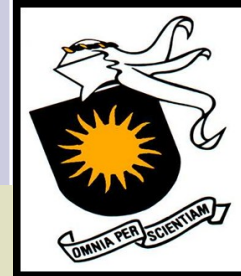


**Don Mills C. I.**

## **Spring 2015 Newsletter**



### **Gold at Skills Canada Competition**

Two students, John Picilaidis and Gucci Ding achieved Gold Medals at the board level, making this a particularly successful year in Skills Competitions at DMCI.

John's passion for small engines and his mechanical ability made achieving a medal very attainable. I feel confident that John's goal of becoming an engineer is a reality that will come to pass.

Gucci, a senior student at DMCI, has a natural ability in Floristry. She moved onto the Ontario Competition in Waterloo after winning Gold in Toronto. Her skills bloomed, once again, and she became Ontario's Gold Medalist in her area of Floristry.



Both John and Gucci deserve recognition for outstanding results this year and should feel very proud of their accomplishments. I know the staff, the students of DMCI, and I have tremendous confidence in these two young people.

*Submitted by G. Thoms*

## English and Drama Highlights

The English department has had a productive and exciting year!

Our Debating Club had great success competing in four regular Toronto-wide tournaments over the course of the year. In the third tournament, the senior team took first place, and Kevin Zheng took the individual senior first place prize. The novice team made it to the finals of the city-wide competition and finished in third place. Congratulations go to Brian Forbes and Shannon Gui, the club presidents, for their great leadership over the course of the year.



The English department also continued the tradition of developing future educators by hosting a student teacher from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. With a professional background in corporate marketing and advertising with Mercedes-Benz International, Mr. Ticar brought skills and knowledge and outstanding technological skills to bear in his recent practicum placement. One notable fresh idea Mr. Ticar brought to us, called "Blog of the Flies," offered students an opportunity to incorporate traditional literature, social media, and current events into the Grade 9 English curriculum. We wish Mr. Ticar all the best as he joins us in a demanding but highly rewarding profession.

Grade 9 and 10 students, who studied *Romeo & Juliet* as a part of the drama novel series, enjoyed a special outing at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. The cast took an interactive approach with students, engaging with those in attendance at the beginning and middle of the play, and fielding questions at the end. Following the performance, our students met with the actor who plays Friar Laurence. He shared his insights into drama and performing for a younger audience. Afterwards, we participated in a workshop delivered by theatre company members. Students were engaged throughout, and the entire day brought William Shakespeare's work to life.

The Drama club had an exceptionally successful run with the Sears Drama Festival. With their self-composed and direct play, *The Voices*, students went to the Regional Finals at Hart House. Student Qudsiya Jabeen won an Acting Merit award. Additionally, the students performed their play for the Don Mills Middle School students and did a whole-school performance in the cafetorium.

### English and Drama Highlights continued

Two students, Simona Kurdaliev and Qudsiya Jabee, participated in the gala performance of the TDSB Creates Spoken Word event at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. It was an inspiring evening of strong performances of both student-created spoken-word pieces and choreography. We were delighted to host the award winning Theatre for Young Audiences Company, Roseneath Theatre, who brought to DMCI their insightful and important show, *Outside*, that deals with the issues of homophobia and bullying.



In preparation for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, a number of Grade 10 students were invited to take part in a literacy workshop. They met twice a week for hour-long sessions focused on improving their reading and writing skills. Rather than leaving at 3:05 p.m., this group of dedicated students committed their free time to literacy development. Through independent, pair and small-group activities, students analyzed reading passages and wrote paragraphs and opinion essays. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, with confidence and granola bars in tow, students came to school and completed the OSSLT.

To add a more modern twist to our classes, students had great fun using our new iPad lab to create media projects. iMovie allowed students to create short films about social issues, conflicting characters, and popular themes. It's amazing how such powerful films can be made in such a short time. Watching the films was a definite highlight for all!

### English as a Second Language

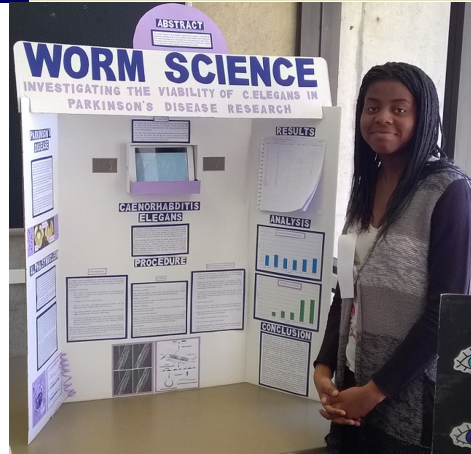
The **ESL Dept.** has had a busy and productive final semester in 2015. Many students finished their ESL program and moved to mainstream English classes. There was an all-day excursion for students to the Toronto Zoo on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and short trips to our local library and the Shops of Don Mills. The ESL Civics class went to Queen's Park and to City Hall on May 27<sup>th</sup> to see government functioning.. Ms. Greene, Ms. Fish and our Settlement Worker, Catherine Liu, hosted a Chinese New Year Lunch on February 19<sup>th</sup> that was enjoyed by all. The ESL Club continues to be a helpful meeting place for students on Thursdays, in Room 109.

