



On Being Evaluated

Writing exams isn't exactly what students would consider fun. That's certainly my memory of writing exams while in university and high school. While levels will vary from student to student and from subject to subject, a certain amount of anxiety is quite normal. It can even be helpful as students work to concentrate on being well prepared for exams and focused while writing. We also recognize that there can be a point at which it is debilitating. Our thoughts and feelings regarding being evaluated are tied up not only in consideration of our ability to do well, but also often associated with how we feel about ourselves and having to face our abilities and inabilities.

In January our school was evaluated by the Ontario Ministry of Education. School inspection occurs every two years with the focus being on our delivery of the expectations mandated for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Materials are submitted and reviewed in detail by the inspector. The inspection visit includes visiting a number of classes to ensure that we're doing what we say we're doing. While we have "sailed through" inspection visits time after time, they still come with some trepidation. We're being evaluated.

As teachers we have taken steps to distinguish between assessment for learning and evaluation of learning. Both are integral to the process of educating. Evaluation isn't just to provide "the final mark". The purpose is also rooted in working to improve how students learn and how curriculum is delivered. So too, the visit from the school inspector was both about how well we are meeting expectations and about how we can improve.

We recognize that being evaluated is very much part of life. Formally and informally, it happens all the time, not only in school but at work, and church and whatever we do. While all the talking in the world won't

remove all feelings of anxiousness, the more we recognize the growth opportunities that evaluation can present, the greater the opportunity for us to develop in the use of our talents and gifts.

Mr. Fred Spoelstra

P.S. Just in case you're wondering, the school inspection visit was very positive. And, the inspector's comments present us with opportunities to fine tune a few more things.

Welcome!

We welcome Kate Rutherford and her parents Rob and Irene to our school. She joins us in tenth grade. We hope and trust that you will soon feel a part of our school community.

Prayer Requests

☑ Wesley is doing well. He is regaining weight and his energy levels are very improved. On Friday of this week he begins the third of four rounds of chemotherapy. Please continue to pray for Wesley and his family as they walk this road together.



☑ For the Board and committees of our school as they provide leadership in meeting the needs of our school community and in holding true to the vision and mission of our school.

☑ For our students and staff as we begin a new semester.

Maternity Leave Position

We are looking to fill a maternity leave position for the months of May and June of this year. The position is 2/3 time. The two wonderful courses to be taught are Biology 3U and Chemistry 4U. Qualified applicants are invited to contact Mr. Spoelstra at the school. Application deadline is Friday, March 9th.

Report Cards

Report cards for first semester will be distributed to students on Friday. Whereas report cards for first term and for second term are sent home electronically, the final report must be a hard copy. You will not be sent an electronic copy. With the report card you will receive a note stating that, while we do not schedule a time for interviews, we invite you to contact the school to set up interviews if you would like.

Everything is Not Enough

Are you ready for another great DCHS production? The rehearsals are well underway under the capable direction of Mrs. Kathy Thompson. In this play, *Everything is Not Enough*, there is a teenager named Michael whose dad has Michael's whole life mapped out for him – get into the 'right' college and then a career in his dad's company. But at just 17, Michael wants to experience the 'real' world. Michael gets a job in Braden's Port, a resort town where his family are 'summer people' – well-to-do vacationers. Through this job Michael becomes involved in his new friends' lives. One of the friends is struggling with alcoholism and the raging frustration of dealing with his post high school life. When Michael finds himself involved in their abusive relationship, he realizes this is the world his dad has been protecting him from, one of stunted dreams and sudden violence.



Performances will be Feb. 23-25 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$12/adult and \$6/student. Tickets will go on sale Monday, Feb 6.

Student Parliament

☺ Valentine's Banquet is on Feb. 10. It costs \$20 for the dinner and dance. If you are just going to the dance, it is \$5. You can pay to any member of Student Parliament. There is a sign up sheet in the office for your guests. Sign up soon!



Needed: Props for the Play

The following items are needed for the upcoming drama production, *Everything is Not Enough*.

1. wooden park bench
2. Two fiberglass / plastic large outdoor style planters
3. Two sets of house numbers
4. Two ice cream sundae bowls, old fashioned glass ones
5. One non-collapsing umbrella
6. a bow tie
7. a large heart shaped locket necklace

If you would be willing to lend these items for the play, please call Kathy at 905-623-2973.

