



# SPARTAN SPEAK | February 2020

## Principal's Message

Greetings to all Lorne Park families. I hope that you are all well in this new year, new semester, and for that matter new decade. This has certainly been an unusual year, and I thank all of you for your patience as our school, like all schools across the province, works to make the best of our staffing reductions and the on-going labour negotiations. I am also very thankful for the commitment of our teachers and volunteers who have worked hard to continue their high quality classroom teaching and their commitment to providing extra-curricular offerings outside of the classroom.

Throughout semester 1, our Lorne Park students have achieved very impressive marks in their courses. At mid-term, with approximately 930 students in the school, 527 had an average of 80% or above, 187 students had an average of 90% or above, and 34 students had an average of 95% or above. Through our special education department, 167 students received accommodation to support their success. Our student success department supported student academics with a variety of programs including exam preparation tutorials, a “zap the zeroes” program, stress management workshops, a new breakfast program, credit recovery, independent learning, and one-on-one support. Our Counting on You program provided after school support in grade 9 and 10 mathematics and French to 25 students. Our guidance department has recruited 16 senior students who are providing peer tutoring upon request. We also support student literacy through a variety of school activities including the White Pine Project which was led by Ms. Anthon in the library and has promoted the reading of Canadian literature among our students and staff. Our high academic achievement at Lorne Park is the result of a strong student support system, high quality classroom instruction, strong parent support, and of course the hard work and commitment of our excellent students. I am looking forward to reviewing the final report card results for semester 1.

Outside of the classroom, Lorne Park students still enjoyed a wide variety of extra-curricular activities in the areas of student leadership, athletics, and the arts. Continued on Page2



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I continue to be so impressed with our student leaders in our Student Council, Mentors, Athletic Council, Diversity Council, Music Council, Enhanced Council, French Council, Wellness Council, Arts Council, Asian Heritage Club, and a few other leadership clubs who continue to lead impressive school events that include the Terry Fox Run, the fall semi-formal, an orientation day for our new grade 9 students, parents' nights, music nights, intramural leagues, professional learning sessions, the You Can Play pledge event, the White Ribbon Campaign, Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week, fan-support events, fund raising initiatives, and school celebrations. Our student leaders competed in a regional DECA competition in November. More than 30 DECA members qualified for provincials this month. Our Model UN team participated in an international event in Montreal last November and are participating in another event at the University of Toronto this month.

Our student athletes continue to perform at a high level, with strong seasons and tournaments for all of our teams in football, flag football, field hockey, cross-country running, rugby 7s, golf, curling, hockey, basketball, Nordic skiing, and alpine skiing. Our girls' volleyball team is well poised for a strong run at the upcoming playoffs. We are hopeful that we can continue to field a broad number of teams during semester 2.

In the Arts, Ms. Brown and our Music Council hosted a spectacular holiday music night in December. It was titled "Music of the Night" and featured three student-conducted music ensembles. Ms. Rai, Ms. Sadasivan, and the Arts Council hosted an amazing visual arts evening in our school library that showcased some of our incredible student work. As well, our Remembrance Day commemoration assembly showcased our excellence in drama, instrumental music, vocal music, poetry, graphic design, and even featured a bagpipe performance.

I also need to give a special mention to our computer programming team who excelled once again in the nation-wide Hackathon competition, finishing 2nd out of hundreds of teams.

Our School Council has been highly active in the school this year. They were successful in raising a large sum of money last year for a spectacular twin projector and screen installation in our large gymnasium which has greatly helped to improve our assemblies and community events. They were also instrumental in advocating for the sports court refurbishment project which was jointly funded by the board and city and is nearly complete. Council is currently organizing a number of events for the spring including an evening guest speaker event, food truck luncheons, and some fundraising initiatives. Council is raising money for an outdoor sitting area so that students can enjoy some fresh air during their lunch hour. All parents are welcome to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:00pm in our school library.

We have some staffing announcements to make. In December we enjoyed a wonderful retirement party for Ms. Wilkinson from the library who retired after 49 years at Lorne Park. Ms. Wilkinson has been such a valuable resource for our school, and is particularly knowledgeable about our school history having compiled a very impressive school archive. We welcome Ms. Alexeeva, our new library technician. We wish all the best to Mr. Janco who moves to TL Kennedy for semester 2, and we welcome Ms. Chun from Castlebrook SS to our History department. With Mr. Davis' long term occasional position complete, we wish him all the best for semester 2. We welcome Mr. McAnally who returns to Lorne Park to teach in a long term occasional position in our geography and special education departments. As well, we welcome back Mr. Habete who will be covering for Ms. Farrell in the French department while she is on leave.

