

DON MILLS COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

Principal Browne's Message



While it has clearly been an exciting and dramatic time for public education in the Province of Ontario, it is still with great pleasure that I look back on a successful semester at Don Mills Collegiate. Every semester brings its challenges, rewards, and surprises, and this year has been no exception! While this may not have been the semester we — parents, students, staff, and administrators — may have wanted, we continue to support one another, to encourage one another, and to assist one another in creating the best school, the best opportunities, and the best results for all of our students.

During this semester, students cheered on our rugby team, yelled with the girls' volleyball team, and froze with the boys' soccer team. We watched with pride our golf team, journeyed with the cross country team, and sat on the edge of our seats while the girls' basketball team scored point after point. Our students made new friends in various clubs, and they engaged in great conversations in our boys' and girls' after-school clubs. While all of us work toward the resumption of "business as usual" in our schools and in our extracurricular activities, we can take pride in the busy first semester our students enjoyed.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the next school council meeting on February 19th, or at Parents' Night on April 4th, 2013. Please mark these days on your calendar, and please join us. Once again, I want to thank each of you for your continued support. Good luck and continued success to all of our students in Semester Two!

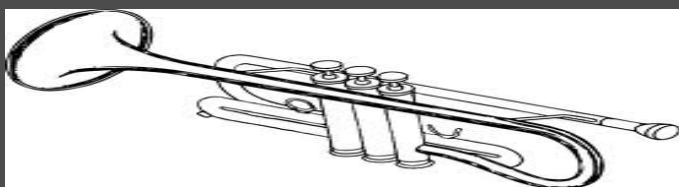
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Grade 9 Orientation



Every year, our new grade nines are treated to an orientation day at Green Acres outdoor facility. For the sixth year in a row, students helped Ms. Phillipson manage the event that involves 8 busloads of 300 students. They are creative leaders and team builders resulting in great school spirit. None of this would be possible without our devoted Grade 9 Orientation Committee.



*The
DMCI
Jazz
Band*



CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

In July 2012 the 44th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) was held in Washington DC. The competition included both practical and written examinations and had 280 students representing 72 countries worldwide. The Canadian students were chosen through a combination of a national examination with a dedicated selection camp that tested both their theoretical knowledge and laboratory skills. After a week of grueling workshops, tests and laboratory sessions, four students were identified to represent Canada at the International Chemistry Olympiad. Isabelle Yang (Don Mills Collegiate Institute) was one of these four students. Isabelle is the first Don Mills student going to the International Chemistry Olympiad. She earned a BRONZE MEDAL (ranked 124th). We are very proud of Isabelle's achievement and wish her good luck at the 45th International Chemistry Olympiad in Moscow.



CCET DEPARTMENT NEWS



COMPUTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND EXPLORING TECHNOLOGIES

PROGRAMMING CLUB

DWITE PROGRAMMING CONTEST

On October 31st, 20 teams from our school participated in the DWITE programming competition. This is an online programming Ontario-wide competition. 170 schools and 250 teams participated in Round 1 on October 31st. Thank you to all the students who sacrificed their Halloween evening to represent DMCI in this event. Congratulations to all! Overall DMCI took the second place in Ontario out of 170 participating schools. Considering individual teams, congratulations to Filip Burlacu, Sepehr Nazari, Kelvin Jiang, John Wu, and Peter Xie whose teams took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in DMCI Grade 12 level competition. Frank Liu, Cui Qi, Zong Yi Wei, Yifan Lu, and Andy Shang teams took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in DMCI Grade 11 level. GO programmers GO!

IBM CASCON PROGRAMMING CONTEST

On November 5th two D.M.C.I. teams participated in the IBM CASCON High School Programming Contest. There were 38 teams of two students, from schools across the Greater Toronto Area, competing in an intense 3-hour, Java™-based programming competition. It was a racing car game. Our programmers were supposed to program their car, which should race, pass checkpoints, and keep fuel level by visiting fuel stations and so on. It was a really tough race, because other cars could throw tires at your car and push your car out of the road. Our first car, driven by Filip Burlacu and Bobby Qiu, was one of the best at semi-finals, however could not omit a huge collision at a gas station and ended up 10th. Then, the second car was driven by less experienced drivers: Peter Xie and Seperh Nazari. We are not sure if they have received their real Ontario Driver's License yet, but their desire to win, logic, excellent strategy and hard work brought their team to the first place. So, our PROGRAMMING TEAM FROM D.M.C.I. got FIRST PLACE in Ontario. Awesome!

