



SEMESTER 1
2013 - 2014

Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts



Ms Margaret Kerr, Principal
Mr. Ian Bain, Vice Principal
Ms Alexandra Noack, Vice Principal

Ms Nadira Persaud, Superintendent of Education, FOS ER12
Mr. David Smith, School Trustee Ward 19



What an exciting and busy Semester One here at Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts. So many activities and events that have involving our staff and students!!

During the evenings there have been School Council meetings, Grade 8 Information Night, Post Secondary Evening, Grade 9 Parents Night, as well as the Parent Teacher Interview Evening. The Drama presentations by the junior students, as well as the presentation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by the senior students, were both outstanding, as was the Seasonal Variety Show!!

The athletic program has been up and running and our Boys' Volleyball Team and Girls' Basketball team, as well as the Cross Country and Field Hockey teams, completed a very successful season. Boys' Basketball, Girls' Volleyball, Indoor Soccer, Hockey, Track and Swimming are well underway.

The Gleeks were front and centre in a fabulous Sounds of the Seasons presentation with astronaut Chris Hatfield. In addition, they were featured on a TVO documentary (Unsung: Behind the Glee).

The auditions for entrance to WCSA have been completed and we look forward to seeing some amazing new students in September. Next semester is about to get underway with all of the exciting and rewarding opportunities that it will bring!

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of the staff, students and parents for the fabulous opportunity of being the principal of Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts. I am continuously awestruck by the dedication and talents of the staff and students in all areas of the school. It has been a personal and professional privilege to work in this school and it has far surpassed my expectations. Thank you so much!!

Margaret Kerr, principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wed. March 5 - 6*
Performing Arts -
Variety Show
- Friday, March 27, 2014*
OSSLT (Literacy Test)
- Friday, April 25, 2014*
Multicultural Day
- Friday, May 9, 2014*
Prom.
- Tues. May 13- 15, 2014*
Visual Arts Dept.-
Great Masters Art Show
- Wed. May 21- 24, 2014*
Performing Arts -
Musical Show
- Thurs. June 5, 2014*
Athletic Banquet

Moderns/ESL Department

The French Café was an amazing experience for the students of Wexford CSA. We had a great time seeing all our friends and classmates.

We got a chance to interact with friends and students from other classes. We also got to see the performances of students; singing, dancing, acting, French music and instrumentals.

There was also everyone's favorite part of the event: the **FOOD**. We got to eat food that we do not eat on a regular basis such as crepes with toppings, fruit, **CHOCOLATE** **"FONDUE"**, ice cream, quiche, croissants, cheese and hot chocolate.

There were also awards for students who were voted "Best Student in the Class". It was very funny to see your friends' reactions when their names were called for an award.



Moderns/ESL Department (Cont'd)

Overall, the French Café, was a great success for the students and teachers of Wexford CSA. It was an unforgettable experience for everyone.

*Hanan Dessuky and
Leonor Feijoo (students)*

Shortly after noon, as men in need made their way to the large cafeteria, the visitors from Wexford were invited to join them for a warm luncheon feast that included pasta, vegetables and fresh homemade desserts. In the eating area a Wexford student brought a beaming smile to the face of one of the guests as he displayed his Montreal Canadiens jersey bringing much joy to his new friend.

Some students finished their day of giving by helping in the kitchen organizing food, while others rolled pennies that had been donated by the community.



Academic Resource Department

GOOD DEEDS FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The three Grade 9 Learning Strategies classes rocketed their way to the east side of downtown Toronto in late November to share their youthful energy at the Good Shepherd Ministries located at 412 Queen St. East.



Carrying bags of donated food, the 19 students and three teachers were eager to discover how they could make a difference in the lives of the men who depend on this shelter—a refuge that provides a warm place to sleep for 91 men and more than 1,000 meals and snacks each day.

Sitting in the shelter's cozy sanctuary, the students were inspired by stories from Rebecca Ferguson, Events and Resources Coordinator for the shelter, who described how they were able to directly influence in a very positive way the quality of these men's lives on this very day.

Groups of Wexford students then employed their teamwork skills by neatly tucking in sheets and blankets on beds that had recently been vacated by overnight guests in the dormitory.

