

OTSS School Council

Ottawa Technical Secondary School- School Council

Minutes of School Council Meeting held on December 3, 2013

Opening:

The monthly School Council meeting of the OTSS was called to order at 19h05 on December 3, 2013 in the library by Bruce Giles, Co-Chair, School Council.

Present

Bruce Giles
Jane Alexander
Jennifer Tremblay
Annette Vogt-Cearns
Linda Kuo
Alberta Skwarchuk
Howard Crerar
Judy Dwyer
Wendy Habets
Sarina Parisee
Beverly Mallin

- **Welcome – Chair**

Bruce welcomed everyone at 19:05hr.

Presentation by this month's Resource Staff – Wendy Habets - Youth Worker with Sarina Parisee.

Helps support kids in crisis – based on the ideology of Ross Greene

Kids with social, emotional, and behavioural challenges:

- are NOT seeking attention, manipulative, limit testing, coercive or unmotivated
- they DO lack the skills to behave appropriately, lack important thinking skills
- adults can help by recognizing what causes their difficult behaviours and teach kids the skill they need
- kids do well if they CAN (not the age old thought “if they WANT to”)
- we, as the adults, have to change assumptions of kids’ abilities and thinking

see Lives in the Balance – www.livesinthebalance.org

- **Approval of Agenda and Minutes from November 5, 2013**

Approved by Linda Kuo, seconded by Beverly Mallin.

3. Happenings at OTSS Principal / Staff report

Happenings at the school – Jane Alexander/Jennifer Tremblay

- Remembrance Day Ceremonies went very well the students were very well behaved
- Winter Carnival February 14 – all kids to sign up for activities kids made a presentation to principal and this was deemed to be OK
- Link Crew - showed Ferris Bueller's Day off
- Detention and suspension rates are down – school is very proud
- Exam schedule to come out soon

Physical Education, Athletics and the Arts

Varsity Sports

We have entered NCSSAA Boys & Girls Wrestling. Practices are ongoing. There are 15 weight classes for within each gender to compete. First invitational meet is Dec. 11th @ Carine Wilson S.S.

Veteran Track & Field Team members are getting an early season opportunity to test themselves on the indoor track @ Louis Riel Dome later this month. Events include; sprints, middle distance & long jump.

Vocom Sports

On Thurs. Nov. 21 O.T.S.S. hosted Vocom Dodgeball & was successful in winning the tournament on route to establishing a new record of student participation with over 100 students took part in the all day event.

In November O.T.S.S. also hosted the annual multi-sport PSP Challenge Cup & with the final point tally in favor of the Mustangs. This year the Autism students joined the physical support program students to make the program even more inclusive.

This month, Thurs. Dec. 5th, approx. 6-7 teams will travel to Sir Guy Carleton for 4-on-4 basketball.

Intramurals

Last month also included a ping pong tournament involving 24 students. The student who finished on top of the pyramid format competition received a free lunch for his efforts.

Clubs

The basketball club continues every Thursday after school & brings staff & students together for a fun game of basketball. It is well attended by both groups & a lot of fun had by all.

Fitness Club continues to maintain a following who utilize the fitness center before school (on Tues.'s & Thurs.'s thanks to staff volunteers who come in early to open & supervise the facility), lunch time & after school. This is bright, well appointed space, with a large variety of different training apparatus, certainly above average quality compared to most school sites.

Some students approached Mr. Bergin about preparing for a potential career in the military, as a former member of the Canadian Forces combined with him being a phys. ed. Teacher, "Bergin's Boot Camp" was born. Their inaugural session took place Fri. Nov. 29th, so far no

one has been able to finish the work out but the students want to continue to try so Mr. Bergin has agreed to continue delivering the 'military' training standard to help them 'BE ALL THEY CAN BE' !

Working Together

Thanks to joint initiatives between the Phys. Ed. Dept. & the Technology Dept. both groups have benefited from working together on 2 projects in particular; (i) Bike Maintenance program – where students from Mr. Lepage's small engines/autobody class complete repairs & routine maintenance on the school bicycles that phys. ed. Students then get to enjoy during the fall & spring, (ii) students in Mr. Schleihauf's Sr. construction class repaired & re-shingled the bicycle storage sheds, the construction students learned a great deal about site safety & the methods used in roofing, the phys. ed. Dept. now have a dry, secure place to store their bikes in the off-season. Thanks to both Teachers & their students for their contributions & teamwork.

Remembrance Day Assembly & The Arts

In support of Remembrance Day Assembly organizers, Arts Teachers got involved with various aspects of the presentation. Students from Music classes played instruments & sang. Drama students did a period reenactment portraying the impact war has on relationships & family. Visual Arts students assisted in preparing the sets used on stage.

Upcoming Events

Jan. – Annual arm Wrestling competition & Ski Club

Feb. – Vocom Volleyball & OTSS Has Talent Show

English/CWS/Social sciences

The Civics classes have the opportunity to see democracy in action today as they all visit Parliament Hill with Ms Ensom. The students look forward to this trip every year and come away with a better understanding of what they hear on the news.

The ENG4E classes are in the process of analyzing documentaries in order to improve critical thinking. The object of this work is to help these students become better critical thinkers and better educated consumers. The students have watched a few documentaries as a class and are now selecting their own from the National Film Board that they will be responsible for analyzing and presenting to the class.

Tech News

- Volunteer fair occurred as part of our SIPSA plan. The leadership and Business students helped all of the participants at the tables and were great ambassadors for OTSS. The individuals from the volunteer groups were very informative and engaged our students to help them determine how they can accomplish completion of their volunteer hours. Thanks to Michele Sauvé, Sheila Last, Sheila Williams and Molly Ensom for a job well done!
- Alan Abraham takes two grade 9 teams (of 4) to Skills Canada Boat Race at the Nepean Sports Plex today, Dec. 3rd. Good Luck to them!
- Look forward to Mme Sauvé's Bake Sale, Dec. 12th. Funds raised will be going to support Toy Mountain.

- If you have any new or gently used toys to donate for Toy Mountain, please send to the Coop office. Pick up by Toy Mountain foundation occurs Dec. 16th.
- The New Year brings our grade 8 students and parents to visit us on Jan. 14th. The Tech dept. will be showcasing activities and product as well.

Co-Op Department Update:

- Students are doing well at their co-op placements. It is a busy time of year for the retail and hospitality students – they are learning how to work faster under more stressful conditions. This has been a wonderful learning opportunity for them.
- Co-op students have also been working on their summatives which are due in January. The summative is a power point presentation that they present in front of the class which includes details of their placement and research about a career they are interested in pursuing.

Math and Science

In Math, there will be representation on the Digital Learning Advisory Panel from OTSS, Thursday, December 12. This panel will discuss procedures for teachers to access electronic opportunities that can be integrated into their instructional practice.

In Science, teachers have organized to offer two workshops where scientist from OttawaU's Engineering Department will demonstrate activities: Electricity & Chemistry.

- **Other dates to remember**

December 9 – grad rings for sale
 December 12 – bake sale
 December 16 – Christmas “Carol-oke”
 December 17 – Tacky sweater day
 December 18 –PJ day
 December 18 – dental screening
 December 18 – decorate the teacher contest
 December 19 – Christmas Dance
 December 20 - PA Day - no classes
 December 21 – January 5, 2014 – Christmas holiday break
 January 14, 2014 – Grade 8 parent information night
 January 27-31, 2014 – exams

Adjournment –

Meeting of December 3 2013 adjourned at 8:20 pm.
 The next meeting will take place on February 4, 2013.

Submitted by Annette Vogt-Cearns.

