



Gloucester High Schools and

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

May/June 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Students and staff alike have been busy preparing for summatives for the end of the year, competing in sports, involved in clubs and in collaborating and preparing for Rideau coming to GHS in the fall. Our students are working so hard and we are very proud of their accomplishments. Please find below some upcoming school events as well as a few of the highlights from the past month.

May/June Events:

May 3-5: Music and art student trip to Quebec City

May 10th - 11th - Grade 10 Character Education assembly with storyteller Jeff Wright: "The Odyssey" (Library)

May 16-19: Outdoor Education final canoe trip to Algonquin Park

May/June- Grade 11 Bio students participated in the David Suzuki Challenge which took them outside for 30 minutes a day during the month of May (and part of June due to inclement weather!)

May 24th - *Relay for Life* - students raised over \$8500 to support Cancer research

May 26: OCUA High School tournament, ultimate frisbee tournament, Ben Franklin Park

May 31: 4th Annual Callahan Cup, ultimate frisbee tournament, Ben Franklin Park. Cree Elder Thomas Loutit spent his final afternoon with students at GHS. He spent 6 half days with classes sharing his experiences as a Residential School survivor and teaching about his culture.

June 1 - Grade 9/10 visits from Rideau, after school student vs. teacher ultimate frisbee game.

Final Music Concert and Arts showcase co-hosted with Rideau High School. Four GHS students attended the First Annual Indigenous Youth Symposium with students across the city and leaders from the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit community.

June 2 - Grade 11 visits from Rideau. Three classes participated in the Kairos Canada Blanket Exercise, an experiential learning opportunity about the history of the Indigenous people of North America..

May 31-June 2nd - OFSSA - Track and Field. Three GHS athletes attended this prestigious meet. Andre Ali-Lamarche competed in the Senior Boys Steeplechase, Oliver Denia competed in the Junior Boys Javelin and Sophie Barber competed in the Senior Girls Javelin.

June 3: Blackburn Funfair - music performances by the Grade 10 Quartet, Vocal Ensemble and the GHS stage band at 11am

June 3rd - E-Waste pick up at Gloucester High School

June 12-16 - EQAO for Mathematics

June 20-24 - Exams

June 30th - Commencement at 9:00 A.M.

School Highlights:

Cameron Jones recently received a Student Recognition Award from the OCDSB. Congratulations to Cameron for his ongoing positivity and contribution to the GHS school community. Cameron truly exemplifies good character and all that it means to be a Gator.

Mathematics:

The math department has been working with other departments at GHS to highlight numeracy across the curriculum. More information about the Ministry's Renewed Math Strategy can be found at:

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/april2016/min_math_strategy.html

The science and technology department's professional learning team have been working on the development of instructional strategies that support the Renewed Math Strategy. Teachers have collaboratively developed lesson plans that engage all students in numeracy based discussions and activities across the curriculum.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN MATH CLASS

- When you get home, **DON'T DO YOUR HOMEWORK!** Instead, read over your class notes. When you come to an example done in class... **DON'T READ THE EXAMPLE.** Copy out the example, set your notes aside, and do the question yourself. Maybe you will get stuck. Even if you thought you understood the example when your teacher went over it in class, you may get stuck.
- **This is good news.** Now you know what you don't know. So consult your notes, look in your text, see your teacher immediately the next day. Do whatever is necessary to figure out the steps in the example that troubled you.
- Once you have worked through the problem, **do it again! And again.** Do it as often as you need so that it becomes, if not easy, then at least straightforward. Make sure that you not only understand each line in the solution, but why each line is needed in the solution. In part you have memorized the solution. More importantly, you have made the subtleties of the problem unsubtle!
- This is the great equalizer step. If your math aptitude is strong, then maybe you will have the example down pat after doing it once or twice. If not so strong, you may have to do it several times. After you have done this for every class example...
- **DO YOUR HOMEWORK!** If you follow this method, and your teacher has chosen the examples well, most of the homework questions will relate back to the problems done in class and the rest should extend or synthesize the ideas behind those problems. Guess what you will find on 80% or more of your tests and exams? **The same kinds of problems.**
- **GOOD LUCK!** Although if you use this method, luck will have nothing to do with your success.

