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February 2014

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WOODBRIDGE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message:

Each school year seems to be identified by a particular event or trend. So far, we will remember the 2013-14 school year based on two trends: staffing changes and the weather.

Mrs. Randazzo, Our School Office Administrative Assistant retired in the fall. Mrs. DiBratto (from Markville SS) joined us in January in her place. A few weeks later, Mr. Capuano, our Supervisor of Facility Services moved on to another role and has been replaced by Mr. Spataro. As the semester closes we bid farewell to Mrs. Whitby, Head of the Art Department. After 40 years of teaching, Mrs. Whitby has decided to spend more time with her family, especially her grandchildren, and continue her art in her private life. We thank her for those years of service devoted to educating students in developing their talent. We also bid farewell to Ms. Melecca and Mrs. Bendavid. We welcome back Ms. Nardone and Mr. Lavee. We also welcome Ms. Poulson who will be joining our Moderns Department this semester.

After four years at Woodbridge College, I will be leaving just after the March Break to focus on the opening of Tommy Douglas Secondary School, the new York Region District School Board high school which will open in September. I am very pleased to announce that Mr. Aldrin Fernando will take my place as Principal of Woodbridge College. Mr. Fernando has been a Vice Principal of Woodbridge College for past year and a half. We welcome Mr. Berman who will be filling in as Vice Principal for a month until a new Vice Principal is appointed in April.

Since the weather is our other trend this year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all of the procedure that the YRDSB has in place regarding bus cancellation and inclement weather. Cancellation decisions are made by 6 am and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast. A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate. Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.** Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information: A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YRDSB on twitter @YRDSB. We also suggest that you follow Woodbridge College on twitter @WC_YRDSB

Looking Ahead...

Feb. 18	School Council Meeting
Feb. 27	Honour Roll Breakfast
March 7	PA Day
March 10-14	March Break
March 17	School Council Meeting
March 24	Interim Reports
March 27	OSSLT/Parent's Night
April 18	Good Friday
April 21	Easter Monday
April 24	Mid Term Reports
May 19	Victoria Day
May 20	School Council Meeting
May 29	Prom
June 10-11	Math EQAO
June 17-24	Exams
June 25	Exam Review Day
June 26	Graduation
June 26	PA Day
June 27	PA Day

Board Launches New Mission, Vision, Values and Slogan

The York Region District School Board is celebrating the launch of its new Mission, Vision and Values statements and slogan – *Inspire Learning!*

The Board last reviewed these statements in the late 1990s. Since that time, education in York Region has been influenced by a number of significant changes, including changes in technology, in our communities and in our learning environments.

Community members, parents/guardians, staff members and students had the opportunity to provide input and share ideas about the ideal future of public education in York Region. Thank you to everyone who participated in the process.

Mission

To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

Vision

To be a leader in public education by empowering all students to become engaged and caring citizens of the world.

Values

Our School Board operates based on a set of values which guides our actions:

Inclusivity

We demonstrate equity and inclusivity in all that we do. We demand an environment in which all students, staff, parents, and our community feel valued and have a sense of belonging. We expect empathy, mutual respect and understanding to be demonstrated in our words and actions.

Relationships

We value positive, meaningful relationships with students, staff, parents, and our community. We value diversity of opinion, sincere dialogue and community engagement.

Innovation

We continuously strive to provide the best educational programs for all students. We empower staff and students to take initiative and to be innovative leaders.

Engagement

We encourage active participation in all learning and activities by creating an environment that engages students, staff, parents, and our community.

Responsibility

We are individually and collectively responsible for creating the best possible school community to support the achievement and well-being of all individuals. We are responsible for the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs and stewardship of Board resources.

Optimism

We approach all situations with optimism. We cultivate confidence and resiliency in all students and staff.

Message from our Trustee

This is an exciting time for our Board. We recently launched our new Mission, Vision and Values, and the Board's first slogan – *Inspire Learning!*

Our new mission statement – *to advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community* – will help to guide our work and move us forward in the months and years ahead.