Many newly arriving students attended our NOW Program in August 2014. This gave them an opportunity to learn about our education system, visit their new school and make new friends. This wonderful session is run by our Settlement Worker, Ms. Catherine Liu. The Program will run again in August, 2015, but DMCI students will be joining with of Victoria Park C.I. If anyone is interested in participating in the NOW Program, as a student or as a Peer Leader, please contact Ms. Liu in the Guidance Department of DMCI.

### University of Toronto Science Fair Gold

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Don Mills' own Sophie Ngana participated in the Toronto Science Fair. The fair was a day where students from across Toronto presented the projects they worked on throughout the year to a panel of judges. Sophie's project was one that was two years in the making. In the summer going into Grade 11, she took a great interest in neuroscience and neurodegenerative disease research. She hoped to break into the field by developing a project surrounding neurodegenerative disease and the study of the disease in animal models. She spent most of her Grades 11 and 12 years working under the mentorship of Drs. Lorraine and Suneil Kalia, at the Toronto Western Research Institute. Her project studied the over expression of proteins, known as being pathologically linked to Parkinson's Disease, and its effects on the *Caenorhabditis elegans* worm.

This is research that could prove useful later in Parkinson's research, as it established the worms as a viable model organism for future investigation. At the end of the fair, Sophie took home gold as well as an invitation to participate in the World Congress of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering in June.



### DMCI Coffee Cart

This year, the students in the Developmental Disability Program have operated the DMCI Coffee Cart and sold hot beverages and cookies to the student body on special days. They have improved their social skills and math skills while raising money to support the program.

### Math Contests

The 2014-2015 Pascal (Grade 9), Cayley (Grade 10), and Fermat (Grade 11) Contests were written by a total of approximately 60,590 students from over 1500 schools.

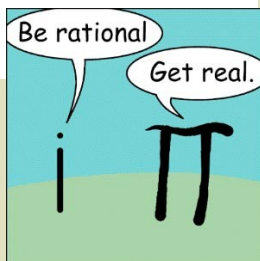
The 2014-2015 Fryer (Grade 9), Galois (Grade 10), and Hypatia (Grade 11) Contests were written by more than approximately 16 000 students from over 698 schools.

The 2014-2015 Euclid (Grade 12) Contest was written by a total of approximately 16 000 students from over 1300 schools.

**Certificates of Distinction** for students ranking in the top 25% of all contestants in each contest were awarded.

### New Math Assistant Curriculum Leader

The DMCI Math department is pleased to welcome Carol Miron as our new leader. She brings many years of experience at a variety of schools. She will be joining us in September from Albert Campbell C.I.. We look forward to her quiet leadership and trying some new initiatives. in our math classes.



### DMCI Results

19 students received certificates for Pascal, 4 students for Cayley, and 18 students for Fermat.

Medals were awarded to Elaine Liu (Pascal - scoring 144/150), Eric Qing (Cayley - scoring 129/150), and Dailin Li (Fermat - scoring 138/150).

7 students received certificates for Fryer, 2 for Galois, and 12 for Hypatia.

Medals were awarded to Selina Hsu (Fryer - scoring 35/40), Eric Qing (Galois - scoring 35/40) and Yikuan Li (Hypatia - scoring 39/40).

12 certificates were awarded for Euclid (Grade 12).

Lily Wang received a medal. (scoring 75/100).

Don Mills Collegiate Institute has been named as zone champion for the Hypatia (Grade 11). The 5 member team had a score of 189.

Congratulations to all.

## Highlights from the Social & Global Studies Department

This year, the Social & Global Studies Department had its fair share of unique opportunities to explore and experience learning beyond the classroom and traditional curriculum. We are looking forward to continuing these initiatives during the next school year.

