

From the Editor's Desk

How swiftly time does pass! This combined issue features both content from December as well as January. Lucky for you, this means that this issue is jam packed with some new information!

We've included a new section dedicated towards consolidating memorandums and important notes from your Education Students' Council. We have also included a number of new events and initiatives onto our agenda, many of which are mentioned throughout this issue, and we sincerely hope to see you amongst our Sports Days, Wellness Wednesdays, and all the stuff in between!

As always, we are looking for contributors: be it a paragraph, photograph, artwork, or a full article, exercise your creative/journalistic side on topics pertaining to Althouse, education, your Western experience, etc. ... the sky is the limit! Got an idea for something we should cover? Be sure to give us a holler!

Still looking to pick up your edVantage card? Contact one of the executive members of the ESC to coordinate a pick-up time from the ESC office. If you're looking to swing by the ESC office to generally get in touch with an ESC member or need a space to work, the ESC office hours for this semester are posted in the final pages of this issue. Everyone is welcome to use this space when open!

Finally, if you're constantly thinking about social innovation and cross-curricular connections on current affair topics, note that the United Nations Observances and their Sustainable Development Goals are a great way to start. Some ideas are included for how to incorporate this observances are used in the classroom.

We hope that you'll find this semester refreshed, exciting, and of great fun!

Sincerely,

Dilpreet Moti

ESCargot Editor escargotnewsletter.esc@gmail.com



MEMORANDUMS



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Nov. 8



Nov. 15



Western University's Education Students' Council Statement on the ESC's Membership Within the Ontario Teacher Candidates' Council

November 8th, 2019

To Western University Teacher Candidates,

Today, November 8th, 2019, Western University's Education Students' Council unanimously adopted a motion establishing our membership within the Ontario Teacher Candidates' Council (OTCC). This new membership serves to further our commitment to our role as your representative, and fulfilling your demands to bring forward concerns regarding Bill 48, specifically the implementation of the Math Proficiency Test.

Membership within the OTCC allows the ESC to play a crucial role in the establishment and growth of the Organization as we occupy the only space uniquely equipped to represent teacher candidates within the province of Ontario. This space that has not been occupied by any other student organizations.

It should be said that the ESC will not, and has no plans to, withdraw or challenge our membership nor our student contributions to OUSA. The development of a teacher candidate specific provincial group such as the OTCC seems to be the logical progression of the growing advocacy, political nature, and inclination of B.Ed students. Particularly, after the program was increased to two years.

The goal of the OTCC is to bring forward concerns and viewpoints specific to teacher candidates, while addressing our challenges and realities unique to a professional program. The ESC views OUSA as a valuable partner in our advocacy efforts, and will seek to maintain these ties. However, if anything, the proposal of Bill 48, has highlighted the limitations of OUSA to advocate for issues specific to teacher candidates.

The OTCC will serve to fill gaps where OUSA cannot. Concerns of teacher candidates are unique and not necessarily shared by our undergraduate colleagues, making it challenging for OUSA to take these on. To be clear this is not a condemnation or attack on OUSA, but is

instead meant to highlight that there are gaps which need to be filled, and present the OTCC with the mandate.

The concerns of Western's teacher candidates are being echoed by our colleagues across the province, and so the OTCC provides a platform to unite and coordinate these voices in a clear, united voice.

We will keep pushing forward to demand the changes you deserve.

Yours in education,

Patrick Morris

President and CEO

Education Students' Council

(alud)



Western University's Education Students' Council Statement on the OTF/ FEO Publication: A Recipe for Failure: The Math Proficiency Test for Beginning Teachers

Friday, November 15, 2019

The Education Students' Council at Western University shares the sentiments and concerns found within the OTF's position paper regarding the Math Proficiency Test (MPT) titled "A Recipe for Failure: The Math Proficiency Test for Beginning Teachers." The position paper includes an extensive list of concerns that have not been considered by the provincial government, and that directly contribute to a strong rationale for canceling the MPT.

We, the Education Students' Council at Western University, support the OTF's assertion that "the MPT represents an undue hardship on future generations of teachers who are being forced to meet a requirement that in no way predicts, supports or reflections their capacity to be effective educators."

Moving forward we fully endorse all four of the recommendations found within the OTF's position paper:

- 1. That the government cancel the Math Proficiency Test
- 2. That the government invest in professional development that is teacher-directed
- 3. That the government reinstate AQ subsidies for mathematics across the province
- **4.** That the government invest in supports and modern classroom resources in both official languages.

