



West Niagara

Secondary School

February 21st, 2023

Wolfpack and Families,

I hope you each had a great long weekend. A few updates below. . . .

1) **Grad Date Change**

a) The following message was shared centrally to all DSBN secondary schools:

Graduations are an important milestone for students, families, and staff. After years of learning and dedication, all students deserve to be celebrated for their growth and achievement. Schools put heartfelt effort into graduation ceremonies to ensure every graduate and their family have a memorable experience that is inclusive of all.

*This year, the graduation dates overlapped with Eid-al Adha, which is a significant faith day for a number of students, families, and staff. The DSBN acknowledges that this was an oversight in planning for the secondary graduations that should have taken into consideration the [Days of Significance Calendar](#). **We are committed to equally affirming and valuing creed diversity in our community; therefore, we are moving all secondary graduations to Monday, June 26 or Tuesday, June 27, 2023.***

DSBN values all graduates and wants to ensure all students, families and staff can participate and celebrate this significant accomplishment together. We sincerely apologize for this oversight and any inconvenience that this causes you or your family, and we appreciate your understanding as we rectify the situation.

The WNSS Grad will be changed to Tuesday, June 27th at 5:30pm at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines.

2) **Wear Anything Pink Day**

- a) The DSBN celebrates “Wear Anything Pink Day” tomorrow - Wednesday, February 21st.
- b) A safe, inclusive, and accepting learning environment that promotes healthy relationships and behaviours is essential for student success and well-being. A whole school approach to an inclusive social climate based on caring and respectful relationships is a necessary supporting condition for learning. As part

of our continuous work to foster safe schools and positive learning environments, the DSBN is celebrating ANYTHING PINK DAY on Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

- c) We recognize that simply wearing pink is insufficient in eliminating bullying. It requires everyone's commitment to fostering healthy relationships, as well as safe, inclusive, and accepting learning environments. With our efforts, change begins when students learn to treat others with kindness and respect, embrace diversity, and stand up against bullying.

3) Black Heritage Month

- a) Thank you to our amazing student group who are leading our school's celebration of Black Heritage Month
- b) Students have begun sharing historical facts over the announcements, playing music over the PA, and are planning to share art and poetry with the school community
- c) Our students are looking to compile a WNSS Family Recipe Book for Black Heritage Month, and need your help. We would be honoured for families to share significant recipes with our group. These recipes will be compiled into a digital book and shared on our school website. Including a note on the significance of the recipe to your family would be a welcomed addition as well. Please email any recipes to Mr. Miller, or send them to the main office with your students.

4) Elearning Opt Out Form

- a) Current Ministry of Education rules require all students to have 2 elearning courses in order to graduate
- b) Parents are allowed to opt out of this requirement (form on WNSS website)
- c) Even if they opt out, students can still take elearning courses if they wish - it is just that the requirement to do so is waived.

As always, please let me know if we can help.

Mat Miller
Principal, WNSS