

Our Agency Connection—A Grove Perspective October 2022

Stronger Together

Dear Valued Partners,

Thank you for participating in our October GAC meeting. It was nice to be back into an in-person environment. I wanted to extend my thanks to Superintendent Andrea McAuley for sharing the board direction as it reflects Human Rights, Anti Discrimination and Anti Racism Policy as well as, Mental Health and Well-Being. Thanks to Michelle Ho from Public Health for her updates on COVID protocols and Vaccinations for Grades 7 and 8 students and to Sara Schleien Senior Manager and Clinical Lead - DDSB Psychological Services, for her review of the new “Integrating Them Right” process.



ECPP Exceptions for Transportation Considerations:

It is important to note that children and youth accessing programming through Education Community Partnership Programs (ECPPs) are not provided transportation as part of program access. Programming supports have emphasis in the direct provision of clinical support and the educational programming that is partner to that.

The majority of programs through Grove do not include transportation. The program staff are comprised of agency clinical staff (LRCSS in this program) and a teacher; those roles are not ones that would be involved in supporting safety as part of student transportation.

It is important that this information be clear to families/decision-makers when considering access to an ECPP program.

Use of Chromebooks:

At Grove school we stress to our teachers that Chromebooks are to be used as tools for teaching and learning and used during instruction periods only when the teacher can monitor their use.

Our records indicate, from September 2020 to June 2022; we have replaced 184 Chromebooks out of 380 allotted to Grove. This is a 49% replacement rate for two school years. The replacement cost is now \$457.75 per Chromebook. The only exception is the SEA computer devices that are assigned to specific students.

Over the next couple of years the older Chromebooks will all be replaced by new units. This process has begun and last week we were able to replace 45 older units. We are looking forward to further replacement of the older units within the next few months.

Community Involvement Hours:

Effective September 2022, 40 hours of community involvement is the graduation requirement once again. NOTE: Students can still apply 10 hours of paid employment to the 40 hours. This started during the start of COVID (the 10 hours of paid employment) and is continuing.

TKWD - Take Kid to Work Day - taking place November 2, 2022:

This opportunity allows a grade 9 student to follow an adult to their place of employment for the day. Although not all of our students participate with their legal guardian/caring adult, it is important that we address and highlight TKWD and place a focus on resources that can be used in place of a student following an adult for the day. For ideas/resources, or more information please reach out to Diane Laurie Grove's Head of Guidance.

Transitions:

We continue to work on a process that will help to transition our Grove students back into a mainstream school. At this point in the development we have asked all our teachers to notify administration of any student leaving the program. In doing so we can support the teachers to organize a meaningful process that will ensure a smooth transition. We would ask that our agency partners advise the teachers at their earliest opportunity of any student who will be discharged or transferred from their present placement. This will help us to ensure that a timely transition meeting is set for the receiving school.

Grade 11 English - NBE 3 E/U/C:

"First Nation and Inuit Studies" is the new requirement for all grade 11 students completing their grade 11 English credit. This is not just DDSB but rather for the majority of students across the Province. Grove has encouraged all staff to offer the Grade 11 English credit during the second semester to obtain resources and best practices during the first semester. A few Grove teachers are currently offering the course as these same teachers are part of a Grove Committee preparing to offer assistance to all staff in Semester II. The curriculum resources have been compiled by a committee working together at the DDSB. All resources are through the lenses of First Nation and Inuit peoples.

College and University Applications:

If a student/client is making application for a community college and/or University, it is very important that Diane Laurie is made aware. Grove does not follow the same process as community schools when it comes to applying to colleges and universities and therefore, it is imperative that Diane is aware of any application being made. Diane is always available to take a student through the on-line application process.

PLAR (Prior Learning & Recognition). Recent changes have been made to the PLAR process allowing students who will turn 18 during the school year to earn grade 9 and 10 credits by writing tests in either English, Math, Science, Geography and History and any combination thereof.

OSSLT:

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test is a graduation requirement for all students graduating from secondary school with their OSSD. The literacy test was cancelled for 2 years during COVID and last year, all students in grades 10, 11 and 12 were encouraged to complete the Ontario Literacy Course (OLC 401) as opposed to writing the on-line test. Students at Grove School, in the past, have not fared well.

We are continuing to ask ourselves "what is in the best interest of a student" and if registering a student in OLC 401 is in a student best interest, Grove School will continue to honour that practice. Because the completion of OSSLT is a graduation requirement, it is felt students completing the OLC 401 course in a small class and supportive learning environment is in their best interest to ensure the requirement is met.

The on-line OSSLT will still be offered for students who elect to write the test. The tentative dates for the Fall are in November and December while the tentative dates for the Spring test are scheduled for March and April 2023.

Inclusive Grade 9 Curriculum:

Effective September 2022, grade 9 courses make up the "De-streaming & Inclusive grade 9 curriculum". The Ministry of Education removed all Applied courses in Grade 9. Only Grade 9 De-streamed, Academic, Open or Locally Developed course options are offered. These courses form the DDSB's Inclusive Grade 9 Program. In September 2021, Grade 9 Math was De-streamed and the Ministry provided a new curriculum for this course. Effective September 2022, Grade 9 Science became De-streamed. The Ministry provided new curriculum for the course.

Full Year School-Grove School offers a Full Year Program VS a semester program for all students except students 'integrated into' classes at their community schools.

The extra time allows student to complete a course/credit that meets their individual timelines; however, we still want to ensure students are working on a time frame allowing them to earn credits similar to a semester system. We are sometimes the biggest cheerleaders on the sidelines, so we want to keep students thinking in terms of a semester system but allowing extra time as appropriate to ensure student success.

Reminders:

November 18th—Provincial Priority Day—Secondary Teachers will have workshops all day organized by OSSTF and elementary teachers will meet at Grove Central for administrative directed PD.

GAC—The Next GAC meeting will take place on Wednesday February 8, 2023 in the DASS HUB room, 240 Simcoe St. S in Oshawa. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am.

New Logo:

We have changed our logo at Grove!

Last school year we reached out to Jon Colwell, an artist with an Indigenous background to come up with a new logo that best represents Grove, the students we serve and the teachers that support them. This is the image he came up with and the messaging around the “Why” it represents Grove.

Wiidookdaaking: A place of helping

This “yin and yang” concept with a porcupine and otter in a den is a great representation of what we do at Grove School. The otter represents the teachers/a safe space in the sense that the otter has been known to share its den with other animals that need shelter temporarily as they are distressed or misplaced.

The porcupine on the other hand, represents the students. The porcupine is a warrior and doesn't have any enemies except for one, the marten. This can be interpreted by each student differently and the hurdles that they are getting over to get the education they deserve is “the marten”.

The otter “Grove teachers” is welcoming to the porcupine “students” into their home “Grove School” while they deal with whatever it is they need to do to complete their time there.

Stay well!!

Patrick

