



NORWELL NEWS

QUI SE VINCIT FORTITER STAT
He who conquers himself stands strong .

**NORWELL DISTRICT SECONDARY
SCHOOL**

Principal - H. Pedjase, B. Sc., B. Ed.
Vice Principal - C. Harrison, B.A., M. Ed.

135 Cumberland Street
Palmerston, Ontario
N0G 1P0

November 2009

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS:

Norwell celebrated its annual Commencement ceremony this past week, and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet and congratulate our most recent graduates on their achievements again this year. This celebration does bring to light how quickly the years pass and how rapidly our students move through from their first days in grade 9 to readiness for the trials of adult life. In the meantime, we continue to work diligently at providing the best possible educational opportunities for our students in all curricular areas, and continue to review and provide new courses and challenges in this regard. As well, we have entered into the world of e-learning, and have offered GWL30, a cooperative education course to students from across our board over this past year. For more information on e-learning, please contact Mrs. Pam TarBush in our guidance department. We continue to work on the phase of instructional technology within the building as all of our computer hardware was replaced and new projection units were installed in many of our classrooms.

Planning continues in preparation for our 70th Reunion in May of 2010. We will be hosting a golf tournament, decade rooms, camping, a welcome back assembly and show, food, and a dinner and dance, so plan to attend and spend some time with past acquaintances and staff enjoying this event. Please contact Gina Fuller at the school at extension #303, via e-mail at norwell@ugdsb.on.ca , or visit our website for further information at <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/norwell/> . Volunteers are always welcome to assist in preparation for this event, so please let us know if you are able to help out.

On October 02, 2009 MPP Wilkinson was here to announce the increase in the Specialist High Skills Major program. This is a program where students take a bundle of 8 - 10 Grade 11 and 12 credits. These include 4 major credits that provide sector specific knowledge and skills, 2 - 4 other required credits from the Ontario curriculum and 2 cooperative education credits that provide authentic learning experiences in a workplace setting. Students also earn sector recognized certifications and/or training. Norwell had Manufacturing approved for implementation last year and this year gained approval for Environment, Construction, Health and Wellness (Cosmetology), and Business. Dr Martha Rogers (Director of UGDSB), Bruce Schieck (Trustee for UGDSB), Town of Minto Deputy Mayor Judy Dirksen and the local media were present for the event. The group toured our Cosmo class and the Construction class to visit the students and to hear MPP Wilkinson's announcement.

On a more serious note, I would ask parents to carefully consider the effects that our modern technology has had upon communication and learning among our students. The internet has been a boon in terms of the amount of information being made available to our children, but it does have its down side in a variety of ways in relation to interruptions to class, messaging in various forms, and the time spent in isolation from personal contact with family and friends. Cell phones, though they provide parents with a sense of security in terms of being able to be in voice or text contact with their children, often have caused disruption as students attempt to respond to messages while in class. These phones have also proven to be a source of ongoing concern in that some students feel free to text inappropriate and sometimes threatening messages to others in our community. The result of this type of messaging has been an increase in off-task behaviour in classes, and in an increase in the number of verbal and physical altercations between students over the content of the messages sent. As well, sites such as MSN Messenger and Facebook have also proven to provide a venue for such inappropriate behaviour, which again causes a spill-over into the school. Texting of threatening or inappropriate messages is an offence, and is considered an act of harassment by the police, so I would ask that parents

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please assist us by monitoring the types of sites and content their students are working with at home, and to provide reminders about the need to have cell phones off during the school day while inside of the building.

INCLEMENT WEATHER FOR OUR BUS STUDENTS



Your child rides a "North Wellington" school bus or taxi to school. When you hear the radio announcement "All school taxis and buses in North Wellington will not be operating today" your child's bus or taxi is cancelled. Unless noted otherwise, schools will remain open.

During times of inclement weather, please listen to: 1460 AM CJOY, 106.1 Magic FM, Oldies 1090 AM, 105.3 Kool FM, News Talk 570 AM, 96.7 FM CHYM, 920 AM & 101.7 FM CKNX, CKCO-TV for school transportation cancellations.

A decision to cancel transportation is made by 6:30 a.m. in order to give all parents and drivers sufficient notice. The decision is based on a number of factors, including the actual weather and road conditions, as checked first-hand by designated Bus Operators in each area, weather predications made by Environment Canada, and information on road conditions from the local Road Superintendent.

