



# Galt Collegiate Institute

*We Believe In Ghosts!*

April 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](http://www.wrdsb.on.ca).

The 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 understanding of the essential learnings 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

Students who are behind in academic work or who have struggled with course material are encouraged to judiciously use MSIP *each day* to improve their learning and achievement. Students who use MSIP effectively tend to see their efforts reflected in their results.

## Upcoming Dates At GCI

May 1	Multicultural Night	May 31	Dance Showcase
May 2	OSAP Assembly	June 4	Arts Evening
May 8	Wellness Wednesday	June 5	Athletic Banquet
May 9	Spring Music Night	June 14	Prom
May 22	Coffee House	June 20 – 26	Exams

## Multicultural Night

Please join us to celebrate the many cultures represented by students and families in the GCI community. This evening of celebration has been organized by a group of willing students and staff, and will include displays, food, and performances. Join us in Tassie Hall at 7:00 on May 1. Tickets are \$3 ahead of time and \$5 at the door.

## Financing Post-Secondary School and OSAP Assembly

On Thursday, May 2, a representative from Conestoga College will be at GCI to present an information session on financing post-secondary studies. All interested Grade 12 students should join us in Tassie Hall, where they will receive a number of helpful information sources and tips on this topic, including a review of OSAP applications. Our Guidance staff will be on hand to field individual questions.

## Wellness Wednesday

On Wednesday, May 8, GCI will be holding its first "Wellness Wednesday". Wellness Wednesday provides an opportunity for students to seek out academic support: extra help, time to complete and/or hand in outstanding assignments, or time to work on current projects and assignments. All classes will be shortened so they fit into our morning timeframe, and we will run two **Wellness Blocks** in the afternoon, each one hour in length. In each of the **Wellness Blocks**, students may choose academic support, or may choose to participate in a wellness activity, such as: a Trail Ride, Spirit Cheer, Sewing & Knitting Projects, Weight Room Workout, Basketball, Historical Colouring, Healthy Snacks, Beach Volleyball, Yoga, Karaoke, Woodcraft, Top 10 Things You Should Know About Money, and a Games Room. It is our hope that students will take advantage of this opportunity to exercise good decision-making, prioritizing their academic needs and their wellness needs. We look forward to a productive and fun afternoon.

## Feeder School Track & Field Meets

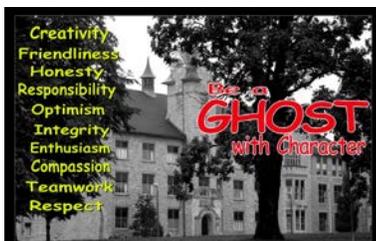
In May and June, GCI will host students from our feeder schools for their elementary school Track & Field meets, supported by our senior athletic leadership students. We look forward to seeing our Future Ghosts giving their all on our front field.

## Student Drop-Off At GCI

The safety of our students is our priority, and safety in and around our campus depends upon the cooperation of all members of the GCI community. In the morning, traffic congestion can be a problem on Water Street, Dando Avenue and in our student parking lot. Arriving early and/or allowing extra time can help. The school driveway in front of GCI is not a student drop-off area; it is a fire route. Our supervision monitor, Drew, regulates traffic at the entrance to the school driveway in the morning. Access to the front of GCI is restricted to staff and visitors who park in the small number of visitor spots available at the front of the school. If Drew is not present to regulate access to the front of the school, please do not use it as a drop-off area and stop in the fire route. By-law regulations will be enforced to ensure the fire route in front of our school is clear. These procedures continue the efforts made by GCI to keep students, staff and visitors safe. We appreciate your co-operation.

## End of Semester Celebrations

During the spring months, groups of senior students, as a means to celebrate graduation, sometimes organize events of their own accord (e.g. camping, beach trips, golf excursions, etc.). Please note that these activities are independent of the school, and are not recognized or organized by, at or through GCI. School staff does not attend or supervise students at these events.



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