OTHER STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

- Write each formula and definition in the text on a separate index card. (If you do this every night, it doesn't take long.) Put the name on one side of the card and the formula

on the other. Then quiz yourself (placing the answers you get right in one pile, those you miss in another, and keep at it until you eliminate the error pile). For greatest benefit, do this regularly. **Do all your homework on the night it is assigned.**

- Find one or more classmates and quiz each other regularly on definitions, formulas, and methods of problem-solving. Study groups can achieve wonders.
- Ask questions in class immediately for homework exercises that give you trouble.
- Review your tests. Look in the book to find exercises like the questions you missed, and work enough of them that you feel confident.
- In each chapter, go to the pages containing word problems and practice setting up each problem. (You don't need to solve all of them.)
- Come in for extra help right away if any topic gives you trouble. (Don't wait until the day before the test.)
- Find someone in your class who is having difficulty and help him/her out. The tutor will always learn as much as the tutee.
- Use the practice tests in the textbook for practice before taking the test for marks.
- You teach yourself anything by practicing. You wouldn't shoot a basket once and quit if the ball went in. Why should math be any different? **SO DO YOUR HOMEWORK!** Find additional exercises for anything that seems difficult.
- If your teacher has a website make good use of it. Everything from class will be there along with helpful links to math sites that can help you when you have problems.
- Khan Academy is a site that offers video lessons on everything from addition to calculus.
- And finally, there is this thing called Google. Use it to find anything on any topic with which you are having problems.

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Fine Arts:

Music:

Our final concert was on June 1st from 6-8pm. We had planned for an outdoor showcase of the arts and a 'bring your own lawn chair' event but quickly moved inside due to weather. Senior band members arranged their own small ensemble works as well.

There was artwork, ceramics, drama and dance presentations along with musical performances (with guest performers). Artwork, baked goods and ceramic herb planters were for sale. Thank you to all who were able to come out to this fun event!

The Band's Commencement performance will be on June 30 at 9am.

Ceramics:

The ceramic students participated in a workshop with members from the Ottawa Guild of Potters to create ceramic roses, that will be installed on the grounds of Museum of Nature as part of a large ceramic public art installation in honour of Canada's 150. The installation will take the form of a giant ceramic garden of feathers, roses and fleur de lis recognizing the Indigenous people, the English and the French cultures present in Canada at the time of Confederation. The installation will be on display from June to August 2017.

News from the Drama studio

Drama classes are in the process of creating and rehearsing their summative projects. Grades 9s are dramatizing fairy tales from a variety of different cultures. Grade 10s are taking ancient myths and giving them a modern context and the senior classes have presented favourite actor seminars and adapted a Greek play into an original script.

Drama classes do not have the pressure of essays and a written exam but students are asked to maintain consistent attendance and focus in class time in order to help achieve what are largely group projects. Helping to record daily work into a google doc, bringing in extra props and volunteering to do lunch time rehearsals are all ways that students can improve their work.

Drama is sometimes viewed as an educational frill but students are given the opportunity to learn to express themselves orally, work on writing their own scripts, practice critical thinking skills in the analysis of scripts and are encouraged to integrate technology to enhance performances. Finally, the personal and emotional skills of learning to cooperate with a variety of people to create a common goal will do students in good stead throughout future educational and workplace experiences.

A final piece of good news is the acceptance of graduate Jason Buitenwurf into the York university Bachelor of Fine Arts theatre performance program. Jason played the role of villain Sir Guy Ginsborne in Robin Hood. We are proud of his accomplishments and wish him the best of luck in future production.

Science, Family Studies and Library:

From the Library:

Elder Thomas Louttit joined us in the library to work with multiple classes (and teachers) on Truth & Reconciliation process. Elder Albert Dumont will be speaking with some classes during June.

