



Galt Collegiate Institute

We Believe In Ghosts!

April Newsletter, 2017

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 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 4	Pep Rally & GCI/PHS Dance	June 7	Athletic Banquet
May 11	Music Night	June 8	Arts Evening
May 23	Grad Assembly	June 9	Awards Assembly
May 26	Dusk 'Til Dawn	June 15	Prom
May 31	Under The Stars	June 22 – 28	Exams

Mental Health Awareness

GCI has a very active mental health and student well-being committee. A number of activities have been planned for Mental Health Awareness Week, from May 1 to 5. This group will also be providing some calm, soothing activities for students as they approach final evaluations. "Stressbuster Week" will take place from June 12 to 16.

Guest Speakers

On May 15, GCI will be hosting a motivational speaker named Ron Bachman. Ron will be addressing our Grade 9 and 10 students, sharing important messages around diversity, anti-bullying, and believing in yourself to overcome challenges. On May 16, representatives from a group called "The New Mentality" will be speaking to our Grade 11 students about mental health.

Safe, Caring & Inclusive Schools – Parent Survey

To strengthen a safe, caring and inclusive school culture, a school needs insight into its existing culture. Safe, Caring and Inclusive School surveys, completed by both students and parents, assist us in understanding and describing the current school culture while identifying areas for improvement. It is important to ensure that representatives from all sectors of the school and its community participate in any type of survey or assessment.

We strongly encourage parents to complete the survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017SCISParent_GuardianSurvey
This link is also posted on the Galt Collegiate website at: gci.wrdsb.ca. The survey is open now and will close on May 12, 2017. Responses to the survey are anonymous.

Nutrition For Learning Online Auction

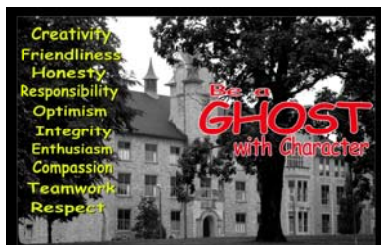
Nutrition for Learning (NFL) is a registered charitable organization operating in Waterloo Region since 1997, whose mission is to enhance the ability to learn by ensuring that each student attends school well nourished. At GCI, NFL offers a breakfast, lunch and snack program. To raise funds for NFL, GCI, St. Andrews Public School, U-Turn Cambridge, and Glenview Park SS will be running an on-line auction from May 24 to 28. We are accepting donations for the online auction. Please contact Mr. Bolton if you would like to donate, and/or visit the website to see what is available: BiddingOwl.com/NutritionForLearning.

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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