

Westside School Council

Please join us for
School Council Meetings
on the last Tuesday of
every month at 7:15pm
in the Library.



Important Dates

July 11⇒15 - Report Card Pick Up

Aug. 29⇒30 - Link Crew Training
Aug. 31 - Grade 9 Orientation/Photo
Link Day

Sept. 1 - Grades 10-12 Advance
Timetable Pick Up

Sept. 5 - Labour Day
Sept. 6 - First Day of Semester One
Sept. 6⇒9 - Gr 9 Week Of Welcome
Sept. 13 - Photo Day
Sept. 20⇒23 - Canoe Trip
Sept. 23 - Grade 9 Dance
Sept. 29 - Awards Ceremony
Sept. 29 - Terry Fox Run
Sept. 30 - PA Day

Oct. 10 - Thanksgiving
Oct. 14 - Interim Reports Go Home
Oct. 14 - Photo Retake Day
Oct. 20 - Grade 10 Literacy Test
Oct. 20 - Parent/Teacher Interviews
Oct. 28 - Commencement
Oct. 31⇒Nov.4 - Pink Week

Nov. 2 - Grade 8 Tech Day
Nov. 2 - Take Your Kid to Work Day
Nov. 4 - Pink Day
Nov. 8 - Remembrance Ceremony
Nov. 8 - Last Day of Term One
Nov. 9 - First Day of Term Two
Nov. 11 - Remembrance Day
Nov. 18 - Midterm Reports Go Home
Nov. 24 - Staff/Student Hockey Game
Nov. 25 - PA Day
Nov. 28 - Last day to drop a course



Principal's Message

Summer is here! It's been a busy semester but we made it to the end. May and June were very busy with many successful school trips like our senior trip to Washington. We also celebrated student success this month at lots of great events such as the Co-curricular Gala, Arts Night and the Prom. Congratulations to all our new graduates this semester. Commencement will be held October 28th, 2016 and we hope everyone will be back to cross the stage.

Congratulations to Mr. Boyd and Mr. Budd who retired this semester. We wish them well in their next adventure. We also have some long time staff leaving us for new challenges at other schools including Ms. Bell and Ms. Willoughby. We will miss them both. We had many occasional teachers this year filling in for other teachers on leave and we wish Ms. Buchan, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Kuleshnyk, Ms. Pullan, Ms. McGitchie, Ms. Monette, Ms. Moss, Mr. Qushair, Mr. Walker, Ms. Walmsley and Mr. Vaine well next year. We welcome back many staff from leave as well as many new staff permanently joining us next year including Ms. Dhoot in business, Ms. Griffiths in careers and technology, Mr. Heaslip in math, Ms. Lambertus in English, Mr. Mackintosh in technology, Ms. Phillips in art and Mr. Pinizzotto in computer science. There is still some hiring to do over the summer but we will have a full staff in place when we start in September.

Many students took advantage of early timetable pick up and have picked up their timetable for next year. If you missed this opportunity you can still pick up your timetable on Thursday, September 1st from 9am to 3pm. Guidance counsellors will also be available that day if you need to discuss your timetable. The main office will re-open that last week of August if you have any questions.

Next year we want to continue with our focus on growth mindset and work on helping all our students develop strong learning skills. We are excited about the early opportunity on October 20th for all eligible students to write the on-line version of the Ontario literacy test, a graduation requirement. Literacy instruction and extra practice will be offered to all grade 10 students in September, as well as literacy remediation for any previously eligible students wishing to re-write.

We hope everyone takes the summer to be with family, to relax, and to re-energize. Our custodial staff will be busy all summer getting the school ready for the fall. We look forward to seeing everyone when you return.

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Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) at Westside

What is a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)?

SHSM is a program open to ALL students that allows them to specialize in an area of interest in Grades 11 and 12

- SHSM provides students with additional opportunities to gain experience in their area of interest (workshops, field trips, training - most at no cost to you)
- Students gain free industry/career recognized certifications and Free CPR/First Aid training
- Students complete a co-op to gain 'real world' experience in their area of interest
- Students achieve a special designation (red seal) on their graduation Diploma
- SHSM is recognized by businesses, industry and post-secondary institutions

These credits are NOT additional credit requirements. The SHMS designation is achieved within the regular 30 credit Diploma (OSSD).

