



*We Strive for the Highest*

# LAURIER HOTLINE

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School

Home of the Lancers



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

November 2019

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## Vice-Principals

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C. Siwy, Acting VP

## School Council Co-Chairs

D. Vroom

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## Superintendent

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## Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that we are half way through our first semester. There have been many exciting things happening since September. We welcomed some new staff to the Sir Wil team including **Samantha St-Germain**, our new Office Assistant, and **Christine Siwy**, Acting Vice Principal behind **Carol Cockburn** who is on leave. In addition, we welcomed five teachers: **Adam Dietz**, **Karen Hamer**, **Vanessa Larue**, **Scott Mitchell** and **Maggie Rafferty**. Furthermore, we had eight Long Term Occasional Teachers join us: **Heather Buchanan**, **Korinn Davies**, **Jenna Dorion**, **Kim Holbein**, **Michelle LeBlanc-McDonald**, **Rachel Peraras**, **Adrien Stotesbury**, and **Dylan Toms**. Finally, we hired three Educational Assistants: **Jillian Dane**, **Matthew Emmerston** and **Bhanu Saranagal**. This term we welcomed back **Robin Moore** from maternity leave.

The month of September saw us say goodbye to two of our staff: **Beverley Dawson**, Assistant Office Administrator, who retired and our custodian, **Jesse Larabie**, who received a promotion. We are pleased that **Vickie Sels** was promoted to be our new Assistant Office Administrator, and **Robyn**

**Godin** is now a full-time Office Assistant.



We mourn the loss of our Guidance Counsellor, Teacher, Colleague and Friend, **Donna Corning**, who died on November 6 after a lengthy illness. A beloved staff member since 1997, Donna is deeply missed. If you wish to remember Donna through a memorial donation please go to our website for more information about the *Donna Corning Memorial Award*.

Thank you to the parents and guardians who were able to attend Parent-Teacher Interviews on October 24. We enjoy having an opportunity to meet parents and to continue the partnership with families as a way of ensuring student success.

Our Academic Award Ceremony took place on November 14. We presented certificates to 351 students who earned academic awards in last year's grades 9, 10, and 11 classes. Of these 351

students there were 333 who had an average of 80% or higher. In addition, 87 of those students were Ottawa-Carleton District School Board silver medallists with an average of 90% and over. Many of these students are not just high achievers academically, but they also participate in various clubs, teams, activities, performances and art presentations. These opportunities are made possible by the generous contributions of time by staff and community volunteers; they serve to enrich a student's high school experience.

I also wish to thank the members of our School Council, co-chaired by **Terri-Lynn Kennedy** and **Dianne Vroom**, who continue to be a source of support to me as well as to the staff and students of Sir Wil. I invite all of you to join our meetings. We like to begin each council meeting with a guest speaker who addresses a topic that is of interest to parents. If there is something that you wish to learn about, please do not hesitate to contact me. The next meeting is on November 27 at 6:30 p.m. in our school library. Our speaker will be Vice-Principal, **Balazs Fazakas**, who will speak about Cross-Curricular Collaboration.

I look forward to keeping the lines of communication open, and I welcome your feedback.

*Nancy Girozan*  
Principal

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## Remembrance Day 2019



The SWL Remembrance Day Assembly was held on November 11. The Ceremony opened with the skirl of the pipes of **Jim Forbes** from the Cameron Highlanders and the Sons of Scotland. He played Canada's battle anthem, the *Maple Leaf Forever*, during the march-on.

The Sir Wil Concert Band, directed by **Ms. Schrum**, played a rousing version of the National Anthem. Grade 12 students **Caleigh Cowen** and **Zaynab Karimjee** led the assembly with poise and élan. RCAF **Lieutenant-Colonel John Cowen** delivered the keynote address. Major themes were the anniversaries of the Italian Campaign, the formation of NATO, and the loss of **Captain Nichola Goddard** in Afghanistan.

SWL students **Jessica Barbon** and **Philip Lukic** gave a powerful piano and vocal performance of *Ave Maria*. The Concert Band played a solemn rendition of *Jerusalem* during the wreath-laying. Trumpeters **Kai Arseneau**, **Matthew White**, and **Gavin Furlong** delivered a haunting version of the *Last Post* at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. Mr. Forbes played *The Flowers of the Forest* after two minutes of silence. **Mr. Simard** directed the Sir Wil Vocal Connection in a stunning choral performance of John Lennon's *Imagine*.

George Santayana said "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." In the Remembrance Day Assembly, the staff, students and honoured guests of SWL remembered the past. They paid homage to the sacrifices of Canada's veterans and to the heroic efforts of Canada's Armed Forces in War and in Peace.



