues if I want to be an effective ally and advocate. To this end, further down in this newsletter I am recommending a book that I recently read that is helping me on my journey.
- I am honoured, flattered (and a little bit terrified) to have been nominated for a position on your Provincial Executive. I have been nominated for the Public Relations position. This portfolio includes managing the social media accounts, website and email, hosting the AGM, ordering APSSP swag and probably many other things. The virtual Provincial AGM is on May 20th, and this is when positions are affirmed or elected- so I hope to see many of you there!

What a year of ups and downs. It is my sincere hope that all of you are taking care of yourselves and each other. Please be sure to take a moment to appreciate the impact all of your hard work has had on our students and their families.

In solidarity,

Cathy

Welcome!

If you have ideas for content or would like to share exciting news with the chapter (e.g., engagement, wedding, birth, accomplishments), please email Virginia Cooper, VP Public Relations at vhmcooper@gmail.com. All previous editions of the newsletter can be viewed in the member's section of the APSSP website <https://apssp.org/member-login/>

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Meet Your APSSP Members:

ABA Coordinator:

The SCDSB employs five Board Certified Behaviour Analysts who hold the title of an ABA Coordinator within the SCDSB. The ABA Coordinator conducts assessments and works collaboratively with students, families, school personnel, and other professionals to develop programming using ABA and behaviour analytic interventions. The ABA Coordinators support students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and related developmental disorders including: ADHD, Intellectual Disabilities, Mood Disorders, Acquired Brain Injury, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, Developmental Disabilities, Developmental Trauma, etc. The ABA Coordinators also provide professional development to various staff of the SCDSB.

Attendance Counsellor:

Attendance Counsellors are responsible for the enforcement of compulsory school attendance and for contributing to the development and implementation of educational plans for at-risk students between the age of 6 and 18 years old. Enforcement is limited to students 16 and under. We have 5 Attendance Counsellors. Our unique role allows us to complete home visits to determine factors causing absenteeism and foster a more effective relationship between home, school, and community. Attendance Counsellors are about intervention, prevention, advocacy, mediation, consultation, and relationship building to help support our students and families. We are part of the school team to help resolve attendance issues within our student's population.

Behaviour Services Coach:

The main goal of a Behaviour Services Coach (BSC) is to provide behavioural support to students of all ages enrolled in the SCDSB. We have 3 Behaviour Services Coaches. BSCs work closely with the student's family, community supports and school personnel to ensure they are wrapped fully with any available supports. Populations include but are not limited to students with Trauma, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, Conduct Disorder and Mental Health Challenges. A BSC becomes involved through a referral from a Family of Schools Consultant.

Psychologist:

Psychologists within the SCDSB aim to support students' learning and well-being through the completion of assessments to better understand a student's unique learning needs and profile, to diagnose neurodevelopmental and mental health conditions (e.g., learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, depression, and anxiety), and to help school staff, parents, and students understand this information and how it can be used to support their needs and foster future success.

Psychometrist:

Psychometrists within the SCDSB aim to support Psychologists by gathering information and completing assessments to support students' learning and well-being in order to understand their unique learning needs and profile. Psychometrists also support the Psychologists who are then able to diagnose neurodevelopmental and mental health conditions (e.g., learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, depression, and anxiety) and to help school personnel, parents, and students understand this information, how it can be used to support their needs, and provide information about community support.

Social Worker:

As members of an interdisciplinary team, school Social Workers help students, their families, and school personnel deal with various issues that may interfere with a student's achievement in school. This may include social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties which interfere with a student's educational experience. School Social Workers provide many of the following services: counselling, group work, consultations, assessments, classroom interventions, referrals to community resources, advocacy, crisis intervention, student and parent education programs, prevention programs, staff professional development, and community and policy development.

