

School Council Meeting: Monday September 25, 2023

Chair: Marina Cosby

Principal: Teri Thompson

Vice Principal: Leslie Brophy

Structure of meetings - September, November, January, March, May (in-person at the school)

Student Council Update

- Under the lights game
- Fall fest – food trucks and games (extended lunch)
- Spirit week – Oct 2-6 - more details to come on the announcements
- Plans for semi formal in the spring at Club Roma
- Leadership conference for the students – we would love some help fundraising for this and other student council initiatives

School updates:

Junior & Senior Assemblies

- welcome, building “Our House”, student expectations, etc.,
- Student success team members
- Student council (introductions, getting involved, etc.,)

Announcements

- posted on school webpage
- Read everyday at the end of period 2 (~10:45 a.m.)

Student Handbook

- copy on the school webpage
- All course outlines present and consistent

GSS School Teams/Clubs

- List of Fall, Winter, Spring teams/clubs (with their teacher advisors) - to be posted

In-School Student Supports Team (ISSST):

- Administration - Teri Thompson & Leslie Brophy
- Guidance - Cara Stewart & Tim Tope
- SERT - Sean Quinn

- Student Success Teacher (SST) - Nicole Terryberry
- Social Worker - Isaac Virag
- ISSST - meets once per week (usually on Tuesday period 2) - teachers use referral forms to give information to the ISSST (i.e., academic versus well-being concerns, communication home, etc.,)

Teacher Supervisions:

- Halls, Cafeteria, before/after school

Grade 9 trip:

- Ball's Falls Conservation Area with the Link Crew Leaders - Thursday, Sept. 28th
- Grade 9's will be given their "Swag Bags" on Wednesday (i.e., sinch sacs, agendas/student handbooks, earbuds, lanyards, pen, GSS Sweatshirt)
- Permission forms are consent forms online

Rowan's Law Day:

Each year the DSBN recognizes Rowan's Law across all schools on the 4th Wednesday of September. On September 27th, Rowan's Law Day will be observed by our school. This is a day to increase awareness about the danger of concussions and to positively promote injury prevention. Rowan's Law was created after Rowan Stringer, a 17-year old student died after sustaining two concussions. Because she did not tell anyone about her injuries or share how she was feeling with her family, coaches or friends her concussions went untreated. By observing Rowan's Law Day each year and educating our school community about concussions, we hope to promote a culture of safety at our school. Purple was Rowan's favourite colour, so students and staff are encouraged to wear purple on Wednesday to represent Rowan.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - September 30 (recognized this year on September 29th in DSBN):

- The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation became a federally observed holiday on July 20, 2021, to be observed on September 30th each year. Sharing this day with Orange Shirt Day, a day widely recognized across the country since 2013. This day provides an opportunity for Canadians to recognize and commemorate the legacy of Residential Schools
- On Friday, September 29th, students, and staff across the DSBN will wear Orange to recognize the harm that the Residential School System had on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children and to recognize that, "Every Child Matters."
- Teachers will be able to provide activities to support the learning for students in the work towards truth and reconciliation and can access board approved resources
- This year, we have placed the circle display with tiles made by students in the library. We have extra blank tiles available for students to color and decorate, which will be used to add to the circle display following Truth and Reconciliation day this year.

- Orange shirts sold for \$5 and money goes towards indigenous initiative for the students this year

Progress Reports:

- electronically sent home October 5, 2023
- Parent-Teacher Interviews - date TBD (will be in-person)
- Parent-Teacher Interviews - in person date and time TBD

Fire Drills and Lockdown Procedures:

- 3 fire drills per semester - evacuation maps and class lists in each classroom
- 1 lockdown drill each semester - updated procedures in each room

Literacy (EQAO-OSSLT):

- Lunch Time Literacy running Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Tuesday, Oct. 3rd. (time to run 12 sessions ending Thursday, Nov. 9th)
- Grade 10 students and previously eligible students will write the test Nov. 14th and 15th (devices permitting). This gives us until Nov. 30th when the fall window closes to support any student absences

Participation in school activities

- students are responsible for their academics and attendance first - staff and ISSST will support and make plans. If concerns still persist, students will not be able to participate.

Staff Meeting and PD:

- Tuesday, September 26th - staff meeting
- Friday, October 6th - PD Day
- Grade specific Google classrooms to share pathway planning and grade specific opportunities and reminders

School Council future session:

- Any interest in having a post-secondary information session for parents? Can be for grades 11 and 12? Towards the end of October...? Run by guidance.
- Parent council interested in both senior and junior presentations on pathway planning to help support their kids

Questions

- Vaping consequences - volunteer work around the school? What might this look like?

Next Meeting: Monday, November 13th, 6:00 pm