

Isn't it good to be back again! We're well into the second semester, and pretty confident, Lord willing, that we can sail through and complete a full semester. It's so encouraging to hear regular announcements about clubs, sports and other plans happening, and for big things planned for this spring. The GAB is also planning to finish out this year with monthly reports on the doings and plans of students and staff. Here is a recap of some of February's news, and some things to look forward to this month.

Robotics team

The Guido robotics team has been competing in live tournaments against other schools for about 7 years. This year all the in-person tournaments were cancelled due to COVID, but we took the initiative to prepare and set up to be able to compete in remote tournaments and were rewarded. After our first tournament on Jan 29th, Guido Robotics finished 3rd overall in total points scored and qualified for the provincial championships for the first time ever! Having taken some ideas from the first tournament, the team engaged in building improvements to the robot before our next remote tournament on Feb 26. In that tournament we made it to the playoffs and finished in 6th place. On Mar 4, the team will be driving to Ottawa to participate in the provincial championship on the 5th! Exciting times for us...

Gr. 9 Snow Trip

On Tuesday February 15, approximately 110 grade 9 students hit the hills at Snow Valley in Barrie, Ontario. It was a beautiful and enjoyable day. The students participated in either snow tubing, snowboarding, or skiing activities. We are thankful that no one was injured, and all had an experience of their year.

SLT Report

Elly Kampen keeps us informed of the SLT happenings. She writes:

"It's the second semester, and the SLT is back for more fun. We just had our retreat where we talked about all the exciting things coming this semester, and there are definitely many things to look forward to! In February we will be organizing a sticker assassination game. This is a game where students sign up, and then receive the name of another student that they are in charge of "assassinating" with a sticker dot. Once you have sticker assassinated that target, you collect the name that student had, and eventually it will come down to just one student who will be named master assassin. It is quite confusing to explain, but it has been tons of fun and we are very excited to find out who the master is! We also had peer mentorship this month, and did a special double group session. Two groups and their leaders were paired up, and then they all played kahoot together. Kahoot is a fun quiz game where students answer the questions through their phones. It was nice to do something different for peer mentorship and both the students and leaders definitely enjoyed it. We are very excited for the new semester and all the opportunities it will bring, and we pray that God will continue to make things safe for us to be at school."

Student Services Office

Excitement is in the air as those Grade 12 students, who have applied to university or colleges have started to receive offers to programs. Those of you with Gr. 12 students know how keenly felt this anticipation is. And preparations have been started for our grade 10 Career Day, which had been paused for the last two years. Stay tuned for more details in coming issues.

Sports Report

Jenna Dekker, our sports reporter, once again provides this update:

As exams have passed, the return to high school sports comes closer! At this time, the ice rink is prepped and ready for use!! That's right, Guido has its very own ice rink! Students have signed up for lunch hour skates and hockey intramurals. We can only have 20 people

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on the ice, so students are reminded to sign up for specific days. But, with that being said, we are super excited about the use of the rink!

We are awaiting the return to sports - it looks quite promising that we will be back soon. Badminton, Soccer and Track & Field should DV starting soon. As the athletics council, we are looking forward to organizing another fundraising event for funds so that we can keep our tournaments, intramurals, and projects running. More details about the date we will be hosting it on will be coming soon. For any updates in between the monthly articles be sure to follow the Guido Athletics Council on Instagram (@guidoathleticscouncil). Looking forward to the next semester and all the best in this following term!

New School Planning

Many of you will have heard about or even seen some of the plans for the anticipated new building. These are, indeed, exciting times as we anticipate much growth in our student numbers. All of this coincides with a 40-year building that is getting older. So, where this is all going, we still don't know. Lots of planning, work and prayer is required, and we trust that we will be supported in all of this. You will, undoubtedly, be hearing about this initiative.

Registration Forms coming in

Preparations are in full swing for next year's course planning. We will have received all the registration forms by now (is your child's in?), and this will allow Mr. Leistra to begin his course/teacher planning and allocation.

Grad Photo Day 1

Grad photos begin today. Your Gr. 12 son or daughter will have received an invitation to sign up for a slot via Edsby. These pictures - a lasting memory of high school life - take place most of the week. It's especially important to remind senior students off on Coop placements, that they need to take a bit of time one morning or afternoon to get that photo taken.

R & D beginning again

For your benefit, teacher R & D (research and development) periods begin again this semester, starting this Wednesday, Mar. 2. Students will be dismissed early on these Wednesdays while teachers prepare for future development here. One of our areas of required preparation is anticipating how to deal with destreamed Gr. 9 classes in all the core subjects - French, English, Geography, Math and Science. As staff, we are also busy with the topic of staff evaluation and preparing for our next inspection. So, lots to do for us on those Wednesday afternoons - when you may wonder why your kids are home so early!

"The Sound of Music"

Let me share a short report from Ava VanPopta who is the assistant director for this year's large musical performance. Ava writes:

"Dear students, parents, grandparents, and musical enthusiasts, The Sound of Music is fast approaching! Despite on and off in-person schooling, the musical being pushed off a year, and numerous snow days, the cast and crew are excited to be able to push through these past couple months to bring you the musical you've all been waiting for. We are rehearsing, directing, singing, and can't wait for you all to see what we've got in store this coming April! We plan for five performances in the last week of April. More information regarding ticket sales, pricing, and seating will be coming shortly. The cast and crew is very thankful to have this opportunity to glorify God with our gifts, and we would love for you to join in on this special occasion."

So be sure to reserve one of those dates in the last week of April for this much-anticipated performance!

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Literacy Test Plans

With the resumption of most school activities comes the planning for this spring's Literacy Test. This April, both Gr. 10 AND Gr. 11 students will need to write. Gr. 12 students are not required to write or to pass this test. All testing will be on-line this year as opposed to the traditional paper testing that was used in the past. We will keep you informed of exact dates later in March, but at this point, the plan is to have all Gr. 10 students write on Thursday morning, April 7th, while Gr. 11 students would write one week later - on the 14th of April. Classes have begun to prepare by introducing students to some practice exercises. While the dates are sometime away, it might be good to check if any medical appointments had been scheduled for those dates, and whether these could be changed at this earlier stage.

So, lots going on and even more to look forward to!

R. VanAndel

March at a Glance

Mon. Feb 28 - Fri. Mar. 4 - Grad pictures
Fri. Mar. 11- Fri. Mar. 18 - Spring Break