



Waterdown Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Oct 13th, 2017

Dear Students, Parents and WDHS Families,

I hope this note finds you well and enjoying a good start to the 2017-2018 school year! Attached to this note you will find: instructions for booking an appointment with teachers at the upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences on Thursday, Oct 19th between 5-7 pm and a flyer for School Council's Bake Sale on the same evening. Instructions for making a donation of baked goods or other ways to support this endeavor, are also included.

The **Preliminary Report Card** which your student is "walking home" today represents the results of the first 6 weeks of observation, assessment and recommendations from teachers in each of the classes your student is registered. The results are communicated in relation to the "Learning Skills". The learning skills are considered critical for learning and achievement in school and the acquisition of credits. They are also fundamental skills required for success both in and outside of the classroom. Students requiring additional support in these areas will be identified by teacher's comments and recommendations for improvement during this pre-midterm reporting period.

Students and families are encouraged to reach out to classroom teachers, support staff and administration for clarification about areas required for improvement and early intervention strategies to ensure success. Following up and monitoring regular attendance, homework and assignment completion, daily preparation and readiness for school and learning is a good formula for ensuring a sound foundation for success at school and general well-being. Regular communication between home and school is a key factor in student success. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your student's teacher and/or any support or admin staff with any concerns or requests.

Families of all students are encouraged to arrange to meet with teachers and all staff on the evening designated for Parent/Teacher Conferences on Thursday, October 19th from 5-7, as mentioned earlier and described in detail on the instruction page provided in this correspondence package. If this portion of the package is missing for some reason, please contact the school for an additional copy or check the school website for instructions. If any assistance is required to book an interview, please contact the main office. Alternatives for meeting/discussing your students' progress with teachers and school staff are reviewed in the hand-out if unable to attend Parent/Teacher Conferences.

On that same evening, Student Services will be holding an information session in the school Lecture Hall, for students considering College or University as a post-secondary destination. Parents/Guardians/Care Givers exploring post-secondary options with their child are invited to attend a presentation outlining the admissions process for colleges and universities. Representatives from Mohawk College, Sheridan and the University of Waterloo will provide an overview of the credentials earned through their institutions, the admissions process and others tips on navigating this transition. The presentation starts at 7:00 pm in the lecture hall. Please RSVP by registering through EventBrite using the link <http://bit.ly/oct19wdhs>

As some of you are aware, I am recovering from an injury. Currently, I am restricted to certain days, times and activities in the workplace. To ensure the operational and instructional program is supervised and overseen as required, Ms. Virginia McCulloch will be at the school full time from Monday-Friday effective Weds. Oct 11th, 2017 - TBD. Some of you may recall or worked with Ms. McCulloch last school year when she was at the school in the role of Vice Principal during the month of June, please reach out to her and the admin team if you or your student have any concerns or requests. I will be in regular communication and consultation with the admin team, school staff and community during my recovery period. While at the school I will engage in the work of Principal as permitted within my RTW Plan. This may place some restrictions on my ability to access or respond to certain requests. Please be assured that school needs will be addressed by the team as they continue to respond in a timely, consistent and sensitive matter to parent, student and community needs.

I believe it is important for you to know about this situation. If you have any questions, please contact me directly via email at wbielak@hwdsb.on.ca
Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.
Best wishes for a successful and smooth semester and school year. I look forward to another great year at Waterdown.

If you have any questions related to any items mentioned in this note or anything else that may be of concern to you or your student, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our admin team either by email or phone or arrange to meet in person.

Take care,



Wanda Bielak
Principal