

We Strive for the Highest

LAURIER HOTLINE

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School

Home of the Lancers



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

November 2016

1515 Tenth Line Road
Orleans, ON K1E 3E8

Telephone 613-834-4500
Fax 613-834-4511
Student Services 613-834-4508
Website <http://www.sirwil.com>
Student Attendance Reporting
swlattendance@ocdsb.ca

Principal

N. Girozan

nancy.girozan@ocdsb.ca

Vice-Principals

C. Cockburn

B. Fazakas

School Council Co-Chairs

T. Harper

M. Humphries

Superintendent

F. Thibault

Trustee

K. Penny

Principal's Message

It is my pleasure to be able to share with you all the exciting news from the first half of this semester. You are receiving this newsletter in combination with your child's mid-term report card. Many thanks to those parents/guardians who were able to join us for parent-teacher interviews on October 20. This time we introduced an on-line booking system called "You Can Book Me" that allowed parents/guardians to book their interviews. In addition, we moved away from holding all the interviews in the gymnasium and instead we held them in the cafeteria and the library. The feedback that we received concerning both these changes was overwhelmingly positive.

In September, we welcomed seven new teachers to the Sir Wil team: **Ziad Abdul-Nour, Gary Birtch, Michael Hale, Christopher Jupp, Connie Landry, Patricia Munante, and Iman Zebian**. In addition, we had five long term occasional teachers join our team: **Zacri Crane, Alexis Given, Désirée Lamoureux, Matthew J. MacDonald, and Allison Whitmore**. As well, we said goodbye to Educational Assistant **James Filion** who accepted a full time position at Henry Munro Middle School. Three new Educational Assistants have joined us this year: **Natalia Sosa Cancela, Joy VanderZwan and Erin Brady**. Finally, in our Main Office, **Karen Cassidy** has joined us in **Vickie Sels'** absence.

A number of clubs, teams, activities and arts presentations are underway thanks to the generous contributions of time by staff and community volunteers. You will read more about these wonderful experiences in this newsletter. I encourage all students to get involved in the life of the school beyond the classroom in order to enrich high school years. Our Student Council, led by Co-Presidents **Kathryn Hawco, Daniel Lopez, Zak Mian and Amina Boulid** continue to work with other members of council to build and celebrate school spirit and pride. Go Lancers!

I want to thank the School Council members, Co-Chaired by **Trina Harper** and **Melissa Humphries**, who continue to be a source of support to me as well as to the staff and students of Sir Wil. I hope that you will join us for our meetings. The next meeting is on November 30. We like to begin each council meeting with a different guest speaker who can speak to various topics that are

of interest to parents. If there is something that you wish to learn more about, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to keeping the lines of communication open and I welcome your feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me. All the best,

Nancy Girozan

SWL Remembrance Day 2016

The SWL Remembrance Day Assembly was held on Friday, November 11, opening with the skirl of the pipes of **Mr. Jim Forbes** from the Cameron Highlanders and the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band. SWL students **Aja Penny** and **Kendall Garuk** managed the assembly with poise and élan. **Brigadier-General Kelly Woiden** delivered the well-received keynote address. SWL students **Samantha Clarke** and **Rebecca White** gave a powerful vocal performance of *In Flanders Fields*. The Sir Wil Concert Band, directed by **Ms. Schrum**, played the National Anthem and a tasteful rendition of *Jerusalem* during the wreath-laying. Ms. Schrum directed the Sir Wil Vocal Connection in a stunning choral performance of Sarah McLachlan's *I Will Remember You*. Historian 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 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 Peace.

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Crew Camp

This year 140 amazing Grade Nines, Leadership, and Link Crew students rocked Camp Smitty and nothing will ever be the same. The students learned valuable relationship, communication, leadership, and team-building skills while forging friendships that remain strong today. A huge thank you to **Ms. Given, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Heneke, Ms. Davison, Mme. Panneton-Kus, and Mr. Rama** for their incredible supervision of this camp. Stay tuned for our own Leadership Camp in the Spring!!!



Link Crew at Camp Smitty 2016

Canadian & World Studies and Business Department

The Canadian & World Studies and Business Department has been busy this Fall running exciting field trips and engaging classroom activities.

Congratulations to **Julia Bica** for being selected as our CWS and Business Student of the Month for October. Outstanding work Julia!

