

GRAD NEWSLETTER - FALL 2009

All students who intend to graduate within the next two years should be researching their post-secondary options.

- ➔ **APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES** - Training sessions for on-line applications will begin near the end of November. Application deadlines are January 13, 2010, for university applications to OUAC and February 1, 2010, for college applications to OCAS. *See below for a list of important dates.*
- ➔ **UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE SEMINARS** - This schedule outlines visits to the West by the various schools as well as college and university information days. These dates may change - an updated list will be posted on the board outside the Guidance Office and on the Guidance Web page under "Grad News". Please check regularly.

The school website, www.cdciwest.com, contains the following information to assist you with your research - just go to the Guidance page and click on "Grad News":

- ➔ **SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES** - Many scholarships are automatic, but the major awards often require a separate application. Many local community scholarships also require an application. Some scholarships are based on need; volunteer, extra curricular and leadership activities almost always count; marks are often a factor. Scholarship and bursary opportunities are announced as they become available and are kept on file in Guidance. Be sure to check the "**Scholarship**" link on the web-site on a regular basis for awards that may apply to you. Also check out www.studentawards.com or www.scholarshipscanada.com. Be sure to let a guidance counsellor know if you have financial need and fill out a **CDCI West Bursary Application in the spring**.

OTHER HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS:

- ✓ **CHECK PREREQUISITES** and **CUT-OFFS** and **RESEARCH** post-secondary programs. Use the list of *Internet Resources on the "Grad News" link* to check out programs and schools. Consult the **OUAC** and **OCAS** web sites as well as **Electronic info** - be sure to read the fine print regarding how final averages are calculated. Be aware of the importance of semester 2 midterm marks.
- ✓ **RESUMES AND PORTFOLIOS** - Be sure to update your personal resumes as they will be handy when applying for scholarships or for completing P.I.F. or supplementary applications. Plan ahead for letters of reference - get multiple copies of generic letters or have them saved to alter for future use. Art, Music, Drama, Film or Design students should have portfolios and/or audition material ready by the end of January. Be sure to check with individual schools for content, well ahead of deadlines. Go to subject teachers for advice!
- ✓ **RESEARCH RESIDENCE OPTIONS** - Room allocation, room guarantees, costs, meal plans, lifestyle (French, quiet, townhouse, co-ed, international, all one gender, etc.), application procedures, rules, deposits, deadlines, etc. Be sure that you see the residences before you commit.
- ✓ **VISIT UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES** - consult *Electronic INFO* and the *Ontario College* website for a list of **CAMPUS TOURS** and **SPECIAL VISIT OPPORTUNITIES**. Check the individual college and university websites for **OPEN HOUSES**. Arrange for visits through **LIAISON** offices. **VISIT** before you make your final decision!!!
- ✓ **RESEARCH FIRST YEAR COURSES**. Know what courses you will be taking and be aware of labs, seminars and tutorial requirements. Visit the *College and University websites* and look at course calendars online.
- ✓ **TALK** with friends, parents, teachers and counsellors.
- ✓ **INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING** - If you are confused about what you want to study or where you would like to go to school you need to make an appointment ASAP to look at your post-secondary options—don't put it off!!!!

Students are encouraged to make appointments for individual counselling as many times as is required to address questions that may arise during your research. **The Guidance Office is always available for your research. Remember that you are about to make one of the most important decisions of your life. Don't sit back waiting for the answers, *get involved and get informed!!!*

*** **STUDENT LOANS** - We will be offering an *O.S.A.P* information seminar in *May****

SCHEDULE OF DATES FOR APPLYING TO ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES

OUAC (ONTARIO UNIVERSITY APPLICATION CENTRE)

WWW.OUAC.ON.CA

September 2009

- ➔ All potential university applicants will receive a copy of electronicINFO

November 2009

- ➔ On-line training for students applying to university

January 13th, 2010

- ➔ **Deadline for Ontario secondary school students to submit on-line applications to OUAC for *EQUAL CONSIDERATION* → applications submitted earlier will be forwarded to universities earlier. *Plan to submit and pay at least one week prior to avoid web-site overload and resulting “student breakdowns”!!!!***

February 1st, 2010

- ➔ **Recommended last date for students to submit all personal information to the OUAC, to be eligible for consideration for early admission. This includes university and program changes and additional choices.**

April 23rd, 2010

- ➔ Ontario secondary schools submit to OUAC, midterm marks from Semester 2

May 25th, 2010

- ➔ Latest date by which all applicants shall expect a response from an Ontario university. Such a response will be one of the following:
 - an offer of admission
 - a refusal or
 - a deferral pending the receipt of additional information

May 28th, 2010

- ➔ Earliest date by which Ontario universities may require a response to an offer of admission from an applicant.

Mid-June, 2010

- ➔ The earliest date by which Ontario universities may require a financial commitment of any kind (registration deposit, residence deposit, etc.).

SCHEDULE OF DATES FOR APPLYING TO ONTARIO COLLEGES

OCAS (ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION SERVICES)

WWW.ONTARIOCOLLEGES.CA

****Please note that the dates below may change – watch for potential date changes in future publications*

September 2009

- ➔ All potential college applicants will receive a copy of the Ontario College Guide

November 2009

- ➔ On-line training for students applying to college

February 1st, 2010

- ➔ Deadline for Ontario secondary students to submit on-line applications to OCAS for equal consideration → important for highly competitive (oversubscribed) programs.

May 1st, 2010

- ➔ Applicants must confirm an offer of admission through OCAS (some colleges may require different dates and will advise applicants in writing)

June 15th, 2010

- ➔ Earliest date that colleges may require payment of tuition fees.

