

Central Technical School

NEWSLETTER

October 1, 2024

Welcome back to a new school year!



The Grade 11/12 Drawing and Painting students learned about the history of residential schools. Each student selected a residential school survivor to research, learning about their story and experiences. To honor the resilience and strength of these survivors, the students created a portrait of the individual they researched, accompanied by a meaningful quote from the survivor's testimony.

A message from your Principal - Anne Chirakal

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year! I hope this message finds you refreshed and energized after the summer break, ready to dive into another year of learning, growth, and achievement. Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time, we are thrilled to have you as part of our CTS community.

As we embark on this journey together, our focus remains on fostering a supportive, inclusive, and dynamic environment where every student can thrive. Our inquiry question is, ***"what are the most powerful ways we can foster a nurturing and identity-affirming learning environment?"*** Our dedicated team of educators has been hard at work preparing for the year

ahead, ensuring that we continue to deliver the highest quality education while also promoting the social and emotional well-being of our students.

This year, we have several new initiatives and programs aimed at enhancing student engagement, academic success, and personal development. We are working on developing our tiered support model to ensure all students are achieving, we are continuing to develop our student leadership programs, in which students are working with I-Think to continue our work with our Vision and Mission, and we are looking to create more identity-affirming spaces and clubs to support well-being. Teachers are committed to continue to develop their anti-oppressive assessment and instructional practices. We have changed our Library space into a dynamic learning space where students can seek support from a caring adult, engage in learning and access activities. Finally, we are committed to keeping our communication open and transparent, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas to share. Together, we can make this year the best one yet.

This fall we had a very large increase in student enrollment, much more than the planning department had projected. This has resulted in very large class sizes and in some cases not being able to timetable students adequately. We have had to make some changes to student timetables to alleviate some very large classes. We realize that change can be difficult for students once they have made a connection with a teacher and routines have been established; however, our staff will work closely with one another and the students to minimize the impact that reorganization will have on their routines.

As well there are still some classes without a regular teacher. We are working closely with People and Culture (formally known as employee services) to recruit and hire new teachers to the board and ultimately CTS. ACLs and other teachers are doing their best to support classes without a teacher, to keep those students engaged in learning.

I recognize that parents and caregivers play a vital role in our schools. I welcome the opportunity to partner with parents, caregivers and community as their involvement will positively benefit teaching and learning at the school. This monthly newsletter is one tool through which I hope to provide information and updates about the school and opportunities to participate in school life at Central Tech!

On that note, our first **School Council** meeting will be today, **Tuesday, October 1st**. We will be meeting virtually for our first meeting. Meeting details are listed below:

School (Parent and Caregiver) Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 1 · 6:30 – 7:30pm

Time zone: America/Toronto

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/jya-cksm-wpy>

Or dial: (US) +1 747-202-2904 PIN: 556 040 547#

Please ensure your child has downloaded the [TDSB Connects App](#). This app is essential to student life at CTS. Their timetable, announcements, code of conduct and much more is available on this App.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing the incredible things we will accomplish as a community.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



Truth and Reconciliation Week took place on September 23-27th, and on **Monday, September 30th** was the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt day. Staff and students were encouraged to wear orange to honour the thousands of Survivors of residential schools. Wearing an orange shirt is a National movement to

recognize the experience of those who went to Residential Schools, to honour them and show a collective commitment to ensure that **EVERY CHILD MATTERS**. Students and staff were asked to continue to listen, learn from, and center the lived experiences of Indigenous Nations and people, and to reflect on the impact of residential schools on Indigenous Peoples, their legacy, and to recognize their strength and resilience. As well they were prompted: ***to what extent are you taking meaningful action in addition to symbolic action?***

Morning Snack/Meal and Lunch Program:

This year, thanks to funding from The Toronto Foundation for Student Success and The City of Toronto, we will continue providing the following Nutrition Services: Breakfast and Morning Meal, and Lunch.

Breakfast and Morning Meal will be available daily from 8:30am until 9:00am, and on late start days, 9:30am to 10:00am in our Cafeteria. Yoghurt, fruit, granola, bread, cereal, and other items will be available for student to consume in the cafeteria. Late students will find extra food available just outside of Guidance (Room 205).

This Program will begin Monday, September 30th, 2024. This Program replaces the previous



model of classrooms sending one student to pick up their Morning Meal from the Cafeteria. Breakfast/Morning Meal will be on an individual student basis, not per class.

