

Panther News



**Hamilton-Wentworth District
School Board**

February 26, 2010

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Hello everyone we have had a great start up for semester 2 here at Parkside. It is hard to believe that we are already heading into March. We have had some teaching changes with semester 2. We have said goodbye to Mr K. Robinson, he will be involved with a Board Wide Math Project where he will be sharing his teaching skills and continue to help students. Ms L. Dupuis has also left

Parkside to take on the role of Teacher-Librarian Department Head at Sherwood Secondary. We are saying hello to many staff new to Parkside. Mr. G. Connor has joined our Science Department, Ms R. Greco has been a great addition to our History Department, Ms. A. Manto has joined our Family Studies and Physical Education Departments. Our French Department has Mr S. Ormond joining us.

Ms. K. Soluk has continued with us in the Drama Department. Ms. A. Stadnyk has continued with us in English. Ms. M. Young is also joining us in English. It is wonderful to add so many fabulous people to our staff. Please take a moment to review the key dates, as we have some important events coming up. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. Thanks
P. Barwinski, Principal
G. Malhotra, Vice-Principal

From the Student Services Department

Option Sheets for the 2010-2011 school year are being given to students on Thursday Feb 25. During the week of Feb 22-Feb 26, each class has had an information session on how to read their current status sheet, which courses they are required to take for the next school year, how to access research tools for colleges (ontariocolleges.ca) and universities (electronicinfo.ca) for some forward planning, as well as a chance to ask general questions about the option sheet process. Students have been directed to the www.hwdsb.on.ca website (Click the Student tab at the top, then follow the links on the left to the Secondary Course Calendar) for crucial information, such as diploma requirements, compulsory

courses, course descriptions and prerequisite courses. Teachers have also made recommendations for your son or daughter for which level of course they should be considering for next year. All of this information is important in helping you and your child choose appropriate courses towards a successful year, and towards graduation. For more information, please contact your child's guidance counsellor: Mr. Gregoriou (ext. 228), for students whose last name begins with A-H, and Ms. Leyzer (ext. 226) for students I-Z. Your child's current and former teachers will also be a help to you in determining which path to choose for your child's success. Option Sheets are due back to home-rooms by Wednesday March 3.

Upcoming Events

**March 11: Preliminary
Reports Home**

**March 15 to 19: March
Break**

**March 25: Parent
Teacher Interview**

April 2: Good Friday

April 5: Easter Monday

**April 8: OSSLT Gr. 10
Literacy Test**

**April 15: Civics /
Careers Changeover**

**April 19: Learning
Community /
Professional Activity**

**April 20: School
Council Meeting**

**April 27: Mid-term
Reports Carried Home**

School Council

• Chair:

Ron Collier

**Our next meeting is
Tuesday March 30th
at 6:30 in the Library**

**We hope to see you
there!**

From Modern Languages

Our second semester this year has started well with both French and Spanish classes and a new grade nine program called Quest - a group of students who have French and computers integrated for the entire afternoon.

Our three International Exchange program students are now in France, Switzerland and Spain and will be returning in mid-May. We are currently working on the applications for next year's **Exchange program**. If you are interested in studying for 3 months in France, Switzerland, Spain or Quebec for about \$2500 (less for Quebec), please contact Ms. Kukhta-Jackson in room 302 or ext. 436 or check at www.iseontario.on.ca. We will have an ISE rep here at Parkside

during the parent-teacher interviews on March 25. Other French immersion opportunities for summer are the Explore program www.myexplore.ca or a summer job exchange at www.summer-work.com. The deadline of the Explore program is Feb. 28, but it is worth checking out for advance planning for next year. We are increasing our use of an electronic conference on First Class by posting useful documents and information for our students. Students can log in to First Class from home through www.fc.hwdsb.on.ca then click on "Parkside" then "Staff and Students" then "classes" then "Modern Languages". After that, they can click on "Add to Desktop" for easier access in future. We

are also using our SmartBoard, headphones, web sites and podcasts to access various resources, to appeal to diverse learning styles and to differentiate our instruction.

Did you know? Our French and Spanish classes actually help our students to improve their literacy skills in English! The reading and writing techniques that we teach are not only useful for the OSSLT (grade 10 Literacy test) but they will help to improve students' academic skills in general. In addition, we teach them how to better present their oral and written work so that they can impress their future teachers and bosses.

Parkside Boys' Physical Education Department News

As our winter season comes to a close, we have had numerous highlights to date. Although our Hockey team got off to a slow start, their performance in the last third of the season has put them in a position for a playoff run. Our Boy's Water Polo team bowed out of the playoffs after a respectable season. Special thanks to student coach, Aleco Gammel for taking on the responsibility. Our Junior Boy's Basketball team struggled in league play but had some exciting victories in their tournament schedule this year. Once again the Senior Boy's Basketball team delivered numerous tournament championships including the National Coca-Cola Classic in Ottawa where they won the 32 team prestigious tournament. Their record of 34 - 4 speaks for itself to the caliber of basketball played at the school. This past weekend they competed in their fourth city championship in a row which is a testimony to their commitment to excellence from both the coaching level and the player level. They now set their sights on a SOSSA championship and an All Ontario championship to be hosted at the end of the month in Windsor. On the horizon (as the spring season is just around the corner). Boy's outdoor soccer, baseball, track and field and co-ed badminton. Listen to the announcements for when tryouts will start for these teams.

