



WDSS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017



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MISSION STATEMENT

We are committed to working together, contributing in a responsible caring way toward a pleasant learning environment for our students that will provide enjoyable experiences, the development of knowledge, skills, personal growth, respect for others and pride to enable them to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Principal's Message

The first 11 weeks of the 2017-18 school year have been very busy and exciting for Tartans. As you read through the reports in this newsletter you will find a sampling of the fun and exciting events happening at W.D.S.S. We are all looking forward to welcoming Dan Edwards to our school on November 21st. He's a motivational speaker, talking about resiliency. Midterm Report Cards will be handed out to all students on November 16th. The report card information clearly explains the level of success the student is experiencing. If you have concerns with your son or daughter's results, please contact the school to talk with the individual teachers, Student Success

teachers or Student Services. It is important that we work together to ensure the success of all WDSS students. CONGRATULATIONS to our Junior Girls' Basketball, Senior Girls' Basketball and Varsity Boys' Football teams, who all captured LKSSAA championships in the Fall season! The Senior Girls' Basketball Team were also crowned SWOSSAA Champions and are headed to Huntsville to compete for the Provincial Championship at OFSAA, November 23-25. Our other two LKSSAA Championship teams will also be competing for SWOSSAA titles. With the end of one season brings the beginning of a

new season. The Winter Athletic Season is beginning soon with teams for Boys' Basketball, Girls' Volleyball, Boys' and Girls' Hockey, Swimming and Curling. Lastly, please see the link on the school website regarding **Ryan's Law** which is an Act to protect pupils with asthma. Contact the school if you have any questions.

Gr. 6-8 OPEN HOUSE
January 17, 2018

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The International Education Dept. is recruiting as many as 10 students to participate in an International Cooperative Education experience in New Taipei City, Taiwan. Students will travel to Taiwan on Friday, March 9 and return on March 25 (includes March Break). Students will be placed with a Department Manager at the Regency Hotel – a high end International Hotel in Taipei City. In addition to the 60 hours of on the job experience, students will be required to participate in an orientation session and reflective learning requirements. This will allow the Board to award 1 credit to successful students. The cost to students for the trip will be approx. \$3 000 – the New Taipei City Education Dept. is subsidizing the cost of this experience.

Any student interested in participating or requiring additional information should speak to the Guidance or Cooperative Education Dept. at your school. You may also contact one of Nicole at nicole.beauckelare@lkdsb.net or Kirsten at kirsten.ramsay@lkdsb.net or Calvin at calvin.mccabe@lkdsb.net at the Board Office.



STUDENT SERVICES STAFF

Tom Peel (A-C)
 Heather Kardas (D-H)
 Yvette Bowsher (I-Z, and
 all students with an IEP)



My blueprint presentations will be completed in the near future for all students in grades 9-12, either through one of their classes or facilitated by the Student Services staff. Parents are able to link to their child's account. Students are encouraged to do further research on their own regarding post-secondary destinations and to make guidance appointment if they require assistance. Our grade 12 students are currently in the process of applying for college or university. The cost to apply to **college** is **\$95** and the cost to apply to **university** is **\$150** for the **first 3** choices and **\$50** for each additional choice. **The deadline to apply for college is Feb. 1st,**

STUDENT SERVICES

2018 and the deadline to apply for university is Jan. 17th, 2018.

Grade 12 students need to ensure that all graduation requirements are met including community service hours as well as the Literacy requirement. If your son/daughter has questions, have them speak to their counselor. Scholarship and bursary information is available in Student Services.

Deadlines for applications vary and this process should begin now. There is also information on the Lambton Kent District School Board website. W.D.S.S. offers 5 Specialist High Skills Majors as well as Dual credits and OYAP Dual Credit Apprenticeships. Information may be found

on the school website or by contacting Student Services Staff.

If you have questions/concerns regarding your child's progress or require further information regarding our programs, please feel free to contact the Student Services Department and speak to his/her counselor.

Tech

Grade nine classes are learning how to design and build projects, which is the first time for many of them to use tools and equipment from the trades. They are experiencing and learning practical lifelong skills from these hands on activities. The **Communications Technology** class had student entries in the digital photography division of the Brigden Fair. Abbey Browning won first place in the contest. The class has also been learning video production using GoPro captured footage of activities.

Transportation Technology students are learning how to disassemble and reassemble a variety of engines.

Construction Technology classes are all engaged in designing and constructing framing projects and other woodworking projects. Students are gaining transferable skills that will benefit them now and into the future.



Family Studies Department

We are excited to be involved in something new with the Grade 12 Working With School Age Children and Adolescents course. This semester we have partnered with Mrs. Van Damme's Grade 8 class and together we are participating in a program through Food Works called "One Tomato". The Grade 12 class was looking for some experience working with school age children and the Grade 8 teacher was looking for a kitchen to use for the One Tomato program. Now we are enjoying an 8 week cooking program together with a focus on healthy local foods.

Our Grade 12 students are really enjoying the responsibility of working with the Grade 8 students. They have taken on being role models with enthusiasm!



WDSS Yearbook

2017-2018 Yearbooks are still available to pre-order. This year's theme is "Follow your Routes". To pre-purchase our full-colour, hard-cover book, please have students bring \$60 cash to Mrs. Collins in Room 266. Yearbooks will be available for pick-up in the Library in June, prior to final exams.



Terry Fox School Event

WDSS held our annual Terry Fox Event this year on Oct. 6th. We tried something new this year and it was a huge success. Several staff members donated items such as cupcakes, gift cards, PSW program potluck tickets, homemade sushi lunch for 4, lemonade for the class, etc to be auctioned off with all proceeds going to the Terry Fox Foundation. Our grade 7 and 8 students took a walk in honour of this great Canadian Hero and we celebrated as a school with a motivational assembly before the auction. As a school, we raised over \$1000. Our staff and students understand that the difference starts with you and that together, we can beat cancer. Terry Fox certainly lives at W.D.S.S.



Personal Support Worker Program

The Accredited Personal Support Worker Program is in its 8th year. Each year students take classes in the first semester and clinical in the second semester to achieve their PSW Certificate. The certificate allows them to work in nursing and retirement homes, community living, day programs, doctor's offices and hospitals. The program works in a module system that assists learning in new and different ways. Critical and reflective thinking skills are taught and students become excellent in the assessment of the individuals that they care for.

Employment yearly is at 85-90% by the end of June. Some students go on to achieve their RPN or RN registration.

Lisa Zandbergen Reg.N., B.Sc.N.,B.Ed., OCT is the program coordinator and teacher. She can be contacted at 519-627-3368 Extension 40967 if more information is needed.



The Visual Arts Department at WDSS is excited about all of the events and activities happening this fall. Our Specialist High Skills Major Arts and Culture students have recently participated in two Workshops: Portfolio Development and Charcoal Drawing. On November 23, many of our Visual Art students are headed to Toronto to view the special exhibit entitled, *Guillermo del Toro: At Home with Monsters* and the permanent collection at the Art Gallery of Ontario. We will also be watching, *Grease The Musical* at the Winter Garden Theatre. Finally, we are looking forward to showcasing student work around our school and community. We are proud of our students as they continually think critically and creatively, while exploring new mediums and techniques.



Tartan Tour

Since 2004, Wallaceburg District Secondary School has been welcoming their new grade 9 students with a special day called Tartan Tour. Why? We know that high school is full of challenges and we want them to know that they are not alone. We want them to know that together, we will help them see success. During Tartan Tour, our grade 9's participate in carefully designed activities that allow them to get to know each other, eliminate their fears of high school, create memories and just have some fun. We allow our grade 9's to make connections with a caring senior students and a group of staff. Over the years, we have seen that these connections have been valuable in keeping our students engaged in school. From the very beginning, our grade 9's feel a part of the Tartan Family. Tartan Tour has always been an example of students helping students succeed. We were pleased to bring our grade 9's out to Mitchell's Bay again this year on Thursday Sept. 14th and look forward to supporting this transition program for many years to come.



English

September's Grade 11 Field Trip

To enable students to make connections with course novels, Mr. O'Neil and Tyler White invited Grade 11 English students to Mohawk Institute, a former residential school in Brampton. Students acquired a better understanding of residential schools and the **Haudenosaunee** people.

Attention Creative Writers:

Students are encouraged to check the writing contest bulletin board in the English hallway. There are several contests, including:

- The Legion's Remembrance Day Poetry and Essay contest (**due on November 21st**)
- The Marion Drysdale Creative Writing Contest (due on November 16th)

See Mrs Lozon in Room 268 to enter.



Languages

Ojibwe

Grade 9 and 10 Ojibwe classes attended the language and culture gathering held on Walpole Island. They took part in many workshops including: Anishinaabe games, Anishinaabe crafts, let's sing in Ojibwe, genealogy, and teaching in the wigwaam. It was a great experience for all.

Grade 10 students are currently working on beadwork. Beadwork has been a way to express cultural and personal identity in many First Nations cultures. We have two community members that have volunteered their time to teach us how.

French

Grade 9 French classes are focusing on talking about themselves and their families, their likes and dislikes. They are now able to ask each other about these topics as well.

Grade 10, 11, and 12 are working on debating topics of interest, agreeing and disagreeing with one another, and writing opinion paragraphs.

Madame Dolbear is planning a trip to Quebec City in May for any student enrolled in or successfully completing a grade 10 French credit. More information coming soon.

QUEBEC