### Mindfulness



Feel what it's like to breathe



LOOK around



LISTEN



FEEL your body



Reset

This fall, DMCI implemented a TDSB board initiative on mindfulness. Grade 9 students were given lessons in mindfulness — a type of meditation that encourages awareness of the present moment, in a non-judgmental way. In three workshops, over each semester, each Grade 9 student in geography learned mindfulness from 3P Coaches. Students practised deep belly breathing, “body scans” (a meditation exercise that draws attention to different parts of the body), and much more. This spring, the entire DMCI student body, teachers and staff have been using mindfulness daily in the form of a mindful minute — a stop and drop practice of becoming aware of the present moment.

Another regular course-related event was the Philosophy Café — an in-class event meant to encourage students to explore the history of philosophy and find connections in philosophy to their day-to-day life. This is done through online research, in-class discussion, as well as student and teacher collaboration.

Because students generally have a limited background in philosophy, this freedom to explore and express ideas in philosophy acts as a good stepping stone to further exploration later in the course. The Philosophy Café unit is modeled after an actual grassroots movement conceived as a forum for philosophical discussion, founded by philosopher Marc Sautet (1947–1998) in Paris, France, on December 13, 1992. A favorite aspect of this unit for many students is the opportunity to sip on decaffeinated coffee and eat munchies.





## Highlights from the Social & Global Studies Department Con't

Our Civics students travelled to tour both City Hall and Queen's Park to see politics and civic duty in action. More than just the Mayor's office, City Hall is also the home of our city counsel – where all the big decisions that govern our city takes place. At City Hall, students had the chance to see some of the daily operations of an iconic multicultural metropolis.

While City Hall is the heart of the city, Queen's Park is its equivalent at the provincial level. Students had the opportunity to visit the political battlegrounds where debates on various legislative and regulatory issues take place, but more importantly, where policy is formed and can affect our students' lives as well.



In addition to the trips to City Hall and Queen's Park, Don Mills hosted its annual Model United Nations (or "MUN" as the students affectionately call it), where numerous schools and hundreds of students congregated in a mock U.N. conference. Taking on the persona of various nations around the world, students participated in simulation debates over various global issues – from global warming and climate change, to international commerce, to poverty, to health issues. MUN continues to be a staple at Don Mills where many civic-minded students get a chance to pursue ideas of civic and global advocacy.

Another greatly anticipated excursion experienced by the DMCI Law students was the field trips down to the Ontario Supreme Courts. Students taking Law got to witness first-hand how part of our fundamental judicial system works. More than just ritualized practice, the courts provide students the chance to see how the laws created at the provincial and federal levels are being applied in real-life situations. Students were given pre-approved court room cases to visit and observe.



This year, the HSP3U students travelled to the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH) to grasp a greater appreciation of some of the challenges in areas of mental health and its issues that affect all Canadians. With a growing emphasis in promoting both physical and mental health and wellness, the visit to CAMH helped open the eyes and ears of DMCI students, bringing awareness to the forefront.

Students of CHY4U (a Grade 12 history course) took in the wondrous works of Michelangelo at the AGO. Being able to see his works first-hand helped to transcend the experiences of the arts beyond pictures seen in textbooks, magazines and online.

## French

The **French Dept.** is passionately active and creative. Mme. Baltov organized events for enrichment of our French program. Grade 10 French students attended Cinefranco in February to watch "La Belle and la Bete". In April, Grade 11 students studied "George Dandin" by Moliere and then attended a production of this play at the University of Toronto's French Theater.

During the March Break of 2015, Mme. Calhoun, one of the senior French teachers, accompanied a group of DMCI students on a wonderful excursion to Europe. They visited cities in Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland.

Keerthma Sambulingam participated in the Concours d'Art Oratoire Contest and represented our school excellently under the tutelage of Mme. Baltov.

Our French Club continues to run on Tuesdays after school. There are many members who watch French movies, play games and improve their conversational skills. Anyone interested in joining the French Club should speak to Mme. Baltov in Room 108.





## Don Mills Programming Gala a Huge Success

In the DMCI Programming Club we introduced students to various algorithms as well as discussed solving contest problems by cleverly implementing these algorithms in Java, Python, or C++.

In order to encourage students to become interested in solving contest-style programming problems and to allow our members to enjoy some healthy competition, we held our first Don Mills Open Programming Contest (DMOCP) in October.

The DMOPC is now held monthly on the [DMOJ](#) and consistently has 70 to 120 students participating from across the province!

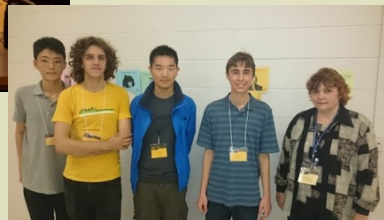
As the school year came to an end, we decided to do something different for the final DMOPC of the year – why not host an onsite event?



