



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Lisgar Collegiate Institute

Newsletter

February 17, 2009

Newsletter for Students, Parents and Staff of Lisgar Collegiate Institute

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WELCOME

Welcome back returning students and welcome to all new students. I would also like to introduce myself, Mr. David McMahon as the new principal for Lisgar as of February 2. My 30 years experience with the OCDSB includes being principal at Sir Robert Borden High School and Canterbury High School. I look forward to working with the staff, students and parents of LCI.

Thanks to Student Council for all their efforts in creating a strong culture of inclusion and enhancing the reputation of Lisgar. In the short time I have been at Lisgar I can feel the tremendous positive student energy you have helped create. I am most appreciative of the warm welcome I have received, not only from Student Council, but from the many students, parents and staff who have taken the time to introduce themselves and instantly make me feel a part of the Lisgar community.

Sincerely,
D. McMahon

END OF SEMESTER 1 REPORT:

Students are receiving a report card on Tuesday, February 17th, which reflects final marks for the first semester courses. We are extremely pleased with the efforts of all students and the progress and achievements they have demonstrated.

With March Break just around the corner, we recognize that many grade 12 students may have plans to travel to warmer destinations. Please be advised that the only school

supervised and sponsored trip is our trip planned by the Language Department to Greece. We want our students to be safe at all times and I encourage parents to investigate any proposed trip to ensure it satisfies your expectations. If you are unsure whether a trip is school sanctioned, please call the school. We often do not hear about the student-planned trips until just prior to the date of departure or, in some cases, after the students have returned. The ONLY school sponsored Grad event is Commencement, which is scheduled for Friday, June 26th at 11:00AM.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 19 – Mock Timetable Afternoon
February 26 – Option Sheets Due
March 3 – School Council Meeting (7pm)
March 16 – 20 – March Break – School Closed
April 2 – OSSLT
April 8 – Parent –Teacher Interviews
April 10 – Good Friday (no classes)
April 13 – Easter Monday (no classes)
April 14 – Term 4 begins
April 27 – Report Cards distributed

FINE ARTS, BUSINESS & LAW

Drama

Aahhh, the sweet smell of spring...! The Drama Club has begun rehearsals for an entertaining production of Noel Coward's witty, sophisticated 1920's British comedy, "Hay Fever". An eccentric, artistic family bewilders and neglects a group of hapless guests who arrive at their country home for

the weekend. After much melodrama, heartbreak and hilarity, the Bliss family's self-centered and outrageous behaviour eventually causes their house guests to flee.

The play will be presented for the general public on April 3rd and 4th in the Alumni Auditorium at 7:30pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in the main lobby at lunch 2 weeks prior to opening night. Production crews still require volunteers to help with set construction, costumes, props and publicity. Any parents who are able to lend or donate furniture or clothing from the 1910's -1930's, or who are willing to donate time to work with crews, please contact **Ms. Szeles** at 613-239-2696, or email jean.szeles@ocdsb.ca.

Music

Dates from the Music Department:

Tuesday March 31:- Music Department Performance Tour 2010 information meeting in Room 263 @ 7:00 pm

Week of April 6 – 9: Kiwanis Music Festival – All Concert Bands and Jazz Ensembles @ Woodroffe HS.

Week of April 12 – 14: Kiwanis Music Festival – All Orchestras and String Ensemble @ Lisgar CI (Alumni Auditorium)

Wednesday May 13 – Jazz and Choir Evening – Alumni Auditorium @ 7:30 pm

Thursday May 14 – Spring Music Night – Alumni Auditorium @ 7:30 pm

Wednesday June 3: Grade 12 Graduation Recital – Alumni Auditorium

Visual Arts

Congratulations to all Art students for another incredible display of talent and creativity showcased at the January 15th Art Show and Sale. The evening

was a grand success with something for the eyes, ears and palate of all who attended. The grade 12 students exhibited their portfolio pieces in the library while the students in grades 9, 10 and 11 were featured in the Art room and fourth floor. If you are looking for the next opportunity to experience Lisgar Art firsthand, the next Art Show and Sale will take place on June 4 / 09.

