

March 22, 2010

To Parents/Guardians:

**Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)**

Thursday, April 8, 2010 is the day that has been selected by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) for all grade 10 students to write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). The successful completion of the OSSLT is a diploma requirement.

In an effort to support a successful experience for all our students writing the OSSLT, extend the preparation for the OSSLT in grade 9 and engage more staff members in a school-wide approach to Literacy, White Oaks Secondary School will make changes to the daily schedule on April 8, 2010.

All students required to write the OSSLT will report to their designated rooms by 8:05 am (schedules will be posted around the school). As mandated by EQAO, the OSSLT will be conducted during periods 1 and 2 with a break in the middle. All grade 9 students will report to their designated rooms by 8:05 am (as per the schedule posted around the school) during periods 1 and 2 with a break in the middle. Each grade 9 student will complete a simulated Literacy Test developed by WOSS Literacy Team members. The simulated test will be assessed by the Literacy team in an effort to identify students who may require extra support prior to writing the required test in grade 10.

Grade 11 and 12 classes will not be formally conducted during the morning of April 8th. All grade 11 and 12 students will have the opportunity to take part in two formal assemblies which focus on preparing these senior students for their final exams and summative projects. Students will be told in advance where they should expect to be during periods 1 and 2. It is important to note that no students will be allowed to remain in the halls during periods 1 and 2 on the morning of April 8th. Staff will be on hand to direct all students to the appropriate locations.

We feel strongly that the organization of this special schedule will support improved OSSLT results for our students writing the test this year and in years to come. We also believe that the assemblies organized for our grade 11 and 12 students will serve them well as they prepare for summatives and final exams at WOSS this year.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any questions. Thank you for your support of student success and literacy at WOSS.

Yours truly,

John Stieva  
Principal