



Galt Collegiate Institute

We Believe In Ghosts!

February Newsletter, 2019

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 18	Family Day	March 27	Parent Night (5:30 pm to 7:30 pm)
February 22	Course Selection Due (<i>My Way</i>)	April 1 to 5	Co-Captain Elections
February 27	School Council (7:00 pm)	April 11	Spring Semi-Formal
February 28	Pink Shirt Day	April 12	PD Day
March 27	Literacy Test (OSSLT)	April 24	School Council (7:00 pm)

Accomplishments

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

- 20 GCI reps participated in the *Beating The Odds* conference as part of Black History Month
- DECA participants, who represented GCI at regional and provincial competitions
- Winter sport athletes and coaches for representing GCI throughout WCSSAA winter seasons
- Senior art students who have brightened our halls with their vibrant, creative murals

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 27

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 27 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 Thursday, February 14, and materials were distributed to students at that time. Course selections for 2018-19 must be completed in *MyWay* by Friday, February 22. 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 Wednesday, March 27. We will provide preparatory materials and other supports for students writing the test. More details about the OSSLT at GCI will be shared in the coming weeks.

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.

Vaping

Concerned about vaping? Please visit the Region of Waterloo website for helpful information, and note that vaping is not permitted anywhere on school property.

<https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/smoking-vaping-and-tobacco.aspx>

