



# GAELIC PRESS

*Proud of Our Past... Confident In Our Future*

[www.ugdsb.on.ca/gcvi](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/gcvi)

April 09

## Choosing Courses for Next Year

It is time to make course choices for next year. **All students who are planning to return to GCVI in September 2009 must have made course choices by February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009.**

A new online program has been developed to help students and parents research careers, college and university programs and other destinations after high school. "My Blueprint", which can be found at [www.myblueprint.ca](http://www.myblueprint.ca) using the password "guelphcvi", is an excellent tool that we are using with students to help them choose appropriate courses. Our guidance counselors are in the process of meeting with students to help them build their personal profiles on myblueprint.ca and guide them in course choices for next year.

Students and parents at home can access "My Blueprint" online. Each student who has met with a guidance counselor will have created a **personal password** that gives them access to their profiles and course choices. Please review and discuss the course choices for next year with your student.

The entire GCVI Course Calendar 2009-2010 can be found online at <http://homer.ugdsb.on.ca/gcvi/>. Course choices can be changed by calling the Guidance Department or by having your student meet with a guidance counselor before February 20, 2009.

## School Dates to Remember Semester 2

February	11	Learning Teams/LINK
	11	School Council Meeting 7pm
	12	Semi-Formal
	16	Family Day
	20	Option choices for 2009-10 due
March	2	Staff Mtg. – Early Dismissal
	12	Interim reports Distributed
	16-20	March Break
	26	<b>Parent-Teacher Interviews 3-4:30pm &amp; 6-7:30pm</b>
April	1	Learning Teams/LINK
	2	OSSLT – Literacy Test Gr.10's
	6	Staff Mtg. – Early Dismissal
	8	School Council Meeting 7pm
	10	Good Friday
	13	Easter Monday
	21	Midterm Reports Distributed

## THE ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

The OSSLT will be administered on April 2, 2009. All grade 10 students will write the test on that day. More information and test examples are available at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

### What is the Literacy Test?

This test has been designed by the Ministry of Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) to evaluate competency in reading and writing. Students read passages and answer questions as well as complete structured writing tasks. Knowledge of paragraph

structure, grammar and the mechanics of writing are important skills necessary for success on the test.

### What if a student is away on the day of the test?

The student will have a chance to write the test next year. In the past, there has not been a make up date for the literacy test.

### What happens if a student fails?

Individual students will be notified personally if they fail the literacy test. They will have a chance to write the test the following year. Students can also choose to take OLC40. Passing OLC40 allows students to earn a credit and fulfill the literacy requirements.

### Why do students have to write the literacy test?

Passing the literacy test is one of the 32 requirements for earning an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

### If a student is identified, are accommodations made?

Yes, identified students are allowed accommodations. Kevin Staunton, Head of Special Education will contact the students to make arrangements.

### How can a student prepare for the literacy test?

Class time will be provided to prepare students for the test, however, students can access practice tests at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com). Following March Break small group instruction will take place for selected students.

### Smart Start

Students wishing to receive extra preparation for the OSSLT can register for the five week 'Smart Start' program which will run after school, twice a week (beginning week of February 16<sup>th</sup>). Contact Ms. Pierce at 519-824-9800x404 for more details.

### What's New? ...in a classroom near you

**The GCVI teaching community is working to improve student success.** Currently, we are focusing on implementing our new GCVI Assessment and Evaluation policy. These guidelines follow the Ministry of Education's document 'Growing Success' released in 2008.

For most students the biggest change will be greater use of 'Formative' assessments. Although the term formative assessment may be new, the idea behind it isn't. In the past, 'formatives' might have been called practice exercises or practice quizzes. The goal of formative assessments is to allow students to try out new knowledge or skills, and to give them opportunities to learn from their mistakes without losing marks. The use of formatives also allows the teacher to assess the progress of students and to give feedback to guide improvement. Feedback, usually specific comments, may also include some kind of mark or level; but this is for information purposes only. Formative work is normally not used to calculate the final grade, but is crucial preparation for the 'Summative'. Summatives are the tests or assignments given to evaluate a student's overall achievement at the end of a learning segment. This Formative/Summative process may tempt your student to say..."well, it's *only* formative, it doesn't really count"... and ignore or zip through a formative assignment or review for a formative quiz. Your child's teacher needs your help to reinforce the importance of these activities and to support this learning process at home. Students should realize that a missed formative is a lost opportunity, as these activities build toward the Summative evaluation (end of unit project, assignment or test). Formatives are part of class work. When students take full advantage of formative activities we are confident that they will be successful in their

courses. Helping your student understand the value of formative work will help us improve their chances of success!

## Music Department

Once again it has been a very busy fall for the Music Department. Bands and choir were involved in Remembrance Day, Festive and Awards Assemblies, Commencement and performances at feeder schools. Particular highlights include our annual Christmas Concert with 73 students involved on stage, and of course *Seussical the Musical* which saw over 60 students involved on stage, backstage or in the pit orchestra.

Second semester will see four groups starting up for the first time this year. Dixie Band, Junior Jazz, Girls Group and Guys Group will commence the first week of second semester, and new members are still welcome in Gaels Singers, Symphonic winds, Concert Band and Gael Force (Sr. Jazz). Students who are interested in joining any of these groups should see Ms. Vicary in Room 39 to determine which group(s) would be most appropriate. Major musical events that we will be preparing for in Semester 2 include Musicfest in March, and the Kiwanis Music Festival in April.

