

CENTENNIAL (W) SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Welcome

Betti Adams

Chairperson Update

Betti Adams

-no updates

Principal's/Vice Principal's Report

Betti Adams and Brad Hughes

(A) Centennial is part of the West Waterloo Boundary Study. For more info:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/west-waterloo-elementary-schools-boundary-study>

(B) WRDSB has provided backgrounder and FAQ about the recently released Health & Phys Ed curriculum to be implemented September 2015. More info:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2015/02/23/new-physical-education-health-curriculum/>

(C) WCI/Strings updates (from last meeting minutes):

Register students for courses you wish to take on My Way between Feb. 26 and March 6.

If strings is selected, this course will run all year and WCI will select a compulsory course to match the year round model.

-if families wish to change an elective course selected once they have completed the initial registration, this can be done, either on My Way or through the guidance staff at WCI.

-Pre-AP course selection dates are specific for WCI and intended to match the IB application process, therefore, the due dates were early this year.

(D) Grade 8 to 9 transitions: Guidance staff have met with all students to prepare for course selections. Course selection forms have gone home with students and families can look at the electives and courses to prepare for the upcoming registration. Feb. 26: Students may begin to select courses using the web-based course selection software (MyWay). March 6: Student access to My Way course selection closes. Guidance staff and computer lab time available to assist students on request. Further information can be found on Centennial's website, your Secondary school website, or you can contact our guidance staff, Mrs. Piva or Mrs. Spoltore.

(E) Red Maple – May 12 trip for Red Maple members to Forest of Reading conference

(F) French Immersion update: To comply with Ministry of Education French Immersion requirements, beginning in September 2015, the Waterloo Region District School Board will be offering some changes to the Partial French Immersion program for students entering grades 7 and 8. Presently, students continuing in the grade 7 and 8 program receive 35% of their instruction in French language. In 2015, grades 7 and 8 will receive 53% of their instruction in French language. Additional subjects taught in French language to meet these requirements will include visual arts, health, drama and media literacy. 6-day cycle (rather than 8-day) is planned for next year. Further information will be shared by the school or your child's teacher as it becomes available.

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(G) Sign up for email now available – parents may now add an email address to your child's contact information in our Student Information System. More info:

<https://secure.wrdsb.ca/subscribe>

Teachers' Report

Helen Fowler

Gr 8 Math

Algebra (basics of solving equations and word problems)

Gr 8 Immersion Language

Study a movie made in Quebec.

Evaluate a review of this movie and then students write their own review (opinion piece) on another media (movie, computer game etc.)

Gr 8 History

Focus on what unites and divides people in a country (Rebellion, building the railway, Confederation)

Gr 8 Language

Completed dramatic oral read-aloud using selected texts

Working with non-fiction texts (finding meaning)

Moving into persuasive writing (with rants) which they will be presenting in class

Gr. 8 Science

Systems [mechanical advantage with various simple machines (pulleys, levers, gears, incline planes), how these can be combined to complete work, lost energy as friction] Students will have a choice to use construction room or digital tools for a culminating task in this unit.

- Science Fair: Thursday March 5 (all classes will visit fair during the school day to evaluate projects, 20 -30 grad students and a few profs from U of W will be judging projects during the day, evening fair for parents and other guests from 6-8 pm in evening)

Phys-Ed

- Completed Health unit on Substance Abuse

- Learning lead-up activities to wrestling

- Next Health Unit will Sex. Ed. (biology, conception, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases)

Visual Arts

- Grade 8 students

- Computer Art Unit where they will be exploring the principles of design using a new media

- Drop in is available before school during this unit. (Students may arrive after 7:30 am but must start before 8:00 am)

- Expressions Art Show opens on March 29 at the KW Art Gallery (attached to Centre in the Square). Show runs until Sunday, May 31

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- 4 grade 7 students have work representing Centennial at this show (Only grade 7s since grade 8 students have just started Visual Arts recently)

- Sculpture club has just finished
- Music - Grade 7 students
- All students have been assigned their instrument. Permission forms for instrument sign out should be returned to music teacher
- Instruments may be signed out after school but must be returned at the start of the next school day since many students share one instrument.
- Instruction has focused on how to hold an instrument correctly and Pitsacato (plucking) on string instruments; taking out and assembling instruments as well as finger positioning on band instruments
- Students in the string program have wrote and played their own compositions in 4/4 time signature which have been played either as a duet in unison or as a canon (start at different times)
- Compositions were written on the treble, alto or bass clef (depending on the instrument played)
- Once all students had successfully played their duets, the entire class played the variety of duets simultaneously resulting in a very good sound. This was possible since the pitch for all duets was based on a 5th; this is called a polyphonic composition
- New to the strings program, several grade 8 students are working as Music Mentors with students in the grade 7 who are finding their new instruments a little more challenging

Gr 7 Immersion Language

- studying homophones (ex. s'est and c'est) ; sounds the same, different spelling and meaning

Gr 7 Language

- literacy circles - Students select one of 6 or 7 novels and form reading groups based on text difficulty and interest. Each member of the group is responsible for a different role each week as the group discusses the book. Roles include: the connection maker who identifies connections between the text and other texts or life experiences, illustrator who draws an interesting event from the novel, summarizer who summarizes key points in the story, analyzer who describes a key figure in the text

Gr 7 Science

- Structures: Types of structures, forces acting on structures, designing to avoid failure and product design. Variety of design and build projects including a wood building project in the construction room.
- Science Tank

Extra-curricular activities currently available:

Orchestra, Chamber, Chamber Ensemble, Band, Ukulele club;
Boys and Girls Basketball teams, Basketball club, Floor Hockey Tournament, Dance Team;
Board Game club, Trading Card club, Cubing club,
Red Maple club, MS read-athon

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Homework Help club

French club, History club, Let's Talk Science team try-outs (Edmodo code 5P29rm, March 4 quiz), Science Council (Lunch and Learn, Pi Contest)

Discussion

Initial discussion on a proposal for a staff appreciation lunch; questions asked and answered about grade 8 to 9 course selection process

Upcoming Meeting Dates

-Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 pm

-Tuesday, May 26, 6:30 pm