On May 28, 150 students from across the Greater Toronto Area participated in our Programming Gala, where they took part in a 3-hour programming contest and listened to our guest speaker, Steve Engels, who is a lecturer in Computer Science at the University of Toronto.



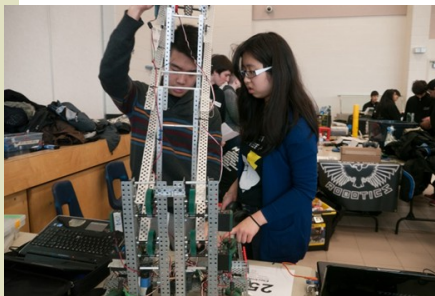
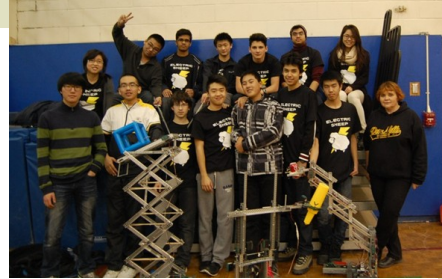
Gala Organizers: Tony Li, Tudor Brindus, Timothy Li, Eduard Ionescu, Ms. Strelkovska.  
Not pictured: Guanzhong Chen, Ryan Zhen



## Robotics

2014-2015 was another successful season for the DMCI "Electric Sheep" VEX Robotics team, one of the longest in recent memory. It began in November, at the Toronto Qualifiers. Considering it was our first tournament of the year, we did fairly well, with the A Team placing in the top 30 teams out of 70.

Unfortunately, we were not able to advance to the elimination rounds, but our enthusiasm and sportsmanship were rewarded when we received the Energy Award. It was the first such award won by DMCI, and it made the day memorable. From this first tournament, we gained much valuable experience, which we later applied in our robot designs for our next tournament in December at the York Qualifiers.

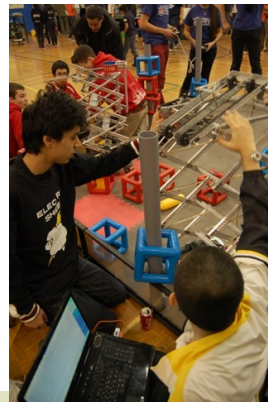


This time, we fared much better. The Electric Sheep A Team placed 6th after the qualifying rounds and was the 4th seeded alliance. The A Team selected the Electric Sheep B Team as part of their alliance, and along with 4659A Raven Robotics, we won a close quarter-final series. We advanced to the semi-finals, but just barely lost to the first seeded alliance, who went on to win it all.

At our next tournament in Mississauga, we entered with a revised design of the original B Team robot.

While we encountered many difficulties in the qualifying rounds, and were not able to place high in the rankings, we did attempt the Skills field for the first time and placed in the Top 15 on the provincial level. This secured us a place in the provincial championships.

We attended the championships for the first time in club history at St. Catherine's in March 2015, which was an amazing experience. There, we competed amongst the best 55 teams across the province, placing 43rd, which was quite the accomplishment. But unfortunately, our season ended here and we were not able to qualify for the World Championships.



## Robotics continued

We are very proud of what we have accomplished. We worked hard deep into the season and learned so much. We used aluminum parts in our design for the first time this year, which made our robot lighter and much more efficient. Next year, we hope to implement pneumatic systems in our designs.

We had fun on the Friday nights before the tournaments when we worked and ate pizza late into the night. We never gave up when we had numerous software and hardware problems at the worst times during the tournaments. We smiled and worked through it all. Next year, we have our sights set high; we hope to qualify for Worlds. As a senior member, I am leaving the club this year, but I have confidence in their talent to qualify next year. I'd like to thank the Robotics Club for providing me an awesome experience these past two years, and I wish next year's team the best of luck.



## Programming Competition Results

DMCI came in first at the final (provincial) round of the ECOO team programming competition. Team 1 (Guanzhong Chen, Tony Li, Timothy Li, and Tudor Brindus) also came in first at the TDSB round while Team 2 (Eduard Ionescu, Tudor Brindus, Brian Forbes, and Patrick Au) came in fifth.

### Excellent Results at CCC and CCO

Congratulations to Timothy Li, who achieved a perfect score on both the Canadian Computing Competition (CCC) and on the CCO (Canadian Computing Olympiad) making him Canada's top programmer! He'll be representing Canada at the International Olympiad of Informatics in Kazakhstan this summer. Amazing job! As well, Guanzhong Chen earned a silver medal at the CCO and scored in the Group 1 Category on the CCC.