CCET DEPARTMENT NEWS CONTINUED!

COMPUTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND EXPLORING TECHNOLOGIES



EVENTS

HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE 2012

From paranormal activity, alien experimenting, and the electrocution theatre, this year the stage crew, student volunteers and Ms. Carey's TGJ3 class worked together to make a fantastic Haunted House. We raised over \$200 that helped support the Best Buddies Club and Breakfast For Learning programs at our school.

CAFETORIUM UPGRADES

This past summer the whole cafetorium stage area at DMCI was upgraded with new modern lighting grid and audio speaker systems. Our TGJ and TEJ courses are looking to get more hands-on with programming and technical audio-visual setup to get exposed further in networking, broadcast installation, staging, and event management. We want to be able to do multi-camera shooting in our courses on stage, and really take it to the next level in TECH. We are the "Knights of Lights, Mages of Stages, Hounds of Sound!" So we are looking to try and upgrade our lighting board and audio board to digital in the next year so they can get real world experiential learning. We'll keep you posted in the next newsletter if we are able to grow our TECH program in that way.

THE VOICE - DMCI'S ANNOUNCEMENT CLUB

Just a huge thank you to the team led by Iriss Guillermo who coordinates our wonderful announcement team to do the announcement reading, welcome music and national anthem each day.

MOBILE LAB STRATEGY 2.0 - 4 NEW MOBILE LABS AT DMCI!

They finally have arrived! D.M.C.I. has been the fortunate recipient of 4 wireless class set mobile labs to advance our students with engaging technology outside the traditional lab format. Focused on working towards student success, the flat classroom project, and science sensory applications, these labs are being made available to teachers that had previously limited access to technology in their classrooms, supporting differentiated instruction and re-engaging students. We are looking to use even more online resources such as Learn 360 to get the best in educational video and interactive tools to augment our programs here at D.M.C.I.

CCET DEPARTMENT NEWS AND CONTINUED!

COMPUTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND EXPLORING TECHNOLOGIES

COURSE ACTION!



TGJ COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

This semester our TGJ course has been very busy working on bio videos, and safety training videos, and loads of Photoshop challenges and presentation skills working in groups. Currently the grade 11 course is focused on developing original ideas to participate in the Ontario Mining Association video competition where our school won many cash awards last year and attended the gala at the ROM downtown. The grade 10's are going to be completing their claymations and chase videos after their bios, and then both courses will be working on their digital portfolios. The pace is fast and hands-on with equipment.

TIJ EXPLORING TECHNOLOGIES

Mrs. Matheson and Ms. Dunlop are working with our grade nines on design and structures and having a blast. With a focus on safety training, all students in the grade nine course have completed the Ontario-wide standard called the 'Passport To Safety' program. Soon these students will be beginning the models on how stuff works that will be part of their final projects. Their classroom has also had a lot of effort put into it to revitalize it visually and functionally.

Saying Farewell ... and Saying Hello

It is with mixture of sadness and pride that we say goodbye to some of our valued staff. Mr. Hua is leaving us to teach at Nelson A. Boylen, Ms Roulston is going to be teaching at East York Collegiate, Ms. Eleftheriadis is headed to Bendale B.T.I, and lastly Ms. Rajeswaran is on her way to Northview Heights Secondary School. We thank them all for all of their efforts, their dedication, and their commitment to students throughout this year! On a very happy note, we are excited to welcome Ms. Clark-Hart who will be teaching science, and Ms. McConnell who will be teaching English and Physical Education.

HOW ARE YOU?

Did Semester 1 turn out as planned? Did you meet or exceed course expectations? Did you meet or exceed your own expectations? Did you get as much out of DMCI as you possibly could?



What are your plans for Semester 2? Match or improve grades? Join a club? Volunteer in the community? Become a peer tutor or ask for help from one? Get fit? Make new friends who truly support you?

What are you considering doing after high school? A gap year? A victory lap? Apprenticeship? Work? College? University?

So much to do; so much to contemplate and talk about during these high school years! Our job as counselors is to do our best as we attempt to help you navigate this journey. We'll make every effort to help you keep on track and support you through your highs (speaking to your praises through reference letters and applications to special programs and scholarships) and your lows – depression, eating disorders, questions about sexuality and coming out to parents, harassment, safe sex, long-standing friendships gone sour, trying to convince parents to dream your dream...and then some!

Be sure to visit your Guidance Counsellors

**Phone: (416) 395-3192
(ext. 20040)**

Karin Phillipson

Steven Maurer

Yen Vi Toung



Best wishes for a successful second semester!

