



Student Senate Newsletter

Spring 2016



2015-2016 Student Senate

The 2015-2016 Student Senate has experienced a successful year thus far representing the student voice on behalf of all students within Bluewater District School Board.

The Student Senate is comprised of a variety of students that are elected by their respective secondary schools to be active participants in all discussions relevant to Bluewater District School Board students at board and committee meetings. This year's group consists of all newly elected members ranging from grades 10 to 12 who bring forward important student issues, and report on exciting initiatives occurring within both secondary and elementary schools in the board. They provide trustees, board staff members and the public with a glimpse into what the students are accomplishing during the school year, including the many activities occurring in the daily life of Bluewater students. From dances and sports, to skills competitions and trips, each Bluewater school is busy with different activities and events that improve the school experience.

Thus far, the Student Senate has held one meeting during its term to discuss goals and initiatives for this upcoming year. As the main areas of focus for their term, the senators have collectively decided to promote diversification for the LGBTQ community, mental health awareness, and safe driving practices. The group is proud that Bluewater District School Board held a First Nation Student Forum this year, along with other beneficial conferences for students to attend, and looks forward to the Gay Straight Alliance Student Forum, 'Diverse Voices II', which is set to take place on May 20th.



The three student trustees have been representing the students of Bluewater at the provincial level by becoming members of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association. They are honored to work within the Policy and Awards Committees, in which they have the chance to collaborate with other student trustees at conferences to create position papers relating to student issues, as well as scholarships for Ontario students. The association recently released the 2015-2016 Ontario Student, Parent and Educator Survey, which addresses topics affecting student education and educational opinions on a variety of student issues. The survey is currently accessible through the OSTA-AECO [website](#). The 2014-2015 survey results are also available here.

If you are a student of Bluewater District School Board and are interested in a position with the Student Senate for next year, please contact the student senator from your school for more information. In the meantime, the 2015-2016 Student Senate looks forward to ending its term strongly.

Written by Student Trustee, Sana Hussein (KDSS)



Across the Board....

Education Week

Schools in Bluewater District School Board will be recognizing Education Week from May 2 - 6, 2016. To honour this year's theme of "Achieving Excellence: Promoting Well-Being", examples of Bluewater's ongoing commitment to this important priority will be highlighted each day of Education Week on the board [website](#) and Twitter [feed](#) using the hash tag, #EdWeekBWDSB. Others are invited to join in on their social networks with any Bluewater success stories that celebrate the efforts of caring educators, student accomplishments or school initiatives that support this year's theme!

Summer School 2016

Registration for summer school in Owen Sound is now open on the board [website](#). In addition to regaining a lost credit, many secondary students enrol in summer school for a co-operative education experience or an extra course to help them get ahead. Students increase flexibility in their paths to success and enjoy classes with energetic teachers and students from across the area. Elementary summer school, 1 or 2-week courses, are also available to grades 7 and 8 students. There are no course fees or transportation charges for elementary students!

12th Annual Regional Technological Skills Challenge

The premier skilled trades event for local students on April 1, 2016 in Owen Sound was a success with many participants excelling in the various competitions. Click [here](#) to view the list of top scoring students and a photo/video gallery. Thanks again to the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program!

Bluewater Regional Science & Technology Fair

Bluewater junior and senior students had a chance to show off their scientific creations on March 30 and April 13, 2016. Click [here](#) to learn more about the event, including this year's gold recipients and their fascinating projects.

Board Meetings and Webcasts

Members of the public are always welcome to attend monthly Committee-of-the-Whole Board Meetings (first Tuesday) and Regular Meetings of the Board (third Tuesday). Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Bluewater District School Board Education Centre in Chesley. For a complete schedule and agendas, click [here](#).

Regular Meetings of the Board are also webcast live at the following [link](#), or can be viewed after the fact by clicking [here](#).

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