All books are due back in the Library by *Friday, June 9th*. If you have an English ISU or a summative project in another subject *after* that date, please see Mrs. Leemhuis in the Library for an extension on any borrowed books. Don't forget the databases for research are available from home by going to <https://search.ebscohost.com> and using the username **ocdsb** and the password **ebscohost** to login.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Physics and Chemistry

Gloucester is pleased to announce that it will be offering programming to support those students interested in challenging themselves and writing the AP physics or AP chemistry exams at the end of May 2018.

The Ducks have Arrived!

Ms. Baker's SNC1P class spent the last four weeks incubating duck eggs. We now have three adorable little ducklings who have taken up residence in the classroom. The students are able to feed and interact with the ducklings. They'll be with us until mid-June.

International Certificate Program:

Kathy Scheepers presented the "Intercultural Awareness Workshop" to ICP students at Gloucester on April 27th. This was a compulsory component of the certificate. ICP students also attended a Youth Leadership Conference at the University of Ottawa on May 8th where they discussed important global issues such as: sustainable agriculture; workers' rights; women's empowerment; economic equality; protecting children and access to clean water.

Guidance and Student Services:

Many of our students are busy applying for scholarships and submitting their community involvement hours. Our guidance team is always happy to help. Please see your guidance counsellor if you have any questions.

English and Languages:

Every year, all of our grade 12 students who took a French class, either in Core or Immersion succeed in receiving their DELF certificate. DELF (Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française) is an official qualification awarded by the French Ministry of Education to certify the competency of candidates from outside France in the French language. This certificate is valid for life. The websites below have information about the DELF:

<http://www.ocdsb.ca/programs/sec/fsl/Pages/OCDSB-Grade-12-French-Proficiency-Test.aspx>

http://www.ocdsb.ca/DISTRICT%20NEWS%20DOCS/DELF_Brochure.pdf

Our language program offers many different language courses such as French Immersion, Spanish, and Japanese, and next year we are hoping to run Arabic.

A group of our Japanese language students will be on a study trip homestaying in Osaka, Japan for two weeks in July this year. Three of these students have been granted a \$1,000 bursary from OCENET.

In early April, The Montreal Shakespeare Theatre Company presented "Romeo and Juliet" to our grade 9 and 10 English classes. It was a great success!

Six of our grade 10 French immersion students participated in the French speaking contest in Ottawa.

Social Sciences and Physical and Health Education:

We recently applied for a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) in *Health, Wellness and Sport* and we are happy to report that our application was accepted. Next year GHS will offer this new SHSM.

Ms. Wyatt's outdoor education class went on a four day canoeing trip in Algonquin Park. Sunny skies made for a beautiful experience and hail the size of golf balls made it very memorable. They had so much fun putting their outdoor skills to great use!

Some of our students participated in a once in a lifetime educational trip. They ventured to London, Vimy, and Paris. They had the chance to be part of one of Vimy's 100th year anniversary celebrations, as well as to learn more about Canada's history overseas during the world wars.

Business and Technology Studies:

Mr. Derosie's Marketing class (BMI3C) actively provided promotional support for the school play, Robin Hood, which was presented on April 28th and 29th in the school auditorium. The Marketing students created movie posters highlighting the various cast members and their roles. This increased visibility will hopefully encourage all to come out to see the play.

Mr. Giovagnoli's Media Studies class (TGG3M/4M) has been working diligently towards the completion of the 2016-2017 Gloucester High School Yearbook. Adding support to this endeavour, Mr. G's Communication Technology class is also fine tuning the last minute details of the book. Yearbooks are available through Mr. Giovagnoli at lunchtime in room 327. Yearbooks can also be purchased upstairs in the Business Office during lunch. Please see Mr. Oka. The Yearbooks are arriving soon!

