



We Strive for the Highest

# LAURIER HOTLINE

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School

Home of the Lancers



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

April 2017

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## Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that we are heading into the final term of the school year. This newsletter is full of good news items that celebrate the successes that we have had this term as well as upcoming events.

I would like to invite parents/guardians to join our School Council meetings that take place on the last Wednesday of most months. At these meetings we hear from staff and student representatives as well as the Administration about what is taking place in our school. We also look for input from our community on a number of topics. We devote the first 15 minutes or so of every meeting to a presentation on a topic that we feel would be of interest to parents such as the mental health seminar described below. Everyone is welcome at School Council meetings.

*Nancy Girozan*

### Thriving in High School

On May 31st from 7-9 p.m. our School Council is hosting a mental health seminar for parents/guardians and students, entitled ***Thriving in High School: Dealing with Anxiety, Stress and Depression.***

We invite parents and high school students, including those who will be in grade 9 this September, to attend. Psychologist **Dr. Jennifer Karp** will talk about:

- identifying signs of anxiety, stress and depression;
- understanding challenges faced by teens, including school avoidance, bullying, and managing the demands of technology and social media;
- identifying coping strategies and resources to help teens cope and thrive during their high school years.

Please register for this free seminar on Eventbrite at [thrivinginhighschooltalk.eventbrite.ca](http://thrivinginhighschooltalk.eventbrite.ca)

We recently sent competitors to Kingston for preliminary rounds at **Skills Ontario** and had an animation team advance to the provincial competitions in Toronto in May. Winning a seat and advancing from Kingston in 2D Animation are **Abdul Faraj** and **Cedric Robitaille**. Two other competitors won in a District-wide runoff competition for seats at the provincial competition: **Cindy Huang** for Graphic Design Presentation and **Amaan Merali** for Photography.

The annual **Youth Conference on Mass Atrocities**, hosted by Colonel By and Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary Schools at Carleton University, is organized by students from each school, inviting students from across the OCDSB to learn from knowledgeable speakers on the topic of human rights. The Technology Department sent a team of three, **Trevor Jones**, **Serena Ferzli** and **Liam Tattersall**, to livestream video from the conference using our portable video switcher and camera gear.

The **OCDSB Recycling Video Contest** invited students to submit a short silent video on the topic of energy, resource management and recycling. Students from **Mr. Molnar's** grade 11 broadcasting classes and **Mr. Johnson's** grade 10 graphics class captured 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.

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## Arts and Creative Technological Studies

**FlashForward** is a video workshop and competition hosted and mentored by Algonquin College, with The Ottawa Hospital (TOH) as a client. TOH presents students with a medical industry-related challenge, such as cleanliness, or patient privacy, which the students must then develop into a Public Service Advertisement that TOH may use for internal and web promotion. This was the third FlashForward event and our students have placed each year, earning *Best Overall Video* (1st year) and *Best Overall Production* (2nd and 3rd years). Team members were **Liam Tattersall**, **Hannah Morente**, **Liam Davidson** and **Nathan Bernard**. Teams came from the Ottawa Public and Catholic school districts.

## Science

We strive to engage our students in their learning. This semester, the grade 11 University Biology classes went to the Museum of Nature on March 23rd to see the reptiles exhibition as well as to participate in a workshop regarding the effects of global warming on marine life. On April 24th the grade 9 science students attended a presentation by Little Ray's Reptiles in the library focused on the ecology unit. On May 19th the grade 10s will be attending Laser Quest to engage in hands-on activities related to the optics unit. Last but not least, we have reserved MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre for the grade 9 ecology unit next September. We appreciate parents' and guardians' support for these activities.

## A Season of Profound Humanity

Throughout early April, our students experienced the power of human connection. They were inspired by an Olympian, learned from a Holocaust survivor, and read books of the human variety.

First of all, on April 6th, **Sekou Kaba**, a Guinean-Canadian Olympic hurdler, presented his "KABA Keys to Success" to the students.

Mr. Kaba competed in the 2016 Olympics in Rio, where he suffered a disappointing result. Rather than become demoralized, Kaba let this experience

serve as further fuel to achieve his ultimate goals. He also shared his concept that kindness, asking for help, belief in one's self, and adapting to change are the keys to success. His presentation ended with a demonstration of his hurdling as a physical reminder that students have the strength to leap over all the adversity they face in their lives.

