

WOSS E-News April/May 2006

Welcome to *WOSS E-News*, a bimonthly e-mail message to WOSS parents and community members.

UPDATE YOUR CALENDAR

For the full year schedule, visit www.wossweb.com (Choose Students and then Important Dates).

APRIL

March 31 and April 1 WOSS Robotics Team competes at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga. Come out and support our team and also find out about the robotics program at WOSS. The competition is very exciting and you can drop in at any time on Friday or Saturday and see teams competing – it would be worth your time to go and see it and it's only 30 min away!

March 31 and April 1 WOSS Debate Team is hosting the National Debate Competition here at WOSS. Please come out as a spectator to see our own debaters compete.

April 5 and 12 Healthy Living Seminars with Donovan Bailey (see below)

April 6, 7:30 North Campus Cafeteria Brain-based learning -- implications for parents (see below)

April 6-7 Jostens Rings

April 10 WOSS School Council Meeting at 7 pm in room E107 South Campus

April 12 to 16 WOSS Cheerleaders go to Florida to compete in the COA Competition.

April 14 Good Friday and **April 17** Easter Monday – no classes

April 18 Last day of classes, Term 1 (Semester 2); **April 19** First day of classes, Term 2 (Semester 2)

April 21 Semester 2 Mid-Term Report Cards Mailed to all Grades except Grade 9 De-Semester

April 21 Grade 9 De-Semester– Final Letter of Concern Mailed

April 26 Parent – Teacher Interviews

April 27 Full Disclosure Ends

April 28 Hoops for Heart

April 28 Deadline to report midterm grades to OUAC

April 28/29 WOSS Cheerleaders go to the provincial competition at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga

MAY

May 1 to 19 On Line parent survey on school effectiveness (see below)

May 5/6 WOSS Cheerleaders go to the national competition at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga

May 4, 5, 6 and 11, 12, 13 WOSS Fringe Festival WOSS drama students from Grades 9 to 12 are involved in this festival. There will be 9 small plays over the 6 days. It starts at 7 pm each evening and is at the South Campus in the cafeteria. Tickets are \$5 and if you get them in advance, you get reserved seating. Come out and support our very successful drama program! The box office is open periods 3 and 4. Or, you can also call 905-845-5200 X521 to arrange for tickets. (See below CHEERLEADERS.)

May 12 Earliest date to respond to Univ. Admission

May 17 Early Dismissal/Staff Learning Days

May 22 Victoria Day – no classes

May 23 EQAO Mathematics Test for Grade 9 students

Call the school, 905-845-5200 X227, if you have any queries about the above events.

HALTON SCHOOL BOARD PARENT SURVEY

Parents will have an opportunity to communicate to the board their thoughts on school effectiveness in an on line survey between May 1 and May 19. There will be more details following.

SPORTS RELATED

Teams starting up this season are: girls softball (we haven't fielded a girls softball team for 5 years), rugby (first practice was March 23), boys baseball, soccer, track and field, and golf (tryouts are in April).

WOSS CHEERLEADERS DO IT AGAIN

Our cheerleaders have done it again. They came first in the Ontario regional competition at U of Guelph last week. As you can tell from the schedule above, the team is going to be very busy competing over the next months. This is in addition to their other performance and demonstration commitments.

BRAIN-BASED LEARNING AND YOUR CHILD, APRIL 6th at WOSS

Garfield Gini-Newman from OISE-University of Toronto will speak to parents about the latest research on brain-based learning and help parents understand its implications for learning and parenting. WOSS School Council is sponsoring this event, which is open to the public. *Please help us promote this evening by spreading the word!*

HEALTHY LIVING SEMINARS WITH DONOVAN BAILEY

Wednesday April 5, Oakville Conference Centre OR Wednesday April 12 at the Milton Sports Centre; 7 to 8 pm. Contact 905-825-6000 X 7350 (Halton Region) for more info and to book a seat.

SCHOOL PROMO VIDEO

WOSS students have created a video that will be used to promote the school. It will be used in a variety of ways but one use will be to help with the transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9. Go to <http://www.wossweb.com/> and click on WOSS Promotional Video 06.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM UPDATE

Go to <http://www.wossweb.com/> and click on WOSS IB Program to find out more about the IB program and the ALC (Accelerated Learning Courses) for Grades 9 and 10.

NEWLY-ANNOUNCED HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS RECOGNIZE CO-OP AND GUIDANCE/CAREER COURSES

New requirements will effect currently enrolled students

On February 2, 2006, the Ontario Ministry of Education announced that students may count up to 2 coop credits and 1 guidance/career education credit toward the 18 compulsory credits needed for their high school diploma. These changes take effect in the current school year, September 2005 to June 2006.

“We encourage students to speak to their guidance counsellor, co-op teacher, or student success teacher right away to talk about the new opportunities created by this announcement,” says Anne Clifton, Coordinator of Guidance, Cooperative Education and Pathways 7-12. “We may have students who took a co-op or guidance/career course last semester, and now have all the diploma requirements for graduation, but not know it. Our schools will be following up with those students to ensure they are aware of the changes. By making this change to the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, the Ministry is saying that experiential learning is a valuable part of a student’s education and needs to be encouraged.”

The Halton District School Board offers a number of options for students to gain experiential learning:

- Students may take a **cooperative education course** with a placement designed to meet their interests, needs and strengths.
- The **Halton Internship Program (HIP)** helps students get an edge by gaining experience in an occupation they are interested in. Coop placements, guidance courses and subjects related to occupations of interest, and opportunities to gain practical certification are a part of the HIP program. Students heading to any post-secondary destination may participate. Visit <http://hip.hdsb.ca>
- **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)** prepares students for a skilled trade while earning high school credits. Visit <http://www.schooltocareer.ca/oyap>
- **School to Career Programs** offer experiential learning. Programs include the Ford Academy of Manufacturing Sciences (FAMS), Regional Technology programs, I.T. Networking, LINK and the Bronte Creek Project. Visit <http://www.schooltocareer.ca>

VISIT THE WOSS SCHOOL COUNCIL WEB SITE

Visit www.wossweb.com and select Parents and then WOSS School Council and look for the link at the bottom of the page. You will find past minutes, information about school councils, and links of interest to parents.

Please forward this e-mail to other parents who might be interested in receiving the WOSS E-News. If you would like your name removed from our mailing list, e-mail wossCouncil@cogeco.ca.