## Music and Drama

Come one, come all to the SWL Music Department's **Gift of Music** on Thursday, December 12 at 7 pm in the Cafetorium. We are looking forward to and working hard already on our spring production of ***Hunchback of Notre Dame***. The performances will be on March 4-5-6-7, 2020. Mark the dates! Tickets may be purchased online or in the Main Office closer to the presentations, or at the door: \$10 admission, \$5 for students.

Our Music Department Head, **Sonya Schrum**, was chosen from teachers across Ontario to participate in an Ontario Music Educators Association Music Advocacy Retreat in Toronto in September.

## Sir Wil's Live It Up Club: A Seasonal Hurrah!

A group of 36 intrepid hikers ascended Wolf Trail in Gatineau Park on the last warm fall day of the year. Some students were familiar with the crisp autumn air and brown leaves. Others, visiting as international students from Germany, Spain, Brazil and Mexico, experienced the beauty of the forested landscape of Canada for the first time. **Mr. Hickey**, **Ms. MacKinnon** and **Mme Vincent** enjoyed the energy and overall good humour of the participants. The sun appeared as the group made its way down to the lakefront and prepared for home. Complimentary cookies were served to mark the end of an enjoyable and satisfying 9 km trek. Skating on the Rideau Canal awaits for our winter activity...!



Students enjoying Gatineau Park

## Business, Canadian and World Studies

Congratulations to **Christian Beatty** of **Mr. Birtch's** CGF3M Forces of Nature course. Recognized as October's **Student of the Month** in the BCWS Department, Christian's hard work and passion for the course are exemplary.

**Mme Jérôme's** and **Mme Muise's** French Immersion Civics classes have started working with Youth Ottawa's *Day of Information for a Lifetime of Action* (DILA) program to create action plans that address important issues within our community. Stay tuned for more information about their projects this semester.





## Student Services

### Careers Class

This semester, in THE Careers classes, we are working closely with **Orleans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre**. Tanya and her team have developed a program called "SELFY" during which the following topics are discussed: self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making. Students will also learn how to manage stress, resolve conflicts, set goals, and use various communication styles.

### Co-operative Education Program

Co-op students are exploring potential career pathways through a variety of placement opportunities this semester. Thanks to the support of the local business community, our students are honing their employability skills and gaining valuable career-related experience, all while earning credits! So far, they are doing a terrific job learning about what it takes to be successful in various positions. If students are interested in signing up for co-op in semester 2, please see your Guidance Counsellor.

### Guidance

#### University and College Applications

Counsellors held information sessions in September for both university and college applicants to ensure that students are ready for the application process.

Representatives from universities and colleges across the province have been visiting to explain their programs and admission procedures. In addition, students were encouraged to participate in campus visits for Carleton University, University of Ottawa, and Algonquin College.

Students are reminded to apply early.

**University:** [www.ouac.on.ca](http://www.ouac.on.ca)

**Deadline:** January 15, 2020

*\*\*PIN numbers to log-in to OUAC are available in Guidance\*\**

**College:** [www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca)

**Deadline:** February 1, 2020

*\*\*For college applications, students will need their OEN number, which can be found on the timetable or on any report card\*\**

Are you unsure of the path you want to take after high school? Do you want to explore and learn more about your true passions? Visit [www.discoveryyear.ca](http://www.discoveryyear.ca) for more information.

### Scholarships

We encourage students to apply for various scholarships that are announced on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Students should regularly check the scholarship binder and the bulletin board outside the Guidance office, listen carefully to announcements for updates, or talk with **Roberte Vincent**, Guidance Counsellor.

### Events

Wednesday, November 6 once again saw our grade 9 students spending the day in the workplace. **Take Our Kids to Work** day is a nation-wide program in which grade 9 students shadow their parents at work. Thank you to our SWL

families who volunteered to take students into their workplaces. We appreciate the support!

**Grad Photos** took place on November 19, 20, 21 in the Cafeteria.

**Grad Rings** can be purchased on November 27 and 28 in the Rotunda.

## Link Crew

On the first day of school, we welcomed many new faces, especially the grade 9s. In order to aid in the transition to high school, Leadership and Link Leaders carefully planned and rigorously trained for an entire day filled with games, tours and fun—all designed around making the leap to high school a successful one for our grade 9s. The activities taught valuable life lessons and team building skills which contributed to making the grade 9s feel welcome and comfortable. Our Link and Leadership students continue their amazing work with our grade 9s throughout the entire school year and provide unique peer to peer support whenever a grade 9 is in need.



