



West Credit Secondary School Newsletter



April 2017

Principal's Message

Greetings to all West Credit Families!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as West Credit's new Principal. It seems like only yesterday that I took over the reins from Mr. Caslick but I'm already into my third month at the school. And what an amazing time it has been so far! As I've had an opportunity to share my first impressions with colleagues around the board, I cannot convey strongly enough what an amazing place this is. The staff and students create such a caring learning environment each and every day that it really feels like family. This is an excellent place to get to come to work each day and I have been taking lots of time to get to meet all the staff and students. I have been with the Peel District School Board since 2000 when I began my teaching career and I worked as a history teacher and Social Sciences Department Head until I became a Vice Principal in 2010. Prior to beginning at West Credit, I have been a member of the Administrative teams at Glenforest S.S., Rick Hansen S.S, and North Park S.S.



I'm not the only new face at West Credit this semester. We welcomed back Ms. Beitz to Manufacturing in the Technologies Department just before the March Break. We also welcomed Ms. Ward who will be taking over as our Attendance Office Assistant in the afternoons. In other changes, we said goodbye and have best wishes for Ms. Wade who has moved on from her assignment at West Credit.

Our staffing process for September began fast and furious right after the March Break. Enrollment continues to decline throughout Mississauga and we have opted to plan for a staff of 59 full-time teachers. With one retirement to come, this means that there will be some stability and continuity in the West Credit staff with all permanent teachers scheduled to return in September.

Our commitment to continuous improvement and lifelong learning has carried on throughout this semester at West Credit. On Friday February 17th, all teachers of core subjects (English, Math, Science, Social Science) were able to participate in day-long professional learning dedicated specifically to vocational pathway students. Teachers of these core subjects gathered with colleagues from six different schools at Judith Nyman S.S. in Brampton to share best practices and engage in purposeful design of learning tasks. Back at West Credit, the remainder of the staff looked at employability skills and pathway transitions as guest speakers were invited to present about the workforce of the future and our students' roles within it. At our Early Release on April 4th all staff participated in a numeracy carnival to gather ideas for building in fun challenges to their classes that simultaneously allow students to engage in mathematical thinking.

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Our fourth and final early release day for this year is scheduled on May 17th and I'm confident that the learning will continue to be as valuable as it has been all year.

Beyond teacher learning, life has continued to be vibrant for staff and students in the first half of semester two. There were a wide variety of activities for Black History Month in February including an assembly, door decorations and an accompanying scavenger hunt. Girls Volleyball brought home the championship as did the Junior Boys Basketball team. The Senior Boys Basketball team came close themselves with a tough and narrow championship game loss – but they are champions in our hearts regardless. In March, our SHSM Hospitality students completed some of their certifications including their Smart Serve, and students were prepped for and wrote the OSSLT on March 31st. So far in April we have supported the Day of Pink with a photo booth and a whole-school breakfast with staff and students decked out in their pinkest best. The rest of the school year promises to be just as busy with the Track and Field competition coming up in and our Prom happening in May and Graduation just around the corner in June.

Last but not least, let me take this opportunity to invite you all to come out on Saturday May 13th to West Credit's 30th Anniversary, Plant Sale, Bake Sale and Family Fun day. The planning for this incredible event has been underway all year and it is something you definitely will not want to miss! Please check out <http://westcreditreunion.wixsite.com/reunion> for more details.

So far, this has been a jam-packed semester at West Credit with more activities to come that support both the academic and extra-curricular spirit of the school. On behalf of all of us here at the school, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to an exciting remainder of the year.

Crissa Hill, Principal

Co-operative Education

This semester the co-operative education program has approximately 45 students out in the “world of work”. The students are working in many different industries such as auto service, construction – (welding, electrical, plumbing SHSM - OYAP), childcare, educational assistant, entertainment services, hospitality (cook BR.2 and baker SHSM - OYAP), and retail. A number of the students have been offered part-time employment. All the students enrolled in our program are successfully learning good employability skills and appropriate work ethic. Lastly, these students are representing West Credit Secondary School proudly in the “world of work” and are making great partnerships between local employers and the school.



Marilyn Damery, Co-op Teacher

Hospitality

Semester II meant saying farewell to Mr. Vothknecht and wishing him all the best at his new position at Turner-Fenton Secondary School. A Big “welcome back” Mr. Massara and Mr. Warr who rejoin our Hospitality team!!

March was exciting as, for the first time, we had a representative from Niagara College present to our SHSM students about the programs they offer. Given the success of this presentation, Mr. Horn is very excited about the possibility of organizing a field trip next year to visit the Niagara College campus. We appreciated Ian taking time to drive to Mississauga and present to our students. (The next Hospitality SHSM event will be Smart Serve and Customer Service Training Conference in May.)



