

November 21, 2019
School Council Staff Report
Julie Reed

Field Trips:

Our students have gone to lots of excellent field trips recently, including some of these highlights:

- Science students went to the Bruce Nuclear Power Plant last week
- Biology students went to the ROM yesterday
- The Year one DP students, the Black Student Union and Alliance, and students from the Social Justice Club all went to Toronto to see the Nelson Mandela Struggle for Freedom exhibit. Students learned about Apartheid in South African, Mandela's experience in prison, and the current struggles for reconciliation today in South Africa. We also visited a Ryerson photography exhibit called *The Way She Looks: A History of Female Gazes in African Portraiture*.
 - “In the first gallery, the section “Encountering the Lens: The Birth of a Gaze” presents ethnographic images of African women, photographed like objects. However, in the second gallery, “Self-Possessed: Contemporary Gazes and Female Photographers” students viewed photos that demonstrate a move toward liberation, where African women — as both subjects and photographers — exert agency and display their unique senses of style.”
 - Students participated in follow up discussions in their clubs and classes. In the IB classes, students discussed connections to Theory of Knowledge and looked at ethics, voice, and perspective (Sarah Bolton
- Theatre students (and others) are going to see Come From Away AND Hamilton!
- German students are heading to the Christkindl Market in Kitchener
- Take Your Kids to Work day happened in early November

Take Your Kids to Work Story:

- In Grade 9 Academic Geography, students reenact a Royal Commission hearing that took place at what is now known as Haida Gwaii off the west coast of BC. Every student has a character and the Royal Commissioners decide the fate of the land. Then we look at what happened in real life where the area became a national park and designated UNESCO World Heritage site.
- On Take Your Kids To Work Day, one of our grade 9s attended the CBC office in Toronto. They had a program for the grade 9 students and David Suzuki was the guest speaker. When asked about the turning point in his life that led him to become an environmental activist, he said that it was that same Royal Commission hearing and its positive outcome! Our student went up to him and told him about her experiences in class. (Joanne Robb)

Toasty Toes:

- Social Justice Club participated in the Toasty Toes initiative in Guelph and with the school's support collected 200 pairs of socks that will be distributed to those in need over the winter. (Angela Snell)

Japanese Visitors:

- We had a fun and educational cultural exchange with the students and staff from Japan recently

Lawrence Hill's visit:

- We had the good fortune to host Lawrence Hill recently.
- Our students asked excellent questions in a nearly two hour Q&A with the bestselling author and creative writing professor. Professor Hill shared his wisdom and experiences while answering questions ranging from the creative writing process, to race, to his own personal and family history. (Bob Scott)

Science News:

- Science Olympics/SHSM ran a joint field trip to the Bruce Nuclear Power plant last Thursday.
- On Nov. 1st, GCVI hosted a Junior Science Olympics event. 5 schools from the UGDSB and Wellington Catholic school boards participated. Students participated in 3 events related to the moon and space travel to commemorate the 50 anniversary of the first moon landing.
- Students built a moon lander that needed to safely land an astronaut
- They dressed up to do a "space walk" to retrieve facts for a timeline and a moon puzzle they needed to create.
- Students competed in a moon and space themed jeopardy. (Susan Lodge)

Sports:

- Three students competed in CWOSSA tennis last month. We had a mixed doubles team competing as well as a boys singles. The boy is in only in grade 9 and came third! (Susan Lodge)
- Our junior girls' basketball team won district 10 in a commanding fashion! They headed to CWOSSA last weekend where they made it to the finals and WON!

Grade 12 Update:

- Fall grad photos are happening this week - if a student misses this block, she can sign up again in March
- GC hosted a University Fair day recently with reps from 24 universities on site to run information sessions and answer questions for students.
- We also hosted a College Fair on Tuesday with 11 colleges on site

Clothing and Book Swap:

- The Environmental Club in conjunction with the Equity team is hosting a book and clothing swap again this year.
- The swap dates are Dec 9-11 and donation collection will be occurring the week before that.
- All students are welcome to come in during those 3 days to take what they want, even if they didn't donate.
- We are working to help those students in need, normalize "reuse" of clothes and books, and help reduce the amount of waste going to our landfill. (Brad Dixon)

Holiday Fair:

- The Holiday Fair is on November 30th in the Aud from 10am-2pm.
- Money raised from the 4th annual event is going to organizations that help at-risk youth. These include Wyndham House, The Canadian Mental Health Association (Wellington-Waterloo Chapter) and Hope House.
- Students walking our hallways every day rely on these organizations so the student committee decided to direct the donations to these valuable community organizations. (Angela Snell)

See the attached flyer for more info.

Musical:

- Matilda the Musical is on stage Dec. 5, 6, 7 at GCVI
- Shows begin at 7 PM. There is NO presale of tickets; doors will open at 6:30 PM
- Cost will be \$20 a ticket for adults and \$10 for students - it's worth the money!
- We have over 80 students involved both on and off stage. Please keep in mind that we pay for the rights to do this show (approx. \$5000); doing a musical is not cheap, but these students have been working very hard 15+ hours a week and the show will be magical! (Sherie Viola)

What is the Purpose of School?

- I [Chris vanBeurden] am conducting a collaborative inquiry project this year to look at ways to better support students and look at more effective ways in which the teaching staff and parents can interact to help our kids grow into functional adults--in other words, how can we get on the same page in terms of philosophy? My starting point for this is to ask teachers, parents and students the following question:
 - *In one sentence, what is the purpose of school?*
- Please write your answer on a sticky note. (Chris vanBeurden)