

# UFA NewsFlash – September 13, 2018

## Important Information for the Week of September 16 - 20

Tuesday, September 17

- School Advisory Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 17 –Staff Meeting Schedule – Early Dismissal @ 2:33 p.m.

Wednesday, September 18

- Unit 1 Wednesday Enrichment Program Sessions Begin

### Other Important Information

#### School Advisory Council

A reminder that the School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting will take place beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. All parents are welcome.

#### Retreat

- We have just received word that the buses left Camp Tamarack at 1:50 p.m. this afternoon. The usual travel time is 2.5 hours. We expect the busses to arrive at UFA between 4:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. If you are coming to pick up your child by car – please take advantage of our underground parking – it will help relieve congestion on the streets around the school.
- I had the opportunity of visiting the retreat yesterday – the Grade 9 students appeared happy and engaged in the activities. It is a tremendous opportunity for them to learn about UFA, its history, philosophy and the foundations on which our program is built. Transitioning to a new school can be a difficult and scary process, The retreat offers opportunities for them to forge new relationships with their peers, connect with the senior students involved in the program and begin the process of identifying and connecting with staff in a non-threatening supportive environment.
- We need to recognize and thank the senior students (PALs and retreat Leaders) who acted as facilitators, counsellors and mentors, not only for the retreat – but all of the first week orientation activities and support provided to our new incoming grade 9 students. Student co-ordinators (in alpha order); Olivia Aitkin, Jon Gotlib and Elaina Pilouras. Student leaders (in no particular order): Amarai Endes, Mei Chiao; Mya Thompson; Zoe MacLennan, Cassie Fulcot, Waverly Chow, Sanjana Shah, Nicole Alves-Sala, Anna Thomas, Amareen Shai, Michelle Lewis, Sophie Hocevar, Akshay Komal, Will Bordeau, Keiran Pace, James Moens, Jakob Dewar, Sasha Mihajilovski, Josh Feld, Scott Yang, Theo Davis, Musaad Hydari, Rishabh, and Wyatt McNeil.

- A trip of this sort is not possible without the staff participation. A special thank you goes out to our staff who volunteered their time away from family to be there, and for without whom the event could not take place. Staff that participated this year include: Carolyn Boot, Mia Kim, Sheila Mooney, Hillel Heinstein, Jeff Tebbins, Howard Buckstein, Heather Struppat and OISE Teacher candidate Ryan Gaio.
- A big thank you to Barb Wagner-Heim who shouldered the Admin responsibilities for this program as we move through this transition period.
- Finally – special mention needs to be made of Ali Callegarini, who orchestrated the entire welcome, orientation and retreat program (working with the Admin, teaching staff and student leaders) to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for our new students. Ali has put in countless hours to train, lead and guide our student coordinators and leaders. Thank you Ali what a tremendously well-planned event. You should be proud.

#### Forms

- We have had an issue with the on-line forms that need to be returned to the school. Parents who have not returned or have not received the forms – please email Joe-Anne Arsenault ( [joe-anne.arsenault@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:joe-anne.arsenault@tdsb.on.ca)). She will send you a link.

Have a great weekend!

David