International Student – Home Stay Needed

We are expecting an international student to start school with us in the very near future. While a home stay for her has been arranged, we anticipate having more international students join us. If you are interested in the possibility of being a host for an international student for next year, please check out the Home Stay expectations as listed on our web site. Click **Home, International, Home Stay**. Remuneration is \$800. per month. Please contact Mr. Spoelstra at the school.

Sports Report



The senior girls volleyball team will be traveling to Belleville this weekend to compete in the OCSSAA girls volleyball tournament hosted by Quinte Christian.

The junior boys basketball team won their last game of the season defeating Courtice. Next week Tuesday they will play in the LOSSA quarter-finals against Clarke.

Prayer Group

Prayer Group will meet every Wednesday at 9 a.m. at DCHS in the Multi-purpose Room. Please join us in making the greatest difference in the lives of our teens, staff and supporters. Contact Linda Wielinga if you have any questions or prayer requests, at development@dchs.com

Guidance

If you wish to make a change your application for college or university please see Ms. Dibbits.

Key websites:

Comparisons: globecampus.ca
Money - studentawards.com
Universities - electronicinfo.ca
Colleges - ontariocolleges.ca
redeemer.ca, calvin.edu

If you would like to make a change to you course selection please discuss with your parent and have them email Ms. Dibbits with permission.

March Break is not that far away. Most colleges and universities have Open Houses for High School students. Plan on doing some hands on research.

Art Show at the Visual Art Centre

The Visual Arts Centre of Clarington is hosting an art show for local high schools from Jan. 22-Feb.19. Art teachers from seven Clarington secondary schools, including Durham, have selected work by their talented students to adorn the walls of the Arts Centre. This is an exciting opportunity to encounter the diverse vision of our emerging artists. The Visual arts Centre is located at 143 Simpson Avenue, Bowmanville. www.vac.ca.

Musical Opportunity for Those who Home School



Students who are being home schooled through high school are invited to participate in our Ministry Credited Instrumental Music Program. This includes both Senior Wind Ensemble which meets Tuesdays and Thursdays before school and Jazz Band which meets Tuesdays after school. If you know of those who may be interested in this option, please invite them to contact Mr. Spoelstra at the school.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 1** Semester 2 begins
- Feb. 2** College applications due
- Feb. 3** Report Cards go home
- Feb. 3,4** OCSAA VB & BB tournaments
- Feb. 20** Family Day
- Feb 21-22** Grad Photo Day
- Feb. 23** Gr. 11 Math Competition
- Feb. 23-25** *Everything is Not Enough* Drama Production
- Feb. 25** Night to Remember
- Mar. 4** Regional Church Service at DCHS
- Mar. 7** Gr. 8 Basketball Tournament
- Mar. 9** Project/PD/Report Card Writing Day
- Mar. 12-16** March Break
- Mar. 19** First Term Report Cards
- Mar. 22** Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- Mar. 29** Gr. 10 Literacy Test

Change to Calendar

Please update your school calendar. The new date for Art's Night (Instrumental / Visual) is Tuesday, June 5, 2012.

Night to Remember Evening

Mark the date on your calendar! On Saturday, February 25 you will be able to enjoy a delicious dinner, silent auction, and entertainment by Ron Moore, "The Voice of Elvis". Tickets are \$70.00 each (with a \$30 tax receipt). All proceeds go to Durham Christian High School West Chapter. For ticket information, please contact Angela Hosmar at 905-728-9600. This event will be held at Durham Christian Homes, Whitby and will begin at 5:00 pm.



Empty Printer Cartridges

We recycle your empty printer cartridges. Please drop off your used printer cartridges at DCHS or at Knox Christian school and we will recycle them.



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. The decisions to cancel buses are made by those in charge of transportation in the different parts of our catchment area. The "rule of thumb" they generally go by is whether or not local bus lines have canceled buses for their area. The decision to not run is conveyed to the principal who then makes the decision to close school based on how many students will be missing. This information is communicated through bus telephone chains, posted on our school web site and announced on 1580 AM and 107.7 FM. Those in charge of transportation are asked to 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.



Sponsor Ads Now Available!

We are opening up sponsor ads on the back page of our Durham Developments publication. We currently publish the Durham Developments three times a year with a distribution of 1600 to our supporting churches and elementary school families. If your company would like to advertise on our sponsor page, please contact Linda Wielinga at development@dchs.com.