

# Central Technical School

## NEWSLETTER

June 26, 2026



## A Bittersweet Farewell: Final Reflections from Your Principal

Well, that's a wrap! The 2025-2026 school year has officially come to a close. Like the years before it, this school year has been filled with moments of celebration, pride, deep learning, fierce competition, and academic excellence.

However, this newsletter is a particularly emotional one for me, as it is my final message to you as Principal of Central Technical School. Next year, I will be Principal at a different school. While I am excited for the next chapter of my career, my heart is incredibly heavy. CTS was my very first school as a Principal. For five incredible, hard, and awesome years, this community has been my home.

Holding this responsibility has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I have held this role with immense pride, and every single day, I tried to ensure that my decisions were made in the absolute best interest of our collective community.

Together, we have seen an incredible growth and transformation at CTS.

True transformation starts from within, and over the past five years, our staff and community have risen to every challenge:

- **Collective Efficacy:** Our teachers engaged in deep, collaborative learning to ensure they were truly responsive to the unique, individual needs of every single student.
- **Inspiring Environments:** We actively cleaned, redesigned, and created physical learning spaces that reflect who our students are; spaces that inspire them to learn and create.
- **Community Partnerships:** We collaborated with external partners to ensure our students feel affirmed, safe, and celebrated in their own school.
- **A Growing Parent Voice:** A community is only as strong as the families that support it. I am immensely proud of the growth of our **School Council**, which blossomed from zero parents to a dedicated team of about 6 members, and more than 20 general council participants. Your partnership has been vital to our success.

The true heartbeat of CTS is our students. I have been in awe of your leadership and capacity to drive change.

Our students didn't just follow a school plan; you reimagined our vision, mission, and strategy from the ground up. Your work now acts as the official **Blueprint** for our school improvement and learning.

Beyond the classroom, I have watched our students collaborate, advocate, and organize a vibrant school culture. From the **semi-formal and prom to True to Blue, spirit weeks, Black History Month assemblies, Black Love Day, and the Pride Ball**, you made CTS a place of joy and belonging.

Most importantly, I have witnessed students engage deeply in their classes, asking thoughtful questions, embracing cognitive dissonance, and expressing their brilliant ideas in a multitude of ways.

Our collective hard work has shown up in undeniable ways. Because of our shared commitment:

- Our OSSLT scores have increased by 30%.
- Our suspension rates are down by almost 60%.

- Our attendance rates have increased significantly.

Students are learning, they are deeply engaged, and they feel good about being a part of this community.

To capture the magic of this five-year journey, our students, staff, and parents worked closely with our partner, **I-Think**, to create an [8-episode podcast](#) that speaks directly to our school's transformation. I highly encourage you to give it a listen. (I might be biased, but I think it's pretty great! 😊)

I cannot thank you enough for allowing me to be your Principal. This school, and the memories we made here, will stay with me forever. I am eternally grateful to the students, staff, and families of Central Technical School.

As I say goodbye, I leave you with a few final thoughts:

*Never stop learning. Fail forward. And always, always look for ways to improve.*

Thank you for five unforgettable years.

**Go Blues!**

**Anne**

## Indigenous Word of the Month:

[Aanii!](#) To honour the end of the school year, this month's Indigenous word is **summer**. Here are those words in the language of the groups recognized in the TDSB Land Acknowledgement:

Anishinaabe: **niibin** (courtesy of the [The Ojibwe People's Dictionary](#); includes pronunciation)

Haudenosaunee: **akenha'ké:ne** (courtesy of [Mohawk Language in the Workplace](#) pg. 20)

Wendat: **yayennha'** (courtesy of the [Wendat Dictionary Project](#))

## Library Learning Commons:



[Kung Jaadee](#), a professional storyteller, educator and published author based in Vancouver, spoke to students from Ms. Colacci, Ms. Cuevas, Ms. Fleming, and Mr. Waldie's classes at the CTS Library Learning Commons (LLC). In her rich storytelling presentation, *Haida Stories*, Kung Jaadee shares famous legends about Raven while incorporating basic words in Xaad Kil (Haida language). She also shares songs using her drum along with vivid personal stories about her family, history, and culture. Kung Jaadee belongs to the Xaayda (Haida), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) First Nations.

June was National Indigenous History Month, which featured National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21. It's a time to celebrate and learn from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples' diverse cultures, histories, experiences, creations, perspectives, and achievements.



Francis Jeffers spoke to various classes about the contributions of Black Canadians in the fields of science, technology, business,



politics, sports, art, dance, music, and history as he brought the African Canadian Inventors and Icons exhibit to the CTS LLC. The exhibit is one of many curated by the Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum (CMIM) that showcase the achievements of racialized peoples. To learn more about CMIM and take a virtual tour, visit [multiculturalmuseums.com](http://multiculturalmuseums.com).

We celebrated Pride Month as we reaffirm our commitment to foster a safe and welcoming space every day of the year. It's an opportunity to celebrate diversity and raise awareness among all staff and students about the rich culture and history of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.



