

Westside Secondary School

# Parent News



## Westside School Council

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

## Principal's Message

Can you believe we are already half way through the semester, and that Christmas is just around the corner? We have had a very busy semester so far. Last month we celebrated another Commencement, Thanksgiving, and Halloween, and our Parent-Student-Teacher interview night was well attended.

This year's fundraising for breast cancer was again a huge success with staff and students raising over \$19 000. Special thanks go to Scotiabank and Discount Tire for their very generous support. Many staff and students were involved in raising money this year whether through the video games competition, "pinkifying" people, cutting and donating hair, shaving their head, waxing their legs, participating in the tug a war or trivia contests or just attending the big assembly. The day was a huge success and once again proved to be Westside's biggest spirit event.

Earlier this month students took time to honor the men and women who gave their lives so we could have the freedoms we enjoy today. Staff and students remembered and celebrated with a very moving Remembrance Day ceremony. A special thank-you goes out to the members of the local Legion for their participation in the event.

Coming up this month, school council is hosting an information night on applying to college and university, at their Nov 28th meeting. Everyone is welcome as Mrs. Kirkland from guidance will explain the process for applying.

Clubs and teams continue to keep our students engaged and active. Big congratulations to the junior boys' volleyball team for their win at CWOSSA, a first in Westside history. We are so proud! Next month, student union is hosting a Semi Formal dance on Dec 1, the band has their Winter Concert Dec 6, and our grade 12 drama class is hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater on Dec 15th.

Don't forget tomorrow, Friday Nov 24st is a PD day. This year our teachers will be completing health and safety training as well as continuing their work on critical thinking and assessment, led by Garfield and Laura Gini-Newman from the Critical Thinking Consortium.

As cold weather moves in and snow is in the horizon be sure to follow us on Twitter, receive our text messages, or bookmark our website to learn early in the morning about any snow days.

## Important Dates

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Nov 23       | Midterm reports                                  |
| Nov 24       | PD day   |
| Dec 1        | Winter dance                                     |
| Dec 5        | -Link crew visit<br>-Waste audit                 |
| Dec 6        | Music Concert                                    |
| Dec 8        | Library potluck                                  |
| Dec 14       | -Staff-student<br>hockey game<br>-Gr 12 Play 7pm |
| Dec 15       | Dinner theatre                                   |
| Dec 22       | -Staff-student<br>b-ball game<br>-Talent show    |
| Jan 10       | Practice EQAO<br>math                            |
| Jan 12       | Gr 12 art show                                   |
| Jan 18,22    | Math EQAO  |
| Jan 26–Feb 1 | Exams  |
| Feb 2        | PD day   |
| Feb 5        | Semester 2 starts                                |

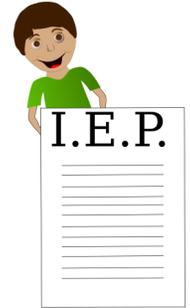
Join our text service



Text to:  
705-230-2295  
the message:  
@d6391

## Special Education and the IEP

IEP's were mailed home at the end of September, along with a parent feedback form. Prior to that date, a member of the Special Education Team met with your student to review the IEP, and the IEP was made available to all of your student's teachers.



The IEP is a working document and will continue to evolve as your student's needs change. Revisions are made based on input from you, classroom teachers, and the student. Feedback is not only welcome, it is encouraged. If you have not yet returned the Parent/Guardian Feedback form, it is not too late.

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Westside resource team if you would like to discuss any aspect of your student's IEP.

## Co-curricular news

As second season begins, we have to give props to our Junior Boys Volleyball team who are Westside's first ever CWOSSA champs. Congrats to coaches Shortt, Steele, and Mann.

For all first season athletes, please remember to return your jerseys ASAP. Second Season teams are chosen, and games begin next week. Go Thunder!

## Student Union News

Westside Student Union is busy behind the scenes this year trying to build community at our school. They work hard to help with big school events, run spirit days, and organize dances. They have created some goals for the year which we would like to share with you.

The Student Union exists to make Westside a Proud and Involved Community. This will be achieved by:

1. Finding a place for every student to be involved.
2. Promoting support for and between all groups within the Westside community.

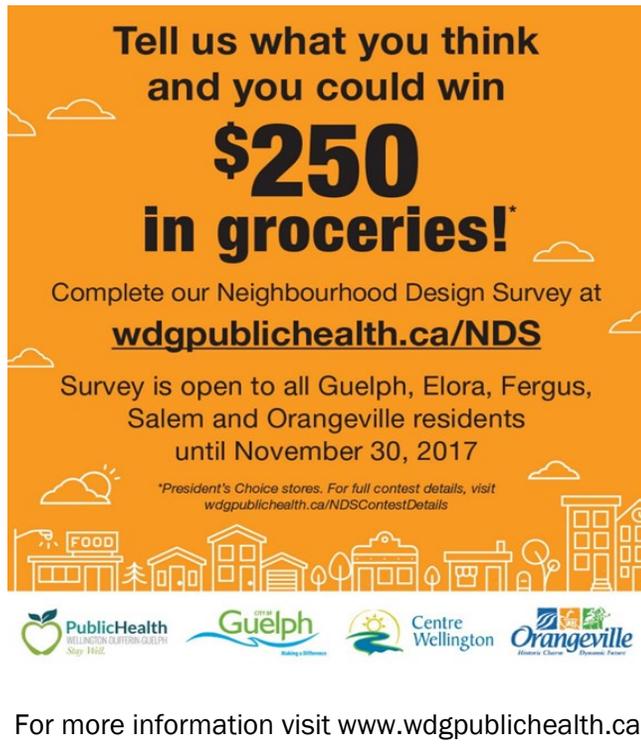
## Pass The Test Program - Preparing for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Is your child writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) this year? Successful completion of this standardized test is a graduation requirement, and this year's Literacy Test will be administered on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. For any of our grade 10's or grade 11's writing the test this year, Westside is offering a free course to help you prepare. This course provides students with an opportunity to improve their reading and writing skills through direct classroom instruction on the tasks of the OSSLT. This course, called the "Pass the Test Program," will run after school, two afternoons a week, for five weeks starting the end of February 2018. To sign up for the program, or for more information, please call Mrs. Will at 519-938-9355 x271.



