

OTSS School Council

Meeting Minutes for March 5, 2013.

Opening:

The monthly School Council meeting of the OTSS was called to order at 19h10 on March 5, 2013 in the library by Bruce Giles, Co-Chair, School Council.

Present

Carl Dobbins

Brenda Reisch

Bruce Giles

Linda Kuo

Annette Vogt-Cearns

- **Welcome – Chair**

Bruce welcomed everyone at 19:10hr. Carl Dobbin led the meeting as Barry Armstrong away.

Brenda Reisch handed over to Carl Dobbin some Key to the City discount coupons, which would be handed out to worthy students.

Bruce wanted to speak of the Valentine's Day Dance. He said it went really well, with only one minor squabble, but most students were well behaved.

- **Approval of Agenda and Minutes from February 5, 2012**

Few changes to last meeting draft requested by Carl Dobbin. Annette will issue changes and resend minutes. Minutes to be approved. After review, meeting officially began 7:26 pm.

- **Happenings at OTSS / Staff report**

Happenings at the school

Carl Dobbin

- 2nd semester is approximately 6 weeks in
- progress reports to go out March 21
- parent-teacher interviews to be held March 28th 4-7 pm
- this time PT interviews will be held in classrooms, rather than the gym
- volunteers to supervise lunchtime (perhaps parent volunteers)
- School council demonstration table to be set up on PT night - will be asking for volunteers as school ambassadors (students)
- Josten's to be at school on March 25th/26th for Grad ring orders and fittings
- with the warmer weather there will be more fire drill practices
- 3 are required each semester
- 1 lockdown practice required each semester
- part of the Safe and Secure Schools Act
- Commencement will take place on June 28th at 1:00pm
- there will not be a luncheon this year due to short turnaround in time from final exams to marks in to school ending

- Bruce and Natasha have been asked to attend the ceremony
- Option sheets are being filled out in February each first period of the day, the guidance team will meet with each student to select time tables
- approximately 50 grade 9 applications (new entry students) have been received to-date
- school numbers are looking promising for next year - same number, or better
- semestering continues to be positive
- the students seem to be responding favourably to having only 4 classes to focus on
- seems positive for all at school
- this is especially good for shops
- intramurals have started again, as well as the outdoors club and VOCOM
- Friday March 8th ski day at Mont Cascades

Kelli Watson (not in attendance information provided to Carl Dobbin to present)

- Kelli provided a copy of a brochure entitled "Focus on Youth" - Summer Employment Program, distributed by the OCDSB - we did not get a chance to discuss but should do so at next meeting

Day of Pink

- anti-bullying day
- to be held in April
- t-shirts to be sold to staff and students to encourage more involvement
- t-shirts to cost \$8.00

Do it for Darren

- held on March 1, 2013 - wear purple day
- raised over \$150 for the organization by selling purple hearts and other DIFD merchandise
- PE classes and other students took a trip to the Royal Ottawa Hospital to their "Is It Just Me?" program where they learned about mental illness and substance use and abuse

Grads

- Grads are being asked to think about "What I liked best about OTSS was..."
- in late March they will be asked to write down their answers and these will be laminated and posted around the school
- the hope is to do this with each grade level over the course of the rest of the year
- also a video is in the making to get the word out about OTSS
- Miss Murphy's son is teaming up with a student from Sir Wilfrid Laurier which will feature students telling everyone what they like best about the school and
- this will be posted on the school website upon completion

MADD demonstration

- took place on March 5th
- full video presentation with Q&A

Key dates

- March 6th - Grad photos and retakes/pictures for New students
- March 8th - last day of school before March Break
- March 18th - first day back from March Break
- March 21st - progress reports, also distribution of Waiver forms and IPRC form and any IEPs for new students
- March 25-26th - Grad rings - deposit of \$60 required at time of order
- March 25-28th - Work Experience Week for students in Civics and Careers classes
- March 28th - parent-teacher interviews
- March 29th - Good Friday (no classes)
- April 1 - Easter Monday (no classes)
- April 10 - Day of Pink
- April 11 - OSSLT - Literacy Test
- April 17 - Term 2 begins
- April 22 - Marks due
- April 26 - Report Cards distributed: Mission Employable

Youth Initiative

English

- from Heather Galigan, English classes will be using award winning movies to engage students in critical thinking
- ENG1L will be learning about the conventions of animated films while they watch Frankenweenie
- other classes are analyzing print ads from various decades to decode the text, audience and production values
- Native Studies class is learning about the vast differences between Aboriginal groups across Canada - learning about lifestyle, leadership style and community differences
- School-wide 100 students are being prepared and will be participating in the OSSLT on April 11th.
- every Thursday any class with 3 or more test writers will be spending 20-30 minutes working on Literacy Skills. This means each student should be getting 6.5 hours of prep outside of classroom