Thank you to everyone who shared their input. We look forward to bringing these statements to life in our school communities.

We are now halfway through the school year, a good time to celebrate all that your children have achieved and to set goals for the rest of the year. I encourage you to speak with your child not only about what they are learning, but also how they are learning. There are so many exciting and innovative things happening in our schools.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and successful second semester.

Anna DeBartolo

Business Department

The Business department is enjoying another busy and successful school year in 2013/2014.

The DECA business club competed at the Regional competition held at Seneca College and will compete at the provincial competition at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Toronto. Thirteen students have advanced to the provincial competition. We thank this year's DECA team for all their time and efforts and look forward to continue to work with the DECA club for the remainder of 2013/2014 school year.

Business classes continue to participate in various cross-curricular activities that have allowed them to make practical connections to classroom learning. Field trips have provided students with the opportunity to analyze the business world from marketing, human resource and social responsibility perspectives.

Students who intend to continue with business studies at Woodbridge College and beyond should consider the Specialized High Skills Major Business program. This program provides the opportunity to complete several courses that will ultimately lead to a Specialist High Skills Major designation on the student's diploma.

The business department continues to issue business certificates to graduating students that have earned five or more business credits throughout their high school career. These certificates make a great portfolio piece.

CO-Op Department

Congratulations go out to the following Co-operative Education students who have successfully completed their experiences at their Co-op placements this semester:

Christine Appiah-Kubi	Vellore Woods Public School
Courtney Aquino	Delmoro Funeral Home
Carolyn Bui	Lifemark Woodbridge Physiotherapy - SHSM
Melissa Boada	GoodLife Fitness
Kevin Chen	Cameraworks Productions International-SHSM
Alesia DiLeo	HBS Spa Life
Julia Dufresne	Shoppers Drug Mart – Beauty Boutique
Medha Dutta	Tibollo & Associates – Law - SHSM
Priya Gahunia	Vellore Woods Public School
Jaskiran Gill	Morty Shapiro Professional Corp.-Law-SHSM
Sabrina Jeddi	Antoniette Catenacci Haute Couture – SHSM
Vivian Le	Essential Living Wellness Centre - SHSM
Tejvir Lidhar	Royal LePage Maximum - SHSM
Kirit Mann	The Doctor's Office - SHSM
Jaleel Mohammed	Wheels For Less
Sasmitaa Nadarajah	Ambience Design Group – SHSM
Kinzy Omar	Pine Valley Dental
Mathusha Purshparajah	Royal LePage Maximum - SHSM
Arkin Sampath	Cameraworks Productions Int. - SHSM
Megha Saraf	Woodbridge Public School
Eric Singh	Frontline Mechanical
Tiffany Sooman	Baroness Floral Design
David Testa	Canadian Tire – Merchandising
Cici Tong	Pink Lemon Bake Shop
Calvin Tran	Royal LePage Maximum - SHSM
Jessica Tran	The Doctor's Office
Melissa Tran	Salon Diva
Vidish Upadhyay	Shoppers Drug Mart – Pharmacy - SHSM
Tharangi Uthayakumar	Morty Shapiro Professional Corp.-Law-SHSM
Billy Varkaris	The Mortgage Centre

These students participated in the Co-op fair on January 8 where they showcased their achievements. Their exhibits were amazing!

Arkin Sampath and Kevin Chen worked tirelessly with Cameraworks Productions International to create a wonderful experiential learning promotional video that provides excellent information about Co-op, the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and the Specialist High Skills Major Program in Arts and Culture, Business and Health and Wellness. Fantastic job and congratulations on a job well done!

Julia Dufresne has been hired at Shoppers Drug Mart so that she can continue her training and experience in makeup artistry. Eric Singh was registered as an apprentice in Heating and Air Conditioning with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Congratulations Julia, Eric and congratulations to all the Co-op students for their excellent dedication at their placements. They are all well on their pathways to their future careers!

