



## IdeaSPACE

WESTERN TECHNICAL - COMMERCIAL SCHOOL RECEIVES \$50,000 COMPUTERLAB DONATION

Students at Western Technical Commercial School WTCS returned to school this September to find one of their classrooms transformed into a computer lab with brand new state-of-the-art computers and equipment.

Thanks to a \$50,000 Future Generation grant from Future Shop, WTCS was able to equip their lab with the new technology. In addition, the school designed their own classroom décor to inspire student creativity.

Two schools were chosen by Future Shop amongst six schools that were invited to apply for funding based on specific criteria. The review committee had a difficult time reaching a decision but eventually awarded their grant to WTCS and Marc Garneau C.I. the two schools they believed would benefit the most from the donation.

the Future Shop website.

At Western Technical-Commercial School, the funding went towards the development of a new, café-like room called **IdeaSPACE** filled with the latest technology to house the school's award-winning locally developed course in Writer's Craft and Children's Literature. This room will also serve as the hub for Media Studies and the school newspaper, Hidden Agenda.



### Western Technical - Commercial School

125 Evelyn Crescent

Toronto Ontario

M6P 3E3

Tel: (416) 393-0500

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**Principal:** Lorraine Linton

**Vice Principals:**

A - F, Ms. T. Paulen

G - N, Mr. R. Edmunds

O - Z, Mr. J. Pollice

**School Resource Officer:**

P.C. G. Reis

**School Council Chair:**

J. Pynn

### School Schedules

#### Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Period 1 8:25 - 9:45

Period 2 9:50 - 11:05

Lunch 11:05 - 12:05

Period 3 12:05 - 1:20

Period 4 1:25 - 2:40

#### Wednesday

Period 1 9:25 - 10:25

Period 2 10:30 - 11:25

Lunch 11:25 - 12:25

Period 3 12:05 - 1:20

Period 4 1:25 - 2:20

THE VOICE OF WESTERN

TECHNICAL

COMMERCIAL

SCHOOL

IN OUR COMMUNITY

# Western Times

## Upcoming Events

### Grade 8 Information Night

November 17, 6-8 pm

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### Great Western Round Up

### Basketball Tournament

November 26th and 27th

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### Special Programs Night

December 1, 6-8 pm

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### Christmas Break:

Dec. 21, 2009 to Jan. 1, 2010

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### School Council Meeting

January 12, 7:30 pm

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### In Class Evaluations

January 22 and 25

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### Exams

January 22nd to 25th

## WTCS Student to Carry Olympic Torch

One of WTCS's students will be participating in the Olympic Torch relay

December 17th in Markham Square.

George is part of a group of 12 visually impaired teens and 4 of their

teachers from the TDSB Vision Program who won a nation-wide competition to carry the torch. We extend

our congratulations to George and the rest of the TDSB team and wish them the best of luck with the torch

relay. We will be looking for you during the planned television broadcast.



WTCS online:  
[www.wtcs.ca](http://www.wtcs.ca)



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## Principal's Message

Since the first class in September, Western Technical-Commercial School has been filled with rich learning. To our Grade 9's (the class of 2012) we trust you have enjoyed a supportive transition to high school life here and have selected your club or sports team for this year. Welcome to our grade 9 parents/guardians, we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming School Parent Council meeting.

We have a new addition to our administrative team Mr. R. Edmunds. He brings a wealth of organizational skills and leadership in secondary schools. Ms. Paulen will assist students who's last names are A-F, Mr. Edmunds G-N and Mr. Pollice O-Z. Please feel free to direct any questions regarding your child to our Vice-Principals.

Our grade 10 students travelled to Camp Olympia this past September and participated in a variety of team building activities. This annual leadership camp experience really helps to make Western a friendly space where all students feel welcome. Consider sending your child as a camper or leader to our 2010 transitions experience.

Teachers at Western provide ongoing support for students and are continually working on new approaches to enhance our school culture. We recently completed the fall Day of Respect where students and teachers both lead enrichment sessions that engaged students. Remembrance Day was unforgettable because as the students and staff stood on the front field to observe two minutes of silence vintage World War Two military planes flew overhead. Students involved in the ceremony honoured the spirit of the day with poetry, music and reverence.

Western Rocks!!!  
Ms. Linton



## Leaving School Early

Students under 18 must have parental permission to leave school early during the day and sign out. When a student has an appointment to attend outside the school during the day they are asked to bring a note from parent/guardian to the Attendance Office between 8:00 and 8:20 a.m. Medical and dental appointments should be made out of school hours where possible. It is the student's responsibility to catch up all class work missed when absent from school.

## Illness (Not Feeling Well)

If a student is ill during the day and needs to leave and go home they must have parental permission. They must go to the attendance office where parent/guardian will be contacted by phone if possible. If parents are unable to be contacted the student will remain at school until the regular dismissal time.

## Working Together to Ensure Student Success

In order to ensure the best possible education for your child, it is necessary for them to attend school regularly. A student's academic progress depends on regular class attendance. Research also indicates that attendance patterns and attitudes are developed at an early age. Students are expected to fully participate in learning opportunities and complete all homework assignments and tests when they are absent.

We would like to encourage families to plan extended vacations when school is not in session. Extended absences can result in gaps in student learning. Students in Grades 3 and 6 may have particular difficulty during the provincial assessments (EQAO) when they have been absent during the school year and have missed a large portion of the curriculum taught. Regular student attendance and punctuality is important in order for students to be successful at school.