Our next highest scoring students were Eduard Ionescu, Tudor Brindus and Tony Li, who scored in the Group 2, Group 3, and Group 4 categories on the CCC respectively.

## The CyberARTS Program

This has been a very exciting school year within the CyberARTS program with a number of good news items.

CyberARTS collaborated with the **George Brown School of Design and Digifest!** Digifest 2015 - Canada's premiere digital festival highlights work from Don Mills Collegiate Institute and Northview Heights Secondary School, two high schools from the Toronto District School Board's CyberARTS program. CyberARTS would like to thank the staff at the School of Design at George Brown College. In particular we appreciate the efforts of Luigi Ferrara, Alice Lee, Simon Rabyiniuk, Natasha Basacchi, Desmond Yeung and Richelle Sibolboro for providing this remarkable opportunity to our students.



Our Grade 11 CyberARTS students contributed excellent design solutions to the 20th Annual Sears DX Canadian high school design competition. This competition promotes the study and awareness of all design disciplines in schools across Canada. The competition is open to high school students, at junior and senior levels. **Christabel Fuentes placed second overall, Lucy Li and Kristy Liu received honourable mention.** The winning and honourable mention entries were exhibited at Design Exchange in June 2015. We congratulate all who participated in this nation-wide, industry-respected design exhibition.

Grace Guo, Daphne Yang and Thomas Feng from the graduating class of CyberARTS participated in **tdsbCREATES**. These students created a collaborative art piece mentored by a professional artist that reflected the archaic laws of Toronto. This juried exhibition was exhibited at Artscape Youngplace and celebrated by Toronto's educational and arts community.

The CyberARTS program celebrated student commitment and achievements at the **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Open House and Graduation** ceremony. The award winners were Debbie Kao for Outstanding Achievement, Nicole Yip for Culture and Caring, Shirley Ma for Award of Distinction and Paige Thompson was the 2015 CyberARTS Valedictorian. We want to thank the students, volunteers and administration for their contribution to this memorable and special evening.

This year was enriched with field trips to OCAD, Gardiner Museum, Royal Ontario Museum and the Applied Arts symposium, as well as with a guest artist within Communication technology and visual arts classes.

### The CyberArts Program continued

Ever changing and adapting, we are looking forward to September 2015, and another exciting year ahead in CyberARTS! For further information on the CyberARTS Program, please go to: [www.cyberarts.ca](http://www.cyberarts.ca).



### DECA

Enthusiasm paid off for the Don Mills DECA business club. Almost all of the club members made it past the regional competitions in the Fall. Then, in the February Provincials, with over 6000 competitors, our students won a very respectable 6 medals. Rose Ghaedi placed in the top 6 for the written competition in her category. And top 15 placements were won by Connie Yu and Fei Wang on the exams in their category, by Langni Zeng on her oral competition, and by Brendan Zhang and Gene Liang for their written submission.

### Model UN Club

The Model UN Club at Don Mills capped off an active year by mounting its own very successful conference in late March attended by 140 students from more than a dozen schools from across the GTA. All the hard work including months of planning, followed by weeks of almost daily practice-chairing sessions that even stretched over the March break, paid off. The roughly twenty club members did a very professional job of running six different day-long meetings in which the most significant world issues of the day were debated.

Throughout the year, the club also succeeded in taking home major awards from each of the three conferences it attended. In October, the team distinguished itself by winning five awards at the Lakeshore C.I. Model UN conference. Tebat Jasim won an Honourable Mention award, Daphne Yang and Debanjan Paul each won Most Diplomatic awards, Cindy Guo took an Outstanding Delegate award, and Yiwei Luo won one of the prized 'Best Delegate' awards. Then, in February, Yiwei won a Best Position Paper at the Havergal College Model UN. Finally, in May a team from Don Mills brought home four awards from the Cedarbrae C.I. Model UN Conference. Mimi Wang, Daphne Yang and Rose Ghuedi each won Honourable Mention awards, and Kristina Kisin won a 'Best Delegate' award.

## Science Achievements

### McMaster Science Olympics

Don Mills brought a group of aspiring scientists to McMaster University to compete in an engineering competition mid-October. Aside from getting a tour of the campus and having tons of fun, the students competed in all sorts of engaging team competitions. As expected, our school came out with some great results.

Our Chemistry Forensics team of Fangwei Chang, Shannon Gui, and Emma Xie placed third in their competition, the Mental Gymnastics team of Mimi Wang, Jerry Zhang, and Jonathan Chang won 2nd place, our team of Daniel Zhou, Linda Low, Emma Xie, and Jennifer Du won 2nd place in L.E.A.P. Angry Birds, and, finally, our Egg High Jump group of Linda Qian, Yiwei Luo, Lucas Kim, and Cindy Guo won first place!