Drama Department

This season has been sensational!!! For comedy lovers there was our Improv Show entitled Games of the Gods. The show featured gods, heroes, and citizens in various hilarious situations that kept the audience in stitches. For those that crave a serious drama the senior class created a magical "Nights of Theatre" featuring three shows: *Lion In The Streets*, *7 Stories* and *Fortune and Men's Eyes*. The shows moved, touched and inspired the audience. Be on the look out for other upcoming great shows!

English Department

This fall, the Department of English offered students in grades 9 and 10 the opportunity to attend the Toronto Center for the Performing Arts theatre where they enjoyed productions of Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* and *Twelfth Night*, performed by the Classical Theatre project. Thanks to Ms. Eduarda Azeredo, Ms. Lauren Pandeyrada, Mr. Mark Matchen and Ms. Jaclyn Fisher for their able assistance and willingness to organize these valuable outings. We are committed to enhancing our in-school program by including such extra-curricular activities, and are looking forward to two more trips next semester to see *Macbeth* and *Hamlet* for the benefit of our senior students.

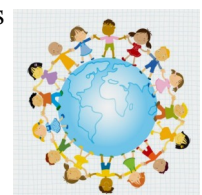
Former alumnus and now teacher, Mr. Alex Filiputti, working in the Resource Centre as teacher librarian in the afternoon, has developed some exciting new initiatives including a library Youtube page, a Twitter account, and is now providing video announcements on the school's electronic banner in the front foyer. Our school's SHSM's committee includes Ms. Coreen Crawford who works with students to guide them through their specialized programs for the English department. Mr. James Lane has acted as literacy teacher this semester and helped run a very successful after school program designed to prepare students for the upcoming OSSLT in March.

Finally, we continue in our efforts to meet the needs of today's technologically savvy students by bringing technology into the classroom on an almost daily basis, with a particular focus on exploring and creating media; we are also committed to providing modern and relevant material to the students, and have recently added *The Hunger Games*, *The Book Thief* and several new Canadian Lit titles, including recent Nobel Prize winner, Alice Munroe's Anthology of short stories to our book collection.

Geography Department

Another busy and very exciting semester for the Geography department. We welcome back our Geography department head Kristina Ricci who has returned this year from maternity leave. In addition we would like to welcome our newest addition to the department, Christina Bazzo-Spiteri who joins our team along with veteran David Tetley who has kept the geography department strong during this transitional period. In continuation of past years, our grade 9 geography students participated in the urban and cultural field study in Toronto, whereby they examined the changes Toronto has gone through over the last few years while exploring the cultural dimensions of our vibrant city. Always a favourite, grade 9 students participated in the annual cultural food festival where students shared and sampled delicious foods from all parts of the world. Looking ahead, our grade 11 Travel and Tourism class will be travelling this May to Niagara Falls where they be jet-boating along the Niagara River, boarding the new Horn Blower boat tour to the base of the falls and touring the streets of Niagara Falls. Our Environmental Club continues to work hard on raising awareness on environmental sustainability as we strive for gold ecoschool certification. We thank all the students for their continued support of the geography department. It has been a pleasure to work with you this semester. We wish you all the best as semester two approaches. Continue to work hard and strive for excellence.

Mrs. K. Ricci
Mr. D. Tetley
Mrs. C. Bazzo-Spiteri



Guidance and Careers Department

It is that time of year again. February is Course Selection month. It is time to think seriously about your future, both for your career pathway and for your next year's courses. Class visits for Course Selection will begin on February 10th. Course Selection forms are due to homeroom teachers by Tuesday, February 18th. **Choose carefully. There will be very few course changes made in August and September.** Do not be disappointed. **Think about courses you want, plan and select those courses.** Courses are offered only if the numbers warrant them. See your guidance counsellors and teachers for assistance.