Tech News

- from Lydia Hamilton - a fast start to the new term. Students have completed the Introduction Safety units (Safety and the Workplace) and are now into projects
- new posters in every shop
- Hospitality has new menus - new offerings in the kitchen: daily fresh breads and desserts, subs to order, salad bar and a weekly noodle bar (pasta with 3 sauce choices)
- Green Industries: new program is fundraising by selling Vesey's seeds and bulbs (catalogues available - money due April 2nd)
- the program offers to start any of your own seeds (36 plants for \$20)
- 10 students have begun a dual credit in baking at Algonquin college
- the students spend Monday mornings at the college (February 25 to end of school)
- this is a new format from the last dual credit offering

Spec Ed

- PSP Curling event with Centennial PS and Sir Guy Carleton HS - OTSS won the cup!
- presentation will be at the monthly assembly meeting (assemblies now 1x per month, rather than weekly)
- Autism program - the students enjoyed a spectacular day of snowshoeing and winter outdoor activity at the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre on Wednesday February 13
- GLP – Meenah in Mr. St. Louis' group C won gold for the arm wrestling - girls category - at OTSS!
- Mrs. Scott's senior class:
- eight students from this year and last year received their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award on Saturday March 2nd in a ceremony at City Hall.
- the Chief of Police presented the awards, the colour guard and a piper were also present
- great afternoon, complete with reception afterwards where many of the students parents connected in a more substantial way than is normally possible
- official photos were taken of each student receiving their award and an OTSS group photo as well
- the students looked wonderful in their formal attire and all were extremely proud of their accomplishments!

Co-op

- from Jane Macintyre
- semester 2 well under way and almost all students have been placed and are working in jobs - such as teacher's assistant, prep cook, mechanic's assistant and retail sales
- students participated in 3 weeks of pre-placement activities which covered such topics as health and safety, resume writing, confidentiality, the Employment Standard Act and more
- students in careers/civics will participate in a 4-day Work experience from March 25-28

Math/Science

- from Ives Bolt
- Science is in the process of hiring a support teacher who will assist our on site teachers with chemical storage and safety of labs, as per a continued effort by the ministry, board and school to ensure student safety
- Math - a team of two teachers and the principal will travel to Toronto (March 6th) for a ministry funded conference to promote numeracy within our instruction while identifying a specific cohort of students

Happenings in the Arts

Music

- Jazz workshop to be presented by Mr. Soriano

Drama

- February 14 many students enjoyed a field trip to the NAC - "All You Need is Love"
- April 18th, Arts students will have the opportunity to make a community connection at the Museum of Civilization where they will be treated to multi-media, multi-theme musical integrating heritage, music and theatre
- there are plans underway for an OTSS talent show, auditions will be taking place after March break with the show being planned for mid-April

Mustang Report Intramurals

- In February the Mustangs had the opportunity to return to intramurals
- PSP students participated in a curling bonspiel
- Arm wrestling completion was conducted
- Badminton tournament will be held throughout March

Spring Vocom Sports

- with the return of the extracurricular activities we will be resuming our previous schedule of Vocom Sports as of April; Boys and Girls Ball Hockey in April, in May Co-ed Track and Co-ed softball

Health and Physical Education News

- various Physical and health education classes continue to benefit from numerous field trip opportunities, including; Plant Bath Pool, Good Life St-Laurent Shopping Centre, Rideau Canal skating & a ski day coming on March 8th
- Phys Ed has also made a commitment across all our courses to address Mental Health in ways appropriate to age and grade of the class, which may be addressed as: research/information, coping strategies and/or where to find help/treatment/support
- February 28th - field trip to the Royal Ottawa Hospital as part of a forum about Youth Mental Health - students heard from experts in the field of brain research, youth support workers and a testimonial from a student not far removed from high school
- **OCASC Report**

No report at this time.

- **Any other business**

Parent Reaching Out Grant

- possible calendar
- board has a production and reproduction department at reasonable prices - Carl Dobbin to ask if they can handle printing of calendars
- for new students only due to cost
- approximately \$4.40 per unit (taxes excluded)
- motion to be planned to do this - Bruce
- seconded by Annette

- **Adjournment**

Brenda motioned for the meeting be adjourned at 8:14 - Linda seconded.

Minutes submitted by Annette Vogt-Cearns