Link and Leadership Students at Orientation Day

Crew Camp got off to a rainy start on Thursday, September 26, but the sun eventually came out and great times were had by all with tons of games, a huge campfire (despite the rain), delicious food, amazing people and even an impromptu mud slide! Our Link and Leadership students all worked very hard to host an amazing camp for over 100 grade 9s this year! Thank you to our awesome students and staff members, and everyone involved in making Crew Camp 2019 another huge success!



Crew Camp at MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre

## GRADUATION

We wish to remind parents and guardians of graduating students that the only official school event marking this milestone is our **Commencement Ceremony** on Friday, **June 26, 2020 at 10 a.m.** in our gymnasium.

While there may be a student-run "Grad Committee," it functions as a non-authorized body. Its activities are neither approved nor sanctioned by Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School nor by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. Please read the letter on the school website from the Principal to parents of graduating students. Students who are involved in any unsanctioned graduation events are urged to be safe and considerate to themselves and others as they celebrate the end of their years at Sir Wil. Also, potential graduates are reminded that if they want to cross the stage at Commencement, they must have successfully completed 30 credits, the Ontario literacy test, and 40 hours of community service.



## Student Vote 2019

The Federal Election of October 21 was a focus for the Civics, Law, History and Political Science classes, and for the entire student body through a Student Vote initiative provided by Elections Canada, a nation-wide initiative designed to raise awareness of civic issues. **Mr. Fyfe's** Civics classes prepared the ballots for the 41 ridings (Period Four classes), **Ms. Rafferty's** Political Science students delivered the ballots, and **Ms. Crich's** Law students counted the votes. The **SWL Student Vote** results were as follows.

Votes	Candidate	Party	% of Popular Vote
285	Marie-France Lalonde	Liberal Party	37.353%
171	Jacqui Wiens	New Democratic Party	22.411%
115	David Bertschi	Conservative Party	15.072%
115	Michelle Petersen	Green Party	15.072%
46	Roger Saint-Fleur	People's Party	6.029%
31	Rejected ballots		4.063%
<b>763</b>	<b>Total Votes Cast</b>		<b>100.00%</b>

Our results were sent to Elections Canada to be tabulated in the national student vote database. As of 6 p.m. Monday, October 21, 1,181,053 votes were reported from 7,855 schools, with results from 338 federal ridings.

In the preliminary results, students elected a Liberal minority government: the Liberals won the most seats (110), followed by the NDP (99 seats), Conservatives (94 seats), Green Party (28 seats) and Bloc Québécois (9 seats). The full breakdown of the results received can be found at: <https://studentvote.ca/results/canada2019/>

Using the online results platform, one can view the nation-wide results, by province/territory, by riding, and for each individual school. Thanks to Elections Canada for this opportunity, and to all SWL staff who took the time to foster civic involvement and awareness in our future voters.

## Leadership Class and Student Council

Thank you to **Mr. Varden's** Recreational Leadership Class for organizing and leading the Pep Rally in October. Each grade showed off their spirit colour and our Fall Athletes were recognized for their **Pride, Hustle** and **Desire**.

Our 2019-2020 Student Council is off to a great start with new and returning members. We meet on Tuesdays at lunch in Room 122 and all students are welcome to attend. Our co-presidents are **Gaby Grigorescu, Zayna Haider, Kazia James-Matsoukas, and Taylor Ross-Jensen**.

SWL celebrated Halloween with a full week of theme days. Thank you to all of those who dressed up for Hal-

loween, Comfy Day, Twin Day, and Jersey Day. A special shout-out to the Math department teachers for coordinating their costumes from the Scooby-Doo Gang!

Our Halloween Horror Night was a phenomenal success thanks to the dedication and creativity of the student leaders and their team of volunteers. Highlights included an escape room, a cookie decorating competition, and a scavenger hunt. Stay tuned for more exciting events this fall including Coffee House Night on November 28 and Holiday Theme Week from December 16-20.

**Mme Muise's** leadership class also had a blast coordinating this year's Grade 9 Challenge with the Link Crew leaders. Our grade 9 crews dressed up fabulously and competed in a series of team-building tasks. Congratulations to the Green Team for winning the Grade 9 Challenge!

## Grade 8 Information Night

Welcome to all Grade 8 Students and their Parents/Guardians

**Tuesday,  
December 10, 2019  
5-7 pm**

Tours of the school  
5-6 pm

Visit subject kiosks  
5-6:15 pm

Learn about the French Immersion Program  
5:15-5:30 or 5:45-6 pm

Keynote Address  
6:30-7 pm

Please park in the main parking lot  
and enter the school at Entrance C