Last semester all Art students enjoyed a guided tour of some of the latest exhibits at the National Gallery. The grade 11 class in particular took part in a silkscreen workshop where they each designed and printed their own T-shirt. This semester, students can look forward to yet another interesting variety of fieldtrips. Stay tuned for more information.



Grade 11 students participating in a Silk Screening workshop at the National Gallery

The Art department would like to extend heartfelt thanks to **Pat Donaghy**, a fourth year Visual Arts student from Ottawa University. Pat volunteered his time to help out with two Art classes last semester. We are very fortunate in that he is returning to continue his work with two more classes this semester.

A friendly reminder for any interested students, the Art department hosts three clubs. Mondays at lunch, students can check out a wide array of art activities and techniques with the Art and Design club. Thursdays after school the Mural Maniacs meet, and Fridays at lunch students can watch the latest selection of Anime. Come see us in the Art department for more information on clubs, contests and creativity.

Lisgar Alumnus Directs Film - "In The Moment"

Lisgar Alumnus, **Sandra Chwialkowska**, directs the film, "In The Moment". This film follows six high school improv teams, including Lisgar, as they work their way through local and regional finals to reach the pinnacle of the sport, the Canadian Improv Games.

It has been sold to TV and will be released on commercial DVD in April and available at stores, such as HMV and on Amazon.

The theatrical premiere will be at the **Bytowne theatre in Ottawa, Feb. 20-22, '09.**

Sandra will be at the February 20th show (9PM), which will include a question and answer session.

Please check the following websites for more information:

- Official website - www.inthemomentfilm.com
- Bytowne Theatre - http://bytowne.ca/cgi-bin/film-descript.cgi?film_id=IMP001

ENGLISH & LANGUAGES

The Languages Club is hosting a potluck dinner on April 15th between 6:00 and 9:30 p.m. They would like to invite students, parents, and community members to share in this international feast!

The March Break trip to Greece is fast approaching. Parents or guardians of the student travelers must attend the second information session on Thursday, February 26th, 2009 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in the Lisgar Library. All required forms must be signed and

submitted by this date. Students must also give photocopies of passports and proof of travel insurance to Madame Perras as soon as possible. Paperwork was distributed at the last student meeting, which took place Wednesday, February 11, 2009 (unless it was picked up at the earlier parent meeting).

HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING

Congratulations to **Mr. Peter Niedre**. Mr. Niedre has accepted a directorship position at Canoe Kayak Canada. Over the past 11 years Mr. Niedre has made an incredible contribution to athletics at Lisgar. Many of his athletes have won championships and represented Lisgar at OFSAA. He has convened OFSAA championship events and hosted athletic meets for the NCSSAA. We wish him all the best and hope that he is able to visit often.

Mr. Paolo D’Emilio has joined the department this semester. He will be teaching grade 9 Phys. Ed. Has guided out Senior girls Volleyball team to the play offs.

Mr. Findlater will be leading a trip to the Ottawa Party Program for our grade 10 students.

Mrs. Morrison has arranged for Self Defense unit instruction for our grade 9 students.

Course selection for next year will take place in the up coming weeks. Parents of Grade 9 students should know that students are permitted to take both outdoor education and regular physical education in grade 10. Outdoor Education is offered outside the timetable giving students the opportunity to receive an additional credit on top of their regular course load. Grade 11 students who wish to pursue a career in any health sciences field should consider taking Exercise Science in Grade 12. It will give them a great introduction to anatomy and physiology, injury treatment, management and prevention.

Lisgar will be hosting the Ontario High School AAA Basketball final four on March 11.

Congratulations to our Boys’ Basketball teams. The regular season is wrapping up and play off are starting.

The junior volleyball teams are finishing try outs. The regular season will be starting soon.

The Nordic Ski and snowboard racing teams have been training hard and will be racing in NCSSAA competition this month.

Congratulations to **Ms. Odecki** and **Ms Medaglia** and there swimmers. They will be advancing to OFSAA in March.

Rugby training will soon expand beyond the weekly training session. Interested students should check the gym schedule, listen to the announcements and communicate with **Mr. Grills** and **Mr. Ruff** about the teams. No experience is needed and all students are welcome to join at any time. The senior team is planning to attend a pre season tournament at Trent University.