## Information from Public Health

Public Health is inviting community members from Guelph, Orangeville, Elora, Salem and Fergus who are 14 or older to share their opinions on our local neighbourhoods. Fill out Public Health's Neighbourhood Design Survey and you could win \$250 in groceries! Survey closes Nov 30. [www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/nds](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/nds)



**Tell us what you think  
and you could win  
\$250  
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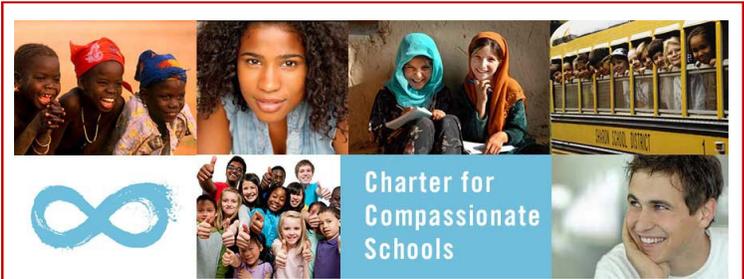
Complete our Neighbourhood Design Survey at  
**[wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/nds](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/nds)**

Survey is open to all Guelph, Elora, Fergus,  
Salem and Orangeville residents  
until November 30, 2017

\*President's Choice stores. For full contest details, visit  
[wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/ndsContestDetails](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/ndsContestDetails)

Public Health  
Guelph  
Centre Wellington  
Orangeville

For more information visit [www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca)



The Westside community is learning about the **charter for compassionate schools** ( see below). With the help of the students union, students will hear about the charter through announcements and class visits. It is currently posted in the main foyer for students to view. Please consider signing it yourself and helping us to get the message out to all our students. Westside is a compassionate school and together we can stand up and support everyone in our community by pledging to uphold the charter's message. This is a first step to making the charter a reality.

## Compassionate Schools Charter

*We—the students, teachers, staff, and parents of Westside declare our shared commitment to the following principles, and pledge to hold ourselves and one another accountable to their realization.*

*We recognize that every person shares a common humanity capable both of happiness and suffering. We pledge in our words and actions to treat everyone in this school community as we would wish to be treated, to help those around us who are in need, and to make amends when we cause another pain.*

*We recognize that we are a school with different abilities, body sizes, races, religions, classes, gender identities and sexual orientations. We pledge to step into the shoes of others and see how things look from their point of view, especially when we disagree or find ourselves in conflict. We recognize that intolerance and hatred cause suffering and that when we stand by doing nothing, or laugh or post comments online when others bully, we contribute to the problem. We pledge to stand up to bullying and make this a school where everyone belongs.*

*In signing, we commit to practice the values in this Charter within our school community; in our daily interactions, whether teacher-to-teacher, teacher-to-student, or student-to-student; and in the projects we undertake within our community and in the world.*

## Community Involvement Hours

All Westside students are to log their completed community involvement hours in the online program Hour Republic. Access to this program has moved from myBlueprint to the Brightspace (d2l) icon in UGCloud. Questions and concerns regarding community hours or accessing Hour Republic, should be directed to Guidance. Every secondary school student in Ontario must complete 40 hours of community involvement in order to graduate. See Student Services if you are looking for volunteer opportunities.



### ONLINE ATTENDANCE

Contact information...

phone  
519-938-9355



Follow @WestsideThunder

on the Web  
[www.ugdsb.on.ca/westside](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/westside)

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

Website address: <https://students.ugdsb.on.ca/WSS/Students>  
or follow the link on the Westside Website: [www.ugdsb.on.ca/Westside](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/Westside)

#### Username

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

### Post-Secondary Pathway Spotlight: Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship is a pathway option where graduates train alongside a master tradesperson. On-the-job training is 90% of the program, where the final 10% is in class learning. Tuition is paid by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, and apprentices are paid while working. In most trades a Certificate of Qualification, or license, is granted once the apprentice passes their examinations. There are over 150 different apprenticeships.

Through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), Ontario secondary school students can begin logging hours towards their apprenticeship while still in high school. Students must be at least 16 and

be registered in Coop. Any students participating in a coop placement that is in an apprenticeable trade, will be registered with OYAP. Every school year there are students that are hired on, and working as an apprentice after their coop placement.



1. Attend Parent-Teacher conferences
2. Visit the school and its website
3. Support Homework Expectations
4. Send your teen to school ready to learn
5. Instill organizational skills
6. Offer help with studying
7. Know the disciplinary and bullying policies
8. Get involved
9. Take attendance seriously
10. Make time to talk about school

Visit [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org) for more information

### Feedback welcome on draft board policies

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is the following policy:

#### Policy 310 – Display of Flags

This policy is important to students, staff, school councils, parents and community members because the display of flags at schools reflects the values of inclusion and respect for all in the school community.

You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at [www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy](http://www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy). **The deadline for public input is November 30, 2017** at 4 p.m. EST. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 (or toll-free 1-800-321-4025) ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.