

Sabre Source



... From the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It has been a very successful first term at Southwood. Our music groups, sports teams and many clubs have gotten off to a great start. We have many sports teams competing in play-offs at this point. It was wonderful to meet so many parents during our October 14 Parent-Teacher Interviews.

A gentle reminder to parents to please send a validation note with students on the day of or following an absence. Also, it's important to review our Final Exam policy in our *Student/Parent Handbook*. Semester 1 exams are scheduled for January 27 – February 2 and may be extended in the event of a snow day. We want to avoid the need to assign a mark of zero for an invalid absence from a final exam.

Another request is that you monitor your children's behaviour and whereabouts prior to a dance. Any student under the influence of, or in possession of alcohol or restricted drugs, will be suspended and police will be contacted.

It is imperative that we have the most up-to-date medical information for your child - his/her safety is our first priority. Please send us any updates in writing so that we can maintain accurate records. It is essential that your child carry an epinephrine auto-injector if he/she requires one.

Finally, please don't hesitate to contact any member of our staff if we can be of assistance. Our phone number is 519-621-5920. If you'd like to speak to the Chairperson of School Council, please call David Rose at 519-740-2514.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs. C. Campbell
Principal

... From the Classroom

From Counselling

The fall has been a very busy time in the Guidance Department. Counsellors have been orienting Grade 9 students, assisting senior students in preparing to apply to college and university, as well as helping those students experiencing difficulty in some aspect of school life.

Please feel free to contact the Guidance Department for any questions or concerns you may have regarding your child's academic or emotional situation. As well, we are happy to answer any and all questions regarding college and university decisions.

If your son or daughter has not yet completed his/her community service hours or has any questions with regard to them, please direct him/her to the bulletin board outside the main office or to his/her guidance counsellor. Community Service Hours tracking forms are available from the main office. The first of two collection dates will be Tuesday, January 12, 2010, during homeroom.

Upcoming important dates from Counselling

- **End of November** – Distribution of P.I.N. numbers in Grade 12 homerooms for use in university and college applications
- **Friday, December, 11** – Deadline for university and college applications (internal)
- **Thursday, January 14** – Grade 8 Parents' Night
- **Mid-February** – Course Selection Process for the 2010/2011 school year

From Geography

Seven Generations Sustainability Challenge

Senior students **Mallory Vanier** and **Jessi Helwig** shared lunch with Canadian environmental scientist Dr. David Suzuki at the *ReThink Waterloo Sustainability Conference* in October. For the past six months, **Mallory** and **Jessi** worked alongside secondary students from across the region towards creating a lifestyle challenge that aligns

personal decisions with sustainable options. Before presenting their challenge to a packed house at the Centre in the Square, the students discussed the importance of their learning and the challenge they created with Dr. Suzuki, who was proud of their efforts.



Environmental Studies Magnet Program Fundraiser

Help support Southwood's Environmental Studies Magnet Program by purchasing some "Ultimate Bean" fair trade organic coffee. Geography students will be selling the coffee until November 27. The coffee will be delivered in the last week of classes before the Christmas Break. There are many different types of wonderful coffee available to purchase and it makes a great gift to coffee lovers while helping to support poor farmers around the world.

Did You Know?

- The SES 4UI Earth and Space Science course is now an Advanced Standing Dual Credit Course with the University of Waterloo. Students at Southwood who successfully complete the SES 4UI course with a final mark of 70% or higher will be credited with completion of the Earth 121 first year university credit at the University of Waterloo if enrolled in the faculty of Earth Sciences. Please contact Mr. Bracey if you have any questions about this.
- Southwood Geography and the Environmental Studies Magnet Program have many important community partnerships including *rare* charitable research reserve. Throughout the year environmental science students visit the *rare* property for dozens of hours of hands-on experiential learning. Both Mr. Bracey and Mr. Giesler are proud to be part of *rare*'s Education Committee and are frequent volunteers and run various educational workshops at *rare*. If you are interested in environmental education opportunities in the community and learning more about the local natural world, visit www.rare.org or contact Mr. Bracey or Mr. Giesler at Southwood.

Southwood Geography rocks Algonquin!