Track and field is training on most Monday mornings. Girl’s soccer will begin pre season training in the next few weeks.

This semester, the Lisgar sports council will be running tournament for table tennis, floor hockey, and volleyball.

The gym schedule can be found at www.lisgar.ca , follow the athletics link.

Team standings and results can be found at www.fatdog.ca , follow the NCSSAA link.

SCIENCE

The Science Department welcomes **Ms. Deslauriers** back, after returning from her educational leave. We wish **Miss Rattan** well, as she has completed her term with us, and we also wish **Mr. Niedre** well in his new career.

The Science Olympics will be held at the Canada Science and Technology Museum on February 18. **Miss MacDonald** and **Mr. Tokarski** will be supervising Lisgar's team.

The Space Simulation students and **Dr. Magwood** have been busy moving into new quarters at the old Ottawa Technical High School on Albert Street. Their annual trip, this time to Saturn's moon Iapetus, will be later in the spring than usual this year.

March is the month to sign up for the grade 11 and 12 chemistry and physics contests, and the grade 12 biology contest. Arrangements can be made through any science teacher.

SOCIAL SCIENCE & LIBRARY

Library

The most obvious change in the library this semester is the replacement of the various out-dated computers with twenty-three new computers with flat panel LCD displays. These computers are faster, more capable, more reliable and much better looking than the aged machines they are replacing.

The Lisgar Learning Resource Centre and Library wants to hear from its patrons and they can use the new computers for that communication. There are two new on-line resources for providing feedback to the library staff. The first is the user survey which is linked to the library home page (<http://lisgar.ca/links.php>). The second resource is the Lisgar Library blog where students and staff can suggest new book titles for the library. Go to <http://lisgarlibrary.blogspot.com/> and follow the “Invitation to Provide Input” discussion. For a list of new resources in the library visit the library Wiki at <http://the-library-at-lisgar.wikispaces.com/>.

The team of community service volunteers at the library is growing. They are assisting with a variety of tasks ranging from reshelving books to scanning yearbooks for eventual on-

line publication. Thanks to **Carol Gan, Bridget Guan, Anna Liang, Sylvia Mah, Julia Wang** and **Jennifer Wu** for their work to support the Lisgar Learning Resource Centre and Library.

Social Science

Time between the last report card in November and the onset of summatives was limited but the Grade 10 History students managed a visit to The War Museum, while Grade 12 World Issues students went to the Imax Theatre to see a movie on the Grand Canyon and the water shortages in the south-western U.S. The Grade 12's were visited by Ottawa University students who spoke about the Elimu Project that aims to promote the right to education in developing countries such as Tanzania, Ghana, and Sri Lanka, in partnership with local NGOs. **Mr. Julian Murray** also came in from CIDA and spoke about the impact of the economic downturn on Central and South America.

The new semester is well under way and we would like to welcome **Mme. Bigras** who will be teaching Grade 9 Geographie, and **Mr. D'Emilio** who will be teaching Grade 9 Geography. This month students will be selecting courses for the next school year and we encourage them to talk to their teachers about the wide range of Grade 11 and 12 options in History, Geography and the Social Sciences. In addition to some of the more 'traditional' subjects we are offering Human Growth & Development, Parenting, Families & Individuals in a Diverse Society, and Philosophy.

The Great Canadian Geography Challenge - Grade 9 Geography students wrote the preliminary rounds of the Challenge, before 8 students were left in the play-offs. **Roy Sengupta** and **Joe Su** tied for victory, which was then decided by tie-breakers. **Joe Su** emerged as the school winner and is now competing to make the provincial finals in April. Congratulations to all competitors and good luck to Joe.

Lisgar Student Attends International Youth Forum in England

Congratulations to **Sofia Hou**, a grade 12 Lisgar student, who was selected by the British Council to be one of three young Canadians to represent their country at the Guildford Forum international youth meeting in England January 18-24, 2009. Also known as the "Road-to-Davos Conference", the gathering brings together students from more than 40 countries to discuss challenges facing the world and their communities. The students participated with 60 international students aged 16 to 19 and discussed major issues such as climate change, education, intercultural conflict and world poverty. Below are Sofia's reflections on the forum.