Secondly, on April 11th, **Dr. Eva Olsson**, a survivor of Auschwitz, shared her experiences, explaining that the World War II Holocaust happened because of hate, but that good people throughout Europe took action to help those targeted by the Nazis. She shared how she lost many members of her family at Auschwitz when she was told to go left to the work camp and the other children and her mother were told to go right to the gas chambers. Emphasis was added through the devastating images of Auschwitz that she has collected over the years. However, Dr. Olsson's purpose was to inspire students to never give in to hate: "One always has a choice. You can choose to support someone who is being bullied, to



resist the temptation to let the hate of others harden your heart, to never accept racism of any kind, and to embrace the fact that all humanity is worthy of love."

Finally, on April 12th, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Colonel By Secondary Schools co-hosted their annual **Human Library** event. See the full story on page 3. The Human Library welcomed 30 students from Nunavut Sivuniksavut College for Inuit Youth who opened the event with singing and drumming, and participated in it as well.

Several students, including **Taylor Griffith**, helped run the event. "I have been corresponding with the human books over the course of several months and having them all in one space made me feel a little star struck. As I listened to conversations and heard about others, I realized how important it is to give youth this opportunity to engage with people who resemble what their futures can hold. The human books truly empowered me to do great things as I'm sure they did the students as well," stated Ms. Griffith.

In fact, the Human Library immediately began to open doors for students. **Jordie Stuart**, a Sir Wil student and aspiring chef, took the opportunity to bring a dish he created to share with some of the "books." He had a chance to converse with Stephen Beckta about what it takes to make your passion a reality. "It was so amazing to meet Mr. Beckta, as I aspire to be like him. I could not believe it when Mr. Beckta offered me a job as a host at one of his restaurants. I really feel like this opportunity might be the start of my dream coming true," explained Mr. Stuart.

Thus, the power of human interaction to profoundly engage young minds was fully demonstrated at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School this April.



## School Ambassadors

**Christina Lin and Taylor Griffith** were excellent representatives for our school at a recent Ottawa Women's Canadian Club Luncheon, earning praise from the organizers as "two talented young women who made an impression on club members and on guest speaker, **Lucy van Oldenbarneveld** of CBC."

**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 June 30, 2017 at 10 a.m.** in our gymnasium.

Please read the letter on the school website from the principal to parents of graduating students.

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. Students who are involved in any other 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.

## The Sir Wilfrid Laurier / Colonel By Human Library Event—

A rare opportunity for our students to connect with people who live, work, and play in our community!

On April 12th, 400 students had access to 70 “human books” throughout the day in the SWL gymnasium. **Taylor Griffith**, our student coordinator, worked with teacher-librarians **Ms. Morton** and **Mme. Leduc** of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Colonel By respectively, and community member **Cathy Belanger** to organize the 2017 Human Library Event.

Community members and various professionals volunteered their time as “books” in an effort to “help dispel myths and stereotypes by creating an opportunity for one-on-one conversations between people who may never have met otherwise.” (Human Library Organization, 2012)



Students chatted with community members in small groups. These individuals make such an impact on life in Ottawa and beyond and have often confronted and overcome challenges and continue to create, inspire, and help others.

With relentless determination they also save lives, advocate for marginalized groups, share a wealth of knowledge and demonstrate a plethora of skills. They espouse the value of a good work ethic, the satisfaction of volunteerism and the importance of general kindness and compassion towards others. As conversations unfold, students and guests begin to discuss what it means to demonstrate courage and resilience in times of crisis and its aftermath. They contemplate the pillars of their success: determination, ambition, and passion. Both the guests and the students learn from and are inspired by each other.

Included in the list of “books” who came are **Terry Beitner**, Director, War Crimes; **Susheel Gupta**, Chair, Human Rights Tribunal; **Dr. Jack Kitts**; CEO Ottawa Hospital; Full unit of Ottawa Police Tactical / Forensics; **Inspector Chris Renwick**, Ottawa Police Service;

**Waubgeshig Rice** and **Adrian Harewood**, CBC; **Dr. Phil Ritchie**, CHEO trauma specialist; **Ric Watson**, chef, The Ottawa Mission; **Stephen Beckta**, restaurant proprietor and sommelier; **Brendan Gillanders**, Ottawa RedBlacks; **Beck Hood**, LGBTQ and Trans; **Refugee 613**; **Stuntman Stu**; **Dr. Rachel Goodwin**, oncologist; **Lawrence Greenspon**, defence lawyer; **Marc Lepine**, Gold Plate winner, chef and owner of Atelier; **Twin Flames**, winner of best Indigenous Music award. Other represented areas include PTSD specialists, Harm Reduction Unit, musicians, artists, Médecins Sans Frontières volunteers, mechanics, Ottawa Distress Centre, World Finance, humanitarian aid workers, United Nations, Muslim Women’s Organization as well as those who have confronted a variety of overwhelming challenges in their lives.