This past November 4 - 7, 14 Southwood Geography students along with Mr. Bracey and Mr. Giesler travelled to Algonquin Park to learn about a variety of ecological concepts and naturalist skills. Highlights of the trip included canoeing, learning to properly build fires in the wild, building fires using a bow and block, animal tracking, harvesting wild plants and tree needles to make tea, enjoying amazing food and many campfires, experiencing the first snowfall of the year, the dreaded

"Thunder Block", camping out in sub-zero temperatures and listening to **Aaron Welch** rock out on his guitar around the campfire. The students are to be commended for their outstanding enthusiasm, behavior and passion for environmental experiences.



From Languages

The Languages Department welcomed **Sarah Lambert** to Southwood in September. Sarah stayed with **Heather Watson** during her three-month exchange from France (CEEF). We also welcomed **Karla Burgos** who is on a one-year exchange from Ecuador (Cambridge Rotary). Students interested in hearing more about the **International Exchange Program** should attend an information session to be held in room 207 on Thursday, November 26 during lunch.

From Life Skills

Southwood's Life Skills class is a congregated class for students with special needs. The program includes a co-op component called 'Work Experience' which places senior students in the community to help them learn skills needed for a successful career. Good luck to our Life Skills workers: **Bruce Bernard, Karley Oakes, Lauren Plaatjes, Alicia Stevens, and Nick Thompson**. All these students are excelling in their placements so far and learning many valuable skills. The Life Skills class is also collecting recycling for the school on a weekly basis, as well as working on job contracts in the classroom. Congratulations Life Skills students on your hard work and positive attitude!

**CHECK OUT A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF ONLINE RESOURCES
THE WRDSB VIRTUAL LIBRARY**

<http://virtuallibrary.wrdsb.on.ca>



The WRDSB Virtual Library provides access to quality research sources for all students from school and from home. These quality sources go **far beyond what is available on the free Web** and include reference, magazine, journal, newspaper and eBook sources. This year two new databases have been added to our collection:

The Ultimate Guide to Auto Repair and *Teen Health and Wellness*. Have a look!

Please see a member of the Southwood S.S. Library Staff to obtain the 2009 / 2010 Home Access information.

From Music

Fall has been a busy season as all of the ensembles are up and running. A big thank you to the *Senior Concert Band* for performing at Commencement on Friday, October 23, 2009. *Chamber Choir* performed "Sing Me to Heaven" at the Remembrance Day assemblies held at Southwood on November 11, 2009. Three buses of talented Sabres will travel to St. Andrew's Senior Public School and to Cedar Creek Public School to perform for our feeder schools on Wednesday, November 18, 2009.

From Science

Special thanks from the Science Department and students of Mrs. Deacon's Grade 11 University Biology class to *Oakridge Acres Meat* and the *Gerber Family*. Their donation of beef hearts for our study of animal anatomy enabled the students to learn first hand what a typical mammalian heart looks like, and better understand its structures and functions. *Oakridge Acres Meat* offers a variety of drug/hormone free meat products to the general public and is located on Greenfield Road near Ayr.

From Special Education

There will be an "Overview of the Waterloo Regional District School Board Services for Students with Learning Disabilities" workshop on Thursday, November 26 at 7:30 p.m. Presenters Karen Heibert, Barb Post, Mary Friesen, Susan Brown, Lisa Maynes and Melanie Gravel will give information on what WRDSB offers in both remediation and compensation through a wide variety of services, helping students with LD to achieve their full potential and experience success. Call the Learning Disabilities Association at 519-743-9091 for location and seat reservations.

From Visual Arts

Rebecca Delaney, Brooke Burnet, Ben McFadgen, Matt Schmidt, Connor Dobbin, Kristin Mossman, student teacher Jenna Albrecht and Art teacher Mr. Osatchuk travelled to Theatre Ancaster to create this 20' X 40' backdrop for the fall production of "South Pacific".

Mrs. Doran will take a group of students to Rockwell International in December to draw and paint their windows with a Christmas theme. This tradition of taking student art to the community has always been a part of Southwood's artistic legacy. We celebrate and thank the students for their contributions.