It's also an opportunity to deepen learning, support students, staff, and families, and recognize the ongoing impact of homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia.

We also celebrated Italian Heritage and

Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month. This year's theme for Italian Heritage Month is ***Insieme in Piazza***. This theme, meaning “Together in the Town Square,” reflects the importance of gathering, connection, and community in Italian culture. The piazza represents a shared space where relationships are built and nurtured across generations.



The theme for Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month is ***Feel the Rhythm, Share the Culture***. Music is an integral part of Portuguese-speaking cultures, with numerous festivals held throughout the year that feature dance, performances, and singing.

## **TDSB Summer Well-Being Guide:**

Summer can bring opportunities for rest, connection, and joy, while also presenting challenges as routines and supports change. To help students and families stay connected to their well-being, the [TDSB Summer Well-Being Guide](#) offers culturally responsive and identity-affirming resources, activities, and supports for the months ahead.

The [guide](#) includes mental health and wellness strategies, mindfulness activities, community resources, and creative and physical wellness ideas. To ensure accessibility for all families, it is available in the TDSB's top 24 spoken languages.

We encourage families to explore the guide and discover resources that support well-being, belonging, and connection throughout the summer.

## **Student Art Exhibitions at Wildhearts Cafe:**

The Specialized Arts Program at Central Technical School is proud to present *Intertwined*, an exhibition featuring the work of Grade 11 and 12 Visual Arts students. The exhibition runs June 18–30 at Wildhearts Café (509 Bloor St. W.).

Students, families, staff, alumni, and community members are warmly invited to attend the Artists' Reception on Wednesday, June 24 from 6:00–8:00 PM and celebrate the creativity and accomplishments of our emerging artists.

This exhibition was coordinated with the support of Charlie Miazaki Cardoso, SHSM Arts & Culture Student Lead, whose dedication, organization, and leadership have played an important role in bringing the exhibition to life.

Following *Intertwined*, Wildhearts Café will host *Future Tense*, an exhibition of work by students in the Grade 10 Drawing and Painting class, on view July 1–15.

## Visual Arts:

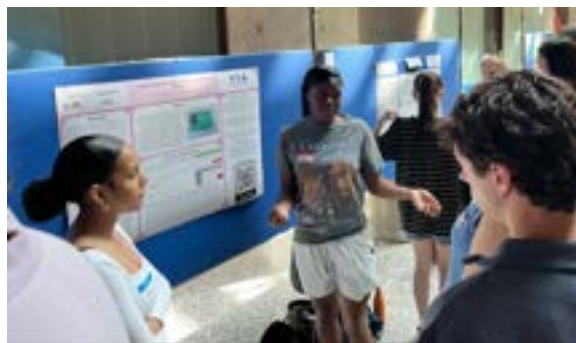
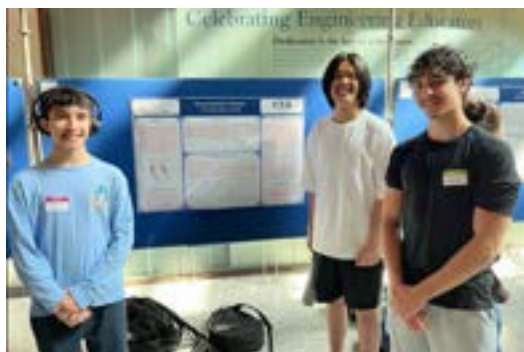
Senior Drawing and Painting students recently stepped outside the classroom for an inspiring trip to the University of Toronto. The group walked to Hart House to tour the graduating student exhibition at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, analyzing contemporary art to gather ideas for their own portfolios.



Students also received a guided tour of *Land. Sea. Sugar. Salt.: Terrestrial and Aquatic Contemplations of the Caribbean* at the University College gallery. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to engage with professional artistic practices and find inspiration for their culminating assignments.

## Grade 11 Chemistry:

Students in grade 11 chemistry class finished their discovery project and displayed their results in a symposium at UofT this past month. There, they presented to undergraduate student judges, as well as students and faculty from other TDSB schools. All students should be proud of not only their university level presentations, but all the work they did throughout the semester!



## Grade 10 Science Field Trip:

In May, a group of grade 10 science students went to the University of Toronto for the StemCellTalks conference, a full-day conference where students learned about new developments in stem cell research, competed in an interpretive art competition, and collaborated with other schools in a lab relay. The art competition invoked students to draw their interpretation of a prompt in the stem cell field, and students pushed themselves creatively to design posters on canvases. In the afternoon, students competed in a lab relay where they got to put their learned lab skills to the test -- testing pH, analyzing patient cases, measuring chemicals, and so much more! A group of CTS' boys placed first in this lab competition, and came away with a shiny new water bottle as their prize.