To assist with pathway planning, we have a resource to assist students. It is called "Career Cruising" and is an excellent educational and career planner. To access "career cruising":

1. Visit www.careercruising.com
2. Enter your username: yorkregion
3. Enter your password: 51000
4. Create an IPP –Individual Pathway Plan – this is a secure space to save your annual education plans, programs of interest and personal notes.

COURSE SELECTION WILL BE DONE ON LINE THROUGH CAREER CRUISING. Once you use the above username and password, you will be asked to enter your birthdate or password that you have created. Follow the format indicated. As well, make your Guidance appointments early for course selection and pathways planning as appointments fill up quickly. You may bring your parents to these appointments. PLEASE BE SURE TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR CORRECT ALPHA COUNSELLOR.

A - G – Mrs. Neally
H - N – Mr. Patel
O - Z – Mr. Gatti

Everyone should make use of this excellent Educational Planner and our Guidance Counsellors.

Students should remember that we have Advanced Placement (AP) programs in Biology, Chemistry and Economics and pre AP in Biology. We also have Specialist High Skilled Major Programs (SHSM) in Arts and Culture, Business and Health and Wellness – Fitness. Students should read about all courses in the Woodbridge College Course Calendar listed on Career Cruising.

University applications were due January 15, 2014. Students have until February 4th to make any changes (without penalty) to their application forms. Some students have already received Conditional Early Acceptances to universities. One hundred and forty-nine students applied to university. College applications are due February 1st. Some colleges are still taking applications for programs that still have spaces available. Tutorial sessions were held for both applications during the month of December.

Congratulations to our students who graduated in January. A reminder to all students that our Graduation Ceremonies are on June 26th this year.

Good luck for a successful second semester!

Health and Physical Education Department

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON OBESITY AND INACTIVITY

“1 out of 4 children will not outlive their parents!”

According to Statistics Canada, the percentage of Canadian children and adolescents who are overweight or obese has climbed considerably over the past 25 years. In fact, the situation is becoming so bad that 1 out of 4 children will not outlive their parents. In 2010, **30%** of children and adolescents aged 2-17 were overweight or obese based on the body mass index, compared with 15% in 1978/1979. This marks a **100% increase** compared with the 1978/1979 levels. The problem is particularly notable among 12 -17 year olds, where the combined overweight/obesity proportion more than doubled from 14% to 29%, and the obesity proportion **tripled** from 3% to 9%. Excess weight has become such a major concern that the World Health Organization has deemed obesity an **“epidemic”** and a leading cause of preventable illness and death in North America. The Heart and Stroke Foundation calls fat “the new tobacco”.

Obesity in adolescents is defined as having more than 27% of your body weight being comprised of fat. Obese children have increased health risks during their youth: Glucose Intolerance, High Blood Pressure, Respiratory Disorders, Orthopaedic complications as well as issues concerning social acceptance, body image and self-esteem. According to Statistics Canada, even more serious health conditions await them as adults, since childhood obesity is associated with Diabetes, Heart Disease, and some forms of Cancer.

