

We Strive for the Highest

LAURIER HOTLINE

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School

Home of the Lancers



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

April 2018

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Principal's Message

It is so nice to be able to finally welcome Spring to the Nation's Capital. We have waited a long time for the warmer weather to arrive. With the arrival of the mid-term report cards in April, we are now headed into the final term of the school year. This newsletter is full of good news items as well as upcoming events.

I would like parents/guardians to join our School Council meetings that take place on the last Wednesday of most months and are held in our school library. At these meetings we hear from staff 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 that we feel would be of interest to parents/guardians such as the one on social media safety described below. Everyone is welcome at our School Council meetings.

On May 30th School Council is sponsoring guest speaker, **Paul Davis**, an expert in the area of social media. Mr. Davis will provide two safety seminars on the risks

and dangers of using technology: the first to our grade 9 & 10 students in the afternoon and the second to our parents/guardians and members of our community in the evening. You may register for the evening workshop now at <https://sirwilsocialmediasafety.eventbrite.ca/>

Your support of our School Council's **Simply Giving** campaign is greatly appreciated. Donations are always welcome to enhance learning resources for curricular and extra-curricular activities. You may give by cheque, or online on the School Cash Online website: <https://ocdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

Our school district is conducting a school climate survey of parents/guardians from now until May 11th. The results will help develop strategies to prevent bullying and to promote safe and inclusive schools. We will soon be sending complete information about how to log in to the survey. Watch for an instruction email from our new **School Messenger** email system that we launched on April 23rd. We hope you like our new and improved message system, and we hope that you will participate in the survey.

Nancy Girozan
Principal

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Science



Science Students at Laser Quest

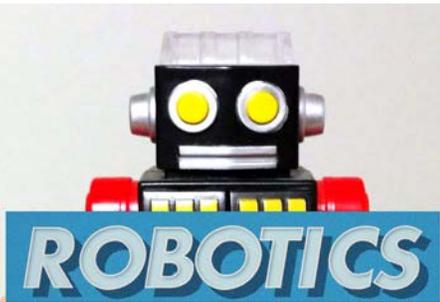
The grade 10 science classes of **Mr. Rajab, Mme Paneton-Kus** and **Ms. Whitmore** went to Laser Quest on April 20th. The students were able to put into practice the knowledge they had acquired in their physics classes. It was a lot of fun.

On April 26th Little Ray's Reptiles brought several animals to Sir Wil. All grade 9 and 11 biology classes were invited to participate. The presenter highlighted the animals' traits that were related to evolution as well as their role in the ecosystem. It was a great learning opportunity.

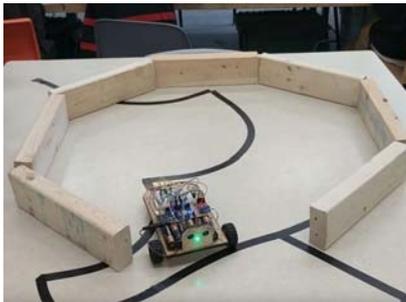


A Snapping Turtle visits Sir Wil

Last but not least, several grade 10, 11 and 12 students participated in the University of Ottawa Science Contest on April 24th, and some grade 11 and 12 biology students participated in the Waterloo Biology contest on April 26th.



Mr. Young's TEJ3M/4M Robotics class has been working on autonomous vehicles that sense the world using *ultrasonic range finders* (USRFs). The USRF (sonar, basically) allows the vehicle to "know" how far away an object is. This opens up a lot of interesting possibilities. Students start by figuring out how to program their vehicle so it can *Escape the Octagon*. Pictured below is **Danny Michaud's** successful escapee:



Fire safety regulations prevent us from dousing the walls with gasoline and setting them ablaze to make things more interesting. Instead, we find drama in the 1979 soft rock

classic *Escape (The Piña Colada Song)* which serves as our motivational soundtrack.

