

WOSS E-News May/June 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).

MAY

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

May 17 Early Dismissal/Staff Learning Day

May 17 to 21 WOSS Orchestra competes at the National Music Competition in Ottawa; 73 students will go

May 22 Victoria Day – no classes

JUNE

June 1 Athletic banquet

June 2 Latest date to expect response from universities

June 8 and June 8 EQAO Mathematics Test for Grade 9 students in the mornings

June 9 Recognition assemblies

June 12 Earliest date university requires a deposit

June 21 Last day of classes, Semester 2

June 22 to 28 Final exams for Semester 2

June 29 Exam return day

June 29 School Prom at the Mississauga Convention Centre (this is a student sponsored/organized event)

June 30 Professional Activity Day – no classes

JULY

July 7 Final Report Cards Mailed to all Students

OCTOBER

October 5 Graduation for students graduating in 2006 (that's the Thursday before Thanksgiving weekend)

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

HALTON SCHOOL BOARD PARENT SURVEY ON SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS

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. Go to www.hdsb.ca. You will need your child's 9-digit HDSB ID number to sign on (found at the top of their schedules and report cards).

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO MATH COMPETITION AND SEMINAR

One WOSS student in Grade 11 has been invited to attend the U of Waterloo Math Seminar, June 11 to 17, based on the results of the U of W Math Competition results. Only the top 50 students were invited to the seminar.

LEADERSHIP SEMINARS

Five WOSS students have been invited to attend a full-day leadership training seminar, which takes place at Blakelock High School.

DEBATE COMPETITIONS

Two WOSS students competed in the National Debating Competition in Ottawa in April. Two other students competed in the National Junior Debate Competition in Toronto.

ROBOTICS

The WOSS Robotics Team made it into the finals at the Robotics Competition in April in Mississauga. They ended up finishing 18th overall. There has been such interest in the event that the Robotics Team has been invited to do a demonstration for the Halton District School Board at their next meeting.

SPORTS

Games (home games **highlighted**)

Girls soccer (Junior and Senior): May 2 (3:30; Jr at IQR and Sr at OT); May 4 (3:30; Jr and Sr at HT); **May 9 (3:30; Jr and Sr at home)**; May 11 (3:30; Jr and Sr at IQR); May 16 (3:30; Jr at STA; 4:45; Sr at KCC); PLAYOFFS and FINALS: Jr May 23-June 1, Sr May 18-30

Boys soccer (Junior): May 1 (3:30; at HT); May 3 (3:30; at IQR); **May 8 (3:30; at home)**; May 10 (3:30; at STA); **May 15 (3:30; at home)**; PLAYOFFS and FINALS: Jr May 19-June 1, Sr May 19-June 1

Girls rugby (varsity): **May 2 (3:30; at home)**; **May 4 (3:30; at home)**; May 9 (3:30; at OT); May 11 (3:30; at HT); **May 16 (3:30; at home)**; May 18 (3:30; at ECD); PLAYOFFS and FINALS: May 23-31

Boys rugby (Junior and Senior): **May 1 (3:30; Jr at home)**; May 3 (3:30; Jr and Sr at GEO); May 8 (3:30; Jr at IQR; 4:45; Sr at IQR against CTK); **May 10 (3:30; Sr at home)**; **May 16 (3:30; Sr at home)**; May 15 (3:30; Jr and Sr at home); **May 19 (3:30; Jr and Sr at home** but games may be moved); PLAYOFFS and FINALS: Jr May 24-June 1, Sr May 24-31

Boys baseball (varsity) : May 1 (3:30; at G AB); May 3 (3:30; at NEGW); May 8 (3:30; at NEGW); May 10 (3:30; at NEGW); May 12 (3:30; at OK P); May 15 (3:30; at OK P); PLAYOFFS and FINALS: May 18-June 2

Girls Softball (varsity): May 2 (3:30; at Glenashton); May 4 (3:30; at River Oaks); May 11 (3:30; at Glenashton); May 15 (3:30; at Glenashton); May 18 (3:30; at Glenashton); May 23 (3:30; at Trafalgar); PLAYOFFS and FINALS: May 30-June 8

BRAIN-BASED LEARNING AND YOUR CHILD, APRIL 6th

Garfield Gini-Newman from OISE-University of Toronto spoke to parents about the latest research on brain-based learning. The event was well attended and well received. Here are his ten tips for guiding teens:

Garfield Gini-Newman – Ten Strategies for Guiding Teen Brains

1. Teens need proper sleep (9 hours), hydration (water) and nutrition.
2. Encourage them in extra-curricular activities that develop social and problem-solving skills, physical fitness, and reading.
3. Be clear and explicit. Multi-tasking is difficult for teens.
4. Chunk the information for most effective learning (vs. all-night cramming, which only resides in short-term memory).
5. Encourage problem-solving, making connections, thinking through issues.
6. Impose natural and logical consequences, rather than punishment.
7. Encourage your kids to build on their interests and talents.
8. Recognize that emotions dominate.
9. Assist learning by helping kids move from the concrete to the abstract. Being there is a powerful tool – travel where possible.
10. Be patient.

If you are interested in receiving more info about Gini-Newman's talk (his PowerPoint and info about recommended books), contact wosscouncil@cogeco.ca.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM UPDATE

WOSS has had its second site visit and will be ready to submit their final application June 1. The last site visit will be in the fall. 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.

VISIT THE WOSS SCHOOL AND SCHOOL COUNCIL WEB SITE

Visit www.wossweb.com to reach the school web site. To get to the WOSS School Council site, 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.