We look forward to collaborating with the OTF, the OTCC, the Government of Ontario, and the provincial community to continue advancing the world renowned status of Ontario teachers.

Yours in Education,

Patrick Morris
President and CEO

Education Students' Council

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"School of Medicine professor advocates for musical theater in medical education"

- Tamar Geller, Yale Daily News





"'A lost art': Team of instructors bring sewing back to GTA schools"

- Lyndsay Morrison, CTV News

"As Bushfires Rage, Australia Faces
Another Challenge: Protecting National
Mental Health"

- Jamie Ducharme, TIME Magazine

"Hillcrest class makes pouches for animals impacted by Australian bushfires"

- Denis Langlois, Owen Sound The Sun Times





Are you looking for a way to get involved at Althouse? Have a knack for writing/journalism? Need a way to scratch your itch for leadership or need an outlet to share your thoughts? Excel at graphic design or illustrations? Want to get published?

Look no further, the ESCargot wants YOU!

The ESCargot is seeking to expand its masthead. Whether you want to be a regular contributor or want to share a piece for even just one of our issues, we encourage you to get into contact with us! Send us your questions, ideas, thoughts, and suggestions to the email address down below.



escargotnewsletter.esc@gmail.com





We asked parents for their two cent-ences...

What would you like brand-new teachers to

know?

Here's what they said:

"To understand that ALL children learn differently despite what the ministry mandates. - Anonymous

For J/I: "Teaching to a child's learning ability is

important and to be flexible in how you achieve that. Being kind, compassionate to a child encourages them to

learn." - Anonymous

"Please understand that every child is different

and they all learn at their own pace!"

- Anonymous



Get Active!

It's no secret that exercise and activity are key to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. From physical health to mental health, from sport to stress relief, from social to individual fitness, there is ample opportunity to be flexible with getting your body moving.

A quick walk from Althouse northwards will put you across from the Thompson Recreation Athletic Centre. Whether you're looking for intramurals, group classes, drop-ins, or just wanting to hit the gym, this facility has it all. Put your Athletics fee (included in your ancillary fees) to good use.

Looking to catch a game? Show your Western U spirit by attending a Varsity game! Visit Alumni Hall for basketball and volleyball, or the the Athletic Centre for ice hockey, and cheer on your fellow Mustangs, an experience complete with concessions, live entertainment, and the bleacher performances by the Western Pep Band.

Athletics and Activities at Althouse

The Education Students' Council is enrolling Sports Days this semester at Althouse College. These bi-weekly drop-in sessions are a great way to cap off your day, or spend some time in-between classes. Sports Days take place at the Althouse Gym and will be announced on the Education Students' Council social media platforms, so that you'll always have a friendly reminder about what's happening and when. The very first Sports Day will be taking place on January 14, and will feature dodgeball, a fanfavourite! Hope to see you there!

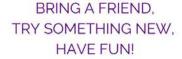
Additionally, the Wellness Committee within the Faculty of Education has revamped their programming to include a greater selection of offerings. Groove on over to the disco party happening Monday afternoons in the auditorium, or catch yourself tuning into to strength and flexibility at the one (or all) of the Yoga sessions.







SPORTS DAY















WELLNESS EVENTS

SUN MON		TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
			JANUARY				
5	The Groove	7	Yoga Recharge Room	9	10	'n	
12	The Groove Recharge Room	14	Yoga Recharge Room	16 Lunch & Learn	17	18	
19	The Groove Recharge Room	21	Yoga Recharge Room	23 Lunch & Learn	24	25	
26	The Groove Recharge Room	28	Yoga Recharge Room	30 Lunch & Learn	31	1	
·			FEBRUARY		-		
2	The Groove Recharge Room	4	Yoga Recharge Room	6 Lunch & Learn	7	8	
9	The Groove Recharge Room	11	Yoga Recharge Room	13	14	15	
16	Family Day 17	18	19	20	21	22	
			No Wellness Co	mmittee Events			
23	Recharge Room	25	Yoga Recharge Room	27	28	29	
			MARCH				
1	Recharge Room	3	Yoga Recharge Room	5	6	7	
8	9 Recharge Room	10	Yoga Recharge Room	12	13	14	



12:45 TO 1:15 PM | AUDITORIUM



Using the book, The Four Agreements, by Miguel Ruiz, we examine freedom from self-limiting beliefs. 12:30 TO 2:30 PM | 2015



11 AM TO 12 PM | GYMNASIUM

RECHARGE ROOM

Drop in to relax and recharge!
MONDAYS | 1:30 TO 3:30 PM
WEDNESDAYS | 9:30 TO 11:30 AM
COMMUNITY ROOM







Come out to this year's Welcome Back Social at the Wave on January 15th and get to know your fellow teacher candidates, share your stories, and find out about theirs. Enjoy a wide selection of food, non-alcoholic drinks, and a massive charcuterie board!

