

## **Parent Newsletter, Western Housing**

Winter Issue, 2017-18

A Western Residence Update – December 2017

Welcome to our December 2017 issue of the Parent Newsletter! We hope that your student has enjoyed a positive and enriching experience at Western over the fall term. This newsletter provides you with some important information about winter closure, beneficial reminders for the term ahead and helpful suggestions on how you can support your student during the second semester.

### **RESIDENCE WINTER BREAK**

Residences are closed across campus over the winter break (from noon on December 22, 2017 to 8:30am on January 7, 2018). Please ensure you make transportation plans accordingly as classes begin Monday, January 8, 2018.

### **Winter Holiday Travel and Traffic Circles**

As your student plans travel arrangements for winter break, please have a conversation with them about safety. We've put together a few tips for safe travel [here](#).

Please be reminded that residence traffic circles are designated fire routes and must remain clear for emergency vehicles at all times. Vehicles left unattended for ANY amount of time are subject to ticketing up to \$100. To avoid costly parking tickets, we recommend you park in nearby visitors' lots when helping students carry belongings from their rooms. Complementary parking is available in various lots across campus on weekends.

## IMPORTANT INFO AND REMINDERS

### Reserve Residence for the 2018-19 Academic Year

It's not too soon to ask your student what their plans are for next year. Why not suggest living in residence again so they can continue to enjoy the convenience of campus living? [Upper-year students](#) can choose their preferred residence, *on a first-come, first-served basis*. They can live in either of our exclusive [upper-year buildings](#), [Alumni House](#) or [London Hall](#), as well as be guaranteed a single room in any of our seven [first-year residence buildings](#).

Students will also be able to select the room they like, and be placed with their choice of suitemate(s). Online residence applications are now available on the [myHousing Portal](#).

If they apply to [live here in their upper years](#) for the 2018-19 academic year before April 13, 2018 they will be automatically entered to win a 13-inch MacBook Pro®, or one of our other amazing prizes. Full details on the contest [here](#).

### Residence Fees Due

Second instalment payments are due on January 16, 2018. Students can view their outstanding balance and print their Statement of Account via the [myHousing Portal](#), using their student number and four-digit access code. Payments can be made through internet banking at all major Canadian financial institutions (preferred method of payment), personal cheque, bank draft, money order and international bank wire. We regret that we are unable to accept credit card payments.

### Income Tax and Residence

Payments made toward residence fees are NOT considered to be rent payments by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Therefore, the Residence Admissions Office **does not** issue official tax receipts for residence fees paid as per CRA Guidelines. Ontario students may claim an Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit of \$25 on Form ON-BEN. Students do not need to submit a receipt to claim this credit. For more information on the Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit, please visit the [Ontario Ministry of Finance website](#).

## WINTER TERM WONDERLAND: What's Ahead for January 2018

### Residence Staff Applications Now Available!

We're looking for enthusiastic, responsible and committed students to apply for leadership positions in residence next year. Residence staff members (i.e. Don, Residence Advisors) develop valuable leadership skills through a rigorous training program in August and on-the-job learning, gaining experience that is highly regarded by employers, professional schools and graduate programs, and compensation to help out financially too. More information about positions are available at [rezstaff.uwo.ca](http://rezstaff.uwo.ca), and the application deadline for new staff is *January 5, 2018 at 11:59pm*. If they have not attended a mandatory information session yet, the last one is on Monday, January 8.

Residents' Council positions are also available, along with other employment opportunities such as RezNet Support Team, Residence Tour Guides, and Front Desk Clerks. Visit our [RezLife website](#) for more information.

### Intent to Register Program Registration for Second Year

Intent to Register is happening throughout February and March. Please remind your student to visit [registrar.uwo.ca](http://registrar.uwo.ca) early in January for more information regarding deadlines. To help prepare your student, we offer a series of "Intent to Register" workshops in residence in conjunction with the Student Success Centre. These workshops are tentatively scheduled for the third week of February. This will be a great opportunity for first-year students in residence to network with Academic and Leadership Programmers (ALPs), Academic Advisors (from various faculties) and Faculty Sophs (peers) about program choices in second year. Students can use this opportunity to learn more about their program options to better inform them when they go through the Intent to Register process.

### Residence Life Winter Programming

Here is a sneak peak of the programs offered to students living in residence in January:

*Frost Week:* Residents' Councils in each building organize a week of fun winter-themed activities and programs to kick off the winter term. Students can look forward

to winter sports, fun in the snow, dances, and other events to welcome them back to residence. Don't forget to remind your student to bring their hockey equipment and skates for the [IceCapades event](#) on January 13!

*Residence Engagement Award:* Applications open for the Residence Engagement Award (REA) in January. The purpose of this award is to recognize the positive contributions and demonstrated leadership efforts of a first-year student within the residence community. Up to five awards across campus will be granted. Recipients are guaranteed their first choice of residence for 2018-19 academic year, will have their residence prepayment covered (value of \$900), and receive a certificate signed by the President of the University. More information available at [rezlife.uwo.ca/rea.cfm](http://rezlife.uwo.ca/rea.cfm)

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Thank you for reading this newsletter. Stay tuned with all that is happening in residence by following us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Questions? Feel free to call us at 1-519-661-3547 or email [housing@uwo.ca](mailto:housing@uwo.ca). We'd love to hear from you!

Wish you a joyful holiday season, and all the best in 2018 from all of us at Western Housing!