

OTSS School Council

Minutes of School Council Meeting held on March 4, 2014

Opening:

The monthly School Council meeting of the OTSS was called to order at 19h10 on March 4, 2014 in the library by Bruce Giles, Co-Chair, School Council.

Present

Bruce Giles
Jane Alexander
Jennifer Tremblay
Annette Vogt-Cearns
Judy Dwyer
Lynn LaVictoire
Andrea Fisher

- **Approval of Agenda and Minutes from February 4, 2014**

Approved by Judy Dwyer, seconded by Annette Vogt-Cearns.

3. Happenings at OTSS Principal / Staff report

Happenings at the school – Jane Alexander

- Reports go home on Thursday March 6, 2014
- Parent-Teacher interviews the week after March Break – March 20, in classrooms not gym this time
- Literacy Bootcamps being given to students who are writing – teachers are giving support and are trying to keep things low-key to avoid stress
- Staff changes – Miss Bird on maternity leave and being replaced by Mr. Plant, Ms. Newman will be finished this week (also on maternity leave) and Ms. Galigan will be leaving soon (maternity leave) – Ms. Galigan will be replaced by Mr. Jupp
- Talent show was great (February 28) – there were 12 acts including signing, acting, rap and instrumental guitar

Physical Education, Athletics and the Arts

Varsity Sports

Boys Wrestling came a long way as Novices, the equivalent of 16th place in their respective weight classes to 6th at the NCSSAA East Conference Wrestling Championships in February. It's a grueling season, lasting 4 months, interrupted by Christmas holidays & exams. During this time each athlete must manage their nutrition & fitness all while maintaining a high level of motivation to compete. While

we started the season with 10 curious athletes, only 4 had the staying power to finish..

Co-ed Badminton starts up after March Break with 'boys & girls singles/doubles', the team hopes to attend some invitational meets prior to the April Championship series.

It has been a couple of years since the team took to the diamond but with new Coaches, renewed optimism, & hopefully enough talent, we will be able to submit a Sr. Boys league entry (because there is no girls team, they are permitted to try out/play on the boys team). Try-outs take place immediately following March Break.

Vocom Sports

February was a busy month tying up titles in 'Girls, Boys & Co-ed Volleyball' & last week the same for 'Jr. & Sr. Singles Badminton'. Upon return from March Break is Boys & Girls Ball Hockey.

Spring Helmet Initiative

88% of brain injuries can be prevented by wearing a properly fitted helmet. The Education Foundation has partnered with a private supplier to provide schools/students throughout the Board to purchase new cycling helmets. This opportunity is only available the week of, Mon. Mar. 3rd-Thurs. Mar. 6th. The models offered normally retail between \$30-\$60 but through this special offer are available for between \$15-\$25. Order forms available at the main office & Phys. Ed. office. Completed order forms to be returned to the main office. Financial Assistance is available.

Ski Club

Ski Club successfully completed 3 excursions throughout Feb., all to Mont Cascade, who continue to provide us preferential rates for rental equipment, lessons & lift ticket. Over 30 students participated, many improving their skills significantly over the duration of the dates involved.

Sports Grant

OTSS have recently been successful recipients of a \$700 sport grant to purchase some much needed replacement cross country ski equipment for phys. ed. classes. We are currently working with a sympathetic local retailer who is trying to help us maximize our buying power. In addition to cross country skiing our phys. ed. students also enjoy broomball, skating, ski trips & snowshoeing as enjoyable winter activities

Other News

The 2013-2014 'OTSS Has Talent Show' took place on Fri. Feb. 28th in our auditorium with an all-school assembly. Students had the opportunity to audition on 8 dates provided, over 2 dozen did, with 12 selected as 'show ready'. Champions were crowned in 1 of 3 categories; vocals, dance & performance. One lucky student was selected by the audience as the 'Fan Favorite', for Best Overall Performance.

From the Special Education department

PSP News

The annual PSP Curling Bonspiel, with Sir Guy Carleton students, was held Feb 18th at the Nepean Sportsplex. Thank you to Mr. Ted Poulsen for organizing an inspiring

event.

Autism Program

Students had a spectacular winter activity day at the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre on February 13th - snowshoeing and a cookout in the snow.

Storefront - news from Mrs. Ashton

- One student has been doing her Co-op placement at Good Life and as a bonus, they gave her a free membership. They really appreciate her work!
- One student just signed the lease to his first apartment!
- Another student began volunteering at Rogers TV on Monday night. He works the camera for the TV show 'Ottawa Experts.'
- A student just finished his Co-op placement at Home Hardware and according to them he is employable but they don't have any openings currently. He received a \$40 gift card from them at Christmas and when he finished his placement they gave him a \$50 gift card! You should have seen the look on his face! :)
- We took 6 students to get their Ontario Photo Card 3 weeks ago (the other students had already received theirs last year. They have all received their cards in the mail. This is their first piece of official adult identification!

News from Social Sciences

- Ms. Loker has been teaching the history of the Olympics and has tied it into Sochi 2014 in her non-credit history class. They have now moved on to teaching the history of the Paralympics with them coming up in a couple of weeks. It has been a great success.
- Ms. Galigan's Native studies class has moved onto the treaties unit. They are studying them in a historic perspective and will link it to current native rights issues in Canada.

News from English

- The entire school continues to help students get ready for the Literacy Test, taking place this year on March 27th for the full day. All participating students should know by now and letters will be going home at the end of the week to confirm participation and accommodations. If parents/guardians are interested in helping their students prepare www.eqao.com has lots of parent resources.
- The ENG4C class is about to start their first novel study of A Long Way Gone which is the autobiography of a child soldier in Sierra Leone. This novel is usually a very good antidote to the teenager complaints about how difficult their lives are.

News from Science & Math

- **Science**

- Field Trip, on Thursday, Feb. 27th ... Museum of Nature ...

- **Math**

Teachers are learning about assessing students with leveled marking - as connected to Assessment Plans. We believe this procedure will promote further student success.

From the Technology department

- Students have worked diligently in the new semester start up completing their safety in the shops. They have now begun working on projects.
- Some of our students will be sharing their knowledge with grade 7 students on Tech showcase days (Mar. 25 & 26) at Confederation High School. A few of our senior students are preparing to participate in Canada Skills competitions in Kingston (April 12) and hopefully Waterloo (May 5-7)!
- **Pro Grant**
- The Pro Grant discussion was started by Bruce Giles
- All approved the funds being used for a reference library – will move forward on this
- On the school website in the school council area a section will be added with a list of the books available
- We will solicit suggestions from parents for book titles
- **Fraser Institute** list of school performance again noted OTSS as a low functioning school, but does not qualify that all students are IEP'd
- **Other dates to remember**

March 6 – Grad photos

March 7 – P.A. Day

March 11-14 – March Break

March 27 – OSSLT (Literacy Test)

March 31 – Work Experience

April 1 – Work Experience

- **Adjournment –**

Meeting of March 4, 2014 adjourned at 8:15 pm.

The next meeting will take place on April 1, 2014.

Submitted by Annette Vogt-Cearns.