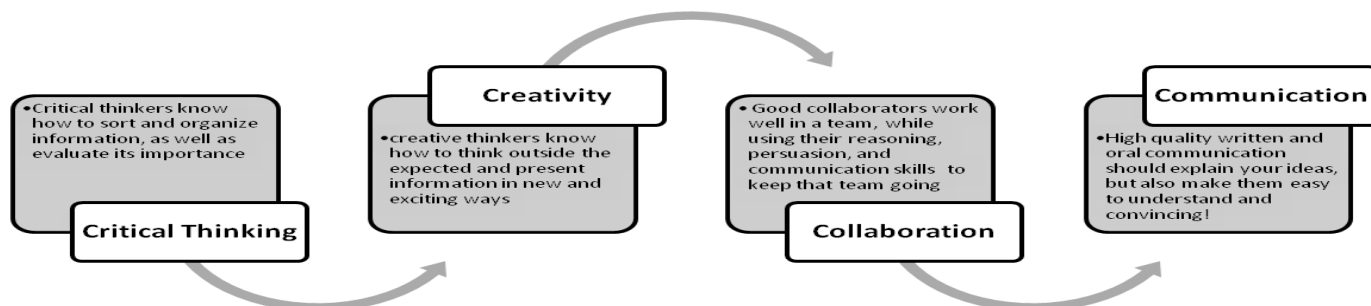
The reasons for obesity and excess weight are largely the result of a sedentary lifestyle (television, computers, and video games), poor nutritional habits and most profoundly the lack of physical activity. Overweight kids are at a higher risk of being obese as adults! Only 15% of teenagers exercise enough to have health benefits. Adolescents should be active for at least 30 -60 minutes daily or at least 3 – 4 times per week. They can decrease their risk for lifestyle related disorders by increasing their physical activity level to acceptable standards. Health and Physical Education (HPE) courses address the need for physical activity and wellness by promoting lifelong healthy active living through courses in Fitness and Strength Training as well as Sport and Health Education (Healthy Active Living). Furthermore, HPE courses provide students with the appropriate information and tools to cope with the many needs of mental health and stress reduction as well as making sound nutritional decisions for healthier eating.

Physical activity improves quality of life. Research reveals that a fit body has increased Immunity, enhanced Cardiovascular Fitness, decreased feelings of depression, relieves stress and tension, improves muscle tone, sleep, youthful appearance and enhances overall physical well being. Students who take part in Physical Activity courses perform better in school. The evidence for higher achievement as a result of physical activity is well documented. **Movement Maximizes Brain Potential!**

In conclusion, the benefits for physical activity are too strong to ignore. Physical Activity courses will help students to achieve better marks, increase their self-esteem, increase their energy level, decrease their risk of lifestyle diseases and enhance their general well being. The benefits date back to ancient Greece and the great Greek philosopher Plato who asserted that everyone should embrace **“a sound mind in a fit body”**. It's all up to you! Take the first step towards the road to wellness. **During course selection time, take a HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING course. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”!**

History Department

DID YOU KNOW THE **FOUR SKILLS MOST SOUGHT AFTER BY BUSINESS EMPLOYERS** ARE THE MAIN FOCUS OF ALL HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES?



Did you know that WC teachers are educating your students for jobs and careers that don't even exist yet! What better way can there be to acquire the skills necessary for succeeding in the twenty-first century -- critical thinking, problem-solving, careful reading, energetic researching, analytical writing, and effective communicating -- than to choose history and social studies courses in which all of these are emphasized? History and social studies graduates gain so many transferable skills that employers in business, politics, and law are often keen to recruit them.

A common myth is that a business degree is necessary for a job in business and industry. It's not. Most corporations want independent thinkers who know how to find information and apply it to the tasks at hand. Many want people who have knowledge of other countries and other cultures. What better major than history to prepare a student for all of these opportunities? Corporations will train their employees in the nuts and bolts of how the business works--this includes business majors as well as others--so it is not absolutely necessary to have that training going in the door. History is an excellent discipline for those interested in business.¹

WC offers several courses at the grade 11 and 12 level that will help your students develop these 21st century transferrable skills and "exercise" the brain with thought-provoking concepts and ideas that will serve as a solid foundation for life as a global citizen in the modern age. For next year's grade 11s, why not consider Ancient History or Introduction to Anthropology, Sociology, and Psychology or even Studies in World Religions? How about grade 12 History or Philosophy or even Society: Challenge and Change (sociology)? See Ms Neale or Ms Antzoulatos in Room 212 with any questions.²

Consider this list of careers currently held by History graduates: political leaders, researcher, policy advisor, manager, research analyst, editor, lawyer, marketing officer, planner, policy analyst, records manager, information officer, sales representative, insurance agent, lobbyist, and banker. History graduates possess high levels of literacy and critical thinking abilities, so are often suited to careers in communications, particularly advertising, marketing and PR as well as journalism with newspapers or as broadcast journalists.³

95% of executives said these skills were important in growing their organization.