Post-Secondary Info @ DMCI

Many parents attended an evening information session on October 16. On November 20, DMCI hosted about 30 Ontario university and college campuses as well as worthwhile gap programs so that our graduating students could finalize their application decisions. University-bound students who do not review the expanding college programs are depriving themselves of wonderful opportunities.

Scholarships

Remember to

- visit www.studentawards.com and www.scholarshipscanada.com
- visit the www.osap.gov.on.ca re student loans to find out if you might be eligible. The Financial Aid office of your college or university will be able to support you through the process, but only once you've accepted a program.
- read emails from Guidance announcing new scholarships and participate in Q&A



Planning for next year @ DMCI

For the past four years, grade 9 students at DMCI have been introduced to www.myBlueprint.ca, an organization devoted to powerful education planning and post-secondary options tools. For the second year in a row, course selection for 2013-2014 will be an online process. Through assemblies for all grades, hands-on support and an info session for parents and guardians, we trust that course registration will be a seamless process. Feedback indicates that this new process provided families to be more actively involved than in previous years.



LEGEND: = Course Completed = Course Planned = Missing Requirement

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
85 ENG1D	ENG2D X	ENG3U X	ENG4U X	Add Course
81 MPM1D	MPM2D X	MCR3U	MHF4U	Add Course
74 SNC1D	SNC2D X	SBI3U X	BAT4M X	Add Course
82 FSF1D	CHC2D X	BAF3M X	SBI4U X	Add Course
+ Add Row				
78 CGC1D	GLC20/CHV20 X	BBB4M X	MDM4U X	Add Course
88 PPL10	BBI20 X	HZB30 X	MCV4U X	Add Course
85 TT110	CIE3M X	TGJ3M X	Add Course	Add Course
76 AMU10	ATC20 X	CPC30 X	Add Course	Add Course

Graduation Indicator

Ontario Secondary School Dipl. ▼

8 22

30/30
(30 Total Credits)

View Detailed Progress

Program Eligibility 🔍

All Provinces ▼

Apprenticeships	157	View
College Programs	4330	View
University Programs	2463	View
Workplace Sectors	195	View

Students will require their Ontario Education Number (OEN), found on their current report card, in order to complete online course selection. More information will follow as this exciting process unfolds.

Peer Tutoring @ DMCI

Once again, the students of DMCI have volunteered to get involved with the Peer Tutoring Program. This incredible program allows students to earn volunteer hours while helping fellow students who need help and support in just about any subject, and they will work with students from both Don Mill CI and Don Mills Middle School. Students connect with tutors by going to <http://tutoringdmci.webs.com/> where they enter their request and are then paired with a tutor who will arrange to meet them at school at a time that is convenient for both participants.

What is the Flat Classroom Project? — Mr. B Forsyth

The Flat Classroom® Project is a global, collaborative project using Web 2.0 tools to foster connection, communication, collaboration and creation. It draws on the work of Thomas Friedman's international bestseller 'The World is Flat' for inspiration and content. Through the assignment of leadership roles, the students manage the project themselves while the teachers organize, coach, and encourage.

What are the benefits of participating in the FCP?

Participating students gain a deeper understanding of the effects of technology on our world that leads students to not only study but actually experience the “flatteners”. This is accomplished through the use of educational networking platforms, blogging, posting photos, videos, as well as collaborative environments that enhance connections, increase collaboration, and facilitate creative expression. Students also experience real-life transferable concepts such as deadlines, accountability and interdependence. Finally, students benefit from the establishment of an international network through student summits, virtual classrooms (e.g., Blackboard Collaborate), and shared celebration of accomplishments.

How has DMCI contributed to FCP?

All Grade 10 Gifted students will participate in FCP this year. The Semester 1 session (FCP 12-2) was recently completed. DMCI students won several awards for producing multimedia content in collaboration with students from schools in the US and Mexico. The public project and awards pages can be found here: <http://fcp12-2.flatclassroomproject.org/home>

Where do we go from here?

By building Web 2.0 tools into their repertoire, we hope to encourage students to take greater ownership over the educational experience. By practicing project-based collaborative skills, we hope to help students refine the “soft-skills” they need to succeed beyond traditional classroom settings. We believe that FCP helps to generate greater capacity for students to become independent learners and to ultimately position themselves for future success in their chosen fields.



My Co-op Experience, by James Yu

Every year students complete our Co-Op courses, and they take their experiences here with them for the rest of their lives... Here is one example....