After escaping The Octagon, students continue to practice algorithmic thinking (without knowing they are practicing algorithmic thinking) by re-programming their vehicles to track down other vehicles in a 4-way Battle Royale.



Tyler Corrigan puts the finishing touches on his beast of a Battle Royale. His secret ingredient? You'll have to ask Bruce Li. (But you can't.)



Devin Dobson and Owen Mitchell, hard at work.



Check out a video of this nail-biter of a Battle Royale: <https://tinyurl.com/y73jvrm>

Human Library

Library Card Not Required...Visit A Human Book!

So an Olympic Skier, a Surgeon and a Lawyer walk into a high school gym..... What happens? Students from Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Colonel By Secondary schools got the opportunity of a lifetime to visit with over 70 professionals, community advocates and persons from all walks of life. In small groups, 300 students participated in our 2018 SWL-CB Human Library Event in our gymnasium on April 12th. The students experienced six different "Human Books" for 30 minutes each. They heard their stories while asking questions, exploring careers, experiences, challenges, and triumphs.



Madison Lester, our student coordinator, worked with **Ms. Morton** of SWL, **Mme. Leduc** of Colonel By, and community member **Cathy Belanger** to organize the event. It was wonderful to witness 300 students having a dialogue with people who live, work and play in our community! Ranging from musicians, dancers, humanitarian workers, emergency service and law enforcement personnel, media personalities, medical and legal professionals, restaurateurs, and athletes these individuals make such an impact on life in Ottawa and beyond, and have often overcome monumental challenges while they continue to create, inspire, and help others.

Please take a look at the range of "Human Books" and all of their biographies on the website:

<http://swlcbhumanlibrary.ca>



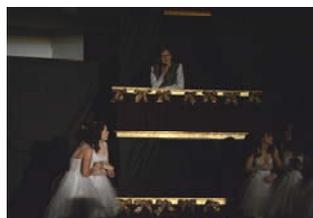
BABYSITTING COURSES—Age 10-16—Saturday, May 12 *or* Saturday, May 26—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.—Cost \$60—**Orléans Library**, 1705 Orléans Blvd. Register online: www.menardsafetycourses.com or call Elaine at 613-443-2027

The Phantom of the Opera

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School's "Phantom of the Opera" was a production so big, it had two casts. Captivating audiences with dramatic acting and stunning vocals was the story of Christine Daaé (**Rebecca White/Serena Ferzli**), who is torn between her admirer, the Vicomte de Chagny (**Xavier Cadieux**) and her mysterious music teacher, the Phantom (**Philip Lukic/Jordan Mason**).



The mystery was brought to light with the help of Madame Giry (**Serena Ferzli/Ryan Herman**) and her daughter Meg (**Michelle Hill**), while adding a measure of levity were opera house owners Richard Firmin (**Jordan Mason/Jameel Ferzli**) and Gilles André (**Andrew Parsche/Simon Norin**). Other strong performances included actors Carlotta Giudicelli (**Alyssa Rama**) and Ubaldo Piangi (**Mackenzie Glenn**).



Behind the scenes, great effort was put into costumes, makeup, advertising, choreography, lighting, sound, and sets. These included the grand "Box 5", which approached the ceiling when fully assembled, the mirror transition and fog effects to the Phantom's lair, and the water bottle chandelier, which crashed down to the floor at the end of the first act. The Pit Band also did a superb job (directed by **Megan Schwartz**) playing a professional score, which included some challenging key signatures. In total, there were five shows, including the dress rehearsal matinée for the feeder schools.



Athletics



A big congratulations to our Senior Girls Volleyball team. The girls defeated Earl of March 3 sets to 1 in the finals, completing a perfect 11-0 season, capturing the NCSSAA Tier 1 Championship.

