

Student Achievement

Semester one is quickly wrapping up. Exams scheduled (first official day of exams – January 26th went well even after bus cancellations). The fourth day needed to complete the exam schedule will take place on Monday, February 1 and first day of second semester will be on Tuesday, February 2, 2010. After looking at mid-term assessment data DHS has a course pass rate of 89% (not including co-op). The next step in looking at course pass rate data will be to take last year's semester one data and compare it to this year's end of semester one data to look for trends. We will be able to do this after report cards go home on February 12th. The school leadership team continues to look at school policy around assessment and evaluation and changes are being made as they are identified and shared with all staff. We are starting the process of getting ready for the District Review Team (DRT) visit which will take place on February 24th and 25th. The first step to this process is giving all staff the opportunity for input to the seven essential components of the School Effectiveness Framework. This input will be compiled and shared with the DRT on February 16 via video conference with a representative group of teachers and staff. The DRT then visits the school for two days completing walk-throughs in classrooms and then we are given a report at a staff meeting on February 25th.

Student Voice

Invitations for DHS's Student Voice group will be going out to students at the beginning of February. Some students have been filling out the application forms for the Minister's Student Advisory Council. Sixty students from across the Province will have an opportunity to be part of the council. Three students from KPDSB were chosen last year. Mr. Hodgkinson was able to meet with almost every class at DHS in the computer lab to lead students through the Tell Them From Me survey. We will be looking at the results of this survey and putting together a committee of teachers, other staff and students to respond to and make recommendations for action on one or two items identified by the survey.

Student Programs and Pathways

Our construction/integrated technology class and the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program in construction continue to offer unique experiences for our students. First semester students in the technology class began a little project of renovating our business office. The students are discovering the intricacies of renovating a room from demolition to dry walling, tiling, painting and looking at floor plan development for new furniture. Students taking construction technology in grade ten second semester will have the opportunity to complete the project. This group of students also had the opportunity to experience a small community project with Second Chance Pets and the Feral Cat program. The students were given guidance on how to build the boxes, supplies were donated and the boxes were placed at the dump. The students also had the

opportunity to understand the meaning of why these kinds of rescue programs are put into place in communities. The SHSM construction class second semester will be working on a project in the west entrance of the school to create an “Alumni Hall” space for the students and public to enjoy. The project will be completed before the City of Dryden 2010 celebrations begin.

Student Transition Planning

A Family of Schools meeting took place today. All feeder schools were represented by school principals including St. Joseph’s. Grade 9 data was shared with the principals and they will go back and share the information with their grade 8 teachers. The next step for transition planning will be giving grade 8 and 9 teachers the opportunity to create their own PLC focus for second semester.

DHS – A Community School

Dryden High School continues to be a very busy place. The student leadership class has organized walking for the public to participate in. The Dryden Youth Centre continues to attract new students on a regular basis.