

North Toronto Collegiate Institute School Council Meeting: October 17th, 2006

Executive Council Meeting:

- We agreed to pay for School Council insurance (\$121) out of the funds allocated from the School budget.

School Advisory Council:

Welcome by Toby Rosner: Co-Chair

Student Council Report Chloe Castonguay (President)

- **Fees:** School Council has finished counting the funds that parents sent in. An update of the balance will come shortly after the office has reviewed the count.
- **Red & Grey Day** is October 27th. In the morning students decorate their home forms in red and grey. Then everyone marches down to Northern with the Marching Band to watch a football game.
- **Semi-Formal:** There will be a Semi-Formal on November 17th at the Hungarian Hall.
- **Bowl-a-thon:** On October 27th there will be a Bowl-a-thon to raise money for North Toronto's Music Program.
- **Sock Drive:** Send in clean new socks to donate to charity by Friday, October 20th.

Coordinator of Student Services – Preparing for College/University – Barb Joly

General Tips

- Important that your children know that you are interested in their academics.
- Discuss classes and set goals.
- Offer to help with homework.
- Listen to what they say about school and talk about what's happening at school. Don't be judgmental.
- If your student is not talking to you, suggest they talk to their Guidance Counselor.
- Encourage involvement in extra-curricular activities.
- Suggest students keep a portfolio of their involvement for future application purposes.
- Monitor activities and jobs and encourage volunteer involvement (note: some scholarships are based entirely on commitment to community and volunteering – right through Grade 9 to 12).
- Avoid: 1)nagging about grades, 2)letting students miss school unless really ill, 3)criticizing a teacher in front of a student, and 4)making your child's successes or failures your own.
- Work with the school – you care at home, we care at school.

If your child is not doing well, look at the following:

- Attendance
- Appropriateness of courses (different students are successful in different courses or in different levels of courses).
- Accountability (students need to know someone is interested, successes are celebrated and performance is noted).
- Alcohol and drug use

Grade by Grade Suggestions

Grade 9

- For some students, there is quite an adjustment to high school.
- Be supportive and help students develop solid, good work habits that they will carry through life.
- Contact counselor if your child needs some help and encourage your child to seek help.
- Welcome their friends into your home.
- Encourage extra-curricular and volunteer involvement.

- Students should begin to keep a file of all volunteer, extra-curricular activities, awards, achievements – to be kept through Grade 12.
- Be actively involved in course selection for Grade 10.
- Attend Options Night.

Grade 10

- Encourage your children to take the Career Studies course seriously (although not an academic course, your children will learn a lot about themselves and what opportunities lie ahead).
- Consider the possibility of taking a fifth year.
- At course selection time, encourage your children to speak with teachers about content and expectations of Gr. 11 courses and to counselors about pathways and university/college entrance requirements. What your child can do in Grade 12 is determined by the choices they make for Grade 11.
- Be open to more than one post-secondary option.
- Attend Options Night.

Grade 11

- Jackson Vocational Interest Survey and other interest tests are available.
- University/college information sessions can be attended by Gr. 11 students – encourage your students to attend.
- Visits to campuses – take your Grade 11 students. It makes more sense to attend in Grade 11.
- Encourage your children to complete their 40 hours of community service before the end of Grade 11.
- A student looking at scholarships should have way more than 40 hours.
- If interested in American universities, P-SAT and SAT.
- Universities and colleges will get final Gr. 11 marks and some early offers will be based on final Gr. 11 marks and a projection of Gr. 12 marks. Also, Gr. 11 marks can be important if a student becomes ill in Grade 12 or something else happens.
- Attend Options Night.

Grade 12

- Work hard from Sept. to June – no coasting (some students receive early acceptance but have it rescinded due to poor marks in the final months).
- Each student should have a post-secondary file.
- Grad Workshop in the week before the University Information Program (Sept.) at the Metro Convention Centre – discuss package (including OUAC book) with your children.
- Grad e-mail (parents sign up too by going to ntci.on.ca and looking under mailing list).
- PIN's required to complete university application process come in late November.
- Deadline is January 10th. Students should apply prior to the end of December.
- Students must look at applications carefully to ensure they have submitted properly and completed all the information.
- Encourage your children to take responsibility (you can't do it for them).
- Remind your children regarding the dead-lines.
- A decision to take a fifth year is not viewed negatively at all by universities.
- All the marks are sent in. All final Grade 11 marks are sent in. All final Grade 12 marks are sent in.
- Sign up for the Grad Email.
- Apply for scholarships and bursaries.

Ontario University and College Applications: A hand-out was provided outlining the application procedures. There is a fee of \$100 to apply to up to three universities in Ontario.