76% of executives said it's these skills that will become more important in the next three to five years...²

Yet 57% of employees do NOT excel in these skills...²

¹ Dr Robert F. Pace, "Careers for History Majors" McMurry University 2010 <http://www.mcm.edu/newsite/web/academics/cas/history/career.htm> (15 January 2011).

² "The Four Skills that give you the Advantage in Today's Business Environment" American Management Association 2013 <http://www.amanet.org/training/21st-Century-skills/> (29 January 2013).

³ Alec North, "Careers for People with History Degrees" Alec North Limited 2013 <http://www.alec.co.uk/free-career-assessment/careers-with-a-history-degree-or-history-major.htm> (15 January 2011).

Library Department



As we find ourselves in Winter's firm grip, let us look back at the activities that have occurred in the Library since September.

Orientations were given to grade 9 students in September. They learned how the Library is organized; what types of materials we have; they learned about the Library's policies; they completed an assignment and they met the Library staff.

Students have been busy conducting research for their assignments. They researched using both print and electronic resources. Our electronic databases can be accessed from home.

The Library's programmes were in full swing. Improving literacy was a prime focus. W.C. Reads was a programme begun in September that challenged students to read the most books. The Critic's Review required students to write a review of a book. Leap Into Autumn began as the cooler Fall weather descended upon us. Prizes were awarded in all of the above programmes.

The Red Maple and White Pine reading programmes were offered to students. This initiative encouraged students to read novels by contemporary Canadian writers that cover the full spectrum of genres. The Library staff made many presentations to make students aware of these programmes. In addition, the Recreational Reading programme gave students wide choice in selecting their books.

Students had the opportunity to participate in the Library, Book and Scrabble Clubs. The Library Club offered students the chance to help the Library staff with tasks such as shelving, filing and book processing. Scrabble Club members challenged themselves to create interesting and seldom used words. Some chose to keep score while others chose not to. The Book Club met at lunch hour and it provided students with an opportunity to speak in front of their peers as they discussed the essential events of the book, the writing style of the author, character development and most importantly, to look at the book through a critical lens. At this point, students disclosed why they either recommended or did not recommend the book to their audience. They were encouraged to be concise and articulate.

In September, Open Houses were held for all Staff, as well as new Staff. They could see new books that were purchased the previous school year. A list of titles was also provided.

Our display cases gave us the opportunity to promote reading and build an inviting atmosphere as different themes of interest were presented. Ms. Jang, our Library technician, has been very creative in presenting displays covering the following themes: Welcome Back, High School Survival, New Books, WC Reads Contest, Women's History Month, Halloween and Harvest Time, Leap Into Autumn, Remembrance Day, Alice Munro, National Child Day, Amazing Canadians, Forest of Reading and Happy Holidays

Upcoming events and news are currently being displayed on the video screen in the foyer at main entrance of the school.

Mathematics Department

EQAO: Congratulations to all the Grade 9 mathematics students who wrote the province wide EQAO mathematics test on January 14/15, 2013. Results will be available early next school year.

MATH TUTORIAL LAB: Many students took advantage of the Math Tutorial Lab which was being run every lunch period Monday through Thursday for the entire semester. It will also continue to run during second semester. Parents please encourage your children, as we do, to attend the Math Tutorial Lab as it is a great opportunity for obtaining extra help, asking questions or just doing homework.

MATH LITERACY COURSE: During first semester we offered an after school Math Numeracy Course to further re-enforce math concepts for all Grade 9 students. We will be offering it again during second semester. It will run after school, two days per week from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. A minimum of 15 students must register for the course to run. If you have a child in Grade 9 please encourage them to register for the course if they find math challenging. Any Grade 9 math teacher can provide them with more details.