"Fifty-nine youths from around the world. A myriad of ideas converge. At Guildford, we share views about the world as well as a commitment to our communities. I talk about my volunteering; I listen to others tell about their campaigns against HIV. Half-recovering from late nights on Facebook, we attend workshops and seminars on subjects, such as fundraising and networking. In between planning our CAPs and exploring our castle-esque venue, we visit local charities. But the best part is the people. Everyday I dine with friends sometimes from Malawi, other times from Myanmar; at one table alone, I see faces from Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia. Within six days time, we become friends, participants in a global community. Yet walking out of the Heathrow airport with my two Canadian buddies, David Lawless and Katherine Liston, I did not foresee any of this. I did not foresee what I would learn or whom I would meet. Besides being a pleasant escape from the Canadian winter, Guildford is a place of social connections, cultural exchange, and international networks."

Leaf

(Lisgar Environmental Action Force) - The group has met on a fairly regular basis to work on a number of initiatives. Old incandescent Christmas lights were collected and exchanged for LED lights in a project sponsored by Ottawa Hydro. Batteries are being collected for recycling / safe disposal. Recent good news is that your local Home Depot store will now accept household batteries for recycling, which should help Ottawans improve on their record of only recycling 2% of their batteries! A couple of fund-raising vegetarian lunches have been held. Some of the proceeds are going to the purchase of a worm composter. The OTESHA group is training for upcoming community presentations on environmentally friendly practices. The Dual Support Unit has continued a regular schedule of paper and can recycling throughout the school. On that note did you know that recycling a single aluminum can saves enough energy to power your TV for three hours ... ? Makes it worth doing.....!

Reach for the Top

The club has been practising fairly intensely in preparation for this spring's upcoming regional competition. Back in November they qualified at the Ottawa Quizbowl for the U.S. National Academic Quiz Tournament Finals in Chicago at the end of May and, once again, hope to send a team. This month they hope to play friendly warm-up games against Yitzhak Rabin School, and next month they will be honing their skills in a Hybrid Tournament at Ottawa University against college and university teams. Fund-raising bake sales have continued and some students have now branched into writing questions, which helps offset some of the competition costs. Our thanks go to **Mr. Meng** who is now helping with team practices.

"Freedom's Fury"

"Freedom's Fury" is a documentary about the Hungarian Revolution, co-directed by Lisgar alumnus, **Colin Gray** and his sister, **Megan Raney Aarons**. "Freedom's Fury" had its Canadian premiere in Lisgar's Alumni Auditorium September 29, 2006, prior to being shown to the public at the National Gallery of Canada. Colin's inspiration for the film, which was produced to mark the 50th anniversary of the revolution, comes from his involvement in water polo, which he played while a Lisgar student, and his friendship with **Blakely Easton**, another alumnus, who is of Hungarian descent. The DVD includes a special "Making of Freedom's Fury" mini-documentary with interviews with Colin and Megan (The Sibs) and Executive Producer, **Lucy Liu**, as well as never-before-seen footage from when it was filmed in Hungary and across North America. There is also a special Director's Commentary Audio track.

This documentary is now officially available for purchase through the independent film site, FilmBaby, for \$24.99 (US funds) and can be shipped anywhere in the world. It is also available for rent on Netflix.com. For more information, please visit www.freedomsfury.com

STUDENT SERVICES & CAREER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Scholarships

Last year Lisgar students received a wide variety of scholarships. Please note that some scholarships require a separate application. Students are responsible for checking the information in the Counselling Office and meeting the application deadlines. We have an in-school information bulletin that students can take home, and two different books listing scholarships. (The bulletin is also available on our website at lisgar.ca.) We also have a scholarship information binder that is updated continually as materials come in throughout the school year.

University

In a typical year, 98% of Lisgar graduating students go on to post-secondary studies. Students who have applied to an Ontario university for fall 2009 admission should receive an acknowledgement letter in the mail at home for their program choices. These letters are sent directly by the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) once it has processed a student's application. The application deadline was January 14, 2009. Ontario university applications were done on-line by the students.