... From the Field

Envirothon 2010

Southwood Geography students will be looking to build on a very enthusiastic and energetic showing at the 2009 Envirothon competition by entering two teams in the 2010 Envirothon to be held in April. With many experienced team members returning, we look forward to another fun and exciting learning experience. Many thanks to the Cambridge and North Dumfries Community Foundation for sponsoring the registration fees of the two teams.

The International Languages Club

The International Languages Club has been busy this fall. We heard presentations about France and Ecuador from our exchange students Sarah and Karla. **Haley Spennato** also shared her experiences from her summer exchange in Switzerland. The club made German pretzels, watched a foreign film, played Trivia from around the world, played "la pétanque" and more. Some upcoming events include "Sampling Southeast Asia" and our famous Gingerbread House Competition. New members are welcome. Watch the Languages Bulletin Board for details.



Pretzel making with some club members and our exchange students

Herzlichen Glückwunsch (congratulations) to **Sam Falkiner** and **Cadie-Lynn Palovuori**, recipients of the 2009 *Wilfrid L. Bitzer German Language Award* for top Grade 10 students.

Southwood's German students also participated in the High School Oktoberfest Celebration held at *Bingemans* where they enjoyed a Bavarian lunch and danced the Bird Dance along with numerous polkas. They took part in German trivia competitions and a pretzel eating contest. Our next German excursion will be in December when the students will visit the *Joseph Schneider Haus* and the *Christkindl Markt* in Kitchener.

Notes From Music

Upcoming events include the Advent Concert at First United Church featuring the *Senior Instrumental and Guitar Classes* at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, November 26. Mark Wednesday, December 2, 2009, on your calendar as our Annual Christmas Concert will begin at 7 p.m. in the Gymnasium. Our guest ensemble is the St. Andrew's Band. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for seniors/students.

2009 / 2010 Yearbook

The 2009-2010 yearbook will be a FULL COLOUR book. You can still purchase a book for \$40 at the main office. The 09/10 yearbook will be published and available in the fall of 2010.

For any students who would like to still purchase last year's "Reminiscon 2008-2009" yearbook, a few extra copies are still available from the main office for only \$40.

Check out Southwood's website for up-to-date information on events happening at Southwood Secondary School.

<http://sss.wrdsb.on.ca>

... To the Future

November 18 School Council meeting (7:00 p.m.)
 November 23 – 27 AIDS WEEK
 November 25 – 9:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. Grade 9 Orientation Morning
 Students in grade 8 from St. Andrew's P.S. and Cedar Creek P.S. will be visiting
 November 30 – December 4 Anti-Bullying Week
 Assemblies, classroom presentations and theme days aimed at educating
 the student body about the issue of bullying
 December 2 Annual Christmas Concert
 December 7 – 11 Christmas Food Drive
 Bring in your non-perishable food items to help support the Cambridge Food Bank
 December 10 Semi-Formal Dance (at the Waterloo Regional Police Hall)
 December 17 Christmas Talent Assembly
 December 21 – January 1 Christmas Holidays
 January 7 – 22 Semester 1 - Gr. 9 Math Assessment
 January 14 Grade 8 Parents' Night (7:30 p.m.)
 January 20 School Council meeting (7:00 p.m.)
 January 27 – February 2 Examinations - Semester 1

February 3 Semester 2 P.A. Day - no classes
 February 4 Semester 2 **CLASSES** begin
 February 11 Semester 1 Final Reports
 February 15 Family Day Holiday
 March 15 – 19 March Break
 March 24 School Council meeting (7:00 p.m.)
 April 2 – 5 Easter Holidays
 April 8 Grade 10 Literacy Testing (special schedule)
 April 8 Parents' Night (5:00 – 7:00 p.m.)
 April 22 Mid-Term Reports – Semester 2
 May 19 School Council meeting (7:00 p.m.)
 May 24 Victoria Day Holiday
 June 3 – 18 Semester 2 - Gr. 9 Math Assessment
 June 22 – 28 Examinations – Semester 2
 June 29 & 30 P.A. Day – no classes
 July 13 – 14 Semester 2 Report Cards available