



Westmount Collegiate Institute School Council Meeting Minutes November 12, 2014

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

- Welcome to school council
- Farewell from Simon Schreiber (past principal)
 - Thank you for the last 8 years
 - Wanted closure and good bye!
 - Will return for the graduation ceremonies at the end of the school year
- Welcome Sheri Epstein to our school as our new principal

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

- Everything is going great (day 8)
- Had Remembrance Day ceremony yesterday which went very well and was student run
- Thrilled with all the help and support received by teachers, students and parents

3. **VP Report – Sheldon Zelsman / Lisa Wargo**

- Reminder about exams starting January 23, schedule posted on school website (period by day); more information being sent out shortly
- For grade 9 students taking math this semester, EQAO will start January 20 (two-day assessment) – mandatory assessment with result being 5% of total math mark
- Additional day is built in in the event of inclement weather
- IPP week is next week (Individual Pathways Plan) – digital planning tool for post-secondary planning being launched to all grades this year – learning styles, interests, opportunities based on passion and help students as to which schools may be best based on the results – available through Career Cruising
- In Regards to anything about the student's future, this is the place to go to help them make decisions about their career
- Each time they do a unit on careers they are required to go into the tool to 'reflect' on what they saw so as to better support the students
- Goal is student will be self-sufficient with the tool
- Report cards are coming out tomorrow



4. Student Council Report – Hannah Bender / Sammy Raskin

- Humans and Westmount – student council going around taking pictures of students and asking questions (posting to Facebook), to build a sense of community in school and get to know the students and their interests
- Westmount Howler is a new blog being run by council to keep apprised of what is happening in school
- October events... successful week (Spookfest), with flash mob (dance department), UCPA bake sale, built and ran a haunted house to raise money for 'Yellowbrick House'
- Oct 31, ran a talent show with a huge turn out with different acts which helped to raise almost \$1,000
- Next week having a spirit week (pajama day) with additional projects in the works for December and January

5. Guidance Report – Rod Conte

- 40 days left in this semester; full disclosure is Nov 20 (dropped courses will not show up in transcript)
- Grad assembly (Oct 18) with grade 12's done; included credit counseling summaries (to ensure they are on track)
- Grade 12's following guidance on Twitter will get information on scholarships, bursary opportunities and other details helpful to prepare for graduation
- On website there is a page for grads which is being kept up to date
- Had the post-secondary fair in Maple (Alex Mackenzie HS) – university and colleges
- Other fairs are available in other boards/schools
- Did a bus tour this year – Waterloo, Laurier and Guelph – 42 kids did a tour at each university – if beneficial will try to repeat and expand next year
- University PINs are in needed to apply to universities
- Secretary is now Mrs. Pearlstein (replaces Mrs. Brown)
- Q: Grade 11 early acceptance – you don't apply for early offer; marks based programs don't have any control on who they consider; all marks are submitted at beginning of year and then again in February (get Grade 9, 10, 11 marks when student selects the university); early offers are based on grade 11 marks and done by university – student has no control over this; focus needs to be grade 12 mark; when in doubt, call the university admissions for info on their process; offer is based on grade 12 marks, others are for information only



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- Applications are due by January 14 for OUAT; \$147.00 for the first three programs; additional programs are \$42.50 each; order in which student applies has no bearing; within university it does; some universities have 'alternative offers' so choose wisely
- Ontario Colleges are open for applications (no limit to number of applications; submitted upon payment)

6. The Water Bottle Project – Robin Madill

- Students in geography were exposed to this program week
- Bottled water, do we need it?
 - Cost is 1,900x that of tap water
 - Average person spends \$400 per year on water bottles
 - Lots of garbage, pollution and chemicals used in production
 - \$100B spent globally per year on bottled water
 - Temperature impacts quality of bottle and can cause leaching into the water in the bottle, known to cause cancers
- Want to reduce amount of disposable water bottles
- Have installed new water fountain able to allow students to fill refillable water bottles easily
- Looking to sell reusable water bottles in school, suitable for hot/cold beverages (includes tea strainers and able to accommodate ice) – pure hydration brand (www.purehydration.com)
- Profits will be invested into additional water fountains
- Mable's labels will be used to help distinguish student's water bottles
- 0.25L - \$18, 0.5L - \$22, 1L - \$25; available in selected colours; with and without 'Westmount' logo
- Will collect all empty plastic water bottles and put on display
- For Grade 9 students, new program will enable to reduce costs for gym shirts in half and add water bottle to gym fee (starting next year)
- Will promote via marketing shortly



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7. **New Business – All**

- Dr. Kiru's presentation was very well attended and did well, thanks for helping to spread the word
- Paul Davis on Social Networking Safety for Parents/Students; Monday, February 9, 2014 (www.socialnetworkingsafety.net)
- Period 1 – grade 9 students, Period 2 – grade 10 students
- Evening session for our parents @6:30pm at The City Playhouse
- Ask your child about SnapChat and YikYak which are being used for sexting and is a vehicle for anonymous bullying
- Also have similar speaker at Ventura Park PS (Nov 26)
- Any other topics/speakers you are interested in please bring to Daphna's attention

Next School Council meeting is on Wednesday, January 14th, 2015 at 7:00pm in the Library, on the 2nd floor.