Grace Ting was in the Top 10% of 1663 students from across Canada in the Michael Smith Science Challenge competition for grade 9 and 10 students.

Ontario Association of Physics Teachers Contest for Grade 11 students. Dailin Li's score of 130 finished in the top 5 marks for the competition. Don Mills had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest participation of all schools, with 71 students writing the contest.

2015 Canadian Chemistry Contest by Chemical Institute of Canada. This competition is used to select students for the National Chemistry Olympiad Team. Of the 12 students who wrote the competition the highest mark by a DMCI student was obtained by Fangwei Chang.

The Waterloo Grade 11 Chemistry contest (Avogadro) had 4397 exam writers. Dailin Li ranked 69<sup>th</sup> and Linda Qian ranked 147<sup>th</sup>. Don Mills had 4 students in the top 5% of all exam writers.

Don Mills had 4 students in the top 20% of the University of Waterloo Grade 12 Chemistry contest. Congratulations to Linda Qian, Wumfei Xie, Kevin Zheng, and Shannon Gui.

Don Mills Eco team raised money for famine relief in West Africa, prepared for our Gold Standard Eco schools audit and organized guest speakers on sustainability and bee keeping.

The Botany club grew plant specimens for labs and helped with the school's greening project.

Sophie Ngana received the Gold Medal at the Toronto science fair for her research on Worm Science, Investigating the viability of C.Elegans in Parkinsons Disease Research.





### Stage Crew

This year our talented Stage Crew was led by students Rehan Hajee and Frances Feng. Our dedicated team of students handled over 120 audiovisual requests providing professional support for administration, assemblies, events, music and dramatic programs. They have supported major conferences, school-wide sports events, community permits, and loads of special youth programming. We appreciate their work!



### The Voice

This year our announcement crew was professionally led by Max Kazi, and we appreciated his work organizing the team, mentoring speakers, and coordinating special programming additions for teachers through this year. Great work team!



### Library and Information Centre

We want the Library and Information Centre to be the heart of the school, and, over the past year, parent and student volunteers have worked hard to achieve this goal.

Currently, we have more than 27 000 books, videos, DVDs and software, as well as an extensive collection of magazine and newspaper subscriptions. In addition, we maintain a school library web page with dozens of subscription databases that give students a virtual library of thousands of up-to-the-minute resources at all levels of academic complexity. Most of these electronic resources can also be accessed from home by using a simple URL and password found in our library orientation pamphlet.

As well as providing support for your academic success, our collection provides stimulating materials to help you pursue your interests and hobbies. Half of our more than 40 magazine subscriptions are teen-focused specializing in sports, computers, fashion and many other popular topics. Our novels for pleasure reading are divided into eight different collections including specific sections on graphic novels, fantasy, and historical fiction.

## Music Highlights

### **November**

Northern Lights travelled to New York City and North Easton, Massachusetts for the "Baystate Show Choir Festival".

### **February**

Our Stage Band and our Jazz Combo competed in the Regional Semi-finals of MusicFest Canada – Stage Band won a GOLD medal, and the combo a SILVER.

### **December**

Winter Music Night featured all of our extra-curricular performing groups.

The Holiday Assembly featured Northern Lights.

### **April**

Northern Lights earned a Bronze medal at the "Eastern Show Choir Festival" in Waltham, Massachusetts. Additionally, soloist Eric Sun earned a judges' choice award.

Northern Lights presented their 13<sup>th</sup> annual "Spring Spectacular", an evening of singing and dancing before a very enthusiastic crowd.

Jazz Night at Lula, featured our Stage Band and our Jazz Combo.

Spring Music Night featured our Concert Band, String Orchestra, Ukulele Band as well as a variety of small ensembles.

### **May**

Our Stage Band and Jazz Combo competed in the National Finals of MusicFest Canada – Stage Band won a GOLD medal, and the Combo a SILVER. Additionally, awards were presented to Stage Band member Teo Sronic (drums) and Combo member Neil Richter (piano) for musical excellence.



Our Vocal Music class participated in "The Magic of Disney" workshop with Jodi Benson (voice of Disney's "The Little Mermaid") at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

### **June**

Students in Grade 12 presented their graduating recital.

The entire music department enjoyed their annual end-of-year Banquet at Flipper's Banquet Hall.

The Concert Band played for DMCI's Commencement.



