

September is almost over and we've had a great start to another school year - the 45th year of Christian education here at Guido. We are privileged to begin this year working in God's service and certainly hope and trust that we can end this year in the same way.

One of the main goals of this GAB is to keep a pulse on school activity and to share the many activities with you as parents. We know that sometimes you hear news from school through your child; often you don't. So, we hope that this is one more way that we can stay connected with you at home.

## **Welcomes**

Some welcomes are first in order. We have three new staff members on board this year. They are Ms. Emily Wielstra who comes to us from Tasmania and is teaching Science courses. Mr. Paul Bartels has left the trade/construction world for education and is teaching woodworking and shop courses. Finally, Ms. Kezia Winkel is our newest Educational Assistant, working in a number of classes with different teachers and students. To each, our warmest welcome! We're impressed that each of you is fitting in as well as you have. We've also welcomed some new families who have moved into the area, or who have joined our school community from other schools. And, of course, all of our Gr. 9 students are slowly finding their way through the building and courses, and at this stage, no longer feeling quite as overwhelmed.

## **Gr. 9 Outing to Famee Furlane**

Our Gr. 9 students and our new Student Leadership Team (SLT) traditionally take a day to become better acquainted and this year was no exception. We travelled on the 11th of September to an Italian Cultural Centre (are there any Dutch cultural centres in the area?) in Binbrook where our SLT learned to be leaders and our Gr. 9 students learned to..... have fun, and to work through a process of orientation as they get used to high school, to different routines and different peers. It was a great day, (beautiful weather helped!) and once again, this year's SLT amazed us with their organizational and people skills - and ran a most successful day. As staff, we sit back in awe, watching these young people demonstrate such amazing leadership qualities. All-in-all, a great day!

## **SLT Retreat**

As you're receiving this, our 24 SLT students and 5 teachers will be returning from their annual 2-day retreat in Brantford. This outing gives these student leaders an opportunity to hear speakers, "learn the ropes" and prepare for a year of mentorship and student leadership. This group of students always amazes us as staff because

of their dedication and energy to the job of helping to run the school and organize events for their peers. We certainly wish these students God's blessings as they use their talents now and later.

## **Gr. 12 Career Planning**

Mrs. VanVelzen in Student Services is busy planning for another busy fall. Gr. 12 students, of course, will be making some important decisions in the next months, as they complete their final year of high school. Whether that future involves college, university, a co-op or apprenticeship, planning needs to take place and good communication is important as students and parents prepare for the next stage of life. College and university visits are being planned and personal interviews are taking place with each student so that no deadlines are missed, and sufficient grades are attained. It's a big job to help Gr. 12 students weigh their options. We're thankful that Mrs. VanVelzen has the expertise to guide students (and parents!) through what can seem like a maze of options and possibilities. So, university info programs begin at the end of this week, culminating with a fair in Toronto. Senior students can access this info by going to: <https://www.ontariouniversitiesfair.ca/regional/> College Information programs begin mid-October. Check out locations and dates at: <https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/news/cip/cip-schedule>.

## **Some Odds and Ends and Numbers**

- We're starting this year with 409 students with 104 in Gr. 9, 111 in Gr. 10, 107 in Gr 11 and 87 in Grade 12. These students are taught by 25 full-time and 9 part-time teachers and 4 Educational Assistants.
- Our school board, which governs this parental school, is comprised of 16 men and women from 17 local Canadian Reformed congregations.
- Two steady office administrators and one amazing caretaker look after innumerable tasks each day ensuring a smooth-running operation.
- At least 8 different sports and 13 clubs this year should interest almost everyone with something else to do beside regular schoolwork.
- Guido Hoodie order forms are out this Friday. The first round of orders will be taken next week starting on September 30 and finishing on October 4.

## Event Report

We hope to occasionally report on several club and special events happening at school which you might know nothing about. This time, a few words about “Art Outside the Classroom”. Earlier this week, the Gr. 11 Art class took a trip to Artifice in Beamsville, where they were put to work creating a metal sculpture which related to their unit on “Working in the Third Dimension”. The amazing finished products were a testament to creativity, while also imagining a 3-D idea and using that idea to create a sculpture. Wow - some amazing artistic pieces! The rest of the school gets to experience an impromptu “art gallery” of these finished pieces until they’re brought home.



## Sports Report

Elliott Holtvluwer plans to do regular sports reporting for the GAB. He’s not only a member of the Athletics Council, but I think, an aspiring journalist. See what you think...and thanks for your submission, Elliott.

“Guido is bustling - the sports seasons have commenced! Basketball for girls, volleyball for the boys, Grade 9 soccer, cross-country running, as well as many clubs. The energy is high, and excitement is palpable. A promotion and support of athletics at Guido involves the Guido Athletics Council - they help host tournaments and other events as well as provide inter-school activities like intramurals. The members of the Athletics Council for 2019/20 include: Mr. Wildeboer and Mr. Versteeg, Gr 12 students Ashlyn Knegt, Meaghan Koning, Malachi Lodder, Andrea D’addazio, Justin Vanderwoude, and Elliott

Holtvluwer, and Gr 11 students Ryenn Jans and Tamryn Vanderwoude.

The Council has met several times this month and is currently planning a Hometown Showdown versus HDCH for Friday October 4 (after school). The senior girls basketball team and the senior boys volleyball team will be playing. There will be several contests throughout the evening and pizza will be available to purchase for dinner. We would love to see you come out and support our teams! The basketball teams start competition Sept 25th, while the cross-country team had its first meet on the 23rd. It was a hot day, but everyone ran hard and had good results. The Gr 9 soccer teams (both girls and boys) are also planning to play in their respective tournaments this Thursday & Friday. The volleyball teams have played their preseason tournament and are looking game ready to start the season. This is your Sports Report and we will check back in October!”

Wishing you all the Lord’s blessing on the month ahead,

Ronn VanAndel

## Dates to Remember

- Wed. Oct 2** Teacher R & D Days begin; student dismissal at 2:05 pm
- Thurs. Oct 10** Guido Action Team hosts pro-life flag display - McQueston Park; 7:30-2:30
- Fri. Oct 11** Guido hosts Gr. 7,8 cross-country meet
- Mon. Oct 14** Thanksgiving Day - No school
- Fri. Oct 18** Gr. 9 Early Progress Reports go home
- Sat. Oct 19** OMF Students arrive
- Mon. Oct 21** Election Day - no gym use
- Wed. Oct 23** Parent Teacher Conferences begin at 7:00 pm
- Thurs. Oct 24** Parent Teacher Conferences begin at 7:00 pm
- Fri. Oct 25** CRTA Conference - no school for students