What is Important to Me? In choosing a university a student should consider:

- Location of University/College (eg. Size of city)
- Nature of University (eg. Size)
- Structure of Academic Year (eg. Semester or Trimester)

- Program Availability (eg. Bilingual program, range and flexibility in course selection)
- Residence/Housing (eg. On-campus etc.)
- Student Services (eg. Special services, athletic facilities, extra-curricular activities etc.)
- Scholarships (eg. Availability)
- Other Factors (eg. Parents preference, friends, proximity to relatives etc.)

Note that when they apply to university, the first marks that go with them are Grade 11. Grade 12 marks are first sent in February. In the future, the expectation is that Grade 10 marks will be included as well (this won't be for another 2 or 3 years).

Scholarships – make sure students search early to find out the information to apply. Some scholarships you apply for on-line but for others you need to be nominated.

Some Helpful Websites

- www.careercruising.com (username: Toronto password: 40140)
- www.electronicinfo.ca
- www.ouac.on.ca
- www.ontariocolleges.ca
- www.studentawards.com
- www.ilc.org (even though it asks, you don't have to log in, just click on Career Matters – an excellent website. Many links to valuable career and education information).

Principal's Report (Joel Gorenkoff)

- **Parent Email:** Be sure to sign up. Information on school activities is sent out. It is a great way to stay updated.
- **Commencement:** Thank you for supporting commencement and in particular the grad dinner. It is a wonderful tradition at N.T.C.I.
- **Awards Ceremony:** This happened the day after commencement with a reception that followed.
- **Safety:** We must have six fire drills per year. Our second fire drill will be this Friday. This year, likely on November 2nd, we will have a lock-down drill.
- **Evacuation Plan:** The school evacuation plan has been updated.
- **New Building:** The NW corner is messy because they are building a Sales Office. A website is being developed to provide an important communication link. The pool sub-committee is very active. A public arts committee is also in place, there is a meeting at 2:00 p.m. on October 20th. There is an upcoming meeting to allow departmental experts to comment on the plans.
- **P.A. Days:** February 9th is being moved to February 16th. The Board has added a P.A. Day on December 8th and one on March 2nd. We are awaiting final Ministry confirmation.
- **Census:** TDSB is conducting a census at all high schools. Each student will be asked to complete a census. NTCI is aware that some of the questions on the census may be of a sensitive or personal nature and parents and students are encouraged to remember that the census is voluntary and anonymous. More information at census@tdsb.on.
- **Thank you to parents for coming out tonight:** This kind of democracy works. Your suggestions are very valued and action is taken. For example, communication regarding school activities was raised at the September meeting and there is now a board outside the office where students can read a copy of the Hot Air announcements and read information about clubs etc.
- **Co-op Placements:** If you know anybody who could take a Co-op student, please contact the Co-op teachers or the office.

Vice-Principal's Report (Ken Do)

- Achievement Co-ordinator for Report Cards and Exam Schedule.
- **Take Your Kids to Work:** This happens on November 1st. Students must return the form by October 20th.

- **EQAO 2005/2006:** Grade 10 students should have already received his/her results.
- **Interviews:** November 23rd from 2:00 to 4:00 and 6:00 to 8:00. Sign up for interviews via a form that is send home with your child's report card.
- **Report Cards:** November 16th.
- **Literacy Results:** 98% for N.T.C.I.! The Board is 80% and the province is 84%. Numeracy for N.T.C.I. was at 85% with the Board at 65% and the Province at 71%. More information regarding the tests and the scoring can be found at www.eqao.com.
- **Christmas Exams:** Exams will run from December 13th until December 22nd.

Treasurer's Report (Simon Berkowitz)

We discussed and agreed financial requests to review as follows:

Item	Amount	Approvers
IT Co-op to maintain computers	1755	Motion to move by Simon Berkowitz , seconded by Karen Kingsmill
Mentor for new English teachers	\$400	Motion to move by Simon Berkowitz, seconded by Irwin Kleinman
Replace obsolete equipment for Graffiti	\$693	Motion to move by Simon Berkowitz, seconded by Brenda Holz
Graphing calculators	\$2051.77	Motion to move by Simon Berkowitz , seconded by Phyllis Cincinatus

Note: We received a grant of \$2000 for equipment that calls parents when students are absent.

Minutes of September 12th, 2006 Meeting

- Motion to move to approve the minutes by Toby Rosner and seconded by Karen Kingsmill. Motion carried.

Election Candidates

- All individuals interested in running for a Council position, please email Toby Rosner at tobyrosner@sympatico.ca

Schedule for 06/07 School Year Meetings

- November 21, 2006
- January 23, 2007
- February 20, 2007
- April 17, 2007
- May 29, 2007

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Toby Rosner and seconded by Jane Lewis. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.