## Cross-Curricular Literacy Initiative:

In cohorts of curated, small group learning, eleven teachers at Central Technical School have engaged in two professional development sessions focused on enhancing cross-curricular literacy through strategies rooted in Universal Design for Learning and Differentiated Instruction. Teachers (across departments such as Math, Science, Business, Social Science, Art, and Tech) explored how the brain learns to read, emphasizing the importance of dedicated time for student-led application and active comprehension. They practiced active "before, during, and after" reading frameworks to break down text barriers. The teachers also learned to leverage generative AI and assistive technologies like Read&Write to dynamically adjust reading levels for diverse learners. Ultimately, the session equipped teachers with instructional routines to spark higher-order engagement and understanding across all subject areas.



## Spring Concert:

Our annual Spring Concert on May 21st was a huge success. It was so great to see our community come together for a live performance that truly showcased the hard work and amazing talent of our music students. We were treated to an awesome mix of musical styles,

with fantastic performances from all of our music students. A massive thank you to everyone who came out to cheer on our musicians and make the evening so special.



## Guidance

### Summer School:

- Summer school begins next week
- Check TDSB [ConEd](#) or [eLearning](#) website Important Dates/Key Dates pages to learn when you should expect welcome emails and confirm course start dates.
- You can login to each of the ConEd or eLearning sites to confirm which course you're enrolled in.
- Contact the departments directly throughout the summer and if you have questions that aren't answered on TDSB prospective websites (contact info is on their websites).

### Registration

- Credit Recovery is open till June 26. List of available courses [here](#). Sign up [here](#).
- August eLearning is open. List of available courses [here](#). Sign up [here](#).

### Summer Marks

- Counsellors will review TDSB summer final marks in late August/early September and make timetable changes accordingly.
- **If you take a NON TDSB summer course (ex- through the Catholic board) you must forward your final report card to your counsellor so we can add the course to your transcript.**

### Summer School Marks for University or College Acceptances:

- TDSB summer final marks will be transmitted to your OUAC or OCAS profiles
- If you are taking a course through another board, the course code must be added to your profiles and then you must send your mid-term and final marks

### Timetables and Course Change Requests:

- Timetables for the 2026/2027 school year will be distributed via school messenger by August 30
- Students with a problem code or blanks on their schedule can proceed to guidance the first week (September 8 – 11) of school to see a counsellor
- Otherwise the following applies:

From September, the window for course changes for Semester 1 AND Semester 2 will be between September 14th and 19th.

Requests will only be accepted for students who follow these steps:

1. Complete Course Change Request Sheet available from Guidance (rm 205)
2. Have this signed by Parent, Guardian or Caregiver
3. Bring signed copy to be approved by Alpha Vice Principal (rm 266)
4. Students must attend all classes prior to requesting a timetable change.

***Course changes for both Semesters 1 and 2 will not be considered after September 19th, 2025.***

### **Help and Distress Lines**

- [Kids Help Line](#)
- [What's Up Walk In](#)
- [Mental Health TO](#)
- [Black Youth Helpline](#)
- [LGBT Youthline](#)
- [Naseeha](#) - Mental health hotline, resources, workshops, web therapy and more for Muslim and non-Muslim youth and individuals.
- [Indigenous Youth Help Line](#)
- 911

### **Google Classroom Codes:**

**Grade 9/10:**      [invite link](#)

**Grade 11/12:**    [invite link](#)

# KEY DATES – SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2026-2027

The official school year calendar for the Toronto District  
School Board runs from September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027,  
inclusive

Professional Activity Days	September	November	January	February	June
Elementary Schools	2, 3	20	15	12	4, 30
Secondary Schools	2, 3	20		2, 12	29, 30

Designation of Professional Activity Days	
Elementary	Secondary
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. September 2, 2026 – Professional Development</li> <li>2. September 3, 2026 – Professional Development</li> <li>3. November 20, 2026 – Parent Teacher Conferences</li> <li>4. January 15, 2027 – Assessment and Reporting</li> <li>5. February 12, 2027 – Parent Teacher Conferences</li> <li>6. June 4, 2027 – Assessment and Reporting</li> <li>7. June 30, 2027 – Professional Development</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. September 2, 2026 – Professional Development</li> <li>2. September 3, 2026 - Professional Development</li> <li>3. November 20, 2026 - Professional Development</li> <li>4. February 2, 2027- Professional Development</li> <li>5. February 12, 2027 - Professional Development</li> <li>6. June 29, 2027 - Professional Development</li> <li>7. June 30, 2027 - Professional Development</li> </ol>

**EQAO:** - The following dates have been established:

**Gr. 9 Math:** TBD

**Gr. 9 Math:** TBD

**OSSLT:** TBD

**Primary/Junior EQAO:** TBD

Dates to Remember - School Year Holidays (as per Ministry of Education)	
<b>Labour Day:</b>	September 7, 2026
<b>Thanksgiving:</b>	October 12, 2026
<b>Winter Break:</b>	December 21, 2026 – January 1, 2027
<b>Family Day:</b>	February 15, 2027
<b>Mid-Winter Break:</b>	March 15-19, 2027
<b>Good Friday:</b>	March 26, 2027
<b>Easter Monday:</b>	March 29 2027
<b>Victoria Day:</b>	May 24, 2027