Bring a friend and drop in any time between 7:00pm and 11:00pm to enjoy the fun.

Did we mention it's totally FREE? We can't wait to see you there!







#TEACHERSOF ALTHOUSE

Want to share your story of what teaching/Althouse means to you?

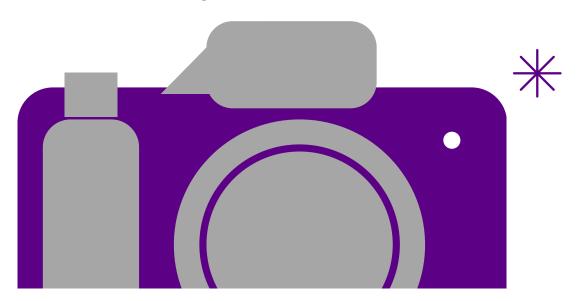




DM THE EDUCATION STUDENTS' COUNCIL ON INSTAGRAM TO BE FEATURED!

@WESTERNUESC





IT'S IN YOU TO GIVE

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

Together we are Canada's Lifeline.

Western University, UCC, 2nd Floor Community Room
January 14 and 30
11 AM to 4 PM

MORE INFORMATION AT BLOOD.CA





Make donating blood your lasting and meaningful New Year's resolution



THE ROARING 20s

Class of 2020 Graduation Formal



FEBRUARY

6

6:45 PM

The Lamplighter Inn 591 Wellington Rd, London, ON

Happy New Year, Year 2s!

Our Graduation Formal is quickly approaching. As a reminder, the event is taking place on **Thursday**, **February 6th**, **2020** at the Lamplighter Inn in London, with doors opening at 6:45pm, dinner beginning at 7:30pm, and dancing going on until midnight.

For those of you that purchased a ticket, please know that you will be asked to present a **government-issued ID** that matches the name that your ticket was purchased under. You MUST present this ID to security in order to enter the venue hall.

In addition, if you indicated on your purchase form that you require **transportation**, a spot has successfully been reserved for you on the bus that will transport you between Althouse and the Lamplighter Inn (details will follow at a later date). Transportation spots are now full. If you registered for transportation and no longer need it, please email gradformal.esc@gmail.com to let me know.

If you are not using the transportation bus, please arrange for safe transportation on the night of (i.e. a designated driver or Uber)! Please note that phone numbers for local taxi services will be provided to you in advance and at the event. And, for those of you interested in booking accommodations at the Lamplighter Inn for that night, please note that the Lamplighter has a limited number of rooms available to us at a discounted rate (\$139+). To book, please call the Lamplighter Inn directly (519-681-7151) and mention that you are part of the Western University Faculty of Education event happening on February 6th.

For those of you that purchased a ticket but have not picked it up yet, please do so immediately from the ESC Office.

Have an amazing last term of classes, and we'll see you in February to celebrate!