Other dates to remember are our Spring Plant fundraiser that will take place in early April, and our Tubas and Tulips Concert May 14.

Thanks for your continued support and we hope to see you at one or all of these events.

*Ms. Vicary Music Department*

tandoori chicken, fruit and yogurt smoothies, homemade tzatzikik sauce and a chocolate yogurt pie. The students took the competition very seriously and awed the judges with their effort and skill.

*Ms. Kidnie Family Studies Department*

## DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Drama Council will once again be very busy throughout second semester. In January students auditioned for four one-act plays, which will be presented Friday, February 13 at 7 pm in the AUD. Of these four, two plays will go on to the Sears Drama Festival to compete against other schools in our region. The Festival performances will be the week of February 17-20 at Our Lady of Lourdes High School.

Each spring GCVI's Drama Council hosts a Film Festival, where student films are shown and judged and cash prizes awarded. If you or someone you know is interested in filmmaking, get a crew together and have some fun making a documentary, a comedy, a thriller, whatever you wish. All entries need to be submitted to Ms. Souter by the end of April. The Film Festival will be held in May.

Thank you to all parents and guardians for their continued support of the Drama program.

*Seussical* was a great success! Thank you to all those who came and supported our students. It was a great experience for all who were involved.

*Ms. Souter Drama Department*

## Breakfast Club

Our School Council asks that you support our GCVI Breakfast Club by bringing a food donation to the March 26 Parent-Teacher Interviews. Donations of cheese, cereal, drinking boxes (100% juice) or financial contributions are always welcome.

## INFORMATION ON BUS CANCELLATIONS AND SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE BOARD'S WEBSITE

[www.ugdsb.on.ca/bus/buspage.htm](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/bus/buspage.htm)

## Athletics

A victorious fall has carried on into winter. Recently our wrestling team dominated the mats in District 10 competition. In a very successful inaugural year, many Gaels wrestlers have been complaining of neck pain from the sheer weight of the many medals they have been winning at tournament after tournament. The wrestling team recently won the Girls Overall category at Jacob Hespler Secondary School while the boys placed second in their overall category. On the court our Junior Girls are continuing their successful run after winning CWOSSA Basketball; they are second in D10 Volleyball going into the exam break. Elsewhere on the court our Senior Girls Volleyball team, and Junior and Senior Basketball Teams are having a strong season taking a 7 – 5 record into the exam break. This sets them up nicely for a good playoff push. The girl's hockey team, a perennial powerhouse, is having yet another strong season. They are undefeated and are in second place with one point separating them from first place Bishop MacDonnel. The boys hockey team had a rough run just before Christmas but turned it around in January picking up a win and a tie against 2 of the leagues top teams. The curling and swim teams have also seen success in their 2008-09 campaign.

Spring is right around the corner and some spring sports have already begun practicing. The Boys rugby team is training for their Scottish Rugby Tour in March and the Girls Rugby Team has started their preseason training (All are welcome). Our 2008 Defending District 10 Champion Badminton team has also begun practicing. The Track and Field Team will begin practicing in the very near future. Mr. Tremain has been quite clear that he is looking for another D10 Title. Tryouts will be coming soon so make sure you are listening for announcements and checking the Athletics Bulletin Board for updates on upcoming meetings, practices or tryouts. If you do not find what you

### Desserts and Deals:

**Friday March 27, 2009-Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

Silent Auction Tables include: golf passes, Gift certificates for restaurants, yoga & personal training sessions and events tickets.

***We are also looking for more donations of items for this event.***

Reserve your table now with your family and friends by calling 519-824-9800 x 333.

Admission is \$5.00 at the door.

## Introducing DEXIT!

The GCVI cafeteria has introduced a new way to pay...just DEXIT! Dexit is a key tag that students carry with them. It is similar to a debit card, and can only be used for purchases at our cafeteria. Benefits:

- Your child will always have enough to pay for a good nutritious lunch at school.
- The DEXIT! Tag is re-loadable at school, or on the web via secure website.
- You can track your child's spending online.
- If the DEXIT tag is lost, simply go online and freeze the tag, so no dollars are lost. A replacement tag can be issued and the balance transferred.

DEXIT! Tags now available in the GCVI cafeteria.

## Grade 12 Food & Nutrition Sciences

In November the Food and Nutrition Science class, with the help of Mr. Tersigni, prepared a homemade Italian meal from scratch. Students learned how to make authentic lasagna using freshly made pasta and sauce. Tickets were sold to teachers to raise money for students in severe financial need. All proceeds are being used to help students in need purchase emergency items like bus tickets, food, clothing or personal products.

On January 16<sup>th</sup> Ms. Kidnie's class finished up the semester with an Iron Chef cooking competition. Students competed in groups of four and had to prepare an entrée and a dessert that used yogurt as the key ingredient. Working as a team, students chose and prepared challenging recipes that were both tasty and appealing. Some of the favourite dishes of the competition were

are looking for there, come see the fine people in the Phys. Ed Office and we will gladly help you. 2009 is the year to GET INVOLVED AND BE A GAEL!!!