Now that the second wave of application information to Ontario universities is completed, counsellors and students are presently working on applications to universities in eastern and western Canada and the United States. Students are cautioned to pay careful attention to deadlines for applications and supplemental documentation.

College

Ontario college applications were done on-line by the students. Any student who still wishes to apply should do so right away. Once OCAS (Ontario College Application Service) has processed a student's application, it will send a verification form directly to the

student's home address. The Ontario college application deadline was February 2, 2009.

Lisgar's Tips For June 2009 Grads

- Be sure that the computer-generated credit counselling summary you received in February, shows all of the following courses: online, night school, summer school, Saturday school, correspondence courses, etc. Students are responsible for bringing their report cards from these courses to their Lisgar counsellor, so the marks can be entered on our computer system.
- Work to the best of your ability to get high marks and examine last year's cutoff marks for college and university.
- Be sure you have completed and documented your 40 hours of community involvement.
- Carefully prepare for any additional admission criteria.
- Research program and admission requirements carefully.
- Apply as early as possible.
- Follow all deadlines carefully for submission of extra material to institutions (e.g.: personal information forms, reference letters, portfolios, audition appointment arrangements, etc.).
- Consider alternate plans for fall 2009 (e.g.: work, travel, volunteer work, another year or semester of high school to raise marks, do co-op to get work experience, etc.).

Choosing Lisgar Courses for 2009 - 2010 (Course Selection Contracts)

Counsellors made assembly presentations to students on February 12th about choosing courses for next year. Topics covered included high school graduation requirements, and college and university admission requirements. All students have received a course selection contract and Course Calendar in order to select their courses for next year. Students have attended an assembly or have been visited by a counsellor during a grade 9

class. This week, during our course consultation day, students will have an opportunity to speak with teachers about particular courses. It is important that students make informed decisions about the courses they select and we have encouraged all students to discuss their course selections with their parents/guardians. Course selection contracts should be signed by the parent or guardian, and returned to the period one teacher by February 26, 2009. Our staffing is scheduled based on students' choices and it may be difficult to make any changes to timetables in September. When completing the course selection contracts, parents and students should refer to pages 2, 3 and 4 in the book "2009-2010 Secondary School Courses" to check that they are selecting the courses needed to meet Ontario's graduation requirements. The "2009-2010 Secondary School Courses" is also available in pdf on the lisgar.ca website, under Home, 2009/10 Information, OCDSB Secondary Coursebook 2009.

The Ontario universities' website: www.ouac.on.ca has information on university programs and admission requirements. The Ontario colleges' website: www.ocas.on.ca has information on college programs and admission requirements. Students and parents looking for career information should go to the following website:

careercruising.com
 (USERNAME: ocdsb
 PASSWORD: careers)
 (Do the interest inventory, "Career Matchmaker", to discover your interest pattern. Then use the results to research careers in the "Careers" part of the program. Then use the "Education" part of the program to see which college and university programs are required to enter the occupations that interest you).

Advanced Placement (AP) Program

The international Advanced Placement Program is available to all Lisgar students. Our students can take university-level courses in the AP program and receive equivalent credits for first-year courses from universities in Canada, the United States, and other countries. Over 150 of our students will be writing AP exams in May. Lisgar students' AP exam results are superb every year.

2009 AP Exam Schedule

Monday, May 4th, 11:45 am French Lang.
 Tuesday, May 5th, 11:45 am, Statistics
 Wednesday, May 6th, 7:30am, Calculus AB
 Thursday, May 7th, 7:30 am, English Lit.
 Thursday, May 7th, 11:45 am, French Lit.
 Friday, May 8th, 11:45 am, European History
 Monday, May 11th, 7:30 am, Music Theory
 Wednesday, May 13th, 7:30 am, English Language
 Friday, May 15th, 11:45 am, Latin: Vergil

Community Involvement

All students who began their Grade 9 year in 1999 or later, **must have completed their 40 hours of volunteer community service in order to obtain their secondary school graduation diploma and to take part in the Commencement ceremony.** All Grade 12 students graduating in June 2009 should have completed their hours already. Students should see **Mrs. Stephens** in the counselling office, if they need further information. All students are encouraged to have their forty hours of community service finished before the end of Grade 10, because senior students are often busy with part-time jobs and other activities. Students should check their credit counselling summaries (handed out in period one on February 11th), to see how many community service hours they have completed and documented so far.

