



1000 New Westminster Drive
Thornhill ON L4J 8G3
Tel: (905) 882-0277 Fax: (905) 882-2450



Westmount Collegiate Institute School Council Meeting Minutes March 25, 2015

1. **Welcome – Daphna Romi / Stephen Feldman:**

- Welcome to school council
- Ms. Madill is here with school water bottle available for sale (see below)

2. **Principal's Report – Sheri Epstein:**

- Sheldon sends his regrets
- Europe trip went very well with the kids having a lot of fun hiking and touring in Italy for 10 days
- Planning next year's European trip already (open to grades 10-12)
- Cost was approximately \$3,600 per kid (next year will be about the same)
- For next school year, enrollment will be slightly up to just over 1,200
- Working through course request submissions
- AP English is open for September 2015 for grade 11 and 12
- AP Math and Science will become available in next school year
- Future programs may include Geography, Family Studies and Arts
- If a parent excuses their child from a period to study (signed out), these students are expected to NOT be at school; not allowed to be in the school including the library (this is a safety issue as if something were to happen, admin will not look for your child); child will not be signed out until the parent has picked them up
- Doctors' notes and exams - having a doctor's note does not automatically mean your child does not need to write an exam. It only applies to serious medical matters; there are no make-up exams
- Updated principal profile needs to be submitted to the board; School council will review past version and update
- Junior Alt-Ed (3 sections) is now running with a few kids enrolled; WCI has requested to run a full 8 sections next school year
- Have received 147 grade 9 transfers for next year; school capacity is 1,150; target is 110-115% capacity



3. VP Report – Sheldon Zelsman / Lisa Wargo

- Literacy test is tomorrow (OSSLT) with a modified day
- As per the last newsletter have had great success with hockey team and DECA; have 6 kids going to Orlando to compete
- Paul Davis was very well received by the kids and parents
- Emmanuel Jai – former Sudanese child soldier spoke to kids about the power of education and social change
- One match bone marrow drive brought in 175 swabs which more than doubled the target
- Four teams attended the science Olympics
- Progress reports went home on March 10 (was handed to kids)
- Mid-term report is April 4
- 55 school days left this year! 😊

4. Student Council Report – Hannah Bender / Sammy Raskin

- Putting in work to plan participation in ‘Relay For Life’, organized by the Canadian Cancer Society – creating a rally to raise money for the cause (and awareness) near the end of May
 - Received training from the organization to help prepare for it which will include a variety of initiatives to get everyone involved
 - WCI will put together multiple teams to participate in the relay
 - There will be an online site for donations
 - Westock (May 28) will be moved to accommodate this and align with this event as well
 - Classes will be shortened to provide kids time for the Westock event which will extend into the evening (stay tuned!)
- Semi-formal is tomorrow with over 200 students attending; mostly attended by grade 10 and 11, but is open to all grades
- Winter wonderland dance was very successful, highly attended and looked GREAT!
- Valentine’s Day concert was also very successful!



5. **Guidance Report – Rod Conte**

- Recently tweeted out that there is 57 days remaining this school year and they are coaching kids about ‘turning things around’ that there is enough time to improved their course marks
- Have sorted out the grade 11 and 12 timetables in two days!!
- Course selections for next year are completed and development of the timetables are now underway
- Graduation assembly next Wednesday to ensure kids are setup for graduation
- Prom ticket sales start in three weeks (April 15)... all info available in the grad site
- Riviera Parque is the venue for grad ceremony on June 23; additional tickets requests available in early June (\$10/each)
- Next two years we will be back at the Paradise Banquet Hall
- Planning programs in progress
- Prom information will be made available at the grad assembly (Bellevue)
- Full disclosure is May 1 (last day to drop a course)
- Watch out for the difference between ‘recommended’ and ‘required’ for college/university admission requirements

6. **Water bottles – Ms. Madill**

- Water bottles available for sale to parents: 500ml - \$26, 750ml - \$29
- The schools’ bottle water filter is currently filling over a hundred bottles per day
- It’s wellness week and hydration is one of the key topics
- Any issues with the bottles, please contact Ms. Madill

7. **New Business – All**

- PRO Grant submission was sent in two weeks ago for funding for speakers for next year... confirmation of funding expected any day
- Exam review can only start in the afternoon as some exams are still being marked in the morning from exams held the prior day
- Is the exam schedule different for grade 12’s... uncertain at this time... will communicate soon (2nd Semester exams are June 17 to June 23)
- Exam feedback day will be June 24 (hold this day in case an exam day is cancelled)
- Order of exams will be changed to get highest number of kids per period written first



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- Count Me In program is being attended by 325 students (grade 9 and 10) field trip will be included in next e-bulletin
- Concern about what applied science options are available for grade 11/12; based on number of selections; electives only
- ArtsWest... visual arts – smaller numbers for students in the program so will combine some grades (will not combine core arts with ArtsWest but may have split classes)
- Part time students will not be allowed as of September 2015. Full time students have a minimum of 6 courses per year (3 per semester); formal process is being implemented
- Jaywalking... planning an assembly to be presented by police regarding this topic as this is happening too frequently in this area
- If people are blocking the kids crossing or are soliciting them off school property and there is a safety risk, please call police... if on school property contact either administration and/or police
- Wearing of baseball caps in school is permitted (was allowed by administration); just no hoods up
- All wall murals are on hold (by board request) as policies being reviewed

Next School Council meeting is on Wednesday, May 13th, 2015 at 7:00pm in the Library, on the 2nd floor.