

Principal's Message

ESPSS students complete second set of examination

by Gilles Cinq-Mars
Principal ESPSS
ESPSS students have just completed their second set of formal examinations.

For a good number of them, it will likely be their last set this year, given that exemptions from the June examinations are possible if the students have consistently achieved at a high academic level.

All students should realize however, that high marks up to now are not a guarantee of an exemption in any subject. That prerogative properly belongs to the subject teacher who will make his or her decision based on the student's work and effort over the entire year. Please keep that in mind if you should notice a slackening of effort by your student during the next term.

1. Attendance and academic success. Concern was expressed at a recent staff meeting that in some cases, students appear to be missing school for less than substantive reasons, and that parents are giving their blessing to those absences.

For example, Friday afternoon absences, justified by notes from parents, are recorded for the purpose of hairdressing appointments; going shopping; meeting friends at the bus or airport; trying for a driver's licence; etc. As educators of your children we have no real problem with student absences, if they are verified by the parents, for reasons or causes such as illness or other events that are of extreme importance and which cannot be scheduled at other times.

We do have real concerns, however, with the practice of parents agreeing to their child's absence from school for reasons or causes which, in our opinion, could be scheduled at times other than the school day.

The increasing frequency of these absences on Friday afternoons indicates that in all probability you as parents may not be realizing fully the impact of the permission slips you are giving your child.

Some teachers have analyzed the term marks in their classes, related to student absence and have discovered a positive correlation between the absence rate of students and lower marks of students. I hope you are keeping a close watch on this type of thing.

2. Drugs. We know that any organism, animal or vegetable, is more susceptible to

harm while it is growing. Students in their teens are such organisms and consequently in danger of harm (emotional, psychological, intellectual, and physical) if allowed to indulge in drug use which can become addictive.

It is the position of the personnel at ESPSS that the great majority of youngsters attending school must be protected from the hazards of drug use, advocated and practiced by the few. Consequently, I wish to acquaint all parents, not only with the perceived dangers, but also with my position on this issue.

I believe that a small minority of students are drug users and sometimes peddlers. I believe they represent a danger to the other students in the sense that they can convince other more impressionable youngsters to indulge in drug use.

This in my view places most of our students in double jeopardy — not only are they ridiculed by the few users if they don't indulge; they bring harm to themselves if they do, as well as placing themselves in a position of breaking the law.

At ESPSS any drug user or peddler must realize that he or she is indulging in a very high risk activity.

Students caught using or dealing in narcotics will be subject to the full force of Board policy concerning suspension from school, as well as subject to the full force of the law insofar as it can be applied by the judiciary.

This policy is meant to be a deterrent to those who would use drugs in our school, and a warning to those who might that it may well prove to be a dangerous activity.

I know, my dear parents, that we at ESPSS have your full support in this matter. I can also assure you that we do not have a high incidence of drug abuse at ESPSS.

3. Rotary Club Student Exchange. Congratulations are definitely in order to Inge Schwauss of ESPSS who has been selected by the District Rotary Club to represent this area in a foreign country next year. Inge who is presently in grade 12 will live in either of Australia, South Africa, or West Germany from September, 1981 to June 1982. Inge certainly has the best wishes of all who know her at ESPSS.

4. General Review. It was finally our turn and ESPSS hosted a team of fifteen SCBE and

Ministry of Education superintendents during the week of Feb. 3-6, 1981. These individuals visited every teacher in several classes, examined all our courses of studies and practices, procedures, and policies.

They interviewed staff, students, custodians and clerical staff. All in all it was a very thorough visit and we appreciated the opportunity to be their host for the week. While we have not yet received any formal report on the general review, all informal accounts received indicate that the team feel very positively about ESPSS, its students and staff.

It appears that they were particularly impressed with the polite department of our students towards each other and towards staff, and vice-versa. I can only conclude that these same students are living the very values which you parents teach them at home. That certainly makes our task of educating these youngsters much easier and we appreciate your support.

5. Report Card Distribution. Please note that report cards will be distributed to all students on Monday, March 30. Please sign the report card, make whatever comment you wish in the appropriate section, and return them promptly to the school via your son or

daughter.

6. Parent-Teacher Night. Now that there appears to be no chance of a storm, we have scheduled a Parent-Teacher Interview Night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 1981 (no joke, to be sure). We strongly urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to chat with the teachers at ESPSS and, in some cases, meet them perhaps for the first time. You may be assured that all staff here looks forward to meeting you on those occasions.

7. Linkage Program (Technical Department). Linkage is a relatively new program introduced by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities in conjunction with secondary schools and industry.

The program involves several trades; at ESPSS it applies to the Motor Vehicle Mechanic and the Machinist trades. The objective is to provide a basic training for students which is common across the province and recognized by industry.

The basic material learned is recorded in the student's personal record book as he or she completes each section. Once all the necessary basic material is covered, a student wishing to continue an apprenticeship in the trade may have the basic training session waived by the employer. This effectively

shortens the apprenticeship period, which means a higher pay scale sooner.

Basic material would normally be completed by the time a student finishes the fourth year in a secondary school. Any student enrolled in senior Automotive or

Machinist classes should ensure he or she is included in the linkage program. Although they may not now intend to pursue one of these apprenticeships, who knows what the future may bring?

This program could

also be available for mature, part-time students who would like to acquire the basics of a trade while working. In other words, we at ESPSS will welcome enquiries from any community adult who may have interest in this program.



It's supposed to sink

The winner of the Spring Splash contest, sponsored by Chalet Sports and Equipment, will be the person who guesses best when the snowmobile body at right sinks

through ice at the Penetanguishene town dock. Chalet Sports owner Don Ealev says two years ago the date was April 23. Last year the ice was out before the contest started.

THE NEW MINIMUM WAGE RATES IN ONTARIO

New Minimum Wage rates will go into effect March 31st, 1981. A further increase will go into effect October 1, 1981.

	Effective March 31st	Effective October 1st
General hourly rate	\$3.30	\$3.50
Learner hourly rate	\$3.20	\$3.40
Student hourly rate	\$2.45	\$2.65
Liquor Licensed premises hourly rate	\$2.80	\$3.00
Construction hourly rate	\$3.55	\$3.75

Additional information may be obtained from the Employment Standards Branch, Ontario Ministry of Labour, in the following cities:

TORONTO	HAMILTON	KENORA
400 University Avenue M7A 1V2 Tel: (416) 965-5251	1 West Avenue South L8N 2R9 Tel: (416) 527-2951	808 Robertson Street P9N 1X9 Tel: (807) 468-3128
KINGSTON	KITCHENER	LONDON
1055 Princess Street K7L 1H3 Tel: (613) 542-2853	824 King Street West N2G 1G1 Tel: (519) 744-8101	205 Oxford Street East N6A 5G6 Tel: (519) 439-3231
OTTAWA	ST. CATHARINES	SAULT STE. MARIE
2197 Riverside Drive K1H 7X3 Tel: (613) 523-7530	205 King Street L2R 3J5 Tel: (416) 682-7261	390 Bay Street P6A 1X2 Tel: (705) 949-3331
SUDBURY	THUNDER BAY	TIMMINS
199 Larch Street P3E 5P9 Tel: (705) 675-4455	435 James Street South P7E 6E3 Tel: (807) 475-1691	273 Third Avenue P4N 1E2 Tel: (705) 267-6231
WINDSOR		
500 Ouellette Avenue N9A 1B3 Tel: (519) 256-8278		

For toll free numbers check the government listings in your local telephone directory.

Ministry of Labour
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Employment Standards Branch

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