Speech-Language Pathologist:

In an educational setting, Speech-Language Pathologists help teachers and parents to understand the communication needs of students and the direct impact of these needs on academic and social/emotional development. The 6 SCDSB Speech-Language Pathologists assess and support the speech, language (including literacy), and communication needs of students within the SCDSB and work with staff to develop curriculum-based strategies to address the communication/language needs of students within the classroom. They also provide support and professional development to the SCDSB staff.

How to get involved with your local chapter:

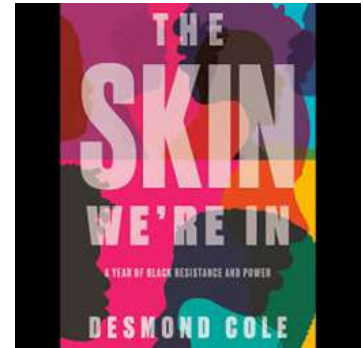
There is a new Executive position coming in September of 2021. This position is the Vice President of External Affairs. The roles/responsibilities of this position are as follows:

- Ensures APSSP is represented at SEAC, Board Meetings and Program Advisory Committee meetings (evening) and reports key highlights to the Executive.
- Chair External Partnership committee (PPM 149)
- Attend Provincial Governing Council Meetings (October, January, April)
- Prepare the Governing Council report
- Share a summary of Governing Council with local executive
- Support APSSP representatives to JHSC
- Attend scheduled Executive meetings (approximately monthly)
- Perform other duties as delegated by the Executive (e.g. reviews Ministry guidelines related to Partnerships)
- Attend yearly Provincial Education Weekend
- Present year-end report at local Annual General Meeting

If you are interested in this position, nominations and elections will occur at the fall AGM.

Equity and Diversity:

As mentioned above, anti-black racism is a significant concern in our community and schools. It seems as though the more I have learned the more I realize how little I know. With the thought that other people might be in the same boat as me, trying to learn and unlearn I want to recommend a book, "The Skin We're In" by Desmond Cole. I loved this book for so many reasons. Desmond is Canadian, Black and an amazing writer. He talks about local Ontario events that I remember from the news, but with such added clarity and detail. Most chapters were disturbing and heartbreaking, and it is difficult to not feel transformed after reading this book.



Recipes:

Bright Spring Salad (loveandlemons.com)

Ingredients:

- 1 bunch asparagus, tender parts, chopped into 1-inch pieces
- ½ cup frozen peas, thawed
- A few handfuls of salad greens
- 2 radishes, thinly sliced
- ½ cup crumbled feta cheese
- ½ avocado, pitted and diced
- ¼ cup chopped, toasted pistachios
- ½ cup roasted chickpeas
- Fresh herbs, for garnish (basil, mint and/or chives)
- Sea salt and freshly ground pepper

Dressing:

- ¼ cup fresh basil or a mix of basil and mint
- 1 small garlic clove
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice, plus ½ teaspoon zest
- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, more as desired
- ¼ teaspoon sea salt

Instructions:

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and set a bowl of ice water nearby. Blanch the asparagus for about 1 minute, until tender but still bright green. Transfer to the ice water for 1 minute, then drain. Allow the asparagus to dry and transfer it back to the bowl and add the peas.
2. Make the dressing: In a food processor, pulse together the herbs, garlic, lemon juice, zest, vinegar, olive oil, and salt.
3. Add half of the dressing to the bowl with the asparagus and toss to coat. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
4. Assemble the salad. Arrange the salad greens on a platter, then layer the asparagus/pea mixture, the radishes, feta, avocado, pistachios, chickpeas, and herbs. Drizzle with remaining dressing, season to taste with more salt and pepper, and serve.

Mint Julep

Ingredients:

- 2 springs of mint
- 2 oz bourbon
- 0.5 oz simple syrup
- Crushed ice

Instructions: In a julep cup (or a highball glass) muddle mint with the simple syrup. Fill cup 3/4 full with crushed ice. Add bourbon. Stir. Fill remaining glass with crushed ice and a sprig of mint.

Jokes:

