

GREAT LAKES CURRENT

275 Wellington Street
Sarnia, Ontario N7T 1H1
Phone 519-336-6131
<http://glss.lkdsb.net>



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 July 4, 2018

The Second Year

Approximately 950 students and 95 staff completed their second year at Great Lakes. Students had the flexibility and selection of 343 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 176 potential graduates in the class of 2018. Thanks to the Catherine Wilson Foundation for donating \$45 000 to fund student scholarships, the Catherine Wilson Library, and athletics. The Great Lakes Boys Baseball team won the school's first OFSAA gold medal. Staff and students had a great second year.

Farewell To ...

A number of staff members will not be returning in the fall. Farewell and best wishes to Mr. K. Basham, Mr. M. Cryderman, Ms. K. Fernando, Ms. M. Fleming, Ms. S. Hotke, Ms. M. Majeski, Ms. A. O'Brien, Ms. K. Pugh, and Mr. B. Waring. Congratulations to the following staff members who retired this year including Ms. P. Coulthard, Mr. H. Garrett, Mr. M. Partridge, Ms. P. Ramos, Mr. A. Shaw, and Mr. J. Stevens. 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 3 to August 23. On August 27, the school office will resume school year hours (7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).

Diplomas

Ontario Secondary School Diplomas may be picked up on July 9 or later during office hours. A parent or guardian may pick up the diploma with written permission from the graduate.

School Cash Online

Beginning with student registration at the end of August, School Cash Online will be the preferred method of paying fees to the school. Examples include the student activity fee, yearbook, PE uniform, course enhancement fees, class trips, and extra-curricular activities. A fast track line at registration will be available for students and parents whose fees are prepaid online. School Cash Online allows a parent or guardian to select the fees applicable to their child and pay for them online either using eCheck (similar to debit) or MyWallet (similar to a rechargeable gift card). Set up your School Cash Online account now at <https://lkdsb.schoolcashonline.com/> For more information, see <https://www.lkdsb.net/Board/BudgetFinance/SchoolCashOnline/Pages/default.aspx>

Student Transportation

Transportation letters will be mailed out later in July. Route information will be available after August 15 in the Parents' Portal, <https://www.schoolbusinfo.com/MYSchoolBusInfo> Please contact Transportation Services at 1-877-330-4287 if you have questions.

Feed the Wolfpack Basketball Camp

Feed the Wolfpack Basketball Camp is running this summer for students in grade 2-9 on July 16-20, August 13-17, and August 20-24. The cost is \$60 for 1 week, \$90 for 2 weeks, and \$130 for 3 weeks. See the school website for more information.

2018-19 School Year Calendar

The 2018-19 school calendar has been finalized and can be found on the school website. School will begin on Tuesday, September 4. Christmas holidays will be December 22 to January 6, and March Break will be March 9-17. Exams are January 25-31 and June 20-26. All students are expected to write their exams as scheduled by the school. Exams are not rescheduled for reasons such as work schedules or vacations. The only acceptable reasons for absence from exams are for illness, bereavement or court appearance.

Homestays for International Students

Next year, we look forward to welcoming more international students into our school and community. 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. For more information, see <http://whyihost.ca/lkdsb>

Student Success and Student Attendance

While many students were successful in earning their credits and moving to the next grade level or graduating, a number of students were unsuccessful. Eighty-three percent of these cases were ones in which the students missed more than 10% of their classes. As an evaluation policy, credit attainment is not tied to attendance. However, the evidence suggests that student attendance appears to be the greatest obstacle to success. In almost all cases, students who attend class regularly and who engage in class activities will pass their courses. We believe that all students can learn, progress, and achieve with time, support, and a caring teacher.

Important Dates and Activities

July 9	Diplomas May Be Picked Up
August 27	Grade 9 Student Registration, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
August 28	Grade 10-12 Student Registration, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
September 4	First Day of Classes

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing summer.