Parents can also check the school website <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/norwell/> for bus cancellations.

BILLETS FOR BUS STUDENTS

Buses will not leave early when weather deteriorates during the day. In situations where buses can not safely take students home at the end of the day, the school needs to have an alternate plan for bus students. All parents are asked to complete the enclosed sheet to indicate your wishes regarding the billeting of your child(ren). Parents of students who walk to school are asked to indicate if they are willing to billet one or two bus students.

Please return Inclement Weather - Billet Form to the main office as soon as possible.

H1N1 UPDATE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH

H1N1 is in our community. It is occurring more frequently in people 0 to 18 years of age. Although most people recover at home, some children and adults get very ill and require hospitalization and intensive care.

Children 6 months to 4 years have been identified as priority groups to receive H1N1 influenza vaccine. We are also strongly encouraging children ages 5 to 18 be vaccinated.

No children have died from getting the vaccine. But children who were not vaccinated have died from H1N1 flu.

The most common reactions to the H1N1 flu shot include:

- a sore arm with swelling is very common but goes away in a day or two
- fatigue • muscle and joint pain • headache
- rarely some younger children have a fever, drowsiness, irritability, and loss of appetite

I strongly encourage you to protect your child from H1N1 by having them vaccinated as soon as possible. For clinic schedules and for more information about the H1N1 vaccine, please go to our website at www.wdghu.org or call 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4161.

We appreciate the actions parents, students, and school staff have taken to prevent the spread of illness. Please

continue to take steps to protect yourself and your family.

H1N1 and seasonal flue clinics by the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit will be in our areas:

Drayton - Mapleton Health Centre	- Wed. Nov. 25 & Wed. Dec. 16	2 - 7:30 pm
Palmerston Community Centre	- Wed. Nov. 18 & Wed. Dec. 16	2 - 7:30 pm
Mount Forest WDG Public Health	- Wed. Nov. 04 & Wed. Dec. 02	2 - 7:30 pm

BULLY AWARENESS WEEK - November 16 - 20, 2009

Recently, I have been asked by Administration to go in to some classrooms to address the issue of bullying. I have to say that my initial reaction to this was anger and disappointment. To be addressing issues of bullying in a high school seems redundant. I anticipated the reaction I would receive by students when I introduced my reason for the presentation-rolled eyes and deep sighs. Anti-bullying messages are displayed in videos, movies, posters, songs, so it would seem that there is little, or no need to repeat the message. Needless to say, bullying continues and every day people fall victim to bullying incidents.

Canadian research indicates that bullying affects 15 - 30% of all students at all grade levels. It also says that one in four Ontario students have been bullied, and a third express that they have bullied someone else. Bullying is a conscious, wilful, deliberate, hostile and repeated behaviour by one or more people, which is intended to harm others. It involves aggressive behaviour and is an imbalance of power between the bully and the victim. It can be direct or indirect and can include: taunts, threats, kicking or punching, spreading rumours, exclusion, social isolation and now includes cyber bullying and text bullying. The bullied or the victim often feels sad, angry, frustrated, afraid, rejected and embarrassed. Family members of the victim can feel angry, frustrated and helpless.

What can Norwell do as a school? One response often given to this question is to say that bullying will always be around and that bullying is a normal part of growing up. This acceptance of behaviour and attitude only gives the bullies more power. We need to stop bullying. The 70 - 80% of people not being bullied or just standing by, need to step up! Do we not have a moral responsibility to stand up for those being treated inappropriately and disrespectfully? In 2007, two senior students in Nova Scotia did just that. Travis Price and David Shepard, took a stand in support of a grade 9 boy being ostracized for wearing a pink shirt to school. They gathered other students to join them by wearing pink shirts the following day. Today the Sea of Pink campaign is nation wide and sends a clear message that bullying will not be tolerated. November 16 - 20th is Bully Awareness Week. This will be an opportunity to highlight the seriousness of bullying in our school community and for Norwell students to take a stand against bullying behaviour. The week will consist of activities as well as a guest speaker presenting on Internet Safety during our late start assembly. Friday will be "Pink Day" in support of the "Sea of Pink" campaign. T-shirts will be sold throughout the week for \$10.00. If you would like further information about any of the events, please feel free to call Kim Sonnet at 519-343-3107 ext. 313.