Mother Nature has finally cooperated and our Lancer Athletes are getting ready for spring sports. Lancers will be competing in Track and Field, Varsity Girls Rugby, Junior Boys Rugby, Varsity Girls Touch Football, Varsity Boys Baseball and Varsity Girls Soccer. Best of luck to the Lancers as they compete with typical Sir Wil—

Pride Hustle Desire

More recently, the Cappies Critics gave 14 nominations to students in the following categories: Special Effects & Technology (**Olivia MacKeen & Xavier Cadieux**), Hair & Makeup (**Phantom of the Cosmopera**), Orchestra (**Sir Wil Pit Band**), Featured Actor in a Musical (**Simon Norin**), Female Dancer (**Michelle Hill**), Female Vocalist (**Rebecca White**), Comic Actress in a Musical (**Alyssa Rama**), Comic Actor in a Musical (**Jordan Mason**), Supporting Actor in a Musical (**Xavier Cadieux**) and Lead Actor in a Musical (**Phillip Lukic**). There were nominations for Best Song (**Masquerade**), Best Musical overall, and two for Top Junior Critic (**Shannon Noah and Michaela Yu**). Congratulations to all involved, including director **Sonya Schrum** and assistant director **Olivia MacKeen**.



Photography & Digital Imaging

In February, grade 11 and 12 students from **Mr. Budgell's** and **Mr. Molnar's** photography and digital imaging classes braved the cold weather and went on a field trip to Winterlude and downtown Ottawa. During the trip, students practiced their composition and depth of field techniques and came back with fabulous images of the winter festival. *Photos by Kristyn Utton and Tamara Noah.*



On April 5th classes from communications technology, broadcasting, English media studies, and the Dual Support Program attended the Dreamworks animation exhibit at the Canadian Museum of History. Not only did the classes cross provincial boundaries but they crossed curricular boundaries as well, as they had a chance to apply their knowledge from various classes in an authentic learning environment. Students participated in various hands-on activities.

Youth Conference on Mass Atrocities

On April 23rd, Sir Wilfrid Laurier students, in conjunction with Colonel By Secondary School, organized and attended the **National Day of Action and Remembrance and Action on Mass Atrocities Youth Conference** at Carleton University. The theme of this year's district-wide conference was "Refugees Fleeing Atrocities and Building New Lives in Canada." This subject resonated with our International Politics and International Law Students, along with our Superintendent, **Mary Jane Farrish**, who had the honour of listening to three expert panelists:

- ◆ **Joseph Rikhof:** Professor of International Criminal Law, previous Senior Counsel with the Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Section of the Department of Justice of Canada;
- ◆ **Shereen Benzvy Miller:** Deputy Chairperson of the Refugee Protection Division, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada;
- ◆ **Terry Beitner:** Director and General Counsel of Crimes against Humanity & War Crimes in the Canadian Department of Justice, heads Canada's current effort to pursue and prosecute war criminals.



For the remainder of the day our students rotated through three workshops: Médecins sans frontières (MSF) tent city simulation, Refugee Recollections, and Agencies Supporting Refugees in Canada. The students were able to speak with refugees in small groups and hear their poignant stories about their journeys and experiences. SWL students had a rich day honoring victims and survivors of human rights violations and those dedicated to human rights and mass atrocity prevention.

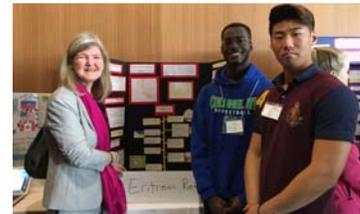
Specialist High Skills Major Program

In March, students enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program completed their First Aid and CPR certifications. For many grade 12 students, this was their final certification before graduating in June with their OSSD with SHSM red seal!



Contact the Guidance Department for more information on Sir Wil's three unique SHSM programs: Information Communications Technology; Arts & Culture; and Construction Projects: House Building.

Three ComTech broadcasting students also attended to live stream and film the event. Sir Wil ComTech students have been streaming and filming the conference since its inception.



OCDSB Superintendent **Mary Jane Farrish** with students at NDARAMA Conference

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.

