

**Saunders Secondary School  
School Council Meeting  
Wednesday, October 3, 2018 7:00 p.m. Library**



**Staff Report: Department Updates**

**Special Education**

Special Education is part of a continuum of supports at Saunders (ESL, Guidance, Psychology and Social work, Student Success, Sabres Den, Chromebook Pilot Project, Google Classroom) so as to be available to all students. ➔ The Special Education Department also offers learning support courses for students who are working with individualized education plans. ➔ There is strong spirit of inclusion to offer additional support to our system classrooms with the goal of building a community.

**Dance and Drama**

Drama Club runs Fridays at lunch from September until November. It is led by three senior drama students and is a safe place for playing drama games and doing theatre activities. Most members are grade 9 students who are looking to meet new people. All grades are welcome to be a part of Drama Club and no prior performing experience is needed. ➔ The senior drama class just completed a Comedy Festival that was performed for an audience of grade 9 students.

**International Languages**

A Europe trip to France and Spain is planned for June 30, 2019. ➔ DELF International is a recognized French language proficiency exam for grade 12 students. Preparation for this exam begins later this month. Exams are held at the beginning of May in London. ➔ The International Languages Department offers five different languages (French, Spanish, Arabic, Oneida, Ojibwe) and English as a Second Language. Our ESL program, which began in September, currently has ten students and looks to be growing.

**Art**

*"The Visual Arts Department is excited about the collaborative environment that is brewing with our newest department member: Amanda Bonvanie. Amanda comes to us as an 18 year veteran teacher with a robust skill set that includes expertise in Photography and Ceramics. She is already a favourite of the students who are bubbling over with positive comments! Just this week, Ms. Bonvanie's classes have contributed fabulous works that can be viewed along the main hallway beside the LLC as you enter the building. Saunders is fortunate to have such a wonderfully outgoing and creative contributor to our school culture!" H. Curtis, Department Head* ➔ The Art Department is always looking for interesting donations of those odd things you hate to throw out. We are especially eager to upcycle sheets of styrofoam, large yogurt containers and plastic lids (along with many other "odds and bits" that you come across). Just have your child turn these items in to the main office.

## **Co-Operative Education**

Thanks to over 30 wonderful community partners, our co-op students this semester are all placed and enjoying their initial experiences in the workplace. Placements include medical clinics, service departments in car dealerships, banks and construction companies.

## **Technology**

Students are preparing for the Canadian Welding Bureau License testing. ➡ Robotics club has begun. ➡ Grade 9 Computer Engineering will be coding microcontroller-based sensors to help the Canadian Space Agency gather data for analysis of indoor environments, comparing classroom temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide levels with those on the ISS. ➡ Students in the Sabre Salon are starting to acquire the skills necessary for client services and a spa day in December. ➡ The Technology Department is planning a grade 10 Jill of All Trades Day in November during Gr.9 Take Your Kid to Work Day. The Technology Department is planning a Skills Competition as preparation for involvement in TVDSB Skills Competition in the new year. ➡ Communications students are recording football and basketball games for Saunders' teams.

## **Physical Education**

The new Health for Life class helped run the first ever Grade 9 Fun Day and the class will be going to Westmount Public School to do wellness activities with grades 1-3 classes. ➡ The SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major) Health and Wellness program started this year. Students recently had wrapping and taping certification. Students will be going to the University of Waterloo Kinesiology Day event on December 7th. The kinesiology class will also be attending. ➡ The Junior Girls Basketball Team won the Consolation Championship in the STA tournament last weekend.