



1000 New Westminster Drive
Thornhill ON L4J 8G3
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Westmount Collegiate Institute School Council Meeting Minutes November 11, 2015

- 1. Welcome – Daphna Romi / Steven Mayers:**

- 2. Principal's Report – Sheri Epstein:**
 - Received email from “concerned parents of Westmount”. Administration does not give much weight to anonymous input. Does not mean there won't be concern but understands there may be a desire for anonymity because of potential repercussions. That won't be the individual case as names won't be brought forward. Response was light because of the nature of the email. People are requested to advocate for themselves. The concern was addressed

 - School cash online is not being used to the extent that it hopefully can. Very small percentage of the parents are using this system. There are many features such as email alerts about new events. Teachers fill out form regarding classes which trips are applicable. A particular teacher didn't indicate what semester it pertained to, but the form has been redone to assist its preparation. Hopefully the word will spread so more parents will be sign up. The online system is the way money should be paid to the school.

 - Looking into getting the timetable in the summer through cash online, but there are some drawbacks regarding students getting timetable early. Maybe the timetable could be released on a certain day.

 - Grade 8 open house was extremely successful; Cafeteria was packed. Four hundred seventy five people attended. Each of the departments had a table set up and a representative to answer questions, some with students. No questions inside the event and then answered individual questions and let people go to various department table. Passports were stamped and prizes were given. Significant positive feedback was received. A number of questions regarding transfers may result in a large number of people wanting to transfer into the school. The demographics are such that without transfers the attendance would be declining. Transfers would be all approved if



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paperwork completed by end of February. One hundred and seventy one transfers were received in 2015.

- Halloween will not go to common lunch in future years. It was split this year. For activities with common lunch, the students tend not to stay if they have a common lunch and then have too much break until the next class.
- Custodian job action has ceased and all work was done within 48 hours.
- WiFi is frustrating for some to use. It is a board responsibility.

3. VP Report – Sheldon Zelsman / Lisa Wargo

- November 20, 2015 midterm report card will be distributed. Parents can call the office to get if not received
- November 27, 2105 Professional Activity Day
- December 10, 2015 Winterfest in Play House
- January 6,7,8, 2016 drama show
- All grade 9 math students must write EQAO January 13, 14, 2016 with no exemptions or deferrals. Teachers are preparing students for success in EQAO
- January 22-28, 2016 final exams for courses. After report cards, on guidance website is the order of exams. In December actual timetable will be distributed. All exams must be written. Order of exams changes each semester. The last day is exam review day.
- Exams are one per day, 1.5 or 2 hours. Non common exams. Some courses do not have exams such a physical education, drama, French applied, etc.
- Semester 2 starts Tuesday February 2, 2015, Monday February 1, 2016 is a Professional Activity day.

4. Student Council Report - Jake Benaim – Co-Chair

- Jesse Benudiz sends his regrets.



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- Student council had grade 9 leadership day. First time having done that in a while. Was successful. Went through leadership and introductions amongst all present.
- Had elections for open spots on council. Five new members joined council. Full student council now elected.
- Annual haunted house and concert. Were able to get donations and were able to get grade 9 talent. Was very successful.
- Planning first school dance on December 3rd. This will take place in the school and the atrium will be redone. Prices of tickets will be lower. Tickets start at \$10 and go to \$15 after first week. It will be open to all grades, and guests from other schools in York region will be permitted provided they have proper documentation. Final hours to be determined, probably 6:00pm to 10:00pm EST. Will likely have light appetizers rather than full meal.
- Remembrance Day assembly returned after premiere last year. Two veterans came in to speak. Positive feedback received.
- Student council of 18 students went on a bonding weekend retreat. It was rustic and very cold. Hoping good things come from the weekend and can be replicated with other clubs in the school. School spirit was most impressive. Staff of facility gave very positive comments regarding the participants from our school.
- Jake granted interview for very prestigious scholarship.

5. **Guidance Report – Rod Conte**

- There are 26 school days to holiday break, 51 school days of school to exams, 94 school days until March break, 162 days until graduation.
- Grade 12 prep assembly slide show is online.
- January 13th, 2016 is deadline for Ontario University Applications.
- Grade 9 classroom visits: Students were asked to rate themselves, school, transition, etc. 275 completed the response. 8% rated themselves 5 or under (out of 10). 92% rated themselves 6 or higher. 87% are using electronic devices in the classroom. 36% of the students were not that happy about Wolf Pack.



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- November 30, 2015 full disclosure date – can be removed from transcript if class dropped between November 20-30 for Grade 11 or 12 students. Students should check process on guidance website. Each day will have a period to drop off paperwork.
- Will visit family schools on December 7th
- Last day to request changes for Semester 2 is December 16, 2015. Grade 11 and 12 can request change in February at start of semester.
- January 6 course selection meetings in class.
- February 1st College Application deadline day.
- Students should call Universities and Colleges themselves to ask questions.
- OUAC contact information is on WCI's Guidance website.
- College does not need pin number; Application can be done online.
- Maximum number of college application is 5. University application fee is \$150 up to 3 programs. Additional programs are additional \$50 each.
- University tours can be arranged for specific programs.
- Some universities have “alternative” offer if a particular program wasn't accepted. Most likely if a specialized program.
- Applications are blind to extra-curricular, etc. Most programs review grades only. Some programs are Grades plus portfolios, interviews, etc.
- Waterloo math competition – maybe club – check with Mr. Gold.

6. New Business

- Guest speaker – YouthSpeaks (Anxiety and/or Addiction). Possibly two dates - Grade 9/10 will be present, Grade 11/12 are invited. In evening of that same date will be a presentation open to the community. Either February 10 or February 17, 2016. Majority of



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people wanted February 10, 2016.

- School council will try to book another speaker towards the end of the year, if funds allow.

7. General

- For Parent Teacher Interviews, each teacher has 20 spots per 90 students. Dates were given in advance from e-bulletin (newsletter). Parent interviews for 2nd semester is March 31, 2016. Forms will be given out March 9, 2016.

8. New Business – All

Next School Council meeting is on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Library, on the 2nd floor.