

WCI 2025-2026 Guest Speakers

- This school year, we are committed to sharing information about events and activities with guest speakers or performances. We will do our best to post this information here at least 14 calendar days in advance of the activity or event or as soon as the details are confirmed.

Date and Time	Title and Topic/Focus	Connection to Curriculum and/or purpose	Name(s) of Presenters, Performers, Guest Speakers and the organization they represent	Details of any handout materials or literature that will be provided
Date: Oct 14th Time: 1:00-2:25pm	Conversation Analysis	The topic of his lecture will be on "Conversation Analysis" and it will be super interesting. This is the third year that Dr. Jeff has come to our courses and he is very engaging in how he speaks and the topics of his research. His lecture will look at how conversations themselves between people are loaded with symbolism, norms and certain expectations of behaviour.	Dr. Jeff Aguinaldo - WLU Associate Professor of Sociology	
Oct 14th 8:15-9:30 / 11:50-1	Plant Identification	Become a plant detective! Learn how to identify plants by their leaves, bark, size, and habitat, and discover why plant ID matters in real-world careers. In small teams, take on a "mystery plant" challenge and show the class how you solved it using your detective skills and tools like ID manuals and measuring tape.	Kirsty Lewis (she/her) and Anshul Shah (he/him) Outreach Associates Faculty of Environment	
Oct 15th / Nov 24th 9:35-10:45	Optimizing Pathways	How do we path high school so that when we graduate, we do so with as many paths open to us as possible? This workshop discusses course considerations throughout high school, encouraging students to leave as many doors open as possible for postsecondary education (access to apprenticeships, college, and university), and then shows alternative paths if we change our minds.	Nuria Juliette Melchor Rodriguez (UW) Outreach and Enrichment Specialist	
Date: Oct 16th or later Time: 2:30pm-4:00pm	Engineering, Future career prospects, and potential lesson on autonomous systems	Directly related to our programming and lesson plans in Robotics club, and will help students explore possibilities of a career path in STEM.	Gilbert Lai - Quanser	