The school year has certainly been hectic and we are all working very hard to adapt to new change and on-going uncertainty. Despite everything, Lorne Park Secondary School continues to be a great place to learn and work. I am hoping for smoother waters ahead in 2020 and a return to business as usual at Lorne Park Secondary School: that is, continuing to build our tradition of excellence.

Craig Caslick  
Principal



### FROM GUIDANCE AND CO-OP:

Students have an opportunity to request timetable changes for next year courses in mid-February, before the school's timetable is created. The school's timetable is based on the courses our students have requested for next year. After this February window to request course changes closes, the opportunity to change courses will be limited as the classes have already been created.

On Feb. 25, Grade 12 students will be invited to a presentation on financial aid for post-secondary education. Our presenter will explain the Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP) and how to budget for post-secondary expenses.

On March 9, Lorne Park will host representatives from local Colleges to talk to our students about obtaining a degree through a College. These degrees offer the academic rigour of a degree with the hands-on learning and job specific skills employers are looking for.

Grade 12 students should be completing and submitting their Community Service hours as this is required to graduate and is a condition to be met for their post-secondary offers.

**COOPERATIVE EDUCATION:** Cooperative Education, also known as experiential learning, allows students to integrate classroom theory with practical experience in the workplace in order to gain knowledge, skills and experience in a career sector of their choice based on their strengths and interests, and in consultation with their Guidance Counsellor and Co-op Teacher.

Students begin their placements after completing their pre-placement preparation which consists of career assessments, resume writing, interview preparation, and a unit on health and safety. They have many placement opportunities to choose from. Students can work as assistants in a variety of roles; such as nursing, teaching, legal, dental and vet assistants, to mechanical and electrical assistants. They are evaluated both at school and the workplace. Students are required to spend a total of 15 weeks at work. They will learn valuable work-related skills, and be able to add this work experience to their resume while earning high school credits. Students in the program have the chance to explore the world of work as they examine and evaluate their post-secondary career paths.

Another opportunity for students, who are interested in pursuing a career in the trades, is the Ministry of Education initiative known as the DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM which is aimed at helping students succeed in school and complete their diploma requirements. Students are permitted to take college or apprenticeship courses and use those credits for both their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and towards a post-secondary certificate.

The Dual Credit Program at Sheridan College at the Skills Training Centre, Davis Campus offers courses in the trades such as construction, plumbing and electrical. Their instructors are experts in their respective fields and the facility is very well equipped with the latest tools and technology.

If you have any questions about the Lorne Park Co-op program, please visit the Lorne Park website under Co-operative Education. If you would be interested in hosting a Co-op student at your place of business, please feel free to contact me: Ms. B. Edmonds at extension 415 .



### UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE LPSS FRENCH DEPARTMENT:

**Chef à l'École:** Chef à l'École will be at LPSS on Thursday February 27th. Core and Extended French students will participate by expanding on their current French vocabulary while preparing a French pastry recipe, listening to French music and a French cultural story.

LP students will participate in Chef à l'École in the CAF during periods 1, 2, 3 and 4 on Thursday February 27th.

**DELFL: French Language Proficiency Exam:** The Peel District School Board will be offering the DELF French language proficiency exam to interested students enrolled in a grade 12 Core French, French Immersion or Extended French course (FSF 4U, FIF 4U or FEF 4U) this coming April 2020. Upon successful completion of the exam, students will be awarded a DELF certificate by the French Ministry of National Education (France).

Ontario Ministry of Education funding allows us to accept only 65 students to write this exam. With over 1, 100 students enrolled in a French course in PDSB, a random selection process will be used to determine who will be invited to participate and write the DELF exam including a waitlist of 10 students.

To date, 12 LPSS Extended French Students have registered to write the DELF Exam in April. Good Luck to all LPSS Extended French students who participate in the French language proficiency exam.



### MODEL UN:

In November of 2019, the Lorne Park Model United Nations team of thirty delegates embarked on an exciting trip to Montreal, to compete in the McGill University Model UN conference SSUNS. The weekend included hours of researching, debating, drafting resolutions, and lots of public speaking. Students on the trip, accompanied by Mr. Huang and Ms. Emami, also explored the beautiful city of Montreal, and made many new friends. The delegates had the opportunity to meet hundreds of people from all around the world; it is truly unforgettable. On the second day at SSUNS, the team went on a guided tour of Montreal by a McGill student and former Lorne Park Spartan. They also had the chance to attend a gala on the final night, where the delegates danced 'til they dropped! Lorne Park's eloquent and professional team definitely dressed the part for the closing ceremony, where three members, Aarian Bhakoo, Matthew DeFrancesco and Carmen Kossakowski all won awards for their phenomenal efforts and hard work. The students represented Lorne Park brilliantly, and we're so proud. This weekend, five delegates will be participating in the University of Toronto conference, at the St. George Campus. Wish them luck!