One unit in the Learning Strategies course emphasizes the importance of volunteering and “paying it forward” so that students are aware of the diversity of circumstances that others encounter in their lives. These enthusiastic students were not only made aware of the difficulties that many face, but they were also able to return home knowing that they had anonymously contributed to bringing others some comfort and relief.

Mark Duff, Educational Assistant

Farewell!

Goodbye and best wishes to Mr. Archibald, who will be retiring at the end of the semester and to Ms Fujimoto who has moved on to another school board. Finally, a fond farewell to our principal, Ms Kerr who will be retiring at the end of January.

The administration, staff and students wish them all the best in their new endeavours.

Performing Arts Department

Wexford Performing Arts unleashed a blizzard of talent this December 11th, 12th, and 13th with their Seasonal Variety Show. Over three hundred students entertained Wexford audiences for three nights of music, dance, sketches and Christmas cheer.



The Junior and Concert Bands performed seasonal favourites; the dancers thrilled the crowd with choreography from our staff and professional choreographers; Drama Focus students had the crowd in stitches with their barrage of rapid fire sketch comedy; our Soloists, Singers, and Choir of 150 raised the roof with song; and our Stage Crew kept the lively show well lit and moving smoothly.



As always, we congratulate our students on their exceptional achievement, and express our gratitude to our hard-working staff, returning grads, and professional coaches who help to make the Seasonal Variety Show, and our program, such a success.



Visual & Media Arts Department

Early in the New Year the Visual & Media Arts Department was hard at work. The Grade 9 Special Series Visual & Media Art students jumped at the opportunity to create three painted silhouette panels to recognize mental health.

The silhouettes became the backdrop for the ER12 family of schools Mental Health Awareness conference held in early January. The conference lead the way as part of the TDSB Years Of Action on Children and Youth Mental Health and Well-Being strategic plan.

Congratulations and thanks for the support and dedication of these talented Grade 9 Special Series Visual & Media Art students.



Physical Education Department

TRACK IS BACK!

The Wexford Track and Field team has been evading icy sidewalks and frigid temperatures by diligently training in the gym and halls of the school, preparing for their first meet in early February on the renowned banked track at York University.

With assistance from our speedy Wexford student and OFSAA finalist, Shania Alexander, the sprinters are developing proper technique as well learning how to run with agonizing pain in their legs.

The middle and long distance runners are putting in the miles as they repeatedly ascend the numerous stairways in the school and smoothly glide through the hallways.



As second semester commences, our enthusiastic jump team will work on strength and agility drills as they anticipate future competitions.

Sadly, our hurdlers will no longer have the precision coaching from Ms Kerr as she dashes off into retirement. For years Ms Kerr has developed the team and has a special eye for those who can navigate the hurdles with speed and finesse. The team thanks you so much Ms Kerr for your support and encouragement.

Mark Duff, Educational Assistant/Coach

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Our Junior Girls' Volleyball Team has been practicing hard since early November. Good luck to the team as they move forward to Quarter Finals on Thursday February 6, 2014.



Ms Bev Palen, Guidance Counsellor/Coach

Science Department

The Science Department has had a busy, eventful, and full semester, whether it is doing labs, dissections, or organizing field trips. In Grade 9 Academic science, students visited the Ontario Science Centre where they examined electricity demonstrations performed by Science Centre staff and observed constellations for the space strand of the curriculum.

To develop interest in senior level biology, a field trip was organized. Grade 12 students visited the Ontario Science Centre to further their knowledge on biotechnology. Students transformed bacteria with genes to make them bioluminescent (glow in the dark), using recombinant DNA techniques. Furthermore to make science courses more hands on, the Grade 11 University biology performed dissections on rats for their internal systems units. The preceding was organized to make science more enjoyable and engaging for students.

The Grade 10 science classes worked on a culminating activity that incorporated all four units into a project that looked at reducing students' ecological footprints. The Grade 9 science classes were engaged in learning about sustainable electricity generation.