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<p>Date: Oct 27th Time: 1:00-2:25</p> <p>October 28th Time: 11:50-1:05</p>	Power of Perspective	<p>The topic of his lecture will be on The Power of Perspective: How Your Thoughts Shape Your Reality. In this workshop, students will explore how their thoughts about themselves and their experiences can either support or undermine their well-being. Through hands-on activities, they will engage with concepts such as self-esteem, self-compassion, and optimism. Students will reflect on how shifting their perspective can foster more positive emotions, behaviours, and outcomes - while also developing a realistic understanding of the limits of positive thinking as a quick fix.</p>	Dr. Denise Marigold, Associate Professor, Social Development Studies Renison University College, affiliated with University of Waterloo	
Date: Oct. 22 (All English classes)	Application Writing 101	<p>In this workshop, students will learn strategies to understand what kind of responses application questions are looking for and how students can leverage their unique experiences when they answer them. We'll also work through a guided example as a group so students can put what they've learned into action!</p>	Nuria Juliette Melchor Rodriguez (WLU) Outreach and Enrichment Specialist	
Date: Oct 23rd Period D	Studies in Greek Archaeology	<p>Dr. Gallimore will do a lecture for the students where he will talk about his research in Greece as an archaeologist. He will teach students about the foundations of the field and challenges. Furthermore, he will also bring in ancient objects and show students his current research in Greece. This is the sixth year he has presented for us.</p>	Dr. Scott Gallimore (WLU) Professor of Archaeology	
Nov 5, 2025	Forest Canada Student-Employer Engagement Day (SEED)	<p>to learn about the variety of jobs in the forest sector and the pathways in.</p>	Gary Pritchard, Kevin Predon, Madelaine Danby	Virtual Event, to learn about the variety of jobs in the forest sector and the pathways in forestry.
Nov. 12th 8:20-9:20am Room 221		<p>Understanding Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention: When faced with uncertain and difficult situations, it's not uncommon to feel like we're struggling with our overall mental and emotional well-being. This presentation will focus on mental health and mental health promotion while providing education and awareness for suicide prevention, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General suicide prevention awareness 	Elisa Brewer-Singh from the Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council is going to be speaking to our Gr. 10 and 11 Girls Phys. Ed Classes as part of our unit on Mental Health & Stress.	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to identify invitations for help (warning signs) from someone who is struggling • Understanding the role of stress and mental health when it comes to our overall mental wellbeing • Strength-based approaches that focus on well-being, resiliency, and protective factors • Resources in the community 		
November 21st and 26th	Energize	Energize: Sustainable City Challenge: In a board game simulation, students develop a sustainable energy strategy for the Waterloo Region using real-world data. Teams are challenged to reduce their carbon emissions by 80% before the year 2050!	UW Science outreach	
Nov 27th, 2025	Evolution of life	Introduction to the evolution unit with hands on simulation	University of Waterloo Science outreach	Sometimes they bring UW pencils but no handouts
Nov 27th, 2025	Gels and Genes	Lesson on Gel electrophoresis and hands on use of the micropipettes and gel kits	University of Waterloo science outreach	Sometimes they bring UW pencils but no handouts
Dec 5th	Density Dilemmas	Crack the code of urban living! Explore the challenges of high-density neighbourhoods versus suburban sprawl, using puzzles and case studies to make tough planning choices.	Kristy Lewis and Anshul Shah UW Faculty of Environment	
Dec. 10, 2025 📅 Date	Sexual Health	<p><u>Topics Covered:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Services provided by Public Health (includes how to book appointments) - Reliable websites to go to for information about Sexual Health (ex. sexandu.ca) - Review of birth control methods and how they are used. - Condom demonstration. - Sexually Transmitted Infection Information and prevention. 	Sheri Armstrong, Public Health Nurse	
Dec 12, 2025	Fashion and environment	Benefits of upcycling, thrifting, and mending will be discussed as we focus on detrimental effects of fast fashion and the textile industry on the environment	Kristy Lewis and Anshul Shah	Guest speakers will have video, a discussion, and UW shwag
Dec 12, 2025	Ranton Tournament	Mental Health Awareness	Mano Watsa - Point Guard College	NA - will speak @ 10 am to all athletes & 1:00 pm to student body (teacher sign up)

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Dec. 17, 2025	Building Resilience, Valuing Community and Making an Impact	This presentation is part of "Project Impact" for all Gr. 9 students. Project Impact is a Guidance Department initiative aimed at equipping our Gr. 9 students with organizational and stress management tools to help them succeed in school and in life.	Joshua Bharah (TMU student and Founder of The R.I.F.T. Initiative - Real Ideas For Tomorrow) Prayan Jegathees (UW student and Founder of Playmor - A community organization aimed at creating safe spaces for youth to have deeper conversations and create passion projects)	NA - will speak to our Gr. 9s for a full period in the Auditorium
Dec 18th, 2025	Funding - Cheque presentation	Connection to Mech Mania Annual Competition (after school club)	Joanna Lincho and Sevil Berenji from YIP	N/A
February 23rd 2026	Optimizing Pathways	How do we path high school so that when we graduate, we do so with as many paths open to us as possible? This workshop discusses course considerations throughout high school, encouraging students to leave as many doors open as possible for postsecondary education (access to apprenticeships, college, and university), and then shows alternative paths if we change our minds.	Nuria Juliette Melchor Rodriguez (UW) Outreach and Enrichment Specialist	
March 6, 2026	Attachment in Children	Dr. Hishon will be speaking to the development of attachment style in children to support Unit 5	Dr. Lauren Hishon	N/A
Mar. 9	Enlightened Optics	Physics SNC2D	Let's Talk Science	Unknown - all in class
Mar 13, 2026	Sustainable Fashion	Step into the world of fashion with a sustainability twist! Students will explore how the clothes we wear impact the environment and society, from the chemicals used in production to the lives of workers around the world. Discover the secrets of textile waste, and brainstorm creative solutions for a more ethical and eco-friendly wardrobe. (CHV2OH-03)	UW Outreach - Faculty of Environment	
March 23, 2026	Conservation (Eco Club)	Eco Club - Conservation	Maya Basdeo	Lunchtime presentation
March 23, 2026	Greek Archaeology	Dr. Gallimore will do a lecture for the students where he will talk about his research in Greece as an archaeologist. He will teach students about the foundations of the field and challenges. Furthermore, he will also bring in ancient objects and show students his current research in Greece. This is the sixth year he has presented for us.	Dr. Scott Gallimore Archaeologist at WLU	Will use a slideshow to show his findings in Greece and other researcher's evidence as well.
April 17, 2026	Midwifery	Connections to Labour and Delivery unit to explore the roles midwives play in this process.	Heidi Johnston	
April 17, 2026; Period 2	College Panel Presentation	The panel is designed for Grade 11 students as they continue thinking about post-secondary options. As in previous years, participating colleges from the Western Region include Conestoga, Mohawk, Lambton, Fanshawe, and the University of Guelph Ridgetown.	Ontario Colleges: Conestoga, Mohawk, Fanshawe, Lambton, University of Guelph Ridgetown	Sliddeck, opportunity for students to receive College viewbooks/pamphlets

