



***Well Done, DCHS Students!
Write On!***

One of the wonderful things about my job is to have teachers share with me the many incredibly wonderful things that their students produce. It's exciting, fulfilling and rewarding! Through projects, tests, assignments, term papers and exams, students express their understanding of the curriculum and their ability to apply their learning to new situations.

Among the many things that we do very well as a school is to teach students how to write argumentative essays. In courses such as English and the Social Sciences, our teachers work diligently with students as they develop their writing skills. It isn't unusual to have some of our grads studying in university to say how well they've been prepared and how other students have come to them for help.

The Ministry of Education prescribes that thirty percent of the mark for every course be allotted to what are referred to as Culminating Tasks. In almost all courses this includes written exams worth between fifteen and twenty five percent of the final mark and an Independent Study Unit (ISU).

I've seen some amazing exams recently. Not only have students demonstrated how well they have learned the prescribed curriculum, they've shown that they are able to apply this knowledge to new situations.

Some of the ISUs I have seen have been incredible. Students are able to choose from a variety of different ways of demonstrating their understanding of the course

as a whole. I've looked through ISUs that are wonderfully creative in their use of visual arts or technology. Their depth, level of reflection and introspection as encompassing expressions of the whole course is awesome.

The aspect I find most rewarding is, through the assessment and evaluation, to see students develop in their thinking as young Christians. I'm not just speaking of a simplistic application of a line or two at the end of an assignment. I'm writing about deep and profound insights gained and demonstrated and creatively expressed throughout an essay or ISU. You know, of course, that fostering this growth in students is a big reason why we exist as a school. I'm so grateful and blessed to be able to see this happening in the lives of our students.

Mr. Fred Spoelstra

Prayer Requests

▣ Some of you have inquired with regard to our former staff member, Ms. Shannon Marcus, who is teaching at an international school in Cairo Egypt. Most recent word is that she is safe and well. She and her colleagues have been evacuated to a resort on the Red Sea which is 6 hours away from Cairo.

▣ For families with students in grade eight as they give consideration to enrolling their children at Durham for next year and for the Board and committees as they provide leadership for the present and the future of our school.

DCHS Board Notes

● The Board has launched a review of the Chapter system as an organizational structure and its effectiveness. This will include an assessment of current and future needs.

● The Board has developed a two-pronged approach to Strategic Planning. The two foci include:

1. Educational innovations
2. Building on Our Strengths

● In response to her request, the Board has granted a leave of absence to Mrs. Heather Duque from the time her maternity leave comes to a close until the next school year. We're grateful that Mrs. Sarah Muller will be able to stay with us for the whole of second semester.

● The Board voted to bring to the membership meeting in May a proposal to implement a casual student uniform. Details forthcoming.

Student Parliament

☺ The Valentines Banquet is Friday, Feb. 18! The doors open at 6 p.m. and the dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$20. The dance begins at 7:30 and ends at 10:30 p.m. The cost for just the dance is \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. Please sign up with Michelle & Michelle and pay ASAP. Sign up your guests in the office.



☺ Durham Gear is for sale in the Multi-purpose room at lunch!

☺ Pizza is for sale today for \$2.50 a slice.



Sports Report

We are hosting the OCSAA senior girls volleyball tournament this Friday and Saturday at Durham and St. Stephen's. Come out and cheer our girls' team on as they compete against other christian high schools from across the province.

Thanks

Take a look at Room 201! It looks fabulous! The Buildings & Grounds Committee would like to thank Andy Meima and Sharon McLean for spending an entire day carpeting the French room this past week. Free carpet was secured through Andy's efforts and we plan to re-do all of the upstairs classrooms this spring. We were on the eve of ordering new carpet several months ago and this donation came in at the 11th hour, saving us thousands of dollars! Thanks Andy for all your work and Sharon for spending the day keeping Andy in line!

School Closure



Should inclement weather necessitate that we close school, we will do our best to make and communicate that decision prior to 7:00 a.m. Decisions as to whether or not buses will run are made on a chapter by chapter basis and communicated to the principal by the chapter contact person. The decision to close school is based on how many students will be missing and communicated through the chapter telephone chain, posted on our school web site and announced on 1580 AM and 107.7 FM. Chapter contact persons, please call Mr. Spoelstra at his home at (905) 623-5778 well before 7:00 a.m. if your bus will not be running. If certain buses are not running but school is open we will post homework on the school web site for those unable to come in.

Welcome Students from France!

We're looking forward to our visitors from France! We will be hosting a group of sixteen students ages 15 - 18 from a high school in France (the Lycée Philippe de Girard) from Monday April 18 to Tuesday April 26. This includes the Easter weekend. While they are at our school we will be connecting them with students in our 3U French class. They will be spending some of their time with us at school and some of their time away on group trips throughout southern Ontario.

While a number of our families have indicated their willingness to serve as host families, we are looking for eight more host families. Six for male students and two for female students. Please consider extending hospitality to our guests by opening your homes. Remuneration for host families is **\$154** per week. Please register soon since we need to be working out transportation arrangements for our guests. This is different than our previous group from Germany and we're fully confident that this group will have a fully organized and well planned itinerary with no unexpected expectations. Interested? Contact Mrs. Arlene Heasman. She'd like to know as soon as possible. Telephone: (905) 428-6829 Email: arleneheasman@sympatico.ca Thanks for your consideration!

Immunization Forms

Some students have been given immunization update notices from the Durham Region Health Department. Please attend to this matter as soon as possible.



Online Counseling

Just a reminder that former teacher and counselor, Mr. Abel Zwart, is available to you as an on-line counselor. Wise counsel, free of charge. Mr. Zwart can be contacted at myhomework@rogers.com or at his Facebook page under his name.

Guidance

Gr. 11s and 12s. Do not delay in your search for scholarships. The best place to find them is on studentawards.com and on the website of the schools you are interested in attending. There are scholarships for grades, essays, community service, creating videos, poetry. Sounds great doesn't it but yes, it takes time!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 3** Report Cards go home
- Feb. 4,5** OCSAA VB
- Feb. 21** Family Day
- Feb. 23** Grad Photos
- Feb. 24** Math Competition Gr.11
- Mar. 9** Gr. 8 BB Tournament
- Mar. 11** Project / PD/ Report Card Writing Day
- Mar. 14-18** March Break
- Mar. 21** First Third Report Cards
- Mar. 24** Parent / Student/ Teacher Conferences
- Mar. 31** Gr. 10 Literacy Test
- Mar 31-Apr. 2** *Drama Queens Gone Wild* production

\$\$ Easy Fundraiser \$\$ - No Cost to You -

Just a reminder that you can easily raise funds for your Chapter by purchasing gift cards from them. There are quite a variety of gift cards available and they are used like cash. A few examples are Tim Hortons, Canadian Tire, grocery stores, gas stations, Winners and many more. To purchase your gift cards contact
Bowmanville - 905-623-5871
Cobourg - 905-372-8766
Port Perry - 905-985-3741
Lindsay - 705-328-2061

DURHAM CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

340 West Scugog Lane, Bowmanville (905)623-5940

WWW.DCHS.COM

If you do not belong to one of these Chapters but would like to participate, please call the DCHS office 905-623-5940.

www.dchs.com

Check out our website. It has easy access to various handbooks, the student planner, the school calendar, forms, guidance, academics and current events.

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