

GREAT LAKES CURRENT

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Mr. P. Wiersma Principal
Mr. J. Gower Vice-Principal
Mrs. C. White Vice-Principal
Mrs. N. Harrett Office Supervisor

A Newsletter for Parents of Great Lakes Secondary School November 17, 2016

A Culture of High Expectations

With the arrival of this newsletter, there will be fewer than forty days of school left this semester. The novelty of the new school year has worn off and students are being challenged with fewer hours of sunlight and seasonal colds and illness. Students are encouraged to work hard and to set high expectations for themselves. We believe that all students can learn, progress, and achieve at high levels with time, support, and caring adults as their teachers. We expect that students will attend their classes and we will work with students to have them achieve at the provincial standard, which is level three or higher. We appreciate your support as we challenge each other to do our best.

Attendance

Attendance is a critical ingredient to being academically successful. Each course includes 89 classes, and missing classes or coming late to class represents missed learning opportunities. Please encourage your son and/or daughter to make attendance a priority. Please contact the school if classes need to be missed for illness, medical appointment, or another necessary reason.

Bus Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather

Bus cancellation information is posted each school day by 6:30 a.m. at <http://www.schoolbusinfo.com/>. Great Lakes is in transportation zone two. On days that the buses are canceled, the school will remain open, and teachers will conduct classes. Approximately 55-60% of students take school provided bussing. Students are encouraged to attend school if it is safe to do so.

Parental E-Mail Addresses

Items of interest to parents such as notices about parents' nights and report cards will be sent out by e-mail to parents. Some teachers send out progress reports by e-mail. To provide your e-mail address to the school for these purposes, please complete a Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) consent form, and return it to the school office. The form is available on the school's website.

School Council

The GLSS School Council is made up of parents, staff representatives, community members and the principal. The School Council provides a forum for people interested in public education to work cooperatively in developing common goals and plans to strengthen schools in order to improve student achievement. The Council meets regularly to discuss a variety of topics relevant to the school community. Input from the various council members shapes school policies and priorities. Meetings of the School Council are public, and everyone is welcome to attend. The next meeting is on Monday, November 28 at 7 p.m. See the school website for past meeting agendas and minutes.

Student Wellness and Bullying Intervention Line

Students are able to learn when the school environment is safe. Call the school if there is a concern about a student's wellness or there is a bullying situation that you are aware of. Messages may be left anonymously. The line is monitored regularly by the principal, and is available 24 hours a day. Call 519-336-6131, and select option 5.

Transition Committee

The transition committee and its subcommittees have been meeting throughout the fall. Notable decisions include

- Mascot: Wolfpack, Colours: light blue, black, and silver
- June 8 Graduation at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena
- Criteria for in-school awards
- Appointment of a twenty person History and Memorabilia Committee

News From Visual Arts

This fall has been a time of creativity for Visual Arts students here at Great Lakes. Many senior students participated in the Remembrance Day contest sponsored by the Canadian Legion and the Marion Drysdale contest, sponsored by the OSSTF. Students also made and sold poppy brooches, with all donations going toward Canadian Veterans Services. A fused glass workshop will take place at the end of November, and Art Club will be meeting on Thursdays from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. for all who are interested. --Ms. Finlayson, Mrs. McIntyre and Mrs. Gardner

Awards Assembly and Night

Parents and members of the community are welcome to attend the Awards Assembly and Awards Night on Thursday, December 22. Students who are receiving awards based on their accomplishments last year in grades nine, ten, and eleven will be recognized at an awards assembly at 12 noon. Students who are receiving awards based on their accomplishments last year in grade twelve will be recognized at Awards Night at 7:00 p.m. Students winning awards will receive invitations to participate.

Homework Help

As part of the LKDSB's numeracy initiative, grades nine and ten students have registered for Homework Help (<https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/>). Homework Help is a free online math help resource for students in grades 7-10. It provides free, live one-on-one tutoring from Ontario teachers Sunday to Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Athletics

Fall athletics have come to a close. The Wolfpack had great seasons competing in the Lambton Kent Secondary School Athletic Association (LKSSAA).

- Senior and Junior 12 Man Football
- Junior Girls' and Boys' Soccer
- Junior and Senior Boys' Volleyball
- Cross Country, Golf, Tennis

Special mention goes to junior boys volleyball team who won the LKSSAA championship.

Thanks to all our teacher and community coaches for the time they volunteer with our students.

Schedules and results can be viewed at <http://www.lkssaa.ca/>.

Serious Student Medical Concerns

Schools are responsible for planning for students with serious medical concerns such as anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, and other health issues that may be life threatening. If your child has a serious medical concern then please contact one of our vice-principals, Mr. J. Gower (jeremy.gower@lkdsb.net) or Mrs. C. White (caroline.white@lkdsb.net), to discuss. This information will then be made available to school staff including your child's classroom teachers, guidance, administration, and the office staff.

Important Dates and Activities

Nov. 25	P.D. Day (no classes)
Dec. 22	Awards Assembly (12 noon), Awards Night (7 p.m.)
Dec. 24-Jan. 8	Christmas Break
Jan. 19-20	EQAO Grade 9 Math
Jan. 27-Feb. 2	Exams
March 2-4	Revue
March 11-19	March Break
May 11-13	Musical
June 8	Graduation, Progressive Auto Sales Arena
June 29	Last Exam Date