Information Presentations To Grade 8 Students and Their Parents

Lisgar's counsellors and vice-principals visited the Grade 8 schools in December and January to present information about our school and how to choose Grade Nine courses. Lisgar hosted two Grade 8 Nights in January. We had a full house!

All Grade 8 students and their parents were invited to attend, and presentations were given on Lisgar programs and activities.

Enrichment Mini Courses Program

Talented students from grades 9 - 12 have an opportunity each year to explore a field of study or area of interest in a university or college setting. These students can acquire knowledge and skills that will help them achieve academic success and stimulate their interest in pursuing post-secondary studies. The courses are offered every year during the first week of May. Congratulations to the Lisgar students who have been chosen to attend the mini-enrichment courses in May 2009 at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa.

Mentoring

Bouge, an organization run out of Harvard by young Canadian professionals, offers mentoring to Lisgar students in the areas of engineering, hi-tech, business and governance. Mentors are available on-line at www.bouge.ca with advice on careers and university courses.

Mark your Calendars

The University of Ottawa will be holding its Spring Open House on Friday, March 20, 2009, from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Highlights will include tours of campus, residences & sports complexes, presentations by liaison officers and an information fair offering students the opportunity to meet with faculty & service representative.

MICROWAVE DONATED!

Thanks to one of our Lisgar parents, Mrs. Gong, for her donation of a microwave to be used by students in the cafeteria. We appreciate her generous gift!

Parent Timetable Afternoon

Our Parent Timetable Afternoon for Semester 2 will take place on Thursday February 19th starting at 4:30 p.m. Invitations have been distributed to students with report cards on February 17th. Please consult with your child and have him/her fill in the Day 1 schedule on the invitation and bring it with you on February 19th. As parking is a challenge we recommend that you arrive early and park your vehicle in the underground parking either at City Hall off Elgin Street or the Court House, off Laurier Avenue.

Multicultural Assembly

On Monday, February 9th, the host of C.B.C. Ottawa's "All in a Day," **Adrian Harewood**, addressed Lisgar's Multicultural Assemblies. Elaborating on the theme of celebrating diversity, Mr. Harewood advised the students to share their own stories and to take the time to listen to the stories of others. Explaining that by listening we are able to move beyond assumptions based on stereotypes, and really get to know and appreciate other people, he identified his microphone as a powerful weapon because it can be used to record the stories that help us to understand the storytellers. He advised the students to challenge themselves by moving beyond their comfort zones, seek out difference, and write their own stories. Urging his audience to become familiar with Canada's stories, both triumphs like the Canada-Russia Hockey Series of 1972, and sources of shame such as complicity in the detention of Maher Arar, he emphasized how knowing the stories helps us to understand the realities of the country in which we live.

Student Council Co-presidents **Jamie Gardner** and **Jeremy Chitpin** acted as Masters of Ceremonies for the assemblies. As students entered the auditorium they were greeted by an audio-visual display of flags from the more than 60 countries where Lisgar students were born. Many thanks to the students who agreed to have their photographs included in this presentation and to **Ms. Tanner** for creating the list of countries where students were born. In addition to the guest speaker, the first assembly featured a true or false quiz on the history of Black Canadians. The second assembly featured a promotional video from the Language Club Video prepared for **Ms. Constantin** by **Megumi Mori** and **Sofia Hu**. Much appreciated were the efforts of **Ms. Odecki** and **Mike Xiang** for giving their time early in the morning set up the audio-visual equipment to ensure the success of Lisgar's celebration of multiculturalism.

THIS JUST IN!

Sofia Hou, who attended an international conference in London in January, as one of 3 student representatives from Canada ([see article on page 4](#)), has just been selected as the Canadian student representative to attend the G20 Conference, in London, in March. Sofia will visit the House of Lords, attend international meetings, and meet heads of state. Congratulations!