

# Welcome to Churchill

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winston Churchill C.I.

May 2017



*Our mascot  
The Churchill Bulldog*

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**

First day of Summer Institute

Last Day of School

**Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

*"Churchill has a lot of clubs and a really good breakfast program. The food is so good and it's healthy. Best of all it's free." - Peter*

## WELCOME TO GRADE 9

This is such an exciting time for you. You're preparing for grade 8 graduation and getting ready to begin the journey into high school. Thinking about high school can be exciting and scary all at the same time. We want you to know that we are here to support you along the way.

The most important thing that we want you to know is that we're excited you're coming. We want you to feel welcome

*"The Amazing Race Trip downtown was really awesome & fun!" - Riya*

and safe and know that Winston Churchill is your high school. When you join us, you will have all kinds of opportunities for learning, athletics, fun, and more. The more you put into it, the more you will get out of it.

**We can't wait until you join us in September!**

***THERE ARE MANY SKILLS YOU WILL NEED IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN HIGH SCHOOL.***

*Take a look at these skills and ask yourself ...*

*"Am I fantastic at this" or "Hey, I need to work on this."*

- ***Works independently***
- ***Initiative***
- ***Teamwork***
- ***Work habits & Homework***
- ***Organization***

## ANNUAL GRADE 9 LEADERSHIP FIELD TRIP

It is an annual tradition at Winston Churchill for all grade 9 students to attend a one day fun-filled day of leadership and team building activities during the third week of September.

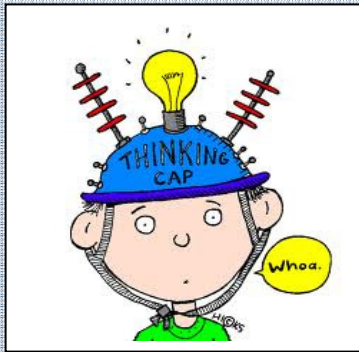
This trip allows all grade 9 students a chance to get to know one another.

Best of all – IT'S FREE!



# HIGH SCHOOL MYTH BUSTERS

## FACT OR FICTION?



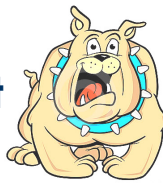
So, you are about to start high school, but you still have so many questions about what it is going to be like. You hear different things from different people and you just aren't sure what to think anymore. Let us help bust some of the myths about high school.

Take some time to check whether you think each statement is "Fact" or "Fiction." Once you are done, you can check on Page 3 to bust some of those famous high school myths.

Please circle the best answer. True or False?

- T /F Approximately 50% of students go directly to work after high school.
- T /F I need permission to leave the school for lunch.
- T /F I will have my own locker.
- T /F Attendance is an important part of my success in high school.
- T /F Teachers do not like to give extra help in high school.
- T /F There are all kinds of teams and clubs that I can join and I can join more than one.
- T /F Being initiated is part of the high school experience.
- T /F There are classes in high school that I can take, where I can earn high school credits and get work experience at the same time.
- T /F Once I choose my courses I will not be able to change them.
- T /F I have to complete 60 hours of community service in order to graduate from high school.

## Community Involvement



### What is Community Involvement?

- 40 hours of community involvement activities
- A requirement for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- A volunteer activity – not for pay or credit
- A constructive contribution to the community

*"I was worried about getting my hours but then I started volunteering with different events at school and now I've almost got 30 hours. It was actually fun and easy." - Mohamed*

### Why has the Ministry of Education mandated it?

- Reinforces civic responsibility
- Strengthens the community
- Enhances one's self-confidence and self-image
- Offers networking for future employment
- Provides an experience for students to include in their portfolios

Check out the Volunteer Fair in November for great opportunities for volunteering.

### When must students complete it?

- Any time during the secondary school program including the summer prior to entering grade 9 and prior to graduation
- Outside class hours, for example:
  - during lunch breaks
  - after school
  - on weekends
  - during school breaks
  - during the summer months

\* Community Involvement Passports are available on TDSB's website.

## GET INVOLVED JN

### CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES!



*"I really like how Churchill is so nice when it comes to getting help. At first I was really struggling in my class but because of the extra help I got from my teacher during remediation, I improved a lot."*

- Kushboo

## Planning for Success

It is a bit scary to think about graduating from high school when all you can think about is your Grade 8 Grad!

All graduations are exciting because they are a celebration of all that you have accomplished.

Think about one accomplishment that you are very proud of (i.e., a creative art assignment, a good mark in a subject that you struggle with).

Write down this accomplishment.

Setting goals is a very important life skill. By setting goals you can ensure success!

Set a goal for your year in Grade 9. Write it down.

How do you plan to accomplish your goal? List the steps you will take to accomplish this goal. Is there anyone who can help you meet this goal?

What questions do you still have about high school? Write them down and have them ready to ask your guidance counsellor.



**"The lockers here are cool because there are a variety of colours like blue, orange, purple, etc... The grade 9 hall is called the SUNSHINE hallway. It's so nice because of all the sunlight that comes in from the big windows." - Brintha**

**YOU  
CAN DO IT  
IF YOU TRY**

**Take advantage of the opportunities you have in school and get involved!**

### Helpful hints & ANSWERS to Myth Busters

**TRUE** – Approximately 50% of high school students DO go directly to work after high school. Lots return after being in the work force for a number of years.

**FALSE** – In high school you are free to leave the school for lunch, just remember to be respectful of our neighbours and get back to class on time!

**TRUE** – Every student gets their own locker – no need to share.

**TRUE** – Research shows that students who attend classes do significantly better than those who don't – kind of makes sense doesn't it?

**FALSE** – Teachers are glad to give extra help after school and lots actually schedule regular after school help sessions. If you need some help, it's important to let your teacher know.

**TRUE** – High school offers lots of different teams and clubs. If there doesn't seem to be one you are interested, ask around, there may be a teacher willing to help you set something up.

**FALSE** – Initiation is definitely not part of the high school experience. Orientation is meant to be welcoming and fun for all. If you are not having fun during the opening days of school, please let a teacher or guidance counsellor know – we want to make sure you feel welcome and safe. After all, it's your school now too.

**TRUE** – These types of classes are called cooperative education – a great way to earn credits and work experience at the same time.

**FALSE** – You are not locked into the classes you choose, however, classes do fill up and changing schedules may not work for you. See a guidance counsellor as soon as possible if you want to change – the longer you leave it, the more difficult it may be.

**FALSE** – You only have to complete 40 hours of community service hours – that's just 10 hours per year of high school. Try not to leave them all until the end of grade 12.

When you fall asleep tonight you will still be in grade 8, but now when you wake up the next morning, you'll be in grade 9! Congratulations!  
We wish you a safe and wonderful summer!