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		Each College will highlight their college, unique programs, and diploma-to-degree pathways.		
Apr. 21, 2026	Quantum Light and Cryptography	Connection to TEJ34MI Curriculum (networking and circuitry)	University of Waterloo, Institute for Quantum Computing, Engineering, Shraddha Angris	Slide deck & paper instructions for Arduino configuration/Lab. Stickers.
Apr 22, 2026	Working with the Indigenous Garden	Connection to NBE 3UI/ NBE 3C	Dave Skene	
Apr. 30, 2026 Lunch (10:50-11:30)	Speak English Cafe	Language Support; Community Connection; Transit Information	Dave Steffler, Eligibility and Training Specialist from Grand River Transit	
May 6, 2026	Toddler Development	Child Care providers will discuss toddler development to support Unit #5.	Sylvia Watson Ifrah Aziz EarlyON	Sliddeck - "A child becomes a toddler on their first birthday, and that stage lasts until their third birthday. As they grow, they'll learn and develop new milestone skills and abilities. In our presentation we will talk about Toddler milestones, the way toddlers play and explore the world around them. The session will offer information, interactive activities, videos and an opportunity for questions. We hope you can walk away with an understanding of how Toddlers learn, interactions and activities that support their development as well as overall support parents and caring adults can offer to foster (their) growth."
May 7th, 2026	Conversational Analysis	The topic of his lecture will be on "Conversation Analysis" and it will be super interesting. This is the third year that Dr. Jeff has come to our courses and he is very engaging in how he speaks and the topics of his research. His lecture will look at how conversations themselves between people are loaded with symbolism, norms and certain expectations of behaviour.	Dr. Jeff Aguinaldo- WLU	Uses a slideshow to break down norms in conversations.
May 14, 2026	Speak English Cafe	Language Support; Community Connection; Family Outreach Program Information	Fariba Chaghand, Family Outreach Worker from House of Friendship	
May 14, 2026	Speak English Cafe	Language Support; Community Connection; Youth programs; Game	Adventure4Change	