You can help ensure your child's success by:

- being involved in your child's education;
- knowing the school's schedule;
- communicating regularly with classroom teachers
- calling the school if your child is going to



The Library circulated **1639** books, DVDS, videos and magazines in September and **1413** in October.

## Miss A Class – And You Miss A Lot!

### Western's Attendance Policy

Regular attendance at school is an essential ingredient in the recipe for student success. Every day in class teachers and their students are busy reviewing previous topics, working on new material and discussing assignments and homework. If a student misses a class, they have missed a lot!

**Parents/guardians** should notify the school's attendance office by 8:30 a.m. on the day of an absence and provide the students name, grade and reason for absence. On the day of the student's return to school parents should provide a signed and dated note confirming the absence (duration and reason) to the attendance office.

### Student Responsibilities

When a student returns to school after an absence, the student brings the signed and dated note to the attendance office and receives a Blue Admit sheet which must be shown to each of his/her teachers.

Students are expected to be punctual for each and every class. When students arrive late to class it interrupts the class and interferes with the learning of the other students. Students who arrive to class on time and ready to work are more likely to be successful in the courses.

When students are late to class it is tracked and recorded by teachers and the attendance office. Students, who arrive within 15 minutes of the scheduled class start time are marked late by their teacher. If a student arrives later than 15 minutes, they must sign in at the attendance office where they are marked late by the office staff and issued an admit slip and sent to class. Teachers and/or administrators may assign consequences, such as a detention, to a student who is frequently late.

## FALL SPORTS UPDATE

### VARSITY BOYS FOOTBALL

The Western Tech Football team is heading to the Tier II playoffs the week of October 26<sup>th</sup>. They are team led by captains Peter Zidros, Alhagi Dhaba, Dakota Vine, and Zach Fava. The kick return and punt return teams have provided some memorable highlights along with scoring a great touchdown run against Michael Power.

### JUNIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Junior boys volleyball at Western this year has a 1-3 record. There are a lot of good students on the team and they are really hard workers. The team consists of many grade nine students. It has been a learning experience for all the students involved. There are a lot of good teams in the South region, so if we can at least give the other teams a challenge, that's all that counts. The most important thing is that whether they win or lose, they always have fun!

### SENIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Senior boys volleyball team at Western has a 3-1 record. The team is doing very well improving with every game. They are led by Jason Pham, Stephan Duong, and Calvin Luong. A big highlight from the current season was a decided victory over UFA.

### SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL

The senior girls basketball team has a record of 4-2. They will be entering the playoffs as a high seeded team. The team is comprised of girls who are committed and demonstrate excellent leadership on and off the court. The season has been highlighted with a grueling come from behind victory over UFA. They were down by ten entering the fourth quarter and finished with an 11 point victory!

### JUNIOR BOYS SOCCER

The junior boys soccer team has a record of 1-5. This young group of men has a lot of talent and are committed to improve. The team is looking forward to a lot of future success. They are entering the playoffs week of October 26<sup>th</sup>.

### SENIOR BOYS SOCCER

The senior boys soccer team has record of 3-2-1. They are led by their strong goalie Agon Bimbashi and a handful of players including Youness Messoudi and Michael Lopez who add excitement to the game. A highlight this year includes a victory over Leaside 4-2. They are entering the playoffs week of October 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Library Corner



Chris Spence our new **Director** has started 'Just Read It'. It is available as an icon on the library website. All students can post reviews or comments about the book they are reading or have just finished. All books submitted will be tracked and counted throughout the year. Visit there as often as possible to submit your books to count towards the TDSB total and to recommend your favourite books to everyone! Monthly prizes will be randomly awarded to motivate and mobilize our school community. A great activity for your son or daughter...a very public book report!



### Jarvis St. Remy Memorial Book

The Library is putting together a Costco PhotoBook to commemorate Jarvis' life at Western Tech. If you would like to add anything such as comments or pictures, please send it in with your son or daughter to our Librarian, Pam Evans.

### Halloween Book Mark Contest in October

The contest closed Friday October 23 at 9:00am. We had 90 entries that were posted in the hall display case. Each entry received a Halloween pencil or eraser or chocolate just for entering. Each entry was able to vote for their four favourites. The five winning ones were made into bookmarks for the whole school and received prizes of Chapters gift certificates.

### S.T.A.R. Book Mark Contest in November

The Library will be holding another Book Mark Contest to celebrate our S.T.A.R. reading program. The Theme is Students and Teachers All Reading. It closes Friday the 27th of November at 9:00 am. Students who enter will vote during the day.

S.T.A.R. is a new reading program at Western to promote literacy and a lifelong love of reading. Everyone at Western is reading during the last 15 minutes of the period four times a week.

Please donate books to go on the FREE BOOK spinner. You can send them in to the school with your son or daughter. Prizes!!!!

Thanks to the Family of Schools Literacy Committee, we have 10 gift certificates of \$15 from each of the following stores:

A Different Booklist, The Beguiling, Book City, Chapters, ESL Book Store, Harry Tarrantula

For what you might ask? For students caught reading in the halls...for the best STAR poster...for the best STAR bookmark...for the best STAR audio ad for the PA ...for the best....

### OSSLT Results

First Time Eligible Students  
144 or 70% were successful  
61 or 30% were not successful.

Previously Eligible Students  
38 or 41% were successful  
54 or 59% were unsuccessful.  
26 students are enrolled in the OSSLC.

**Can you guess the number of books circulated in September and October? Look for the answer elsewhere in the newsletter.**