WATERLOO UNIVERSITY MATH CONTESTS: Registration deadline for writing of the Pascal (Grade 9), Cayley (Grade 10) and Fermat (Grade 11) math contests is February 6. All three contests will be written on February 20. The deadline for the Euclid (Grade 12) contest is March 21. The contest will be written on April 15. Please encourage your child to write the contest if they plan on attending university in a mathematics related area.

Music Department

The WC Music program is in high gear. In December, students presented a wonderful evening of music at “Sounds of the Season”. This holiday concert featured performances by our two bands and by a number of smaller ensembles including vocalists, a flute quartet, a percussion ensemble and even a *boomwhacker* ensemble.

Music students are already preparing for upcoming music festivals and our spring concert, “Finale 2014” which takes at Woodbridge College on Wednesday, May 14th. To keep informed on everything happening within the Music Department, follow our Twitter account @WyvernsMusic.

Looking ahead, as you and your student consider course selections for next school year, consider these points from Cindy Bond’s article, “Why Music Matters” (www.school.familyeducation.com):

- ◆ Research done at the University of California-Irvine indicates that children taking music lessons have a greater ability to grasp concepts that are also essential to math and science;
- ◆ Coordination and concentration are improved by studying music;
- ◆ Mastering a song or technique allows musicians to feel a sense of accomplishment and a desire to move on to the next challenge. These feelings of pride can also improve their confidence in the classroom.

Science Department



In September, Grade 9 and 10 Science students visited the Kortright Conservation Area. Grade 10 students completed a Climate Change Workshop. On the climate change trail, students explored the causes and effects of greenhouse gases, changing weather patterns, the influence of carbon in the atmosphere and nature’s ability to recycle. Students learned what they can do to have an immediate and measurable impact on climate change and toured Kortright’s two LEED-certified Archetype Sustainable Houses. Grade 9 students completed a Sustainable Ecosystems Workshop. Students toured four of Kortright’s natural habitats, discussed the concept of ecosystems, our place within them and our reliance on them. Hands-on activities enhanced their appreciation of these systems. Many thanks to Mr. Biviji for organizing this trip.



On Monday Dec. 16th, the Grade 11 and 12 Biology classes went to the new Ripley's Aquarium in Toronto. It was an exciting day spent studying many aquatic organisms such as sting rays, sharks and various species of fish. The students were able to touch the sting rays, participate in many hands on activities and see a scuba diver feed the sting rays. We are looking forward to continuing this trip in future years. Many thanks to Ms. Yurman for organizing this trip.

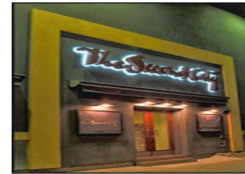


WC science students have enjoyed many hands-on activities. A Toronto Zoo Outreach guest speaker visited WC to teach Biology students about mussel identification. Grade 10 Science classes have recently completed a frog dissection (virtual for those who preferred not to use the real thing!). Grade 11 and 12 Biology students have dissected rats, pigeons and pigs, with sharks on the agenda for semester two. Science students are currently busy completing culminating activities. Grade 12 Physics students are completing a Rollercoaster Analysis Culminating Project and Chemistry students are busy completing lab practicals.

Science teachers and students have been experimenting with Google Apps as a collaboration tool. Google Apps allow several people to work on the same document or presentation simultaneously all while in different locations! All work is saved in the cloud. This is a powerful tool for group work as well as teacher collaboration.

WC has introduced a new Health & Wellness Specialist High Skills Major program for Grade 11 and 12 students. Health and Wellness SHSM students have completed certifications in CPR, First Aid and Infection Control (all at no cost and funded by the Ministry of Education). Field trips for the second semester will include training in Customer Service at Second City and workshops in Leadership, Communication, Personality Inventory and Conflict Resolution at the YMCA Cedar Glen Outdoor Centre.

SHSM funding has allowed the Science department to purchase some much needed probeware.



Science Rules!