Principal's Message

I am pleased to say that first semester went well and we have commenced second semester. The change of semester, just like the change of a school year, is marked by staffing changes. We said farewell to our colleagues, Heather Buchanan, Lindsay Coderre, Crystal Rosbrook, and Michael Temple as they completed Long Term Occasional (LTO) teaching assignments. Contract teachers shared with another school—Maris Barnabe and Mélissa Jérôme—are teaching second semester at Earl of March and Glebe respectively. Long Term Occasional teachers Jenna Dorion, Kelly Granum, Kimberley Holbein, Jenn Labelle, Jason Lalonde, and Rachel Willis have joined the team, and Alexis Given, Ethan Meservia, and Allison Whitmore remain with us this semester. We happily greeted our Teacher Librarian, Mei-Lan Morton, returning from leave. Finally, Susan Harty-Major retired at the end of January after a 38-year teaching career. We thank her for her 20 years of dedicated service at Sir Wil and wish her well as she embarks on a new chapter in her life.

We held our annual Information Evening on December 12th, offering tours to grade 8 students and their parents/guardians, and providing information about what our school offers. If you are aware of a family with high-school age children moving in to your neighbourhood, please encourage them to contact us. We will be happy to talk to them about attending our school.

We are happy to say that our School Council has launched its Simply Giving campaign for 2018. Donations to Simply Giving enhance learning resources for curricular and extra-curricular activities. Donations may be made by cheque or online on the School Cash Online website: https://ocdsb.schoolcashonline.com/

Thank you for considering a donation to the Simply Giving Campaign, and for taking the time to read our school newsletter. If you wish to learn more about our school or upcoming events, please take a look at our school website: www.sirwil.com/

All the best,

Nancy Girozan
Principal
Science

In Semester 1 the Science department participated in several class outings:

The grade 9s went to the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre for an Ecology outing where they participated in outdoor activities. It was an all-day trip; the September weather was excellent. The students participated in engaging activities. They were able to make connections from the classroom to real life by experiencing and observing nature.

In October, the grade 11 and 12 Biology classes participated in the Carleton University Symposium. They listened to an interesting lecture related to stem cell research, visited the university sites and enjoyed a great all-you-can-eat lunch.

In November, some of the grade 11 and 12 Biology students participated in the uOttawa Medical Mythbusters Program which included an anatomy lab with real cadavers. It was a great field trip that enabled students the privilege to see first-hand the systems that are studied in class.

In November, the grade 10s went to Laser Quest where they were able to apply their knowledge that they have learned in class relating to optics. It was a hoot!

We are currently planning on repeating in second semester the amazing field trips that we had in first semester: specifically, the grade 10 Laser Quest Field Trip will be in April and the Mythbusters cadavers anatomy lab for the grade 11 and 12 Biology students will take place in May.

We have also invited Little Ray’s reptile zoo to come to Sir Wil for the grade 9 Ecology unit in April.

Link Crew Camp

This fall, on a warm and sunny October morning, our grade 9s, their grade 12 Link Leaders, and several teacher volunteers, headed to MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre for a fun-filled day with amazing weather. The day flew by, as the students participated in team building activities, games, and leadership building exercises. After an action-packed morning, Link students put together a lunch for everyone at the camp. Hummus, salads, muffins, juice, fruit, crackers, veggies, dip and an H2O bar, complete with “flavour your own water” choices, were just a few of the things available for our delicious meal. After lunch, the jackets and sweaters began to come off as the sun warmed our activity area to feel like summer. Some of the activities the students took part in at this point in the day included a scavenger hunt, team trust exercises, and even a large group game of Predator Prey, in which over 100 students worked together to strategize to become the ultimate survivor. After camp, the bus ride home was full of yawns and smiling faces as we returned to Sir Wil.

Trojan War

During the afternoon of November 14th and the morning of November 15th, our grade 9 students, as well as their grade 12 Link Leaders, gathered in the cafeteria for an amazing storytelling performance by actor, Jeff Wright. The Trojan War is the telling of an old Greek legend with a modern interpretation of character building lessons. He puts a twist on this classic story by seamlessly entwining many current social issues our students are dealing with today. Jeff Wright filled the cafeteria with laughter at times, but also got our students thinking about some more serious topics. Some of the important subjects discussed during this performance included bullying, friendships, relationships, sexual orientation, and many more! When the show was over and the curtains closed, our grade 9s were very appreciative to have been part of such a unique experience at Sir Wil.

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 29, 2018 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 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.
Athletics

Lancers Athletics continues its tradition of **PRIDE—HUSTLE—DESIRE**, with success on the ice and in the gym.

Our Senior Girls Volleyball team is currently undefeated with two games left in the regular season. Best of luck to Ms. Moore, Ms. Prôt and the girls as they head into playoffs.

Sir Wil and the grade 12 Recreation and Healthy Active Living Leadership class are hosting four major events this semester: the NCSSAA East/West Wrestling Championships on February 14th, Junior Boys and Junior Girls Volleyball tournaments on February 22nd and 23rd respectively, OCDSB Intermediate Tier 2 Boys and Girls Basketball Championships on March 5th and 6th, and the NCSSAA Senior Far East Badminton Championships on April 9th.