What Specialist High Skills Major programs does Westside offer?

- Arts and Culture
- Hospitality
- Environmental
- Transportation
- Health and Wellness

Questions? / Want to enroll? See Mr. Wardle, or Guidance or email contact: james.wardle@ugdsb.on.ca

WSS Commencement 2016 Friday October 28th, 2016

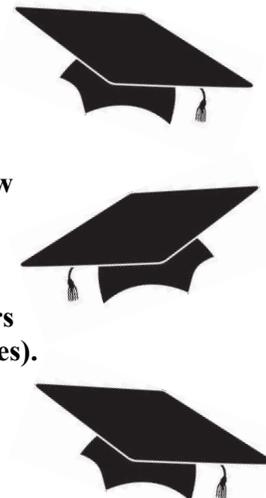
Graduate and Staff Dinner at 5 pm
Ceremony at 7 pm

A reception for friends and family will follow the Ceremony.

All Graduation requirements must be completed by August 31st, 2016
(this includes Community Involvement hours that have not been submitted to Student Services).

Grad fees to reserve your spot at Commencement must be submitted to the main office.

Email contact: kim.peeters@ugdsb.on.ca



Westside is a Certified Eco School



A special thank you to Mr Dixon and Ms Montgomery (pictured here) and their dedicated eco team!



Paying school items just got way easier!

Sign up to get started today.

What Is School Cash Online?

School Cash Online is an easy to use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees. Now, with a few clicks, you can pay for your child's yearbook, class trips and so much more from your own home. All you have to do is register an account,

attach your children and in no time you will be able to make payments online.

We accept many different payment forms so come in and check us out!

Why Use School Cash Online?

Convenient - Make secure payments 24/7 from the comfort of your home

Easy To Use - Online shopping with various payment methods

Safe - Your child won't be carrying cash or cheques to and from school

Saves Time - Manage your school expenses and view payment history in one place

NOW ACCEPTING



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Growing Pains

One of the critical developmental tasks of adolescence is learning how to manage emotions. Adolescents experience a wider, more intense range of emotions and also more complexity in their relationships with peers and adults. However, at a time when they need to use more mature, independent skills in problem solving and conflict resolution, their capacity for impulse control lags behind. This is a time when they are becoming more autonomous and peer relationships have taken on much more importance as they begin to individuate from their families. Yet at the same time, emotional regulation continues to be a work in progress. They seem to be in a constant state of crisis and turmoil, having “meltdowns” over issues that would seem insignificant to most. However, the good news is that this is a time for tremendous learning and growth and significant adults are important role models in the development of these skills in adolescents.

Adolescents need assistance in understanding how their behaviour affects other people. They are developing their ability to understand other peoples’ experiences and feelings so that more complex reasoning can be used to discuss different perspectives. Adolescents need to understand the behaviour of others in order to begin to develop their own mature responses and begin to deal with conflict. For this reason, it is especially important for adults to establish clear boundaries by supporting them but not necessarily agreeing with them and helping them contain their emotions and gain perspective on conflicts with friends and family. This will benefit them and for the most part this is what they actually want and definitely need. For example: Most teens complain about school stress, parental decisions and peer conflicts. You can support their development by helping them understand not only their position but the position of others ie) perhaps your parents/ teacher/peers really feel that this is a good plan for you etc....what do you think? ...how can you begin to convince them otherwise and show them that your views differ without totally rejecting their feelings and experiences? They may not always appear to be accepting your advice but they are listening and may incorporate strategies into the next situation.

Adolescents don’t necessarily always need or want the answers to their problems. However, they do need support to understand the experiences and perspective of others in order to make informed decisions. This challenging process is important because it helps them understand the behaviour of significant others while supporting their ability to think critically and continue to develop a more complex understanding of relationships and strategies to deal with others. Don’t automatically assume that they want you to give them the answers to their problems and/or conflicts. They are resourceful and can make decisions with your support and guidance.

In summary, it’s that time of the school year when stress and challenges are high so be patient, stay calm and most importantly be a good role model.