Kim Sonnet

SMART START: PRACTICE FOR THE ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST

Is your son or daughter writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) this year? This provincial test measures the performance of grade 10 students on the reading and writing expectations in all subjects up to and including grade 9. **Successful completion of the OSSLT is a graduation requirement.**

The Upper Grand District School Board is providing an opportunity to prepare for the OSSLT, which will be administered this year on April 8, 2010. This opportunity is referred to as the Smart Start Program, and it is taught by teachers here at Norwell. This is a chance for your son or daughter to improve reading and writing skills for the OSSLT this year.

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The program is free of charge and all students who are eligible to write the OSSLT in April are encouraged to attend these sessions. Smart Start will run at Norwell from the start of second semester (**February 2010**) until the end of March, just in advance of the administration of the OSSLT.

To register your son or daughter for Smart Start, or if you have any questions, please contact Colleen Glavin at colleen.glavin@ugdsb.on.ca or 519-343-3107 ext. 430.

PLANNING A VACATION?

If your future plans include a family vacation of 15 or more consecutive school days, please notify the Principal in writing of your plans, in accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines. Please refer to Regulation 298 Section 23.3 of the Education Act for more detail. For shorter vacations, we would ask that parents and students complete our Request for Temporary Withdrawal form so that teachers are aware of absences and can provide work for the time missed.

Please also be aware of the Exam Schedule for January and June which is published by the Board in the early spring and plan any vacations so they do not coincide with exams. (These are posted on the Board website and in the Norwell Agenda given to each student in September 2009.)

NOTES FOR ABSENCES

Synrevoice is an automated system that will place a call to the student's home if they have been marked absent in one or more classes regardless of a note being sent or a call or e-mail sent by a parent. Parents must confirm the reason for the student's absence by leaving a message on the school's answering machine or by sending a note with the student the next day for a full days absence. If no note is sent or phone call made by the parents, then the student is automatically considered truant for 4 classes. Notes need to be sent with a student if that student has an appointment during the school day. Please remember that students must sign in and out.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

Last year at Norwell we were pleased to offer a specialized program in the Manufacturing sector. This year we were approved by the Ministry of Education to include the following specialist high skills major sectors: Environment, Construction, Business, Health and Welfare. The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a ministry-approved specialized program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The intent of the Program is to assist students in their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university, or the workplace.

An SHSM enables students to gain sector-specific skills and knowledge in the context of engaging, career-related learning environments and helps them to focus on graduation and on pursuing their post-secondary goals.

Every SHSM must include the following five components, which are outlined in detail in individual guides for each sector:

1. A bundle of 8 - 10 Grade 11 and Grade 12 credits that included:
 - i) 4 major credits that provide sector-specific knowledge and skills
 - ii) 2 - 4 other required credits from the Ontario curriculum, in which some expectations are met through learning activities contextualized to the sector

iii) 3 cooperative education credits that provide  authentic learning experiences in a workplace setting, enabling students to refine, extend, and practise sector-specific knowledge and skills

- 2. sector-recognized certifications and/or training courses
- 3. experiential learning and career exploration activities within the sector
- 4. "reach ahead" experiences connected with the student's chosen post-secondary pathway
- 5. development of Essential Skills and work habits required in the sector, and the use of the Ontario Skills Passport (OSP) for purposes of documentation

Students who have earned an SHSM can provide evidence of their achievement of the required components (e.g., sector-recognized certifications and training programs) to prospective employers and post-secondary educational or training institutions.

Successful completion of an SHSM is indicated on the student's Ontario Secondary School Diploma by a red seal.

For more information on the SHSM program at Norwell, please contact Sarrah Beemer at sarrah.beemer@ugdsb.on.ca or 519-343-3107 ext. 334.

UPCOMING STUDENT COUNCIL EVENTS

Wednesday November 16th Redmen Pep Rally

Come out and support Norwell athletes. The rally will consist of games, activities, face painting, tattoos, music and fun! After the rally head to the Palmerston arena to cheer on the boys hockey team.

Friday December 11th Semi-Formal

Attend our Winter Wonderland and dance the night away! Check out the bulletin board by the small gym for more details.

Friday December 18th Christmas Assembly

Calling all students: If you are interested in performing at the Christmas assembly let us know! There will be a sign up sheet on the Student Council bulletin board. Stay tuned to the announcements for more information!



