

*“We cannot change the cards we’re dealt, just how we play the hand.”*

From “The Last Lecture”

**Randy Pausch**

# Grey Matters

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I hope everyone was able to enjoy the long holiday weekend. While a bit on the chilly side, I suspect it is safe to put away the shovels and snow throwers in the back of the garage for the season!

Last Friday marked the beginning of the 4th term. Please be aware that students will be bringing home their Term 3 report cards at the end of this week **not** after the break as mentioned in last week’s Grey Matters. Please be on the look out for this important information.

This Tuesday night, April 14, 6 to 7PM, is my next Drop-In hour. Please swing by to share any thoughts or concerns you may have, and/or to discuss what Tiger Woods needs to do to get back up to his previous dominating form.

I believe everyone is aware that one of our School Improvement Goals includes reviewing the current structure of our school schedule and considering possible adjustments we might make to enhance student learning. There are a number of ideas being considered, and one of those is the possibility to moving to a trimester format.

Teachers are excited about the idea of trimesters because instructional time during a marking period is increased while the focus on grades is reduced. By not imposing a grading deadline too early, teachers can customize the curricular pace to the needs of their students while offering increased flexibility for projects and interdisciplinary work within the curriculum. Students can focus on the process of learning without the pressure of grades every nine weeks as well. Instead of four report cards, there would be three: December, April and June.

In considering this change, the staff is also discussing the issue of home/school communication, specifically communication at the mid-term. How do we provide reasonable, consistent, and timely home/school communication without increasing the workload for teachers or creating unnecessary student stress regarding grades?

I would be very interested in your thoughts on this issue, including the perspective of any of you who have actually experienced the trimester model first hand. Thanks in advance for helping us think about this possibility.

With spring cleaning in the air, it is time again for us to clean out our Lost and Found. Parents and guardians, please encourage your children to look through the Lost and Found bin for any missing hats, gloves, shirts, shoes, etc. All items that remain after Friday will be donated to charity.

Finally, I know our students are looking forward to the upcoming April break, April 20th - 24th. I hope all of you can look forward to a little bit of relaxation time as well.

Have a good week.