The department organised two field trips for Grade 10 History students centered on our school's name-sake Sir Wilfrid Laurier. **Ms. Cheung** and **Ms. Permanand** brought students to see a performance of *Laurier* at Centrepointe Theatre. This play is inspired by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speeches and explores themes related to Canadian identity. **Mme Lamoureux** and a group of students participated in a walking tour of Parliament Hill which commemorated the 175th anniversary of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's birth. The tour was led by **The Honourable Peter Milliken** who is the former Speaker of the House and MP for Kingston—Laurier's own riding. Other MPs and former MPs were also present to accompany the group during the tour. Students received a free book on Laurier's speeches.

Ms. Cheung's two history classes also went to the Cumberland Museum to learn about our local history. Students went on a tour of the historic buildings, including a lesson in the old one-room schoolhouse,

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 am** 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 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.

and had an opportunity to make apple cider from scratch with a hand-cranked wooden press.

Mr. MacDonald accompanied a team of students to a Mock Trial Simulation at the Elgin Street Courthouse. Students participated in multiple roles such as Witnesses, Crown/Defence Lawyers, Court Clerk and Jury Members. Mr. MacDonald is looking forward to competitive Mock Trials in the spring.

The SWL Civics classes travelled to Parliament Hill on November 3 in an enrichment exercise designed to complement the Civics lessons. They toured the Centre Block and enjoyed the view from the observation deck of the Peace Tower. A highlight of the tour was an encounter with House of Commons Speaker **The Honourable Geoff Regan**. He gave an enthusiastic greeting and a short address to the Lancers as they continued on their appointed rounds.

The courses concluded on November 8 and it was a busy day indeed. The Civics students assembled in their classroom for a unique and much-appreciated meeting with Ottawa-Orléans MP **The Honourable Andrew Leslie**. He gave a brilliant Civics lesson to the appreciative Lancers, and fielded seven "Questions from the Floor."

The Civics students remained *au courant* with current events throughout the term, culminating with the US Presidential Elections on November 8. They graduated from the Civics course with a solid foundation to become informed Canadian citizens and future leaders.



Civics Class on Parliament Hill

Student Services



Co-operative Education Program

Co-op students are exploring their futures through a variety of work experiences this semester. Thanks to the support of the local business community, our students are honing their employability skills and clarifying career educational choices, all while earning credits for school! So far, they are doing a terrific job learning about what it takes to be a hairstylist, a daycare provider, or an auto mechanic, among many other occupations. We would like to acknowledge and thank the following businesses for their continued support:

**Asclepios Medical Centre
Bouclair
CHEO
Crowne Point Sport Physio
Cumberland Hub Daycare
Hair Bistro
Home Hardware
Houle Sports
Jim Keay Ford
Morningstar Dental Centre
NRML
Ottawa Hospital
Pathway Hyundai
Portobello Manor
Shoppers Drug Mart
The Children's Place
Tiny Hoppers
Top of the Hill Bakery
Trainyards Medical Centre
West 49
Winners**
and **our Feeder Schools: Avalon,
Fallingbrook, Maple Ridge**



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 and Ottawa University and Algonquin College.

Students are reminded to apply early:

University: www.ouac.on.ca

Deadline: January 11, 2017

****PIN numbers - to allow log-ins to OUAC – available in Guidance.**

College: www.ontariocolleges.ca

Deadline: February 11, 2017

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

Scholarships

We encourage students to apply for various scholarships that arrive on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Students should regularly check the scholarship binder and the bulletin board outside of Student Services, listen carefully to announcements for updates, or talk with **Ms. Crawford**, guidance counsellor.



Events

On October 25, seven students participated in a **Women in Trades** event at Ottawa Technical Secondary School to learn more about career possibilities in the trades.

Guidance organized a field trip to **Algonquin College Open House** on November 1. Students had a chance to explore the campus and gather more information on their program of interest.

Wednesday, November 2 once again saw our Grade 9 students out of class and into the workplace. **Take Our Kids To Work** day is a nationwide 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!

On November 3, we hosted the **Academic Awards Ceremony** to recognize the academic achievements of Grade 9, 10 and 11 students for the 2015-2016 year. See our website for the list of all academic award win-

ners. Congratulations to all award-winning students for their hard work!

Grad Photos will take place on Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1 in the Cafeteria.

Grad Rings can be purchased on Nov. 29 and 30 in the Rotunda.



Are you unsure of what path you want after high school? Do you want to explore and learn more about your true passions? Learn more about the **DISCOVER YEAR** program by talking with Jay Gosselin on Monday, December 5 in the rotunda, during lunch time. You may visit www.discoveryyear.ca for more information.