All in all I've found my co-op experience to be wonderfully valuable and worthwhile. I feel that my experiences both in-class and on the job site have changed who I am to a remarkable degree, and for the better. In the past semester I've been challenged to better myself both as a person, and in my professionalism, in ways that neither ordinary school nor my personal pursuits have been able to. I've gained an insight into the professional world, and have both witnessed and learned leadership skills that I would not have been able to otherwise.

I've always found that school has a tendency to instill bad habits simply because students can get away with so much under the excuse that it's "just school." Although I've always made an effort to realize this and act accordingly, the co-op program had forced me to face the realities of the professional world and have thus forced me to both pay attention to small details that I would not have noticed before about the way I present myself, but more importantly forced me to practice these skills. For example, although I find it incredibly easy to crack jokes around friends, I consider myself to be very introverted and I struggle with talking to new people, especially if I have to be serious and professional. However, thanks to this program I have been forced to, both inside and outside of school, practice such minor things as making eye contact, greeting people in the morning, and most importantly, being able to explain things or ask questions orally in a way that's both clear and concise. Being the type of person who feels much more comfortable writing things out, this came as a surprising challenge to me in the workplace.

Because of the difference in learning environment, I feel that a lot of my skills have improved. Not only do I feel that I've improved with my day-to-day interpersonal skills as mentioned above, but I've also learned a great deal about presenting myself in applications and interviews. The in-class portion of co-op has taught me to pay attention to all sorts of seemingly minor ways, in everything from word choices in letters, the way I dress, to the ever-important thank you card. Naturally, spending so much time in the workforce has also improved my technical job skills. I've learned a great deal about software and hardware used in a corporate environment, and the reasons behind the choices made in the company. I've always had the habit of trying to re-invent the wheel with my own solutions at home, because I had always found it fun to build systems from scratch. However the issue of manageability that comes up in the corporate environment introduces an entirely new set of considerations to take in, and is very difficult to emulate outside of a large office. All of these are skills that I would not have learned on my own, had I not taken co-op.

I have always had an appreciation for the value of education, so co-op did not make much of a difference there, however it has definitely made a profound difference towards my professional development through the skills I have learned, the insight I have gained towards the IT industry, and the numerous role models I've had. Having worked close with both Systems Administrators and Web Developers, I now feel that either occupation is a realistic goal and something that I would want to pursue in my future. More importantly though, I've learned the important technical skills needed to fulfill said positions, even before attending post-secondary education. I find this to be invaluable as post-secondary education in computer science is heavily theory and mathematics based, so it's important to learn the real-world applications outside of school.

Much to my surprise, I found everybody in the IT department to be a great role model. In most companies it is typical for management to know very little about IT, and thus make bad decisions both in the resources available and the people hired, however I've found that the IT department at 411.ca is more than just competent, but a true pleasure to work with. Everybody in the department seems to get a lot of work done, and done right, while at the same time maintaining an office environment that's always fun, relaxed and easy to focus in. Everybody in the office maintains a high level of professionalism when dealing with the company's clients, but are never too intimidating or serious when around each other. Even outside of the workplace though, co-op still had no shortage of role models. Many of the guest speakers also served as excellent role models, with Kevin Cochran in particular serving as an excellent example of how to be successful in life, both in business and with personal finances.

I have found my co-op experience in general to be very enriching and there is very little I would change about it. I felt that I've learned a lot both in-class and at the workplace. If anything, I did feel that the in-class portion began to feel a bit slow after the first couple of weeks, as this school does seem to extend the in-class portion more than other schools do, but other than the pacing at the beginning of the year, I have found my co-op experience to be a true privilege.

Don Mills Collegiate Institute's Art students

And DOWNTOWN TORONTO

WORLD PRESS PHOTO

Harbourfront centre



On October 19th, 2012 the art students from Don Mills Collegiate Institute visited the World Press Photo 12 at Allen Lambert Galleria, Brookfield Place.

The World Press Photo 12 is a travelling exhibition consisting of the prize-winning entries, the art students had a opportunity of visiting this gallery.



There were two photos that were my favorite because it brings forth and triggers different emotions. The one on the top is a mother cradling her child after he was severely injured while fighting for freedom. This photo triggers sadness and a feeling of protection because the mother is holding her child so precious and to see her son be in pain must have been a very saddening thing for her to go through.



This picture is taken at Higashimatsushima and it relates to the terrible natural disaster that happened in Japan not too long ago. The earthquake that came like a surprise to many people destroyed many families and homes, and caused a tsunami to strike soon after affecting even more people. This picture shows a mother holding up her daughters graduation certificate which she saved from the disaster of the earthquake.