Indigenous Studies and Supports:

This month GHS is concluding its pilot Current Aboriginal Issues/Indigenous Science Technology Engineering and Math course. Students have been given many exciting opportunities this semester including the Indspire conference, Indigenous Youth Symposium, Malala Yousafzai's Citizenship Ceremony, and other learning and development opportunities. A highlight of the program was working with Indigenous Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers, the University of Ottawa Engineering Department and Actua (STEM experts) to create projects that would provide positive social change to Indigenous people and communities. These projects were created using cutting edge technology including 3D printers, Laser Cutters and Phone/Online Applications. Students have had the opportunity to meet with Indigenous community leaders, authors, musicians, and artists. Students have also helped to support the design and development of the Indigenous Lodge and Cultural space that will be open in fall 2017 at GHS. Students have been able to spend time with FNMI students from Rideau High School and to develop friendships that will continue when RHS join GHS in September.

Clubs and Teams:

We have over 50 active clubs and teams. If your child is interested in a club or team which does not appear on our list of clubs and teams, they should talk to one of the Administrators to see if we can arrange something.

Track and Field

The 2017 track and field season was highly successful. Gloucester had 20 athletes on the team and participants in all disciplines (Running, Jumping and Throwing). Of the 20 team members, 7 qualified for the Eastern Provincial Championships (EOFSAA). Three of these athletes further qualified for the Provincial Championships (OFSAA) which were held in Belleville between June 2 - 3. Congratulations, team!

Robotics

After many years of inactivity, the Gloucester Robotics Club made a comeback this year. They focused on exploring and developing applications of Arduino microcontrollers. The 6 member group competed in two events at the IEEE Ottawa Robotics Competition and placed 5th in both events.

Accommodation Review:

Students and staff have been working hard on a variety of initiatives and transition projects to welcome Rideau High School students to Gloucester for the fall of 2017. We are very excited to have Rideau Students attend GHS. We have had numerous tours for groups of students and staff and students organized activities and a club/team fair to highlight some of our extra-curricular activities. Our music students have joined with the music students at Rideau and hosted a joint music concert as well as some fun celebratory events (e.g. bubble soccer). Our LINK students had their first joint May Day training on May 30th. With the addition of Rideau students to Gloucester - our student population will be approximately 1000 students - this will enable us to provide many more opportunities for our students such as more clubs and teams and courses that we had not been previously able to run (e.g. Exercise Science, Arabic, Digital Photography, Environmental Science, Dance, more Advanced Placement courses to name a few). One thing that the Board asked us to consider was a name change. The students from both schools who were interviewed did not think it was a good idea. If you have thoughts that you would like to share with me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The Board will support the transition of Rideau High School students to Gloucester High School, by providing transportation; additional staffing; and in consultation with students, staff and community partners continue the creation of a space for students that is culturally friendly to FNMI and comparable to the Lodge at Rideau High School. We very much look forward to working with our new students and staff from Rideau. Between now and September, we are busy working with Facilities to plan and renovate to welcome the newest members of our school community. We also welcome the support and help of the GHS parents to assist us in welcoming our newcomers to the school. If you are interested in helping - please do not hesitate to contact me. We are hoping to have a Welcome Barbecue and Cultural Food Fair at the end of August for all parents/students.

Other Community News:

Vision Jasmine, a group of various community organizations, is busy organizing a variety of events and opportunities for families and youth, including Big Brothers/Sisters House of Paint (hip hop), I Love to Play Hockey, Library Events and Reading, I Love Tennis, Community Clean Up, and Youth Pizza Night. If you would like more information about any of these please contact MLemieux@eorc-creo.ca or you may contact me at jennifer.perry@ocdsb.ca

Professional Development:

Our staff is committed to working on their own professional development to enhance the learning environment for all students, improve academic achievement and student success. We have many professional learning teams that are working on evidence based instructional strategies to improve deep learning, critical thinking, and problem solving. Much of our work is based on the research of John Hattie and evidence based instructional strategies.

We are honoured to work with such wonderful, welcoming students, parents, staff and community members. Our *School Learning Plan* is focused on critical thinking and inquiry – we are very proud of the work that our students do as they demonstrate their thinking and learning every day – both in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities. If there is anything that we can do to help you at school, or if you would like to meet with one of the Administrative team and perhaps have a tour of our amazing facility – please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warmest Regards,

Ms. Perry

Principal