## Connections and Innovations

The 2014/2015 school year has proven to be an outstanding one for the students and programming of the Connections and Innovation Department. In addition to the consistent opportunities enjoyed by the participants of our Co-Operative Education, Photography, IDC Digital Portfolio, Technological Design and Green Industries classes, we certainly have several highlights to celebrate.



Our Photography and IDC Digital Portfolio students impressed and earned accolades with work displayed in the TDSB Creates show and a show featuring photo collages focussing on the Pan Am Games. This work was displayed at Old City Hall and will feature at the Pan Am Games Athlete's Village this Summer.



The Green Industries and Technological Design students shone just as brightly with hand carved pieces made from the wood of the famous Maple Leaf Forever tree, displayed at the Green Living Show, in the City Hall Rotunda and seen on a feature by CTV News. Our Farm to Table Garden continues to grow and flourish. This year has seen the building and installation of 40 garden boxes and



support systems, the movement of 80 yards of soil (that is 16 dump trucks)! and the planting of more than 1000 vegetables and fruit. Amazing! This work would not have been possible but for the links and support made with City of Toronto Live Green, and Food Share. Please watch as this garden space continues to improve with the completion of a Farm Fence, Picnic Tables and an Outdoor Kitchen.



### Grade 9 Orientation

Every year, our new grade nines are treated to an orientation day at an outdoor facility. For the seventh year in a row, students helped Ms. Phillipson manage the event that involves 8 busloads of over 300 students. They are activity leaders, team leaders, cheer writers, team builders – resulting in great school spirit. None of this would be possible without our devoted Student Committee so effectively headed up by graduating student, Paige Thompson. Best wishes, Paige.



### Ontario Science Centre

The Ontario Science Centre Science School offers Grade 12 studies in four areas: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. This is an elite program for students who would like to dedicate a semester of their last year in high school to study in a unique science environment with outstanding students and educators. It attracts students from across Ontario. Graduates of the program unanimously recommend the experience as one of the most profound educational events of their life and go on to study across

Canada and the United States. Don Mills C.I. administers and supports all public school students studying at The Ontario Science Centre Science School by providing help with career/personal counselling and university applications. Please contact us for more information and check out <http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/oscschool/>

## Post Secondary Plans—Fall 2015

Student Services looks forward to supporting future Grade 12s throughout the post-secondary application process. We communicate with senior students via assemblies, classroom visits, individual appointments, and email. Despite the growing use of social media, colleges and universities still correspond with students via email, so it is important to have an active and professional email address. Students are encouraged to maintain an organized document system, both online and in a physical filing system. While the initial stages of a student's post-secondary application are processed online, there is still significant hardcopy mail correspondence between students and their post-secondary institutions of choice.

September 25-27 - Ontario Universities Fair, Metro Toronto Convention Centre

October 17-18 – Student Life Expo, Metro Convention Centre

October 19-20 - College Information Fair at Exhibition Place, Direct Energy Centre

November 17 – Post-Secondary Fair @ DMCI – Over 25 university and college campuses participating

It's never too early to research the numerous financial resources to support post-secondary education. Many scholarships are available and not all are marks-based. [www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com) and [www.studentawards.ca](http://www.studentawards.ca) are worth exploring. Don Mills CI also has a number of recognition opportunities available for eligible graduating students who fully complete their Individual Pathway Plan (IPP on myBlueprint).

## Nepal Fundraiser

Led by two Nepalese students, Swan Gurung and Sambidha Ghimire, a group of dedicated students promoted and collected funds to support the Red Cross in Nepal. The students collected money at our spring music night, made pleas on the morning announcements, and sold lollipops. Thanks to all staff, students, and their families for their contributions. In total DMCI raised almost \$900.





### 2014-2015 Graduating Class

We wish all DMCI graduates much success as they enter post-secondary studies or the workplace. Many of you have been granted scholarships and entrance awards – well done! We look forward to reconnecting when you visit DMCI.

If you were rejected by post-secondary institutions, you can reapply. Contact the application centre directly.

Ontario colleges for diplomas and applied degrees ([www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca)); or

Ontario universities ([www.ouac.on.ca](http://www.ouac.on.ca)).

### DMCI Ambassadors

The DMCI Ambassadors are the volunteers we count on so that school events run smoothly! We're grateful to the outstanding leadership of their senior supervisors, Shirley Ma and Prajj Rajawat, and wish them all the best as they anticipate their post-secondary experience.

Our student ambassadors act as hosts for various school-based evening functions, conduct tours of the school for new registrants or special guests, and assist with the setup and cleanup of after-school events.