Speaking of field trips, one of the year's most anticipated is on the horizon!! April 28th we will be taking our annual trek to Toronto's Kensington Market. Did you know that this is a National Historic Site of Canada? There are many diverse shops located in this urban ethno-cultural community. And what trip to Kensington Market would be complete without Dim Sum for lunch. This, too, will be quite an education for all who attend!! Again, special thanks to Mr. Horn our Field Trip Guru!!



Of course, West Credit Staff and Students do not need to travel to Toronto to experience fantastic food! People using our Servery to purchase lunch are treated to many different delicacies! Freshly sliced Shwarma (or Gyros), Healthy vegetarian stir fries, chicken pot pies, quiche, pasta more ways than even Marco Polo knew existed; did we mention the fresh salad bar? And during classes, they can even learn how to make Sushi.



Having just finished February's Black History Month, and a tasty menu influenced by their style of cooking, we are preparing for May's Asian Heritage Month! More styles of cooking means more different recipes to learn and prepare for the lunch Servery!!

Of course, catering keeps our students very busy, and gives them the real life experience of preparing foods for organizations in and out of our school. Mr. Massara's classes have prepared Carrot Cake for the Canadian Federation of University Women's annual fund raising gala; Mr. Warr and Horn's classes have cooked our school wide Day of Pink breakfast, and will be busy with the Graduates Breakfast, Prom, High School Rehearsal, the Athletic Banquet, the Rotary Club Luncheon all while preparing meals for other Peel schools' events – like the 200 person Lasagna, Caesar Salad, Bread Roll and Dessert luncheon for Streetsville Secondary School in early June.

And did we mention the Plant Sale/Family Fun Day/Huge 30th Anniversary Reunion?!? The Hospitality Crew will be preparing breakfast, lunch and other goodies; please visit the Servery and say “Hi”!! (HUGE Cudo's to Mr. D. Macrae for the gigantic job of organizing The Reunion!!)

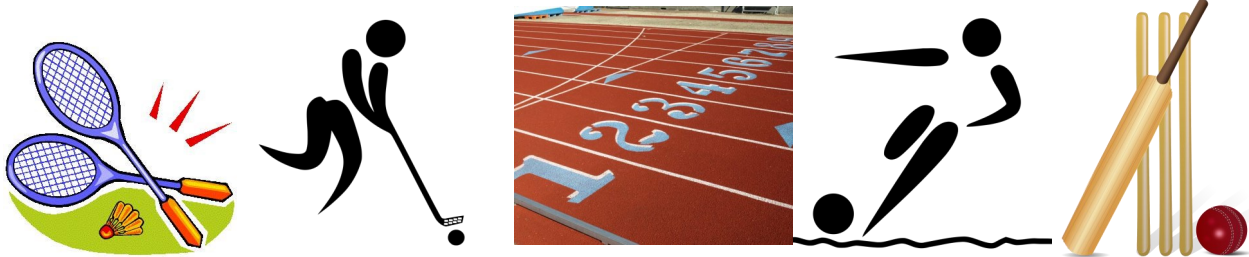
Wow!! And this is only a ‘taste’ of what goes on each day in the Hospitality Department!! Our students ROCK the House!!

Sincerely, Mr. Horn, Mr. Massara, Mr. Warr & Mr. Walkling

Panthers Athletics

The winter athletic season at West Credit once again produced some great team performances. Congratulations to Mr. Grozdanovski and Mr. Hooper who led our junior boys basketball team to a gold medal. Our senior boys basketball team competed hard and earned a silver medal under the direction of Ms. Bharti and Mr. Hooper. The girls volleyball team also earned a gold medal in the final tournament. Mr. Ward, Mrs. Basso, and Ms. Barrett would like to thank the girls for their commitment this season.

With spring now here, Mr. Nunes, Ms. McIntyre, Mr. Beirsto, and Mr. Koehler are busy selecting our co-ed badminton team. Mr. White is organizing our always popular intramural floor hockey league which brings staff and students together for lunch time competition. Ms. Bouwmeester, Ms. Priestley, and Ms. Gill plus their team of coaches and assistants are busy preparing for our special track and field event in May. Ms. Surtees and Mr. Angeja are also planning to lead a group of students interested in soccer and Mr. Kumar will continue working with our cricket team. A big thank -you to all of our coaches and good luck to all of our athletes.



Mr. Ward, Head of Phys. Ed.

Prom

Spring is upon us, which means we are completing the year's academic studies, preparing for our school reunion, and winding up our athletic seasons. It also marks the beginning of celebrating student accomplishments and transitions. For our Grads, one of the big event is Prom Night, which for West Credit is Friday May 26th.

This year's Prom will be held here at the school from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Our students have spent a great deal of time and energy planning the evening, and it promises to be wonderful.

We hope to see everyone on this special evening.

Ms. Cichutteck, Prom Co-ordinator

