



THE GUIDO GAB

Well, we've just about made it through this first, most unusual start to a new school year and it looks like most systems are humming. While we've all had to adjust to new realities - quadesters, masks, social distancing and fewer group activities - learning continues and that is certainly a wonderful thing.

Welcome to this first GAB of the 2020/2021 year. Here's hoping that we can continue to produce monthly reports as we have been doing for the past four years. If you are new to our school, welcome - and let me briefly explain this parent information document. We compile a number of pieces of news and information - both past and future - so that you are informed as to what is going on here at school. Yes, you have Edsby, and your son or daughter to pass on some information. But this gives each one of you a broader reporting of what's going on. This gets sent to you at the end of each month.

Some Welcomes

We want to welcome some new staff members and students this September. Joining us on staff are Mrs. Jodie Hart (Art), Mrs. Melanie Heemskerk (EA), Mrs. Stephanie Sikma (Art and English), Mr. Mike Vandervelde (Math) and Ms. Adriana Westerhof (PE and Math). We also welcome 111 Gr. 9 students, and several new families. We're glad you've joined our school community and wish you our Lord's blessing as you all adjust to your new tasks and roles.

Student Leadership

Our Student leadership Team (SLT) is comprised of 20 senior students and 4 staff who make it their mission to provide leadership for the student body, especially in providing activities and mentorship for the students of this school. Their work is very much appreciated and we try to regularly highlight their work in this publication. This year, Noah Devries plans to be our regular reporter, and he notes:

Hello everyone! The SLT is back again for another amazing year of fun and friendship at Guido.

We have already hit the ground running with a fabulous Grade 9 Fun Day (hosted at the school this year), where, on September 15, the new students could get to know each other in competitive activities with each other. Everyone had a fun

time, despite all the restrictions placed on us because of COVID-19.

Most recently, the SLT was able to travel to the CEF (Child Evangelical Fellowship) in Brantford for our annual SLT Retreat. This was also hampered by COVID-19 as we could only use their outdoor facilities (except for the bathrooms). We were also limited to a one-day stay instead of our traditional overnight event but will make up for this with a second Retreat in the second semester. During this time, we created fun new activities, the committees that would organize them, and planned how we would keep "spreading a positive, Christ centred, atmosphere outside of the classroom" despite the restrictions. It was also a good time for us to unwind and get to know each other.

We hope to keep you all updated during the year, with all recent developments and events. God bless!

Commencement 2020

It is happening this year...in fact, this week. Our graduating class of 85 students is pretty thrilled that such an event is even possible. While lots of things will be different about this milestone event...we're grateful that this group of students can still be together for one last event (under a big tent in the back field!) before they move on with their lives of service in the wider world. Grads....many blessings on your studies and work, and parents of grads, thank you for your encouragement and support. God has been good to us as we say goodbye to another graduating class. By the way, check out their class picture in the hallway next time you are in our building.

Sports Report

The Gab also monthly publishes a short report of some of the sports happenings and highlights in the school. And, yes, this year, we may look forward to some regular events, but also some special occasions, created by staff as a response to the restrictions of the pandemic. Jenna Dekker, our new sports reporter notes:

School sports is something that most students look forward to. Although we are limited with what sports we can play, the athletics council has been working hard on finding new ways to involve the student body with sports and being active. We have started up intramurals this past week, which we have been

THE GUIDO GAB

seeing a lot of participation in which is exciting. As the athletics council we have decided to choose spike-ball and volleyball as our fall intramurals. They are both fun and easy to play while also keeping relatively social distanced while playing. Also, because most sports seasons are cancelled, we are looking into creating a Guido golf team and beach volleyball teams! Our cross country team is starting up again, however it might look a little different due to restrictions, but still exciting for our athletes.

Our athletics council has gained many new members this year as many of the previous members last year had graduated. The members of the 2020/2021 athletics council include Mr. T Wildeboer and Mr. J Versteeg as our teacher reps, Gr 12's Jakob Koning, Raelene Slaa, Damon Dasilva, and Gr 11's, Jenna Dekker, Anthony Schouten, Djese Kasweka, Leanne Deboer, Tara Schuller, Chelsea Vanderwal, and Lydia Jajou.

I think it is safe to say that we are all excited to be organizing these sports in a safe way while creating and encouraging a God centered atmosphere.

The Sound of Music

Auditions have already taken place for this spring's big production of "The Sound of Music". Mr. Tomlin, our director notes:

One of the many new realities this school year in relation to COVID 19 is the restriction on performing arts in Ontario. This year we are moving ahead with our plans to produce The Sound of Music, in fact we have already had auditions and selected the cast. When we get to April we do not know how things will look and what restrictions will still be in place, so we are planning our performances based on what we can do today. We will need to prepare to have a good quality livestream available so the Guido community can enjoy the work of our talented students next Spring. We will be looking for capable people to help us with this as well as sponsors in order to help meet our budget. Please stay tuned for more details as they become available.

So you all have an invitation to consider being a sponsor of our much-anticipated play!

Final Words

Our first GAB of the year! Hoping that it gives you parents a better peek into some of the activities and plans of our students, and helps you to engage them in discussions. Thanks for your many words of support and encouragement as we all try to work our way through this quadmester, and these trying times. We'll continue to remember that ultimately our Lord is in charge. That's a good thing!

Mr. R. VanAndel

For Your Calendar

Sat. Oct 3	Commencement of 2020 class (Guido back field)
Wed. Oct. 7	Student Flex Day (all day) Parent-teacher conferences 2-4; 7-9
Mon. Oct.12	Thanksgiving Day
Thurs. Oct. 15	Mid-Quad reports go home
Wed. Oct. 21	Flex Day