Cheers,
Samantha
Grad Formal Commissioner
Education Students' Council

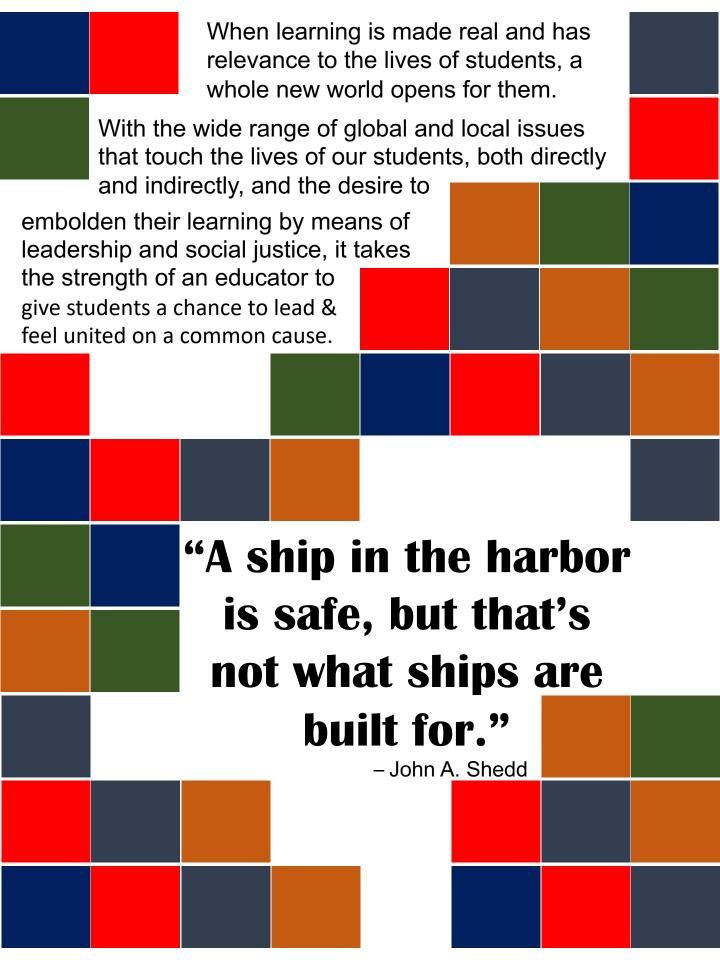
Follow our event on Facebook for continuous updates: https://www.facebook.com/events/2192796441021158/







Following the UN Sustainable Development Goals? Want to add elements of cross-curricular topics in your practice? Looking for an avenue to speak on social justice? Here is some inspiration!



World AIDS Day

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS for short, is a case of compromised immunity, leaving those who have it to be severely vulnerable to even 'minor' ailments, such as the common cold. AIDS is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). HIV can be contracted either from fluid-exchange with a person who is positive for HIV and in utero to expectant mothers that are positive for HIV.

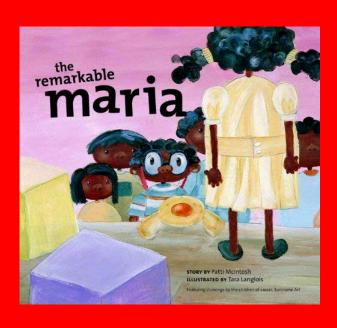
Compared to several decades before, there is less stigma associated with AIDS in North America. Nonetheless, living with AIDS or knowing someone close living with AIDS, can be an isolating experience.

HIV prevention is closely tied to adequate nutrition reproductive health education and services. Furthermore, HIV risks increase in areas that lack access to education, limit gender equality and/or exhibit higher rates of poverty.

DECEMBER

In the classroom...

The Remarkable Maria, written by Patti McIntosh, is a Silver Birch Fiction nominee from 2006. It tells the story of Maria, a girl whose mother is dying from AIDS, the responsibilities she must take on as a result, and the support system around her.



International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

While the historical contexts of slavery in Canada and the United States are commonly acknowledged, the stories of contemporary and modern examples are lesser known. Modern day slavery in Canada includes forced labour and sex trafficking.

According to a 2016 study by Statistics Canada, 72% of human trafficking victims across the nation were women under the age of 25; 26% were girls under the age of 18. Due to the nature of human trafficking, it is severely underreported.

<u>Click here</u> to read more about Ontario's strategy to end human trafficking.

In the classroom...

Topics of discussion may include...

- Ethically-sourced food/product
- Human Rights
- Labour conditions around the world
- Cases of slavery in contemporary Canadian history
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
- Intersectionality, Oppression, Power



DECEMBER

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

According to the United Nations, a disability is an umbrella term that includes "physical impairment, sensory impairment, cognitive impairment, intellectual impairment, mental illness, and various types of chronic disease". The United Nations also cites that 1 in 7 people live with some form of disability.

'Ableism' is the term used to describe institutionalized oppression against those who do not fit the norm of ability. As teacher candidates, we must recognize manifestations of ableism in our classrooms and respond accordingly to remedy the situation; an instillation of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and reflection of our biases are starting points.





In the classroom...



A diverse number of resources and tips are outline in *Ontario's Universities Accessible Campus* website, to help educators build their accessibility toolbox amongst students with diverse needs. Access this resource by clicking here.

Looking for the dirt on soil? Well, it's a limited resource that we are losing by the day. It is estimated that every five seconds, a soccer field's worth of soil is eroded. Furthermore, not all soil is created equal: different types of soil play different roles in the geographical and ecological areas they are found in. Arable land, for instance, is sought after for being the fertile foundations from which agricultural crops grow bountifully. Due to urban sprawl, especially in certain areas of Southern Ontario, arable land has become a hot commodity that is evermore diminishing. Soil can also be at risk of pollution, and such contamination is difficult to reverse.

