

# OTSS School Council

Minutes of School Council Meeting held on February 4, 2014

## Opening:

The monthly School Council meeting of the OTSS was called to order at 19h00 on February 4, 2014 in the library by Bruce Giles, Co-Chair, School Council.

## Present

Bruce Giles  
Jane Alexander  
Annette Vogt-Cearns  
Judy Dwyer  
Melody Mantil (Public Health Nurse)

- **Welcome – Chair**

Bruce welcomed everyone at 19:00hr.

## Presentation by this month's Resource Staff – Melody Mantil – Public Health Nurse.

Concentration on disease prevention

- ie. Tobacco prevention
  - cessation activities
  - based on choice
- sexual health presentations
- presentations on an as needed basis
- parent resources available as well
- busiest time March to June
- also do presentations on obesity and eating disorders
- usually start after 1st semester and work on determining reasons why

- **Approval of Agenda and Minutes from December 3, 2013**

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

### 3. Happenings at OTSS Principal / Staff report

#### Happenings at the school – Jane Alexander

- Generally a successful term 1 with the kids settling into term 2
- Semester 2 begins with revision of safety for all tech classes
- There will be more field trips this term
- Grade 8 intro – business classes run by students

- Semester 1 report cards going home Tuesday – February 11
- Winterfest Fun Day – February 14 – morning activities included bowling, arts and crafts, movie, use of computers in library, skiing, skating, etc. – students have started signing up for the activities
- February 14 – Valentine’s Day dance and movie in the afternoon
- March 27th – EQAO Literacy testing – on Thursday there are strategy sessions for the students that will be participating
- School’s philosophy – this is a high stakes test, so the atmosphere in the school must remain calm
- Native studies, Personal life management and parenting classes are all going well
- February 28 – Talent Night
- Will still look into cost of calendars
- Buses and snow removal discussions to ensure that the path was always clear at the back of the school

### **School Agendas**

- Input requested concerning agendas – most students do not use, but there is a core group that cannot do without
- Full Run costs \$2500.62 for all students
- Simpler agenda with limited run could cost only \$334 – are parents OK with this – YES
- Also looking into an electronic version

### **Lending Library**

- School council library – everyone agreed it would be a great idea
- Would like input into books wanted
- Jennifer Tremblay to organize and run this

### **Physical Education, Athletics and the Arts**

#### **Varsity Sports**



**Boys Wrestling** is a novice group but despite their inexperience, at 2 early season invitational tournaments they have had promising results, the most

impressive being Justin Ernst who medaled in his weight class at both events. They will be attending 1 more invitational Wed. Feb. 5th followed by the NCSSAA East Conference Championships on Tues. Feb. 11th (1st round of OFSAA qualifiers).



About a dozen veteran **Track & Field** Team members tested their winter training progress in late December at an Indoor Invitational meet held at the Louis Riel Dome. Events included; sprints, middle distance & long jump.



Co-ed Badminton starts up next month with boys & girls singles/doubles, the team will attend some invitational meets prior to the April Championship series.

### Vocom Sports



Early Dec. 5th, saw 7 OTSS teams visit Sir Guy Carleton to compete in 4-on-4 **basketball**. At the end of the day the Girls were crowned Champions & the Boys were finalists. GO MUSTANGS !



On Thurs. Feb. 6th, OTSS will host Sir Guy in Girls & Boys Volleyball, & the following week, on Tues. Feb. 11th, travel to Sir Guy Carleton for Co-ed Volleyball.

### Intramurals



Jan. involved our annual Arm Wrestling Tournament with over 40 students involved in 4 weight categories. After a week of competition Champions & finalists received medals & certificates of merit.

### Clubs



The **basketball club** continues every Thursday after school bringing 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 of students who utilize the fitness center before school (Tues.'s & Thurs.'s thanks to staff volunteers who come in early to 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 his experience as a phys. ed. Teacher, "**Bergin's Boot Camp**" took place during November & December.

### The Arts



The 2013-2014 '**OTSS Has Talent Show**' is scheduled to take place on Fri. Feb. 28th in the beautiful OTSS auditorium with an all-school assembly. Auditions will take place at lunch over several weeks in February. Whether it is dancing, singing, juggling...or what ever skill you're good at, all students are invited to share/show their talents.



### **Upcoming Events**

Ski Club is ready to go on their 1st outing of the season Thurs. Feb. 6, followed by 2 more excursions on Fri. Feb. 14th & Thurs. Feb. 20 (destination for all 3 dates is to Mont Cascade). The school heavily subsidizes the costs involved in an effort to keep the activity affordable for students & families. As is the case for any field trip, special event or activity with a cost, if a student does not have the ability to pay there are supports available to ensure their participation.

### **From the Special Education department Autism Program**

- In February, students will be going for a day of snowshoeing at the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre.
- Students are preparing for a talent show event in March to be hosted by Glebe Collegiate's Community Living class - other school programs involved will be Ridgemont, Gloucester, Earl of March, and Bell High.

### **From the English/Social Science department:**

English Classes are gearing up quickly to help students get ready for the OSSLT, occurring this year on March 27. These classes are getting a hand from all the other classes in the school this year as we get ready for the second year of "Literacy Test Thursdays". Each Thursday every class with three or more writers in it will take 20-30 min to teach a reading or writing strategy that will hopefully help students be successful on the day of the test.

The Personal Life Management, Parenting, and Native Studies classes are being offered this semester in the Social Sciences. These courses are an amazing opportunity for our students to learn about themselves and about Canada in a wider perspective. The teachers are excited for the opportunities for personal growth that these classes offer.

### **Math and Science**

1. Our math students participated in the EQAO exam (grade 9) and the board-wide exam (grade 10). We are proud to say that OTSS students are performing well and are on a pathway for possible college programs.

2. Our Science lab inventory materials are currently being restocked ... and this will provide students' access to complete curriculum demonstrates which build on visual learning of concepts.

### **From the Technology department**

- January has been a very busy month as we wrapped up our first semester.
- During the Grade 8 student and parent night, many of our programs were showcased in the shops and front Foyer. Thank you to our Business and Leadership students who took this promotional aspect on.
- Semester 2 has just begun with students reviewing safety. Hands on activities should begin next week after completion of safety protocols.
- There will be a number of field trips occurring through the Tech department in the next few months. Please watch for permission forms coming home.

- **Other dates to remember**

February 10 – dental screening  
February 10 – Ryan's Well presentation  
February 11 – Red, pink and white day  
February 11 – Report cards distributed  
February 13 – Bake sale  
February 14 – Winterfest  
February 17 – Family Day  
February 28 – Talent Show

- **Adjournment –**

Meeting of February 4, 2014 adjourned at 7:55 pm.  
The next meeting will take place on March 4, 2014.

Submitted by Annette Vogt-Cearns.