### Credits, Courses and Pathways

In February, students used an online tool to choose courses for the following year. Information was provided via assemblies for all grades, hands-on support in the Library during lunch and an evening session for parents/guardians. As you may have experienced, [www.myblueprint.ca](http://www.myblueprint.ca) provides families with an opportunity to be dynamically involved in this process, helping their children to set goals and make realistic choices.

The month of June is always a busy one. The school year ends with final presentations, assessments and exams. At the same time, a large number of students are being consulted regarding course conflicts in next year's schedule, and in some cases, summer school planning.

If a student completes a summer school credit course within the TDSB, the transcript will be automatically updated. For TCDSB summer school, the original final report card must be presented to Guidance in September. Private school credits must be mailed directly by the private school to DMCI. Students who did not pre-register for a failed compulsory course will be automatically re-timetabled for the prerequisite credit. At the start of the school year, changes to students' timetables will only be made if necessary, i.e., to reflect updated credit course completions and to correct conflicts, errors and incomplete schedules. Students will only have one opportunity to request such a change.

The Guidance department wishes you a great summer and is ready to assist you in September.



### Mental Health Promotion

During the first week of May, DMCI honoured the national Mental Health campaign. Students participated in a number of lunchtime workshops that included building their own Zen gardens, mindfulness and standing yoga, stress management (offered by the Hong Fook Mental Health Association), fitness promotion with a personal trainer as well as three sessions of Zumba compliments of our local



Goodlife Fitness – North York East Region. DMCI continued with three additional sessions of hip-hop.

### Mindfulness

Mindfulness, developed by John Kabat-Zinn, is "the intentional, accepting and non-judgemental focus of one's attention on the emotions, thoughts and sensations occurring in the present moment." Throughout the year, all Grade 9 students in our TDSB Family of Schools have each participated in three mindfulness workshops facilitated by the staff of [www.3pcoaching.com](http://www.3pcoaching.com). DMCI continues to offer a daily mindful minute. It is hoped that our students will continue to develop and make use of the necessary skills required to live life successfully.

### Guidance Staff

We continue to work with a dedicated professional team consisting of a psychologist, social worker, international student counsellor and settlement worker. We have recently acquired the services of youth outreach workers attached to Hincks-Dellcrest. Together we do our best to support our students.

### Interns in Student Services

Each semester, we host interns from York University's Bachelor of Nursing program who complete their community placements with us and enrich our students' lives with their learning and experience.



## NanOntario Field Trip



On Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ms. Koehler's Grade 10 Careers class and Mr. Johnson's Grade 11 Physics class embarked on a full-day field trip to The University of Toronto's Department of Materials Science and Engineering. NanOntario is a youth outreach program that is led by Professor Uwe Erb and his graduate students, who facilitate hands-on workshops with secondary school students about bio-inspired nanotechnology found in our everyday lives.

All 76 students completed an interactive workshop for 1.5 hours in the morning followed

by an extensive tour of University of Toronto's campus in the afternoon led by a third year philosophy student. The students learned about how nanostructures found in nature can be used to create various products such as sports equipment and plastics. In the afternoon, the students toured various historical buildings, libraries, residences and learned about the daily life of a University of Toronto student.



## Commencement 2015

On Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, DMCI held its annual Commencement ceremony. This year all of our potential graduates were fortunate enough to be able to wear gowns for the ceremony. The added elegance was thanks to the work of our Parent Council who supported the decision to hold the ceremony off-site in an air conditioned building and helped raise money to purchase the gowns. The committee is already working on plans to have an even smoother ceremony next year.

Thank you to all of our award donors, the Parent Council chaired by Jean Paul Ngana, the Awards Committee, the Commencement Committee, the platform party, and all of the staff who worked behind the scenes preparing and executing the ceremony.

Congratulations to all of our Graduates. The DMCI staff is proud of your accomplishments and wishes you all the best in your future endeavours.



## FundScrip

Our Parent Council is planning on continuing to use [www.fundscrip.com](http://www.fundscrip.com) to raise funds to support the activities of the Parent Council and fund the School Council Scholarship. We are group **J8TUVJ**. Purchasing gift cards this way allows you to get your shopping done and support the Parent Council. If you have any questions contact Ms.Tuong at 416-395-3192 x20045 or [yenvi.tuong@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:yenvi.tuong@tdsb.on.ca) during the school year.

## Learn to Skate

During the colder weather, the students in our Developmental Disability Intensive Support Program were fortunate enough to be invited to three skating days courtesy of Civitan Don Mills. Because of their generous sponsorship, our students are learning a new recreational skill along with important life skills such as perseverance. We thank Civitan Don Mills and Civitan International for their generous sponsorship of our program.