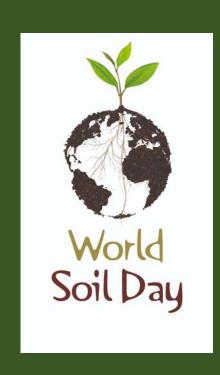


In the classroom...

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations has a webpage rich with a variety of resources that can be accessed by <u>clicking here</u>.

Soil is inextricably linked to influencing many of the Sustainable Development Goals; what are some of the connections that your class can make?

Given that soil is all around us, right under our noses, take your students outside and get muddy! A number of labs can be found online that can be done with very little equipment, and can be modulated for different grade levels. Contact a local farmer or soil scientist for an interactive experience with an expert!



2020

International Year of Plant Health

2020

International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife

International Day of Education

Given that we are in the profession as teacher candidates, education has a resounding significance to each of us; analogies, metaphors, and essays (or reflection papers) might not be able to do justice to explaining the value of education. It is only fair, then, to describe the premise of January 24th, in the words of the United Nations itself down below. The concept note for this year's theme has also been attached in the subsequent pages.

On 3 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly adopted with consensus a resolution proclaiming 24 January as International Day of Education, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development [...] demonstrat[ing] the unwavering political will to support transformative actions for inclusive, equitable and quality education for all.

By doing so, the international community reiterated that education plays a key role in building sustainable and resilient societies, and contributes to the achievement of all other <u>Sustainable</u> Development Goals.

With a view to enhance international cooperation in supporting the efforts towards the realization of <u>Sustainable Development Goal 4</u>, the resolution called on all stakeholders including Member States, organizations of the UN system, and civil society, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, individuals and other relevant stakeholders to observe the International Day of Education. <u>UNESCO</u>, as the specialized United Nations agency for education, facilitates the annual <u>observance of the Day</u> in close collaboration with main education actors.





ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

617
MILLION

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
LACK MINIMUM PROFICIENCY
IN READING AND MATHEMATICS

750 MILLION
ADULTS STILL
REMAIN
ILLITERATE





MORE THAN HALF

OF THE SCHOOLS In Sub-Saharan Africa

DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO

- BASIC DRINKING WATER
- HANDWASHING FACILITIES
- THE INTERNET
- COMPUTERS



— ARE NOT -

ATTENDING SCHOOL





IN CENTRAL ASIA, 27% MORE GIRLS THAN BOYS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL



Cultural Organization

International Day of Education

24 January 2020

Learning for people, planet, prosperity, and peace

INTRODUCTION

The world will celebrate the International Day of Education on 24 January 2020, a day proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly to honour education and its centrality to human well-being and sustainable development.

The 2020 celebration will position education and the learning it enables as humanity's greatest renewable resource and reaffirm the role of education as a fundamental right, a public good and an enabler of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will frame 'inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all' as a goal in and of itself, as well as a necessary means to accelerate progress to meet the targets of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

As the UN organization mandated to lead on education in the 2030 Agenda, UNESCO will draw on its convening power and engage with education and development partners to celebrate the Day around the world by focusing on the many ways learning can empower *people*, preserve the *planet*, build shared *prosperity* and foster *peace*.

The 2020 theme 'Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace', highlights the integrated nature of education, its humanistic aims, as well as its centrality to our collective development ambitions. It also gives stakeholders and partners flexibility to tailor the celebration for diverse audiences, a variety of contexts and for priority themes.

People

A humanistic approach to education implies an integrated approach to the multiple individual and collective purposes of education. Education is at the heart of both personal and community development. Its mission is to help all people develop their talents fully and to realize their creative potentials, including responsibility for their own lives and the capacity to contribute to society. Education is also a powerful catalyst – for combating poverty and inequality, improving health and well-being, and overcoming discrimination. It is the key to achieving gender equality and is vital for



individuals to live healthy lives and make informed decisions for themselves, their families and their communities. It can strengthen democracy and the rule of law, as well as enhance equality by empowering vulnerable populations. Ultimately, education enables us to confront multidimensional social challenges, such as poverty, gender inequality and social isolation.