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May. 21, 2026	Ins and Outs of Digestion	Connection to SNC2D curriculum	Let's Talk Science	Unknown - all in class
Apr 22, 2026	Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Saunders has served 36 years in the Regular Force and 2 in the Primary Reserve as a soldier, a technician, and leader of both.	Officer Jeff will speak to CHC2DI-07 about his tours in Afghanistan and Bosnia, with both NATO and the United Nations. This connects to the Security and Peace unit.	Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Saunders, Canadian Armed Forces	
May 25	How issues like mental health, substance use, and homelessness intersect. For instance, some of the broader root causes—such as trauma (both childhood and adult), social determinants of health, and even things like emotional socialization and "toxic" masculinity—and how these factors can shape people's experiences.	This connects to the HSP curriculum in our Sociology unit, where we talk about structural barriers experienced by people in poverty. In addition, mental health is part of the Psychology unit.	Brian Seng-Low, Social Worker and supply EA/CYW with the WRDSB. Along with Charlotte Baker, RSW	
May 5th, 2026	KW FoodBank Students will learn about the beauty and challenges that an important institution faces in our community. Besides local data, students will also be 'guinea pigs' as they try a new game that the City has designed teaching them empathy about food choices and feeding a family.	Connections to Sociology in HSP3UI because it looks at institutions and how the community does interact with them. Also, connects to their summative as students have to pick an institution to redesign.	Meghan Wallibing- KW Food Bank Fundraising	
May 13th, 2026, Period 1 Room 316	PAF - Health nurse guest speaker to focus on reproductive health	Community connection for sexual health—visit to WCI to promote services and education for WCI students		
May 13 1:10-2:25	Rep Day (MP visit through CIVIX)	Bardish Chagger (MP for Waterloo) will speak to a group of Civics students (three classes) about her job and about issues facing Waterloo Region and Canada. She will answer student (pre-submitted) questions.	Bardish Chagger - MP for Waterloo	
May 27, 2026 9:30 AM in 323 (digital)	"Spécial FLS" J'ai mon mot à dire : l'art d'exprimer son opinion ! (FSL Special: I have something to say: the	This workshop proposes an immersive process to lead students beyond mere comprehension to affirm themselves in discussion. After listening to videos on familiar subjects, the students will learn to identify arguments "for" and "against" and to pull out the particular points of view at the core of a conversation. The goal is to provide students with	Denis Cousineau, IDÉLLO (TFO)	

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	art of expressing your opinion!)	concrete linguistic mechanisms – sentence formats and key expressions – to form, justify, and defend opinions in a structured way. Through interactive and spontaneous activities, students will be led to connect with each other’s perspectives, thus promoting authentic interaction. By transforming the class into a space for dynamic exchange, this workshop will help each student to acquire the reflexes needed to become a citizen of the French-speaking world that is capable of debating with ease and clarity. Relevant curriculum strands for FEF2D: B2.1 (using speaking interaction strategies), B2.2 (interacting), B2.3 (metacognition).		
May 20	“100 Vic” Encampment	Ashley will be talking to the HSP3UI-02 class about the homeless encampment at Victoria and Weber. This is linked to our sociology unit, where we talk about social institutions.	Ashley Shuitsma (ED) - Waterloo Region Community Legal Services	
Tues June 9, 2026 During students’ NBE3UI, NBE3CI or NBE3WI English classes	Indigenous Food Workshop We will Make and eat Three Sisters Soup and Wild Rice Salad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about the Indigenous ingredients in what is now known as Canada and how cows, pigs and chickens came with the settlers While learning from our Indigenous garden, discuss agriculture of Indigenous people with regards to the Three Sisters and food sovereignty Discuss healthy eating and food waste 	A1. Exploring explore themes related to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit identities, relationships, and self-determination, sovereignty, or self-governance, as reflected in text forms created in Canada, formulating questions and comparing perspectives to stimulate a well-reasoned exchange of ideas about these topics A3. Reconstructing demonstrate an understanding of the role of contemporary and historical text forms created in Canada in representing the diversity of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit lives, cultures, and world views, and assess the impact on Canadian society of efforts to challenge colonialist views and incomplete or inaccurate representations B1. The Oral Tradition demonstrate an understanding of text forms, figures, and practices associated with the oral traditions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures, explaining how these traditions communicate meaning and how they are used in contemporary communities, and demonstrate the use of culturally appropriate listening practices B2. Listening to Understand listen to oral texts from and/or related to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures in order to understand and respond appropriately in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes	Chef Destiny Moser (Ojibwe) Destiny Moser is the Indigenous head chef and founder of Foodzen and Cedar Spoon catering service. She specializes in both international and local, seasonal ingredients, and uses the cooking she learned from her grandmother as a way to rediscover and heal her culture on the path to reconciliation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each participant will enjoy a bowl of soup and wild rice salad and receive a recipe card to recreate at home The soup and salad are dairy-free, gluten-free, nut-free and vegan. Please let the NBE teacher know of any food allergies on the sign-up form. We recommend students bring a water bottle Cost: \$10 We do not want cost to be a barrier. Students may notify their VP and/or NBE teacher to access the Vikings Helping Vikings fund to cover the cost

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