



# Galt Collegiate Institute

*We Believe In Ghosts!*

November Newsletter, 2018

## Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

In September 2013, the WRDSB began implementing a new administrative procedure in Grades 7 to 12 regarding Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting. The procedure aligns with the Ontario Ministry of Education's policy document, *Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools* (2010).

The procedure supports staff in optimizing learning for **all** students. In particular, the procedure helps align classroom practices with the following belief statements from 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 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 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.

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

All students are encouraged to use MSIP judiciously *each day* to improve their learning and achievement.

## 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.

## Upcoming Dates At GCI

November 19 to 23	Spirit Week	December 17 to 21	Holiday Week Activities
November 26 to 30	Grad Photos	Jan 25 to 31	Exams
November 28	School Council, 7:00 pm	February 1	PD Day
November 29	Semi-Formal	February 4	Semester 2 Begins
December 13	Tunes of Tassie	February 28	School Council, 7:00 pm

## Grade 8 Information Night

On Wednesday, December 5 from 7 to 9 p.m., we will play host to our incoming Grade 8 students and their parents. If you have a son or daughter in Grade 8, we strongly encourage you to attend this information meeting. The purpose of the evening is to assist students in the transition to high school by providing information and tours *and* by engaging in conversations to answer questions students or parents may have. Please join us in Tassie Hall at 7:00 p.m.

## Co-Curricular Activities at GCI

There are many ways for students to get involved in activities outside the classroom at GCI. A number of clubs, groups, band, choirs, teams, and activities are currently running at GCI: Anime Club, Alpha Magazine, STEM club, Teens In Need of Teens, Gay-Straight Alliance, Coding Club, Muslim Students Association, lunch-hour intramurals, Mural Club, Powerlifting Club, Christian Fellowship, English Language Learners Conversation Club, SHAC, among others. Students interested in bands or choirs should see Mr. Green, Mrs. Osland or Ms. Moser. GCI offers a full roster of inter-school athletics. Many winter sport seasons are getting started; more sports run in the spring. Congratulations to our Junior Girls Basketball team who are WCSSAA champs and CWOSSA silver medalists, and our Senior Girls Basketball team who are this year's CWOSSA silver medalists.

## Mental Health Supports at GCI – “Stressbuster Week”

The end of each semester is a very busy time, with final evaluations taking place in class and exams at the end of January. To support students in this busy time, our mental health committee will be offering a number of activities as part of "stressbuster week". Students will have the opportunity to take a break from their studies and focus on their well-being.

## 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 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 that 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.

## Severe Weather Procedure

As the cold weather approaches, it's important for everyone to be familiar with our Severe Weather Conditions procedure (AP4130 on the board's website). Schools will not automatically be closed when temperatures reach -35C or colder with wind-chill. In that instance, buses will not operate, however the decision to close schools will be made based on weather and road conditions, and communicated via the school and board website, the WRDSB social media feed, and through the following radio stations:

KOOL-FM	FM 105.3	CKWR Kitchener	FM 98.5
MAGIC FM	FM 106.1	CHYM Kitchener	FM 96.7
570 News	AM 570	Dave FM	FM 107.5
Oldies 1090	AM 1090	Kicx	FM 106.7
Faith FM	FM 94.3	The Beat	FM 91.5
CTV Kitchener is also contacted		CBC Radio	FM 89.1