

Inside Student Services at Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI

For more information about Student Services at Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI, please visit the school website.

Welcome to Student Services. We are here to help students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for their academic, interpersonal, and career development. Our counsellors provide:

- Individual and/or small group counselling;
- Year-round group counselling programs;
- Academic counselling;
- Career counselling;
- Class presentations;
- Student services assemblies;
- Orientation sessions;
- Parent information evenings;
- Conferences and workshops; and
- A variety of post-secondary planning resources.



Students are always welcome to visit Student Services for academic or personal support. Our qualified staff includes:

Counsellors:

Ms. Karen Lyne (A-G)
Ms. Dianne Hooper (H-O)
Dr. Renée Rawlins, Department Leader (P-Z)
Ms. Inna Belozorovich (Pre-IB)

Guidance Office Assistant:

Ms. Nadiya Koval's'kyj

School Social Worker:

Lois Fairfax

Student Services co-ordinates a number of events, in-school programs, and social support services for our students.

Upcoming Events in Student Services:

Post-Secondary Pathways Fair

On **September 30th, 2015**, Student Services will be hosting our annual Post-Secondary Pathways Fair for students. All Ontario Universities, 7 Ontario Colleges, and OYAP representatives will be present to provide students with workshops about post-secondary options. There will be a fair in the gymnasium during lunch for students to also ask questions and collect viewbooks from the various post-secondary institutions.

GTA Post-Secondary Campus Tours

Students will have the opportunity to participate in one of two field trips on **October 20th, 2015**. The GTA University Campus Tours excursion will visit the campuses of UOIT, York University, University of Toronto and Ryerson University. The GTA College Campus Tours excursion will visit the college campuses of Centennial College, Durham College, and George Brown College. These two field trips are optional for graduating students. There is a \$20 fee and limited space for each trip.



Post-Secondary Information Night for Parents

Parents of Grade 11 and 12 students are invited to attend the University/College Information Night for Parents on **October 27th, 2015**, to receive information about the application and admission processes for both colleges and universities in Ontario. Additional information about out-of-province applications, scholarships, and OSAP will also be shared.

Post-Secondary deadlines that students and parents should be aware of include:

*Ontario University Application Deadline:
January 13, 2016*

*Ontario College Application Deadline:
February 1, 2016*

Student Services' Updates:



For the latest, most up-to-date, information from Student Services, be sure to add @LaurierGuidance on Twitter. Through Twitter, we share scholarship information, upcoming deadlines, upcoming events, and additional information to support students in their academic, interpersonal and career development.

Student Services' Programs:

Peer Support Team

The Peer Support Team consists of students who help other students at Laurier CI. Members of the Peer Support Team act as Student Ambassadors who take new students on tours around the school, introduce them to new people and expose them to various clubs or organizations that may be of interest to them. Students on the Peer Support Team also act as Peer Mediators who help students to resolve conflicts. Peer Support Team members are also trained in mental health and well-being awareness. Students can be nominated to join.

#Stress-Ed

#Stress-Ed is a group counselling program that helps students develop strategies to cope

with stress and anxiety. Nomination forms for this program are available in Student Services or students can speak to their Guidance Counsellor.

Girl'Space

Laurier's girls' group, uniquely dubbed Girl'Space, is designed to develop girls' self-esteem, build their self-efficacy, discuss pertinent issues facing girls, and advocate for girls in the school and community. This empowering program is a unique opportunity for girls to meet in a fun, safe, supportive, all-girl environment and make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of others. Nomination forms to participate in this program are available in Student Services.

The Blueprint Boys' Group

The Blueprint is an all-boys group program that addresses the issues facing young men, particularly as they pertain to their personal, academic and professional development. Issues that are addressed in the group include, but are not limited to, building self-esteem, male body image, healthy relationships, and leadership skills. This program also has a mentorship component. Nomination forms to participate in this program are available in Student Services.

TDSB Student Support Services:

Students can also be referred to one of our many TDSB professional support services, which are comprised of:

- Psychological Services
- Social Work & Attendance Services
- Speech-Language Pathology Services
- Occupational Therapy & Physiotherapy Services
- Child and Youth Services

Additional Important Dates

- Ontario Universities' Fair @ Metro Toronto Convention Centre – September 25-27
- Ontario College Information Fair @ Direct Energy Center (Exhibition Place) - October 19-20
- Study and Go Abroad Fair @ Metro Toronto Convention Centre – October 4
- University Fall Campus Days – October and November (check university websites)
- OUAC Pin Distribution (in-school) – November
- Full Disclosure: November 19
- OUAC Transmission Dates: November 3, February 8, April 25, July 4
- OCAS Transmission Dates: November 16, February 5, April 20, July 4

myBlueprint ... for Parents

Parents can also access myBlueprint to help with their child's education and career planning. Below are the three easy steps to get started:

1. Visit www.myblueprint.ca/tdsb
2. Select 'Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI' from the school list and click Create Account
3. Select "I am a Parent..." and complete the sign-up form

Using myBlueprint, you can link your account with your child's myBlueprint account to view his/her education and career plan, look at his/her past grades, help with his/her course selection, and much more. See the steps below to link your myBlueprint account to your son/daughter's account:

1. From your Home Screen, click on the Toolbox and select My Links
2. Click Add Student, and search for your child by email address

In myBlueprint you can explore the student features including:

- Goal Setting – add interactive SMART goals and action plans
- High School Planner – visually plan courses, track towards graduation and instantly identify post-secondary eligibility for opportunities in every pathway
- Post-Secondary Planner – compare detailed information on Apprenticeships, College Programs, University Programs and Workplace sectors across Canada
- Occupation Planner – compare comprehensive information on Occupations
- Resume & Cover Letter – record experiences, build a resume, write a cover letter
- Assessments – complete interest and learning styles inventories
- Financial Planner – build a budget to track income and expenses
- Job Finder – find real-world job postings that relate to occupation interests

Financial Planning for Post-Secondary

It is important to plan for the rising costs of post-secondary education carefully. Money can come from summer savings, part time earnings, Ontario Work-Study Plan, RESP (Registered Education Savings Plan), Bank Loans & Student Line of Credit, Government Student Loans Program (OSAP), Scholarships, Grants, and Bursaries.

Current costs can be \$5,500-\$20,000 or more per year depending on which program is chosen and whether the student lives at home or in residence.

Every college and university has a Financial Aid office which should be consulted for specific advice for ongoing financial advice and assistance.

As well, our Student Services department supports students in their graduating year by providing information about scholarships, bursaries, awards and OSAP loans through the @LaurierGuidance Twitter account, the scholarship bulletin board, the Financial Aid and Awards binder, ongoing verbal announcements, and workshops throughout the year. Students should be aware that deadlines for scholarships are as early as October and continue throughout the year. Apply early and leave sufficient time for supporting documents and letters of reference to be written and received before the stated deadlines.

Attention to detail is critical for a successful scholarship application process.