With winter weather upon us, parents/guardians are reminded that they need to inform the school when a student will be absent, even when school buses are not operating on bad weather days. If an absence is not accounted for, our automated attendance system will contact you. There are two options for parents and guardians to report a student's absence:

① **Telephone**

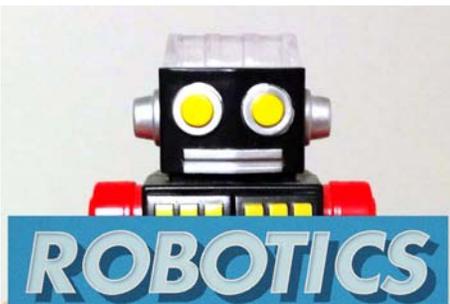
613-834-4500 extension 100

② **Email**

swlattendance@ocdsb.ca

We Day

Thirty-eight students were selected to attend We Day this year. Tickets can't be purchased; they must be earned. All of these students have committed to raising funds and awareness in support of the five pillars of development: Water, Education, Medicine, Food Security, and Alternative Income. The students were inspired by speakers ranging from a blind photographer from Syria to our very own Prime Minister. We Day was truly inspiring for all.



It has been a busy, fun, interesting - and even educational -- first few months in Sir Wil's Robotics courses! The Grade 9 class (TEJ1O) has been introduced to binary numbers, programming and microcontrollers, and will soon be programming autonomous vehicles with an Arduino. The Grade 11 class (TEJ3M) has learned about logic gates, electricity, various algorithms, circuits and signals, and will soon be putting it all together to make some interesting things, including burglar alarms and autonomous vehicles.

The Grade 12 students (TEJ4M) have built on their previous years' Robotics and Computer Science courses and learned about advanced concepts in combinational and sequential logic (which will help many of them in their university and college courses). They also learned how to work with Nokia LCD displays, FM transmitters and receivers, motors, infra-red remote controls and sonar devices. We put all of those things together to make our first Big Project:

The Laser-cut GameBox!



Each group made something different with their GameBox. Some made Pong, some made Space Invaders, some made a "sonar measuring tape," and some made two-player Tetris using two GameBoxes communicating wirelessly! These projects would be amazing even by university standards.

Recent Sir Wil grad **Cooper Lawrence** is now studying Engineering at the University of Ottawa, and he is keeping his Robotics skills sharp. He borrowed our robotic arm in September, attached a camera to it, and wrote a tic-tac-toe playing program for it! He showed it off at Ottawa's 2nd Annual Maker Faire at Lansdowne Park last month. It was a big hit! You can watch a video of the "Tic-Tac-Toe-bot" in action here:

tinyurl.com/jrawtgm



Cooper Lawrence—Class of 2016

Wil for Wellness Week

Students and staff had an opportunity to reflect on various aspects of their own wellness in the week of November 14-18. We had daily challenges to increase our daily physical activity and reduce the time spent on our cell phones to encourage more personal contact. We had activities available throughout the week such as yoga, skating and 'blind conversations.' This was our first year running the "Wil for Wellness Week" and we hope to expand the activities and to have more parental involvement next year.

Science

Field trips in Science! Grade 10 students had the opportunity to visit LaserQuest this past month. They had fun while learning about Optics. The Grade 11 and 12 Biology students visited the University of Ottawa Medical School. The mentoring session with the second year medical students was extremely useful. What was even more interesting was the Cadaver Lab where students observed and asked questions about the various cadaver dissections the medical students presented.

Athletics

Laurier Athletics had a successful fall with 186 athletes competing in ten NCSSAA sports. Highlights of the season include the reintroduction Junior Girls Basketball. In their first year since 2010 the girls finished 6-4 and advanced to the playoffs.

Sir Wil's Cross Country Running team had 27 athletes qualify for the NCSSAA Championships. Senior Girl **Marin Scotten** qualified in first place at the East Regionals and finished fourth overall. She advanced to the OFSAA Championships where she placed 32nd in the Province.

After finishing fifth in the East Division the Senior Boys Volleyball team advanced to the quarter finals.

Our Varsity Girls 7s Rugby team had an excellent season capturing the Tier 1 Consolation Championship.

The Grade 12 Athletic Leadership class is coordinating a **SWL Spirit Wear Clothing Sale**. The sale period is from November 21-30 in order to allow time for pre-Christmas delivery. Sir Wil clothing makes a great gift! We will have clothing sample sizes available at lunch in the caf every day until November 30.

Order online at:

<http://www.shopgadar.ca/collections/swl-high-school>

Congratulations to all Lancer Athletes! You represented yourselves, your teams and your school with character. A BIG THANKS to all our Fall Coaches for making Laurier Athletics possible.

As winter sports' season begins Sir Wil looks to continue the tradition of

Pride—Hustle—Desire



SWL Football Team 2016