



1000 New Westminster Drive
Thornhill ON L4J 8G3
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Westmount Collegiate Institute School Council Meeting Minutes November 9, 2016

1. **Welcome – Daphna Romi and Mark Feigenbaum:**
 - Welcome to our second meeting
2. **The Shield Initiative – Mr. Ilan Danjoux and Daniella**
 - Create a board that would fit under an IV pole for a child to sit on and be mobile. This can help children and parents by allowing to be mobile in the hospital when they cannot be disconnected from an IV
 - Based on Nick's Lily Pads project, created by Nick Konkler from Auburn Washington, who lost his battle with Lukemia in 2016.
 - This project was proposed to the Tech and Art departments to help create a student led initiative and incorporated into the curriculum. Grade 11 students learn how to cut the wood in Tech Design and grade 11 ArtsWest class paints the shields. The students also have a unit on therapy to incorporate into this initiative. So far 20 shields have been cut.
 - The students created a club and are pitching this initiative to SickKids hospital to see how they can incorporate this into the hospital therapy.
 - The shield will stay with the child. It is not transferrable. They will arrive with a letter as a gift to the child.
 - In future, hope to personalize this for the kids and receive profiles from the child the shield will be intended for.
 - The students will be guided by a therapist to make sure that the art is appropriate and incorporates art that has beneficial to the child.
 - Turn around time is approx. 2 months per batch.
 - If not part of the curriculum, they can be turned around in one week's time.
 - The idea is to invite people and run events to have people paint the shields.
 - Cost is estimated as \$50/shield. Right now being personally delivered. In future, we may need to cover delivery. Looking for donations of paint, primer and primer. Looking to cover \$50/shield
 - To reach the goal, parents will get 1 shield and a 5 day parking pass
 - Parent: Has DECA been involved? Have you reached out to media yet?
 - this is still young. We will contact media in future.

3. Principal's Report – Sheri Epstein:

- We have been very busy. We had the arts open house. We changed the format and had an in class open house to show the grade 8s a taste of what it would be like to be in ArtsWest class. Guest could go around and watch a class as it happens.
- 500 people attended the ArtsWest open house. Feedback on the format was very positive.
- We had the Take Your Grade 9 to work day. That day we brought our grade 8 from our elementary partner schools for the day.
- Had 150 kids. They went to 3 classes in grade 9. Had pizza. Met with student council and some clubs.
- The next day we had the grade 8 open house and had 500 people for an information session in the cafeteria.
- Each department had a table top in the atrium. Kids were given a "Passport" and if they visited all the departments and got a stamp in their passport, they got a Westmount chapstick.
- Each school is supposed to have a principals' profile. Westmount doesn't have one. Giving out two samples from other schools to have attendees of this meeting make suggestions. All suggestion will be taken into account and incorporated in a Westmount profile. It gets filed in the Superintendent's office.
- Semi-Formal is open to all grades. We can only sell 200 tickets. If there aren't enough tickets sold, the event will be cancelled. Will be held at The Factory Lounge.
- Parent: Are parents allowed to attend Remembrance Day activities. – no, because we don't have space as it is held in the theatre. It will be the same format. Remembrance Day committee held a field trip and went to Sunnybrooke and interviewed veterans. Kids interviewed young soldiers as well to get both perspectives. We invited veterans to spend Remembrance Day at Westmount but they refused as they like to spend the day together.

4. VP Report – Sheldon Zelsman / Lisa Wargo

- School Council Forum is at Stephen Lewis Secondary on November 28. Dinner is between 5:30 – 6. 4 people from Westmount can attend. Sessions run till 8pm. The focus this year is the board foci – math, mental health and modern learning. No breakout sessions this year. All will be in the cafeteria. Don't want to have people to have to choose what sessions they are attending. If parent are interested, let Lisa know.