Mr. Wrigley's, Mr. Kearney's, and Mr. Abernathy's Boys' Hockey team is off to a good start with a record of 3 wins, 0 losses, and 1 tie.

Thank you to staff for the excellent work you all do.

*Radhika Artham-Patel & Christian Wrigley
A.C.L. Science-Literacy & A.C.L. Science*



Business Department

Congratulations to Coop Students

Ms Hughes' would like to congratulate her Coop students on another great semester. Coop students worked hard and were successful at their placements. Feedback from Supervisors was amazing. I am very proud of all of my Coop students. They learned about the workplace and gained insight with their future career.

Keep up the great work. Move forward to a life of your dreams.

Ms Antionette Hughes, A.C.L. - Business



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), administered by Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), is used to determine whether a student has the literacy (reading and writing) skills required to meet the standard for understanding reading selections and communicating in a variety of writing forms expected by *The Ontario Curriculum* across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. The successful completion of this test or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course is a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

This year's OSSLT will be written on March 27, 2014 by students who have not successfully completed this requirement. **Regular classes will be cancelled for the day to allow for the administration of the test.** Skill practice sessions will occur during regular school hours as well as in our After School Literacy program. The hours of administration of this test will be from 8:45 a.m. until approximately 11:30 a.m. This includes time for breaks and instructions. Students who receive accommodations and special provisions as allowed by the EQAO will write in the afternoon as well. Many students find testing stressful. The test schedule is designed to allow sufficient time for all students to demonstrate their full range of knowledge and skills in literacy.

If your child is writing the OSSLT, please try to reschedule any appointments that conflict with the test. Students who are absent on March 27, 2014 will **not** have the opportunity to write the test until next year. Students should come to school on time, well rested and encouraged to do their best.

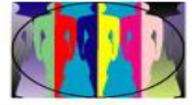
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school at 416-396-6874.

Thank you for your support. Together, parents and teachers can create positive attitudes and promote student success on the Grade 10 Literacy Test.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Noack
Vice Principal

Nicole Sutton
A.C.L. - Literacy



School Council Report – January 2014

As we come to the half-way mark of the 2013-2014 school year, it is with mixed emotions that we say both good-bye and congratulations to our Principal Ms Kerr as she retires from the Toronto District School Board. Over the years, Ms. Kerr has contributed in countless ways to the success of everyone at Wexford - students, staff, admin - and she has always been a strong supporter of parental involvement and our School Council. Her sound advice, witty humour, and genuine concern for the wellbeing of everyone at Wexford will be greatly missed by the entire school community. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours, one of which we are happy to report, will be to continue working with the School Council on the planning and organization of Wexford's 50th Anniversary celebrations for the fall of 2015.

As 2nd semester begins, we look forward to meeting and working with our new Principal, Mr. Tom Lazarou, who joins us after having been principal for 7 years at Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate Institute. Mr. Lazarou though is no stranger to Wexford having previously been a teacher at our school.

Recent performances by our Wexford Gleeks and the airing of the TVO Documentary "Unsung: Behind the Glee" have elevated Wexford CSA into the media spotlight. In a recent *Globe & Mail* article ("A tale of two glee clubs" Nov. 29, 2013), our issues regarding unequal and inequitable school funding were also brought forward into the light. The school council has for over 3 years been advocating and challenging the Board over the \$50,000 per year Special Program **under**funding of our school when compared to the other similar TDSB arts school. This equity issue has been addressed to both the Board of the TDSB as well as the Director's office. While the matter has warranted a visit to our school by an Associate Director, there seems to be no substantial movement and the School Council may soon be calling on the school community to assist in advocating on behalf of our students – stay tuned for updates!

Lastly, School Council meetings serve as an excellent venue for parents to hear from the school administration about both the short term and long term planning and initiatives that are ongoing at the school. School Council meetings are open to all parents of Wexford CSA students and we would invite you to attend any meetings that you can.

Yours truly,

Walter Korynkiewicz
School Council Chair



WEXFORD COLLEGIATE SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts delivers Visual & Media Arts and Performing Arts at a professional level, provides a strong academic, athletic and technological program for all its students. Its safe and caring environment inspires life-long learning and a desire for personal excellence.

