

KCI Parent Council Meeting
Monday 9 April 2018
7:00 PM
KCI Library

Present: Angelica Allen, Cathy Vollmer-Ashley, Liz Goetze, Steven Bednarski, Cathe Campbell, Vivian Fuchs, Alysse Hastie, Cher Mamuza, Pamela Mulloy, Tony Endres, Dwight Aplevich, Marcel O'Gorman

I. Presentation – KCI's Hospitality Program – J. Kreutzkamp

Mr. Kreutzkamp led a tour of the state-of-the-art hospitality facility at KCI. The kitchen is a professional, industrial facility, which is the envy of other WRDSB schools. Its programming leads to apprenticeships, work placements.

II. Presentation – Responsible Digital Habits – Marcel O'Gorman

Demo of cell phone cases

- Yondr: phone case is locked and unlocked by a person in control (eg teacher). Some people experience anxiety when not able to access their phones.
- Resistor Case: designed by Prof. O'Gorman, assembled by user. Uses Velcro to seal, so phone is accessible, but noise of Velcro acts as a deterrent to opening.

Prof. O'Gorman led a lively presentation on “digital sins” to demonstrate how society (and individuals) attach moral qualities to digital behaviour.

Tech leaders also commit “digital sins” ... by inventing social media tools that lead to feelings of isolation, depression, exploitation, loss of privacy, and so on.

Master's Program in Experimental Digital Media: aims to make citizens more mindful of their interactions with technology (how technologies warp our sense of time, expectations, pleasure, and so on).

Captology: (BJ Fogg) combines persuasion with design elements to captivate our attention. The same design used for slot machine is used for apps.

Psychometrics: (as with the recent Cambridge Analytica scandal and Facebook) gather usage data to create profiles of users' habits.

Google Chromebooks: No one knows how Google is mining the data reported back through the Chromebooks. Google says they are using it just to optimize the teaching apps on the Chromebooks. At a minimum, Google is creating future customers.

Vulnerability: Children are particularly vulnerable to technology. Manfred Spitzer, *Digital Dementia*, argues that early exposure to digital technologies could lead to early dementia later in life

Nomophobia: the fear of being without one's phone. In France, the government has banned phones in primary and middle schools.

Studies show that weaker students benefit the most from cell phone bans. Technologies that pull their attention away from learning tasks impact them the most, to their detriment.

CVA commented that parents have complained in the past when child did not have their phone in class and therefore could not be easily contacted.

Council would like to continue this discussion and investigate options for implementing follow up.

See <http://www.digitalabstinence.org/> for more information.

III. Principal's Report

A. *Threat to School*

Today, a KCI student found a message in a boys' washroom that read, "school shooting."

This is the ninth school in the region affected by such an incident. The first message at Huron Heights gave a date and time. The KCI message did not have these sorts of details.

The WRDSB takes each incident seriously. The school called the police and the traumatic events response team was activated in conjunction with police forensics. The message was removed from the washroom. There is now an active police investigation to attempt to find the person who placed the message in the washroom. (There has already been one arrest at another school.)

All the evidence points to a copycat. Huron Heights garnered a lot of attention.

Police services and the WRDSB have issued a joint statement, a copy of which is available here – <https://kci.wrdsb.ca/2018/04/09/message-from-the-principal/> .

CVA will make an announcement to the students on Wednesday, communicating the information above.

B. *Safe, Caring, and Inclusive Schools*

The annual survey is coming up. New format, new questions. Keep an eye on the school website.

C. *Grade 10 Literacy Test*

Tomorrow is the Grade 10 Literacy Test.

All other students are invited to school in the afternoon for tutorial sessions with teachers. If students come in the AM, they must remain in the cafeteria.

The Ministry of Education is implementing changes to the test that allow *all* students, regardless of IEP status, to request and benefit from additional time.

The bulk of the students will still be writing a paper-and-pencil test. Last year, in the midst of a test run of the electronic test, the provincial system crashed.

IV. WRAPSC Report (attached)

V. Other Business

Confidential session: Principal Profile

“Explore Your Future,” free Career Fair run by the Business & Education Partnership of Waterloo Region, Grades 7 – 12 at Bingeman’s this Wednesday, Apr. 11, 6-8:30 pm.

CFUW Annual Book Sale takes place on 20 April (9:00 AM – 9:00 PM), 21 April (9:00 AM – 1:00 PM) at First United Church (King & William). All proceeds fund scholarships for girls.

Upcoming Parent Workshops:

Apr 26 — Youth Mental Health and Wellness (Drugs)

May 3 — Youth Mental Health and Wellness (Awareness)

May 10 — Youth Mental Health and Wellness (safeTALK)

Last meeting of the year: May 28