The expertise, work, and experiences that the human books bring, along with their anecdotal stories lend themselves perfectly for this type of informal yet vibrant setting where students can freely ask questions and pursue their personal interests.

Please feel free to look at our website [swlcbhumanlibrary.ca](http://swlcbhumanlibrary.ca) for pictures and biographies of all our Human Books of 2017, and follow us @swlcbhumanlib



Rufus, Ottawa Therapy Dogs



Pablo Coffey, motivational speaker



Canon 2X, Musician /Rapper/Slam poet



Sang Ngyuen, Vietnamese Refugee



Dr. Monia Mazigh, author



Ben Lalonde, Auto Pro



Ben Moores, Ottawa Police Tactical Unit

## Student Services

### College and University Applications

Many students have received offers for the programs to which they applied.

**College applicants** must confirm their acceptance of an offer of admissions **before May 1st**.

**Applicants to Ontario universities** do **not** need to respond to offers of admission **before June 1st**. Students are asked not to panic if they have not received an offer yet. Final university offers do not arrive until the first two weeks of May with May 26th being the latest students can expect to hear.

Students who have questions or concerns about their application are encouraged to see their guidance counsellor and/or consult the relevant OCAS (College) or OUAC (University) website.

### Co-op program

If you are interested in getting real job experience in a field of interest, you should consider participating in the co-op program. For more information on the co-op program and possible placements, you can see a co-op teacher in Guidance or visit the following website <https://goo.gl/M7gfQz>

### Summer School

If you are interested in taking a Reach-Ahead course this summer, you must fill out the registration form and return it to your guidance counsellor as soon as possible.

Please visit [summerschoolinottawa.com](http://summerschoolinottawa.com) for the complete list of courses offerings and location. Registration is open until June but it operates on a first-come, first-serve basis.

## Parliament Tour and Vimy Commemoration

On April 10th **Mr. Fyfe, Ms. Nizam, and Mr. Van Muyden** accompanied a group of grade 10 students on an enrichment exercise designed to complement the Civics and History courses.

The pilgrimage was also designed to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in France. The students first visited the National War Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, whose remains were brought from Vimy in May 2000.



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

The Lancers watched the Sentries of the Ceremonial Guard stand guard over the Tomb and walk measured beats. The students paused by the statue of Arthur Currie, the Canadian General responsible for the creeping barrage and other tactics that paved the way to victory.



Sir Arthur Currie

*Vimy Ridge* is inscribed on an archway in the Centre Block of Parliament Hill. The students entered under the watchful gaze of the gargoyles and brooding soldiers who stand vigil on the Peace Tower. The tour guide queried the Lancers about Parliamentary personalities and protocols. The students identified the eight magnificent Great War paintings in the Senate, including the *Cloth Hall, Ypres*.

After the tour the Lancers went up the Peace Tower, which serves as a memorial to Canadians who gave their lives in the Great War. At the 11th Hour the bells tolled as the students watched the solemn Turning-of-the-Pages Ceremony in the Memorial Chamber. The pages in the Books of Remembrance are turned daily so that the names of the fallen are on display at least once a year. The Lancers noted the stepping stones inlaid in the floor etched with the names of the major Canadian battles in the Great War. Vimy Ridge and Hill 70 are commemorated on the same brass plaque.

In the Rotunda the students met Orleans resident and **House of Commons Deputy-Sergeant-At-Arms Patrick McDonnell**. He was wearing his ceremonial sword and medals from his 30 years of service with the RCMP.



Deputy-Sergeant-At-Arms

The Lancers represented the school very well. Their appreciation, decorum, and deportment were admirable in every respect.

**YOU HAVE THE POWER TO GIVE LIFE**

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**VOUS AVEZ LE POUVOIR DE REDONNER LA VIE**

Donner du sang et recevoir le mouvement

**Blood Donor Clinic**  
**Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School**  
 1515 Tenth Line Road  
**Friday, May 19**  
 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Collecte de sang**  
**Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School**  
 1515, chemin Tenth Line  
**Le vendredi 18 mai**  
 16 h 30 à 20 h 30

Book your appointment at: [blood.ca](http://blood.ca)  
 Prenez rendez-vous à: [sang.ca](http://sang.ca)

Canadian Blood Services  
 Société canadienne du sang

**Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School**  
 25 Years in Orleans Reunion

**25**  
 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**EVENT DETAILS:**  
 May 27, 2017  
 7:00PM-12:00AM  
 1515 Tenth Line Rd.

Event is open to all graduates and former/current staff

**Tickets:**  
**\$25 Early Bird**  
**\$40 after March 1**

For more information and to purchase tickets:  
[www.swl25.com](http://www.swl25.com)