



**Parent Council Meeting Minutes**  
**October 16, 2017**  
**7:00 –8:10 pm**

Reviewed minutes from September 25, 2017

**Review:**

1. **Positive** feedback from Camp NGWEDWE. Camp was a huge success.
  - a. **Team Building** and Activities were well received by students
2. **Social Media** – many sites are up and running to keep students, teachers and parents aware as to what is happening with Upper Grand and ODSS
  - a. Twitter
  - b. Instagram
  - c. Facebook
  - d. My Blueprint
  - e. CASL
  - f. Google Chrome
  - g. UGDSB APP (free download, APP is almost 100% complete), weather alerts, News
  - h. Email notifications (parents not receiving emails need to register (or re-register)

**New Business:**

1. **Citizenship Ceremony**
    - ODSS will host Citizenship Ceremony
    - David Tilson, MP will be in attendance
    - Starting at 10:30 am, refreshments and snacks will be provided.
    - Open to the public, many from the community will attend
    - Approximately 35-40 Canadian citizens will attend / receive their citizenship award
  2. **Christmas Gift Drive (Students)**
    - Email to go out to families in November with all details
    - Gift cards are welcome
    - Two sites were suggested (Fundscript and Flipgive) will allow families to purchase gift cards online and mailed to purchaser or directly to the school. A portion of all purchases will go back to ODSS (approval required)
    - Previously assisted 70 students
    - ODSS holds back a portion to assist families with tragic events
  3. **Breakfast Program**
    - Funding provided by Food and Friends (Metro)
    - Program runs daily from 8:00 am – 8:40 am
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- Volunteers shop for items; track number of students (approximately 60-70 daily)

### **Keynote Speaker – Kaley Kowaluk (ODSS, Head of Guidance)**

1. Course Selection: Grade 9 students will have a visit from the Guidance Counsellor to discuss course selections; guidance office has many tools to offer / aid students in course selection  
Discuss:
  - Choices to make
  - Semester 2
  - Planning for the next four years
  - Blueprint (Apprenticeship, Colleges, Universities)
2. Community hours can now be submitted in writing and submitted in writing and signed by parent; forms are available in the guidance office; Universities look at Co-op and volunteer hours; students can check the volunteer board; letters are acceptable from volunteer location / company
3. Co-op:
  - Key in the next few years for students entering the work force
  - May become mandatory experience
  - ODSS has a large program
  - Many feel it is a difficult program to fit personal schedules
  - Powerful tool / allows students to learn life skills
4. Top 25 jobs: [www.canadianbusiness.com](http://www.canadianbusiness.com).
5. Information packages provided – includes list of important post-secondary information and key dates;  
Note: PINs for College / University applications will be coming in the next few weeks
6. OSAP application process will be open in November; great opportunity to apply early. Opened much sooner than in previous years (April / May)
7. Scholarships: Students who have demonstrated leadership and service may be eligible for a scholarship (Document provided outlining top Scholarships)

### **Upcoming / Important Dates**

Interim Report Cards	October 13	Progress / check-in
University Fair / Westside	October 17	
Photo Re-Take Day	October 18	
Parent Teacher Interviews	October 26	
Take Our Kids to Work Day	November 1	
Commencement	November 3	
Citizenship Ceremony	November 16	
Mid-term Report Cards	November 23	
Grad Photos	TBD	

### **Next Meeting**

November 13, 2017, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Meetings will be held every second Monday of the month (unless it falls on a Holiday)

No meetings in December 2017 or June 2018