Planet

Individual and collective human actions are putting immense strain on the planet and the life forms it supports. With increasing urgency, scientists remind us that human survivability is at risk without significant changes to current development patterns, which cause environmental degradation, rapid biodiversity loss and climate change. Formal, non-formal and informal learning opportunities can play a major part in the transformation needed to realize more environmentally sustainable societies, in concert with initiatives from government, civil society and the private sector. Education shapes values and perspectives. It also contributes to the development of skills, concepts and tools that can help reverse or stop unsustainable practices and allow humans to live in greater harmony with the natural world.

Prosperity

Education, including vocational skills development, is essential for inclusive growth that does not leave anyone behind. Education and training can enhance job opportunities, increase the incomes of the poorest and, if equitably provided, reduce inequality. Reducing education disparity can increase access to decent work among disadvantaged groups. Analysis conducted by UNESCO indicates that if all people completed secondary school, as called for by Sustainable Development Goal 4, world poverty could be cut in half. Education is clearly linked with increased earnings for individuals: across 139 countries, the rate of return per additional year of schooling is 10 per cent. Rates of return are highest in poorer countries that have a shortage of skilled workers.

Peace

Persistent violence and armed conflict undermine all human rights and all too often violate the right to education. Preventing violence and achieving sustainable peace requires democratic and representative institutions and well-functioning justice systems. Education is a condition for political participation, inclusion, advocacy and democracy. In the best instances, education can catalyze and buttress peace, especially when access to it is equitable. A recent study drawing on data from 100 countries over 50 years found that those with wider education gaps were more likely to be in conflict. Education can also play a vital role in peacebuilding and reconciliation. Education initiatives have a proven potential to help marginalized populations gain access to justice that contributes to peaceful societies.

Events

UNESCO invites partners around the world to celebrate the International Day of Education based on the 2020 theme 'Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace'.

- UNESCO will support a one-day high-level event organized in New York by the President of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, Mr Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, to celebrate the International Day of Education.
- UNESCO will organize a half-day event at its Paris headquarters in collaboration with the Center for Research and Interdisciplinarity (CRI).
- UNESCO field offices, together with their partners, will organize events to celebrate the International Day.
- A selection of UNESCO Learning Cities will organize International Day celebrations.
- The UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report team will launch a new online tool to visualize Education Progress towards SDG4.

Resources/outreach

- <u>Dedicated webpage</u> updated for the 2020 International Day
- Video messages from key personalities
- Social media pack
- <u>Short animated video</u> explaining the 10 SDG4 targets available in 25 languages.
- Hashtag: #EducationDay

EVENTS AND REMINDERS



Sports Day:

Biweekly Tuesdays | 2:30 - 5:30 **Education Gymnasium**

Begins January 14 with Dodgeball



Welcome Back Social:

January 15th 7:00 - 11:00

@ The Wave. UCC, Main Campus



Wellness Wednesdays:

Every Wednesday 12:00 - 4:00

Music, snacks and colouring @ Althouse Cafeteria



Spirit Week:

January 27th - 30th

Wellness, Pajama Day, Movie Day, and a "January Summer" More information coming soon!



Bubble Soccer:

January 28th

~For charity~ More information coming soon!



Blood Donor Clinic:

January 30th 11:00 - 4:00

@ 2nd Floor Community Room, UCC, Main Campus



Grad Formal:

February 6th

Year 2s, the countdown is on!



Top: Wellness Wednesday
Bottom: Year 1 and 2 Practicum Chat



UPDATES

Be sure to check out the Teacher Education Office bulletin board around the bend of the east hallway leading to the cafeteria.

Nearby you will also find the Education Students'
Council bulletin board case as well. If you're ever in search for information while roaming the halls, these are your go-to stops!

ESC OFFICE HOURS



January 6 - February 14

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	MON	TUES	W	ED	THURS	FRI	
	8:00 - 9:30	8:00 - 11:00	10:3 3:0		8:00 - 3:00	CLOSED	1 1 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
	12:30- 3:00	12:30 - 3:00					
4							
The same							

CONTACT US

Welcome to the figurative "phonebook" of the ESCargot. If you would like to get in touch with any of the Executive Members of Council, their information is listed down below. As always, feel free to approach them in person or reach out to them via their email addresses. The strength of the Council comes from the support of the constituents. We'd love to hear your feedback, ideas, concerns, and questions!



westernu.esc@gmail.com



vpfinance.esc@gmail.com



vpstudentaffairs.esc@gmail.com



vpcommunications.esc@gmail.com



vpstudentevents.esc@gmail.com



vpacademics.esc@gmail.com