After visiting the World Press Photo exhibition, the art students visited the Harbourfront centre *NOUVELLE VAGUE*. There, they saw many different daily furniture designs in wacky shapes that's out of the ordinary, but could still be used.



Overall this day was a successful because this trip has taught students the many different views people can have on one particular subject, such as the furniture's, without imagination the artists could have never come up with such a unique way of designing them.

JENNY DONG

A Day Downtown

By: Tiara Chutkhan

On Friday October, 19 our art class went downtown to see the World Press Photo exhibit. It was a beautiful collection of photos that deal with heavy subject matter such as poaching, war, and traditions from other cultures. Each photographer had a different story to tell in the photo and the range of material made it all the better. That day I saw some photographs that made me feel somewhat uncomfortable due to the subject matter. One photo showed a man's body cut up lying in the street as people passed by like it was no big deal. Another photo showed a set of land in Japan. Half was lush and green, while the other was burnt and dry due to war. These photos really make you stop and think just how lucky we are in Canada. You'd never see anything like that here. The photos of poaching rhinos and sharks also really got to me. The sharks had their fins cut off and are then thrown back into the ocean. I thought that was absolutely terrible. The rhinos go through similar pain as well.



Although there was a plenty of serious material, there was also beautiful photographs of people in different cultures and animals not being harmed. I saw a picture of a man swimming with large fish and it was stunning. It looked so natural and calm. The photographer captured that moment perfectly. One photo that really

stood out to me was shot by Vincent Boisot. It showed a model from Senegal posing at the front of a tailor shop during fashion week. The event began in 2003 with no government support and has now become a leading showcase for design across the continent.



After the wonderful exhibit and a quick bite to eat we headed down to the harbour front, also known as the perfect place to relax. The gloomy, misty weather was perfect for sketching and simply just watching the water. I wouldn't have minded spending the whole day there! The scenery was great for snapping a few photos too.



Overall the field trip was great. The World Press Photo exhibit was something I'd love to see again next year, and of course, I'd be more than happy to visit harbour front again. After such a busy day downtown I was glad to go home!

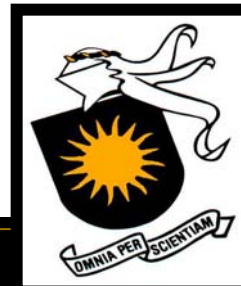
THE BACK PAGE ... SOME ESSENTIAL INFO

EVALUATION

Grade Range	Achievement	Summary Description
80-100%	Level 4	A very high to outstanding level of achievement Achievement is <i>above</i> the provincial standard
70-79%	Level 3	A high level of achievement Achievement is <i>at</i> the provincial standard
60-69%	Level 2	A moderate level of achievement Achievement is <i>below, but approaching</i> , the provincial standard
50-59%	Level 1	A passable level of achievement Achievement is <i>below</i> the provincial standard
Below 50%		Insufficient achievement of curriculum expectations A credit will not be granted

Report Cards

Each student receives an interim report card, a mid-term report card, and a final report card for each course. Interim report cards are issued in October and March, mid-term reports in November and April, and final reports in February and June.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

School councils are an excellent way for parents to get involved in their child's education. Our school has an elected school council that is an important forum for involving all members of the school community in issues that affect the education of students. The school council is made up of an elected committee of parents, staff and student representatives, appointed community members, the principal, and a general membership which includes all parents of children attending the school. The school council advises the principal on a variety of issues and activities relating to student achievement, curriculum goals and priorities, school budget priorities, school safety, renovation plans, after school activities, and criteria for the selection of new principals.

Don Mills Collegiate Institute
15 The Donway East
Toronto, Ontario
M3C 1X6
Tel: (416) 395-3190

School Council Dates

October 16 February 19
November 20 April 16
January 22 May 21

Looking Forward ... EQAO (www.eqao.com)

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) is an independent provincial agency funded by the Government of Ontario. EQAO's mandate is to conduct province-wide tests at key points in every student's primary, junior and secondary education and report the results to educators, parents and the public. EQAO acts as a catalyst for increasing the success of Ontario students by measuring their achievement in reading, writing and mathematics in relation to Ontario Curriculum expectations. The objective and reliable assessment results are evidence that adds to the current knowledge about student learning and serves as an important tool for improvement at the individual, school, school board and provincial levels. Students will write an EQAO math test in Grade 9 (June 11-12), and an EQAO literacy test in Grade 10 (April 11th).