

Waterloo Independent Secondary School

April 2, 2020

THANKS TO ...WISS Homestay Families

This is not what they signed up for! But they continue to care for students as their 'parents away from home'. These families take on added importance in the lives of our students because students have lost some of the personal care that teachers provide when they meet daily with students. Homestay families are picking up the slack. Many thanks to them!

And to ...the Dorm Moms, Jiamin and Ms. Li

They are taking care of the dorm students. Like Homestay Parents, WISS is very lucky to have such caring people in these times of special need for our students.



CONGRATS TO ...

Margaret on her offer from Queen's University. Many choices and a very bright future for this young lady. She's a star!



Well done, Margaret!

Billy and Josh



UPDATES

1. The Minister of Education announced that publicly funded schools will stay closed until May 4. We can expect to receive the same direction soon in regards to private schools. At this point, that return date is less than certain; so, WISS will continue to plan to offer online learning to the end of the course.
2. As noted in the last *Bulletin*, some students had planned to return to China before end of school year. Now, it seems that all flights they booked were cancelled. They're all here for the duration.

WISS INITIATIVE

Teachers in the province have been thrown into the deep end with online teaching. WISS is no exception. We are fully aware that teaching online is in some very important respects not like classroom teaching. But it's sink or swim for teachers! Happily, at WISS, we are very fortunate to have a group of resourceful teachers. In the long run, we realize that we need to build capacity in our school for online learning. We have asked Greg to take the lead on developing an **Online Teaching Syllabus** for the school. He has made a start and will keep us informed of progress. *Thanks Greg!*

SURVEY RESULTS: STUDENTS

- Generally **quite satisfied** with the online model: can pay attention, have enough time to do homework and assignments, can work independently, can find resources, like the way teachers teach.
- Only **somewhat satisfied** with teacher resources used in the class.
- Like the daily contact with teachers but it's **not easy to interact**.
- **Not enough students understand the homework or assignments**.
- Most find it **hard to pay attention** for the entire class and far **too many get distracted**.
- **Can't get as much work done online** as in the classroom.
- Some favour trying a different model.
- Strong agreement that **technology prevents them from learning well**.

What are the implications for teaching going forward?

1. The low level of satisfaction with teacher-student interaction echoes teachers' comments. Exercise caution with assessment data for conversations.
2. Technology for teachers and students is less than adequate.
3. Take more time to explain homework and assignments to ensure good understanding of tasks.
4. Keep on the slow and steady path with lessons.
5. Teaching strategies/resources need attention.