



# Galt Collegiate Institute

*We Believe In Ghosts!*

February Newsletter, 2016

## 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 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

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.

## Upcoming Dates At GCI

February 15	Family Day	March 25 to 28	Easter Weekend
February 24	School Council	March 31	Literacy Test - modified timetable
February 24	Pink Shirt Day	March 31	Parent Night - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
February 26	PA Day	April 11 to 15	SHAC Election Week
March 12 to 20	March Break		

## 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.

## 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.

Our student parking lot has a designated area for parent vehicles and school buses. Parents who are dropping students off are expected to do so in the designated location in the student parking lot. Please do not stop your vehicle in the middle of Dando Avenue to drop off; this blocks traffic and contributes to the congestion.

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.

## Course Selection

Course selection assemblies will be held on Tuesday, February 16, and materials will be distributed to students at that time. Course selections for 2016-17 must be completed in *MyWay* by Friday, February 26. 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 31. This date applies to all secondary schools in Ontario. To create a positive environment that will support students' successful completion of the OSSLT, schools typically run a modified timetable. More details about the OSSLT at GCI will be shared in March.

## Spirit Wear

Stay tuned for Galt Ghosts Spirit Wear, going on sale in the coming weeks. Students will be able to purchase GCI hoodies, t-shirts, and sweat pants.

## Newcomers

As millions of Syrians continue to be displaced by the conflict in their home country, a group of passionate and hardworking GCI students and staff are helping to bring awareness in our school and community of the Syrian Refugee crisis. The GCI Welcoming Committee is doing their part to make GCI a welcoming place for newcomers. For more information, and to see how you can help, please visit [gciwelcomingcommittee.wordpress.com](http://gciwelcomingcommittee.wordpress.com).



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