

GREAT LAKES CURRENT

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A Newsletter for Parents of Great Lakes Secondary School July 6, 2017

The First Year

Approximately 1000 students and 100 staff completed their first year at Great Lakes. Over the past year, a school name, colours, mascot, and logo have been selected. Students had the flexibility and selection of 351 sections of courses, 27 athletic opportunities, and 29 different clubs, arts, and leadership activities. One of the final events of the year was graduation with 226 potential graduates. Thanks to the Catherine Wilson Foundation for donating \$35 000 to fund student scholarships, the Catherine Wilson Library, and athletics. Several students were recognized with significant scholarships including Joy Shah (Schulich Leadership - \$100 000) and Dan Marr (The Maynard and Rene Walker Family Scholarship - \$10 000 U.S.). Staff and students had a good first year.

Farewell To ...

A number of staff members will not be returning in the fall. Farewell and best wishes to Ms. K. Beatty (retiring), Mr. M. Cryderman, Mr. J. Gudz (CKSS), Ms. J. Hill, Mr. T. Meechem, Mr. E. Pries (Northern), Ms. J. Scott (Northern), Mr. C. Sommer, Mr. B. Starrett (NLSS), Mr. K. Van Ewyk (Northern), Mr. D. White (retiring). Thanks to all these people for their time and efforts to make Great Lakes a wonderful school.

Summer School Hours

The school and office will be open from 7 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, July 4 to August 24. On August 28, the school office will resume school year hours (7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).

Diplomas

Diplomas may be picked up on July 10 or later during office hours.

Provincial government changes to drinking water regulations for schools, effective July 1

The Ontario government has made amendments to Ontario Regulation 243, which came into effect for schools in 2007 and is intended to reduce children's exposure to lead in drinking water. Effective July 1, 2017, amendments to the regulation make it necessary for samples to be collected and tested for lead content at every drinking water fountain and every tap that is used in the preparation of food or drink or to provide drinking water for consumption by children under 18 years of age by 2020 in elementary schools and 2022 in secondary schools. Prior to July 1, the regulation required school boards to sample and test water for lead annually at only one location in the building.

The LKDSB will be working over the summer months to install the new signage and develop plans to complete the flushing and testing protocols in keeping with the ministry's timelines. For more information, please read a letter from Director Jim Costello:

http://www.lkdsb.net/Documents/June14_Water_Regulations_Directors_Letter.pdf

Student Transportation

Do you have questions about student transportation? Please contact Student Transportation Services at 1-877-330-4287.

Feed the Wolfpack Basketball Camp

Feed the Wolfpack Basketball Camp is running this summer for students in grade 2-9 on July 17-21, August 14-18, and August 21-25. The cost is \$60 for 1 week, \$90 for 2 weeks, and \$130 for 3 weeks. See the school website for more information.

2017-18 School Year Calendar

The 2017-18 school calendar has been finalized and can be found on the school website. School will begin on Tuesday, September 5. Christmas holidays will be December 23 to January 7, and March Break will be March 10-18. The last exam day is June 27.

Homestays for International Students

We are delighted to announce that our school will be welcoming international students from around the world this upcoming fall, and we could use your help. The plan is for students to live with a host family who will make them feel welcome, share our Canadian ways, and help them improve their English. Hosting a student is a great opportunity for your family to develop a friendship with a young citizen of the world, make memories for your family, be an ambassador for your school community and city, and have fun! The Canada Homestay Network provides around the clock support, a generous monthly payment and orientations before your student arrives. If you are interested in hosting a student for a few weeks or for the entire school year, please call 519-916-5290, ext. 2028 or visit www.canadahomestaynetwork.ca.

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 first meeting of the 2017-18 school year is Tuesday, September 19 at 7 p.m. See the school website for past meeting agendas and minutes.

MySBI App: School Bus Information

Getting information about school bus cancellations and delays just got a little bit easier. CLASS has launched a new mobile app that will provide subscribers with real-time notifications whenever buses are delayed by 10 minutes or greater. The notifications will come in the form of alerts, which will also include service cancellations due to adverse weather conditions. The app allows subscribers to quickly select the morning and afternoon buses for which they wish to receive updates from a simple drop down menu. For additional information about using the mobile app, please visit www.mysbi.ca. Bus delay and weather cancellation information will also continue to be posted on the CLASS website at www.schoolbusinfo.com.

Important Dates and Activities

July 10	Diplomas May Be Picked Up
August 28	Grade 9 Student Registration, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., Orientation, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
August 29	Grade 10-12 Student Registration, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
September 5	First Day of Classes

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing summer.