Gather the Girls for a 'GIRLS NIGHT IN'

Bring your mothers, your sisters, your aunts and friends! Come out to the **Harriston Community Complex on Monday, November 30th, 2009 between 6:00 - 10:00pm**. A minimum donation of \$5.00 is asked to enter the event which showcases various vendors including cosmetics, clothing and unique Christmas gift ideas. All of these and much more will be available for purchase or come and enjoy a demonstration put on by local ladies. Sit down for a manicure from Norwell's cosmetology class and finish the night off with some pink treats in support of Breast Cancer and the Canadian Cancer Society. All proceeds from this event will be given to the Canadian Cancer Society. This event is a kick off to Norwell's Relay for Life 2010. Come on out ladies and join in the fun! Hope to see you there wearing your pink!

LINK CREW MOVIE NIGHT



All link crew, including grade nine students and link leaders are invited to a free night at the movies. Come walk the red carpet at the Norgan Theatre on Wednesday November 25th from 4:30 - 8:00pm. Don't miss out on this amazing event!!! Tickets to this private showing will be distributed to all grade nine students the week of the show. Mark it on your calendar and see your link leader for more details.



NORWELL SPORTS UPDATE

Once again Norwell athletes had an excellent fall season. Several teams finished very high in the standings. As well, they continued to represent the Norwell community in exemplary fashion.

Girls Field Hockey - After resurrecting the team, this energetic group finished 4th in the tough District 4/10 loop. This secured a home playoff game for the first time in years. A win in the quarters was followed by a loss to the eventual district champions from Fergus. However, the girls did score the only goal that Fergus allowed in the playoffs. Great work, ladies!

Junior Girls Basketball - This hard working group finished 4th in the regular season. Playoff results were unavailable as of this update.

Junior Boys Volleyball - The junior Redmen finished off their regular season in 1st place in the District 4 loop. They also captured tournament championships at both the Norwell tournament and at F.E. Madill. With their semi final win on November 9th, the team qualified for CWOSSA which is scheduled for Thursday, November 19th at Norwell.

Senior Boys Volleyball - The senior Redmen finished in first place in the regular season in the District 4 league. This group also captured their first ever Norwell tournament championship after a huge comeback victory versus Bluevale. The team has also qualified for the CWOSSA championships at Norwell on November 19th with their semi final win over Wellington Heights.

Junior Boys Soccer - After a 3rd place finish in the regular season, the team travelled to Mount Forest for the playoffs and knocked off the higher ranked Wolverines to earn a spot in the District final. Unfortunately, a valiant second half comeback fell short as the team dropped the title to Westside. Fantastic work this year, gentlemen!

Senior Boys Soccer - This young team made great strides throughout the year, but unfortunately dropped a 3 hour shootout thriller in the semi finals. Fantastic work all year, gentlemen!

Tennis - An exuberant contingent of athletes travelled to Guelph for the D4/10 championships, however they ran into tough competition and were eliminated from further play.

Cross country - A small but proud group of athletes represented Norwell at both the District and CWOSSA meets. Emma Foster led the way for Norwell with a 6th place finish in the junior girls event at Districts, followed by a solid 14th finish at CWOSSA.

WINTER SPORTS UPDATE

The winter season has also begun with the Redmen competing in *boys hockey*. The team opened up the season with a 5-3 victory over rival J.F. Ross to open the season.

Curling, Girls Volleyball, and Boys Basketball will begin soon.

Thanks to all who have helped out at the recent tournaments. Without the support from students, staff, and parent volunteers, our athletic program would not run as smoothly as it does. As well, a big thank you to all those who participated and sponsored students in our fall Student For Hire Day.

Check www.scorestop.com for all team schedules and results.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 19th - CWOSSA "AA" Boys Volleyball Tournament (E.C. Gray Centre)

Friday, November 27th - Junior and Senior Girls Volleyball Tournaments (E.C. Gray Centre)

Friday, December 4th & Saturday, December 5th - Norwell Redmen Boys Hockey Tournament (Palmerston, Harriston, Drayton, Listowel)

Volunteers are Important

(Please complete and return to the office)

Name(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Name(s) of Child(ren)	Grade	Teacher(s)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Telephone Number: Home _____ Work _____

email address: _____

Volunteers are Needed (check as many as you like) I am unable to volunteer

in my child's classroom Grade _____ Teacher _____

in another classroom

reading program (Training will be provided)

in the Library

Assisting with Field Trips my child's class other classes when needed

School Council

Norwell 2010 Reunion

