



January 5, 2015

Happy new year to all of our School Council Chairs and Assembly Representatives! Here is the agenda for our upcoming meeting on **Tues., Jan. 13, 2015**. We will meet in the **school library** of **Forest Heights Collegiate from 7 to 9 pm**. Please note that as per WRDSB guidelines, school doors have to be kept locked, so please try to come by 7:10 pm at the latest.

Communication. Communication. Communication. We've heard in many different ways and from many different voices, that communication with and between teachers, parents and our schools is a common concern. We've also heard that this year, CASL only seems to have exasperated it.

With that said, we wanted to find a way to look at some of these concerns from all angles, with the hopes that we can brainstorm solutions and ideas to take back to your communities. Our goal is not to simply re-hash the concerns but rather to find ideas or strategies to help improve or create more positive communication amongst our parents, teachers and schools.

We have arranged for a small army of board staff to attend our meeting and we will break into 8 groups: each consisting of two staff members, 3 or 4 parents and one WRAPSC Steering Committee member to moderate/take notes. Each group will discuss one of these specific questions; brainstorming ideas using both the staff and parent perspectives. After the brainstorming session, each group will share their findings with the larger group.

1. How can parents make the most of the interview time with the teacher at the beginning of the year? How can telephone interviews be more productive?
2. What are some strategies that teachers and newcomer Canadians can use to overcome language and cultural barriers in their communication with each other?
3. How can parents be better informed about curriculum and what is going on in the classroom so they can help their children at home?
4. There are special challenges staying connected at the secondary level when a student has multiple teachers. How can parents and teachers better manage communication within such a setting?
5. How do teachers determine when and how to approach parents with concerns? What route should parents take if they have concerns about something happening in the classroom, at school or on a field trip?
6. How can technology be better leverage to help teachers and parents stay connected, especially given the restriction of CASL?
7. Report cards can be difficult for parents to understand. What are the key things parents should look for in report cards? What are the key things parents want to know? How do teachers make use of EQAO data and what use can parents make of their child's EQAO data?
8. The transition between grades 6-7 and 8-9 can be difficult and confusing for students and parents. What information do parents need to help ease this transition? How can schools and teachers help provide that?

Please note that **we encourage you to invite your school's staff, parents and council members to attend as well**, so they can participate in the discussions. We look forward to seeing you!

Christine & Laurie

Christine Gillis Bilton (WRAPSC Co-Chair 2014-15) & Laurie Tremble (PIC/WRAPSC Co-Chair 2014-15)

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
7:00 - 7:10	Co-Chairs report	Christine Gillis Bilton, WRAPSC Co-Chair
7:10 - 7:20	PIC event: Sat, April 18, 2015	Alicia Sumner, WRAPSC/PIC Treasurer & PIC Event Chair
7:20 - 7:30	Introductions & breakout into groups	Laurie Tremble, PIC/WRAPSC Co-Chair
7:30 - 8:00	Working groups	All
8:00 - 8:50	Presentations/discussions (Each group will have 3 mins to present and 3 minutes for discussion.)	All
8:50 - 9:00	Miscellaneous and Closing	Laurie Tremble, PIC/WRAPSC Co-Chair

Next meeting: **Tues, Feb 3rd at 7pm** on **MATH!** [Why is math different now?](#) Check out this fantastic video!