



Galt Collegiate Institute

We Believe In Ghosts!

February Newsletter, 2017

Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

In September 2013, the Waterloo Region District School Board began implementing a new administrative procedure in Grades 7 to 12 regarding Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting. The procedure and accompanying Board Policy 2010 align with the Ontario Ministry of Education's policy document, *Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools* (2010). A copy of Administrative Procedure 1660 is available on the WRDSB website at www.wrdsb.on.ca.

The new procedure supports staff in meeting the WRDSB's overall goal of optimizing learning and achievement for **all** students. The procedure, in particular, will help align classroom practices with the following key belief statements articulated by the Ministry of Education:

- All students can succeed;
- Each student has his or her own unique patterns of learning;
- Fairness is not sameness.

Learning For All, K-12, p. 6

Research tells us that all students learn best when instruction, resources, and the learning environment are well-suited to their particular strengths, interests, needs, and stage of readiness. The new procedure helps support student learning by ensuring that evaluation and reporting practices:

- Result in marks that reflect achievement of learning goals – not behaviour;
- Separate academic achievement from learning skills and work habits;
- Encourage high expectations for student learning;
- Promote responsibility on the part of students to provide evidence of their achievement of the big ideas (or enduring understandings or required learning) for a course.

As part of this newsletter, you will find an explanation of key parts of the Provincial Report Card. The first and most important place to look on the Report Card is the Learning Skills and Work Habits section. Well-developed Learning Skills and Work Habits can have a positive impact on your child's academic achievement. For a definition of each of the six Learning Skills and Work Habits, please see page 3 of the Report Card.

Additional information for parents/guardians about assessment, evaluation and reporting in several languages can be found at the following website: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reportCard.html>

MSIP

GCI is one of three high schools in the WRDSB that uses an MSIP timetable. MSIP stands for "Multi-Subject Instructional Period". All GCI students have a one-hour MSIP period each day, during which students can:

- complete homework
- access computer and library resources
- read recreationally
- participate in group work
- access extra help from available teachers
- work on assignments and projects

All students are encouraged to judiciously use MSIP *each day* to improve their learning and achievement.

Upcoming Dates At GCI

February 20	Family Day	March 11 to 19	March Break
February 22	School Council	March 30	Literacy Test
February 22	Pink Shirt Day	March 30	Parent Night – 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
February 24	Final Day for Course Selection	April 27	Dance Showcase
February 24	Denim Day	April 28	Newcomer Youth Drama Production

Accomplishments

Congratulations to the following GCI students and staff for recent accomplishments:

- ESLDOI class for Provincial Honourable Mention and Regional 1st Place for their poetry submission to the OSSTF's Marion Drysdale Awards
- GCI student representatives for participating in the annual Beating The Odds conference, as part of Black History Month
- GSA representatives for participating in the WRDSB's Youth Equity Leadership Camp and Youth Equity Conference
- DECA participants, who represented GCI at regional and provincial competitions
- Winter sport athletes for representing GCI throughout WCSSAA winter seasons

We encourage GCI students to get involved with the many activities, clubs, groups, teams and events running at GCI.

Winter Weather

During the winter season, travel by foot and by car takes extra time. Water Street is one of the busiest streets in Cambridge, and morning traffic congestion in the winter can significantly impact travel time to school. Please plan ahead. We ask that parents support their child/children in arriving on time for morning classes. Please be reminded that classes begin at 8:05 a.m., with a warning bell at 8:00 a.m. Punctuality is important to academic success. We thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Pink Shirt Day – February 22

In 2007, two high school students from the small community of Cambridge, Nova Scotia witnessed a Grade 9 boy being bullied for wearing a pink polo shirt. Bullies harassed the boy and threatened to beat him up. The next day hundreds of students showed up wearing pink clothes to take a stand against the bullies. This incident inspired Pink Shirt Day. Students at GCI are encouraged to wear pink on February 22 to show their support for this movement against bullying, and to show support for victims of bullying.

Course Selection

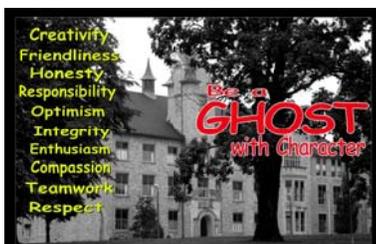
Course selection assemblies were held on Wednesday, February 15, and materials were distributed to students at that time. Course selections for 2017-18 must be completed in *MyWay* by Friday, February 24. Questions about the course selection process or about particular courses should be directed to our Guidance department.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Successful completion of the OSSLT is a graduation requirement. Students typically write the OSSLT in their Grade 10 year. This year, the OSSLT will be conducted on Thursday, March 30. Some of our students satisfied the OSSLT requirement through the online pilot that was run in October; other students will write on March 30. We will provide preparatory materials and other supports for students writing on March 30. More details about the OSSLT at GCI will be shared in March.

Newcomers

GCI welcomes newcomers. We have students and families who have come to Canada from countries across the globe, who speak many different first languages and who have rich cultural traditions. We respect, support and value the tremendous diversity of our student population and the diversity of the community we serve. GCI is home to the magnet program for English Language Learners. Please see the ESL/ELD tab on the GCI website for more information.



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