

GREAT LAKES CURRENT

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Mr. P. Wiersma Principal
Mr. J. Gower Vice-Principal
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A Newsletter for Parents of Great Lakes Secondary School February 9, 2017

Parent Presentation: Finding Your Passion, Living Your Dream

The School Council of Great Lakes Secondary School is pleased to present educator and author, Wes Harding on Thursday, February 16, 7 p.m., in the GLSS Auditorium. At this free presentation, Mr. Harding will speak about how we can encourage our children to find their passion and live their dream. Parents and members of the community are encouraged to attend. Students will attend a presentation by Wes Harding during the day.

A Culture of High Expectations

The beginning of a new semester provides a fresh start for students. Students are encouraged to work hard and set high expectations for themselves. We believe that all students can learn, progress, and achieve at high levels given time, support, and a caring adults as their teacher. We expect that students will attend their classes. We will work with students to have them achieve at the provincial standard, which is level three or higher. Cell phones can be both an aid and a distraction to learning. Students will be expected to have their phone off and out of sight during instructional time unless the device is used as part of the lesson. 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 appointments, or necessary reasons.

Bus Cancelations Due to Inclement Weather

Bus cancelation 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 GLSS students take school provided bussing. Students are encouraged to attend school if it is safe to do so.

Parental E-Mail Addresses

Information about parents' rights 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, March 27 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 if 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.

Yearbook

The first-ever edition of the Great Lakes Secondary School yearbook is scheduled to arrive in June. Only 30 copies are left so please place your order soon in order to avoid disappointment. The current price is now \$60. Want the yearbook for free? All you need to do is bring in \$100 worth of advertising. Please see Mrs. Bruce in Room 118 or Mr. Stewardson in Room 317 to order your copy or for more information about receiving a free yearbook.

Staying Informed

The school's website, <http://glss.lkdsb.net>, contains the daily morning announcements, the monthly calendar of events, and the student handbook. Daily updates are provided to students, parents, and the community via the school's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. These pages can be accessed through the school's website and do not require a social media account.

Literacy Test

To graduate with the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, students must complete the literacy requirement, which for most students will be passing the Ontario School Literacy Test in grade ten. This semester's test is being written on Thursday, March 30. Literacy support is being given to students that are at-risk of not passing the test. Over the next six weeks, students will increasingly focus on preparing for the assessment. For more information on the assessment, see the Parent Resources available at www.eqao.com.

Homework Help

As part of the LKDSB's numeracy initiative, grade 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.

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

Feb. 14	Great Lakes Idol, 7 p.m.
Feb. 16	Wes Harding – Parent Presentation, 7 p.m.
March 2-4	Revue, 7:30 p.m.
March 11-19	March Break
March 28	Progress Reports
March 30	Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test
March 30	Parents' Night, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
April 26	Report Cards
April 28	PD Day
May 11-13	Musical, 7 p.m.
June 3	Prom
June 8	Graduation, Progressive Auto Sales Arena
June 9	PD Day
June 29	Last Exam Date

Last Note

Great Lakes Secondary School is pleased to have completed its very first semester in the history of the school. Thanks to the parents and members of the community who have made our school a strong and vibrant place of learning. We are proud of our successes and are enjoying enhanced programs as a result of a larger student body and staff. Congratulations to the twelve students to date who have graduated from Great Lakes.