

"Great dancers are not great because of their technique; they're great because of their passion."

~~~~Martha Graham

# Grey Matters

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As the warmer weather approaches, it is time again for the school to ask for parental support. Please have a discussion about appropriate clothing and remind your children that beach attire is not suitable for school. Although shorts and t-shirts are acceptable, clothing which exposes more should be reserved for weekends and after school. The attire of our students has an affect on both their attitude and behavior in school. As always, we appreciate your support.

Last Wednesday evening, we held our annual 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation meeting in the high school auditorium. It was well attended by parents who I believe walked away less anxious and with a better understanding of the school. Thanks to: Maryfran Doiron, Jim Goodemote, Pat Higgins, Joyce Kelly, Joanne Lazdowski, Caroline O'Brien, Beth Petr, Tim Nolan, Melanie Scalice, Margi Tessier, and Diana Woodruff for making the evening a successful event. On Thursday and Friday morning, we held a series of question and answer forums for parents, and offered guided tours. Thanks to all the wonderful students who answered many of the questions and led the tours.

As many of you are aware, there has been a lot of parental and staff discussion about the need for Study Skills in grade 7. After reflecting on what I have heard and my understanding of the needs of our students, the decision has been made to move the Study Skills program to grade 7 and move the Info Skills program to grade 8. Let me assure you that the current grade 7 students will not miss out on the Study Skills material. Next year's "Info Skills" will be a different course. A significant amount of time is being used to develop a new curriculum for this transition year which will incorporate much of the current Study Skills curriculum and morph it with computer technology.

Another change for next year is a result of the loss of our A-Block elective programs. Due to budgetary cuts, we will no longer offer a series of electives taught by members of the community. While I will go into much greater detail in the upcoming issue of *Shades of Grey*, here is a quick overview of how we will address this change. Next year, our "A-Block" will meet during the 6<sup>th</sup> period of the day (right after lunch). Students will still be able to take Band or Chorus which will meet during this 6<sup>th</sup> period. Those students who do not take band or chorus will have a rotation of mini-courses and directed study halls. For most students, these directed study halls will be with their team teachers. The mini courses will be taught by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade elective and PE teachers and will be new courses, not an extension of the elective itself. Again, I will provide a more in-depth explanation in the next *Shades of Grey*.

Have a great week.