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5. Student Council Report – Ronny Litvack-Katzman

- Regrets

6. Guidance Report – Rod Conte

- 136 days to summer. 44 days to Semester 1 exams.
- Had grad assembly since our last meeting. Copies of the info is being passed around, Assembly was on Oct 27th. Another assembly is coming in April. Highlights are that all graduating students need a twitter account and follow WCI_Guidance. There is an important-dates section. There are two post-secondary destination fares coming up: at Emily Carr tomorrow and Richmond Hill next week.
- McGill University is visiting Westmount on November 15th.
- Semester 1 full disclosure date is November 28th.
- We get report cards on the 18th of November.
- The week after there is a drop course date.
- There was a fair at Alex Mac which was very well attended
- Grade 8 students day – gave an exit survey. Main concerns were – there are a lot of stair, hallways are too crowded during class change.
- Ontario University Applications: PINs for OUAC to arrive shortly. Will tweet out when they arrive. Applications should be in by January 11th.
- College applications are open. No PIN required. February 1 is the consideration deadline.
- There are fees for both. It is \$150 for university application for up to 3 programs. Each additional is \$50.
- College application is \$95 for 5 programs.
- Guidance gives credit counselling summary once in each grade and twice in grade 12. Some grade 12s are not picking them up.
- Grade 12s are afraid to call admissions. Students can call and ask all questions they have. Universities are businesses and admissions is there to assist you.
- The school sends first semester grade 12 marks to OUAC and OCAC in February. Semester two grades are sent at midterms and finals. First offers go out in January. There are 8 or 9 rounds of offers.
- Students must make sure that their community hours form has been filled and submitted.
- Graduation is Thursday June 29th, 2017. Prom is Thursday May 18, 2017.
- Electronicinfo.ca is the place to go to compare different programs.
- OSAP is revamping the applications process and simplifying. Through OSAP there are 20 different grants. They are consolidating grants. Changes are rolling out in two phases starting next year. In 2018-2019 they will reduce parent contribution. There is a Canadian program that helps reduce your OSAP debt.
- OSAP opens mid-march for applications.
- As soon as Guidance has the new information, it will be tweeted out.
- Average tuitions: Social Studies \$6K, Engineering 10K, Law 15K, Medical \$22K per year.



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- OSAP is trying to increase the amount of grants vs. loans.
- All the information for grants and bursaries are on the guidance website. Scholarshipcanada.com is another site.
- Guidance provides a newsletter with info for these smaller bursaries and grants. You can apply for as many grants as you want. Even if they are small, it accumulates.
- May 29th, last day for offers. June 1st, last day to accept an offer.
- Guidance is visiting grade 9 classes to let them know what they do and request them to fill out a survey.
- Participated in The Connecting Counsellor conference. Had three speakers. Margaret Trudeau, Clara Hughes and Dr. Karyn Gordon.
- Have to start working with the word Careers not career, because kids will have on average 11 careers throughout their work life. Kids have to be ready for a Pivot point in their careers. Kids with high EQs are the ones that will do well in the 21st century. If your emotional intelligence is low, you will not be able to navigate throughout your 11 careers. Kids have too many choices, are confused, have too much pressure from parents and community, don't know themselves, don't know the job market. They have a fear of making a mistake and become paralyzed by it. EQ is learning skills. The IQ (grades) will only get you so far. The EQ will get you through life.
- 80% of grade 12 don't know what they want to do next year. 50% who get into a program will change their major. 30% will drop out.
- Guidance purchased a resource for grade 12s for trial. Will send out info if they keep it.
- Did a workshop on grief and bereavement for teens. It was very beneficial
- Parent: Are universities looking at grade 11 or 12 marks? – you secure an offer on grade 12 marks. You can have an offer on grade 11 marks, but it is conditional. Early offers only benefits the universities.

7. New Business

- Escalation with teachers. First go to the teacher. Then the VP. Guidance cannot assist with teacher issues as they are part of the same union.

Next School Council meeting is on Wednesday, January 18, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Library, on the 2nd floor.