What's up at Parkside

After December floor hockey intramurals and January co-ed volleyball intramurals the stage was set for February dodge ball month. Once again the Teachers' team fell short [always the bridesmaid never the bride] bowing out in the semifinals. Congratulations to the Boy's Baseball team who ran the table completing an undefeated season. With March Madness just around the corner could intramural basketball be far behind? Parkside is a great school and you make it great with your participation, so stay involved!



Magic Ride Europe 2010....

50 Parkside travellers are packing their bags!! Art and Drama students are flying to London on Fri. Mar.12. to tour the Tower of London, National Portrait Gallery and ride the London Eye. After "chunnelling" to Paris students will visit the Louvre and Musee D'Orsay. Travelling on the overnight train to Southern France students will walk the medieval streets of Carcassone. Moving on to Spain where in Barcelona travellers will view the masterpieces of Picasso and Miro. The Prado in Madrid will be an important stop before our group returns on Tues. Mar.23. Ms. Krivankova is leading our travellers again, along with Mr. Kurpeikis. Good luck to all - have an amazing experience!

Parkside STOPS bullying in its tracks.

Have you been bullied? Have you witnessed bullying? Are you participating in cyber-bullying, and feel you have no way out? Then the **Parkside Helpline** is your answer. Established by Parkside's PAVEAT Committee (Parkside Against Violence Everywhere Advocating its Termination), this phone extension is available to all students, their friends and family from within the school and from outside phones. It is a place where anyone can anonymously leave information about incidents of bullying or harassment; these tips will be followed up by the school's administration and selected teacher-advisors who will address incidents directly or refer students to Committee members for peer mediation. The PAVEAT Committee continues to support initiatives that ensure that Parkside remains a safe place for all. Just dial **905-628-6339, extension 100**. Please note: this line is not intended to replace the Kids' Help Phone; all students in immediate distress should contact this line for professional help immediately.



Grade 10 Literacy Test (OSSLT) As you are likely already aware, all Ontario high school students must successfully complete their literacy requirement in order to graduate. All grade 10 students will be writing this year's OSSLT on Thursday April 8. Teachers have been working on how to prepare students for the test, specifically in how to write an effective summary, and how to write an effective news report. More preparation will be coming in your child's classes in March. In the meantime, a lot of fantastic preparatory resources and information can be accessed at www.egao.com. Follow the links for parent and student information specific to the OSSLT, including a sample test for students to try. If you would like more information, please contact Carolyn Venema at extension 229. **We are asking for your cooperation in trying to reschedule any appointments that might otherwise interfere with your son or daughter's attendance on this day. Thank you.

From the Library

Sadly, we said "Farewell" to our associate teacher-librarian, Ms. L. Dupuis, as she became the full-time Teacher-Librarian at Sherwood Secondary School commencing Semester Two. However, our library has been brightened with the addition of Ms. J. Nicol (Assistant Head of English) as she takes on one period in our library every day. Ms. Nicol

brings her enormous love of reading as well as her enthusiasm for life in general to our busy library. She has already spearheaded an initiative called "What Are Your Teachers Reading?" which features Parkside staff members and their recent reading picks. In addition, Ms. Nicol is actively promoting the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games by providing daily updates for the Parkside Community. Welcome, Ms. Nicol!

P.S. Check in the library to see which book Mrs. C. Venema is recommending!



**Hamilton-Wentworth
District School Board**

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Students Achieving
Their Full Potential

**Please visit our new school website
at: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/parkside/>**



If you want to receive email updates on upcoming events, please forward your email address to:

Lynda.howes@hwdsb.on.ca

We will add you to our mailing list!

To donate a graduation award for this year's graduating class, please forward cheques (made Payable to Parkside High School) to Lynda Howes.

All donations over \$100.00 are tax deductible.

Thank you for helping us make grad a more inclusive event!

Raising Healthy Pre-teens/Teens in an Age of Overindulgence

Pre-teens/Teens today are growing up in a world of over scheduling, overeating and overspending. Parents today feel overwhelmed by a rapidly changing world and are looking for ways to find balance and to support their children. The City of Hamilton Sexual Health Network is offering a workshop, by speaker and author Dr. Karyn Gordon, to assist you with raising healthy, balanced teens. There is no charge to parents, caregivers, or community members to attend. Refreshments included.

Date: Tuesday April 6, 2010

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

**Location: Michelangelo Banquet Centre
1555 Upper Ottawa**

R.S.V.P.: 905-546-CITY (ext. 2489)

Life-Threatening Allergies

Many students have allergies. A few, however, are life-threatening. Our Board has a policy in place to help reduce the risk for students with life-threatening allergies. If you are the parent of a student with a life-threatening allergy, we need your assistance in providing the school with current medical information and in the development of a plan to protect your child's health. At Parkside this information is shared with staff via a dedicated bulletin board with each student's photo, allergy information and intervention plan. If you would like further information, please call the school office. You may also view the board's Anaphylaxis Policy 7.09 at www.hwdsb.on.ca under "About Us-Welcome to the HWDSB-Planning and Reporting-Policies, Procedures and Reviews."