Tips for role-modelling (outlined in [Raising Children.Org.net.au](http://RaisingChildren.Org.net.au))

- 1) Include your child in family discussions, and give them input into family decisions, rules and expectations. These are good ways of helping them understand how people can get along with others and work together.
- 2) Try to practice what you preach. Teenagers can and do notice when you don’t.
- 3) Try to avoid making negative comments about your body – and other people’s too. Not only will you be healthier, but you’ll send an important message about body image and acceptance.
- 4) Show that you enjoy education and learning. If you make it seem interesting and enjoyable rather than a chore, your child is more likely to have a positive attitude to school.
- 5) Keep a positive attitude – think, act and talk in an optimistic way.
- 6) Take responsibility for yourself by admitting your own mistakes and talking about how you can correct them. Try not to blame everything that goes wrong on other people or circumstances.
- 7) Use problem-solving skills to deal with challenges or conflicts in a calm and productive way. Getting upset and angry when a problem comes up encourages your child to respond in the same way.
- 8) Show kindness, compassion and respect to others including them.
- 9) Don’t automatically assume that they want the answers to problems. They need support to express how they feel and then begin to look at the situation with perspective.



Follow @WestsideThunder

In September get your 2016/17 schedule of
College & University visits from Student Services!

Have a
Great
Summer!

STAY CONNECTED

See our website for daily announcements
www.ugdsb.on.ca/westside

Receive regular school messages on your phone (ie. No bus days and schedule changes)
Text to 705-230-2295 the message @d6391

Follow us on Twitter for event news
@WestsideThunder

In the upcoming school year, in preparation for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), EQAO will be offering an early "online Literacy test" for students normally eligible to write the OSSLT in March. This online version of the test and will take place on Thursday, October 20, 2016 and is an opportunity for EQAO to practice running the online version. This version will give students an early opportunity to try the test, and if successful, they will be exempt from writing it in March 2017. For those who are unsuccessful on the early version of the test, we will have feedback on how to offer extra support to prepare them for the actual test on March 30, 2017. Members of our literacy team will meet with these students to provide instruction and feedback on critical areas of literacy in the new year. If you have any questions about the OSSLT, please contact Kristi Will at extension 271, De Wilson at extension 223.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS:

To check bus info—go to www.findmyschool.ca and login to this secure site with your child's OEN number (located on report card), school name, birth date and house number.

Wellington-Dufferin Student Transportation Services (STWDSTS) offers a subscription service that will notify the subscriber via email when your child's bus has been cancelled or is delayed.

To subscribe go to: <https://www.findmyschool.ca/subscriptions/login.aspx> and follow the directions.

If your address changes, please call and advise STWDSTS at 519-824-4119 ASAP.

Follow STWDSTS on Twitter! STWDSTS will be using Twitter beginning August 2015. You will be able to follow us @stwdsts. Please make sure you connect with us to hear about inclement weather, cancellations and important information.



The Upper Grand District School Board is in the process of recruiting International Students from around the world to attend secondary and elementary schools in our District. At this time we are taking applications from families who would like to be considered as host families and would welcome international students into their homes for short or long term stays. If you are interested in taking part in this amazing opportunity, or would like more information about this rewarding experience, please call the International Student Office at [519-941-6191 ext. 225](tel:519-941-6191).

Grade 9 Photo Day
August 31, 2016



Photo Day
September 13, 2016

Photo Retake Day
October 14, 2016

The Terry Fox Run is happening on Thursday, September 29, 2016. This is our first major fundraiser on the year. Westside has raised over \$15,000 for this event over the years.

ONLINE ATTENDANCE

Currently the Aizan System is calling home for student absences, but you can monitor your child's attendance each day online by following these instructions:

Website address: <https://students.ugdsb.on.ca/WSS/Students>
or follow the attendance link on the Westside Website: www.ugdsb.on.ca/Westside

Username

- First 5 letters of the student's last name, followed by the first 3 letters of the student's first name.

Password

- The student's 9 digit OEN. This number can be found on a report card or on a student card.
- If unsure, please contact Student Services at extension 212



Westside Secondary School
Orangeville, Ontario, Canada

