



Search: GO

[Home](#)

News Releases

[About Us](#)

[Board Highlights](#)

[Schools](#)

[Student Street](#)

[Parents' Corner](#)

[Programs & Services](#)

[Careers & PD](#)

[News Room](#)

[News](#)

[Accommodation Reviews](#)

[Facts And Figures](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Search](#)

[Board Updates](#) [News Releases](#)
[Negotiations Updates](#) [Special Updates](#)

[Home](#) > [News Room](#) > [News](#) > [News Releases](#) > Media Invited – “SCDSB Students Have Something to Sing About: A Commitment to Character”

Media Invited – “SCDSB Students Have Something to Sing About: A Commitment to Character”

Released: Mar-29-05

Members of the media are invited to attend SCDSB workshops as students from ten elementary schools work with professional musician Gregg Lawless to write, compose, and perform songs based on the Board’s character education attributes. The attributes are part of the Board’s “Commit to Character” initiative, which was launched in September to reinforce the importance of positive character traits such as caring, respect, and responsibility.

Students have spent the last two and a half months working with Lawless and at this point in the process are working with the musician to polish their songs’ verses. At their third and final meetings in April, they will rehearse with Lawless and polish their music and their moves. The resultant lively and heartfelt songs will be performed by the students, along with Gregg and his 5-piece band of renowned studio musicians, at the Gryphon Theatre on May 26th.

Media are welcome to attend any of the following workshops (please announce yourself to the school’s front office when you arrive). Morning sessions run from 9:15 AM to 11:30 AM and afternoon sessions run from 1:00 PM to 3:15 PM:

March 29 am Huron Park pm W.R.Best

March 30 am Uptergrove pm David H. Church

April 13 am Pine River pm Adjala

April 14 am David H.Church pm Uptergrove

April 15 am Prince of Wales pm Algonquin Ridge

April 18 am Connaught pm Worsley

April 19 am Huron Park pm W.R.Best

For more information about:

- **the project**
- **the concert**
- **ordering copies of CD’s**

ordering "Commit to Character" posters for your community business,**Contact Jennifer M. Copeland (705) 734-6363, ext. 1268 or jcopeland@scdsb.on.ca**

Project Background: We all want students to master the skills they need to read, write, and to do math. We also want our students and staff to "Commit to Character" – to learn shared values that guide how we make choices, interact with each other, and connect to the community. Through consultation with students, staff, and community members, ten character attributes have been identified: Integrity, Responsibility, Cooperation, Empathy, Optimism, Respect, Honesty, Caring, Inclusiveness and Courage.

These attributes are not taught as separate subjects, but are integrated into all that we do in SCDSB schools. Jennifer M. Copeland, SCDSB Arts Resource notes, "It is not enough for students to just know what's on the list. They need to know and show what people look like, sound like, act like, and feel like when they Respect, Care, Cooperate etc. That's where the power of the Arts come into play."

These classroom sessions with the singer/songwriter are action-packed and capture students excited and inspired to deliver their best. In fact this project has all the ingredients for successful engagement of students. Current research (Smith and Wilhelm 2002) indicates that students, especially boys and reluctant learners, are motivated by challenges that require a skill (like song-writing), and where they:

- are given clear goals and feedback
- feel in control
- are given opportunities to make choices
- develop and display competence
- work together on something fun and meaningful which they can share with an audience



1 - 7 0 5 - 7 2 8 - 7 5 7 0

SCDSB Staff

© 2003 Simcoe County District School Board. All Rights Reserved