The mid-winter sports, Junior Girls Volleyball, Junior Boys Volleyball, and Junior/Senior Badminton, are getting underway, while our spring sport athletes start to train and wait for the snow to melt. Stay tuned for more highlights!

Leadership Class and Student Council

Lancers kicked off the school year with our Halloween Spirit Week which included creative theme days, Just Dance in the cafeteria, and a spooky movie night. Thank you to all of the Lancers who participated by showing their school spirit.

**Pride! Hustle! Desire! Pep Rally!** Sir Wil had the opportunity to celebrate our fall season’s athletes and to demonstrate our school spirit at our Pep Rally on November 21st. The Pep Rally was organized as a collaborative effort between Ms. Prôt’s Recreational Leadership class, Mme Muise’s Leadership class, and Student Council.

The SWL Olympics and Mystery Night were both a huge success. Congrats to the winning teams: The Grads who won SWL Olympics, and the Grade 11 Girls who solved the kidnapping of the Prom Queen at Mystery Night.

Lancers showcased their talents in music, dance and comedy at our annual Coffee House Show on December 7th which was hosted by the Leadership class and Student Council. Congratulations to all of the performers!

SWL’s Holiday Theme Week was jam-packed with festive activities for all: surfers vs snowboards, ugly sweaters, holiday characters, a visit from Santa, and an assembly which celebrated the spirit and diversity of our school community.

English, Library and Native Studies

As we look back on a successful Semester 1, we think of all the projects we have completed, all the essays we have written, and all the presentations we have done. Now, we look forward to Semester 2 and all that is still to come.

There are exciting things in the air as we begin to plan for the next school year, many of which allow us to draw on the varied strengths and experiences in our department.

Beginning next year, all grade 11 students will take the *English: Contemporary Aboriginal (Indigenous) Voices* NBE 3U or NBE 3C course in place of the traditional English (ENG 3U or ENG 3C) course. This course emphasizes the development of literacy, critical thinking, and communication skills through the study of works in English by Indigenous writers in Canada. Through the analysis of literary fiction and non-fiction texts as well as media works, students will develop an appreciation of the wealth and complexity of Indigenous writing. Students will also conduct research and analyse the information gathered; write persuasive and literary essays; and analyse the relationship between media forms and audiences. An important focus will be the further development of students’ understanding of English-language usage and conventions. According to students who have taken NBE in other schools, “This is a course every Canadian should take.”

Semester 2 and the 2018-2019 school year promise to be enriching for all.

BABYSITTING COURSES

**Age 10-16**

Thursday, March 15 or Saturday, May 12

or Saturday, May 26—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Orléans Library**

1705 Orléans Boulevard

Cost $60

Register online: [www.menardsafetycourses.com](http://www.menardsafetycourses.com)

For information call Elaine at 613-443-2027 or email: menard@menardsc.com
French

Mme Baltas’ grade 9 FIF1D class created posters illustrating French-Canadian culture. Here are some fine examples.

Student Services

GUIDANCE

► Option Sheets

Counsellors will be making option sheet presentations to students starting in early February. When deciding what courses and/or level of course to take next year, students are encouraged to discuss their choices with their parents and subject teachers.

Students will fill out the option sheet online at www.CareerCruising.com. Written instructions and passwords will be distributed in February. After the course selections have been made at home, students will need to print the option sheet, and bring it back to Sir Wil with a parent’s signature.

Option sheets are due on March 1st. Be sure to submit your option sheet on time so that you get the courses you want!

**Please choose your courses carefully because no changes will be done once the timetabling has been completed in June.**

► Scholarships

Graduating students are reminded to check the bulletin board outside Student Services and the scholarship binder in the Guidance office. They can also meet with Ms. Crawford to receive more info on various scholarships offered.

For students seeking assistance in paying tuition fees, please go to Ontario.ca/osap for more information.

► Student Exchange Programs

Grade 11 students, Miranda Mellon and Jenna Rupp, are excited to start the visiting portion of their student exchanges program this February as they travel to France! They will be reunited with their exchange partners who were with us at Sir Wil during the fall. Miranda and Jenna will be immersed in French culture and language as they live with their host families, attend high school classes, and experience all that another country has to offer. Bon voyage, étudiantes! For more information about Student Exchange Programs please see https://www.ocdsb.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=214175.

Business and Canadian & World Studies

In partnership with the civic action organization DILA (Youth Ottawa’s Day of Information for a Lifetime of Action program), Mme Muise’s civics class organized the SWL Against Stigma campaign in order to raise awareness about mental health issues. A donation to the Canadian Mental Health Association will be made.

Part of the proceeds from SWL Against Stigma’s bake sale will be used to purchase anxiety-reducing supplies which will be accessible in Student Services.

The Business, Canadian and World Studies Student of the Month Award recognizes high achievement in one of the department’s courses. Congratulations to Noah Learned (grade 10), Vikram Nijhawan (grade 12) and Logan Armstrong (grade 9) who were our award winners for November, December and January respectively.