Please note, food served in the cafeteria in the morning needs to be consumed in the cafeteria and all cutlery and dishes need to be placed in the used dishes bin provided nearby. Students cannot take their food/bowls/plates/cutlery to their classroom and return later.

This year, we are partnering with Fantasy Kitchen. Fantasy Kitchen is a restaurant located at 195 Harbord Street, right across the road from our School's Harbord Street side (it is a white building). Fantasy Kitchen will be providing delicious and healthy lunches for our students for \$6. For students needing a subsidy, lunch will cost \$3 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. To access the subsidy, students will need to enquire with Guidance (Room 205) and obtain a CTS Lunch Card Subsidized costs will not apply if a student does not have this card. *Students, please speak to your Guidance Counsellor this week about obtaining the CTS Lunch Card.* This Program will begin Monday, September 30th.

Library Learning Commons

It has been a busy first month in the CTS [Library Learning Commons](#) (LLC) as 82 classes have used the space to date. This has been a fantastic start as we begin our transition from a traditional library to an LLC. In addition to the ongoing arrival of new books, the LLC has received 25 new Chromebooks that students can sign out and use in the space. We have also created a new area to accommodate an entire class and a spot for students to engage in silent reading and/or mindfulness activities.



To honour Truth and Reconciliation Week, we created a display to showcase some of the Indigenous literature from our collection and welcomed the addition of this rug recognizing the Seven Grandfather Teachings. Keep an eye on this space to follow the exciting evolution of our LLC!

CTS Athletics:

The CTS Athletics department is very excited to get the fall sports season underway with a

huge number of both staff and students ready to represent the school on the court, pitch, field, course, and trails.

On tap for this season:

Season 2 of the recently resurrected CTS Football program is underway, pairing with Bloor Collegiate, with about 50 players suiting up for the season. Head Coach, and CTS graduate, Abe Shah is back with help from staff members Zac Bader-Shamai and new teacher Anthony Kosick.

Our Junior and Senior soccer teams, coached by Liam MacKichen and Brent Waldie respectively have just completed tryouts and await the season schedule which should be out very soon.

Coach De La Cruz has high hopes for this year's Senior Girls Basketball team with a number of returning players and some new young talent looking to make their mark in Tier I competition.

Finally, Peter Min is guiding the CTS golf team through this year's competitive circuit while Mr. Johnstone tries his best to keep up with CTS' best young runners on the Cross Country team.

Also, The CTS Athletics Council, 20 members strong, looks to ensure that all of our teams run smoothly, while also kicking off their Intramural program starting next week.

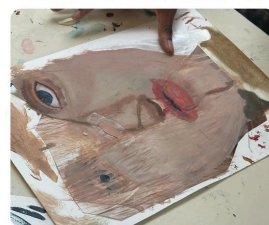
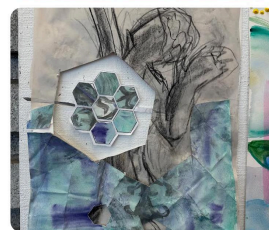
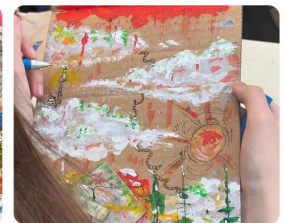
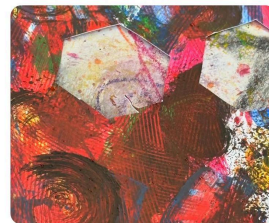
Thanks to everyone who contributes to the vibrant community that is CTS Athletics and here's hoping for a fun and successful season. Go Blues!

The Visual Arts Department:

Grade 9 & 10 Specialized Art students have been experimenting with materials and drawing & painting techniques in Non-Traditional Art class.



Grade 10 Ceramics students are learning to throw on the pottery wheel. If you want to try, Clay Club meets every Day 1 at lunch in room A205.



As part of Peace Week, our Grade 11/12 Drawing and Painting students had a unique and inspiring opportunity to participate in the **Unite 4 Peace** community event, held at the **World Urban Pavilion** in Regent Park on Saturday, September 21.

Through this meaningful initiative, our students reflected deeply on the theme of "Unite for Peace" and explored what it means to them. Their creativity and passion culminated in artwork that not only promotes the importance of global peace but also celebrates the richness and diversity of cultures. The event offered a platform for our students to share their powerful messages with a wide audience, including local and international community members as well as the opportunity to connect with a diverse group of mentors committed to fostering peace around the world.



We are proud of their work and the positive impact they are making by using art to advocate for peace and unity. This enriching experience reflects our commitment to providing students with opportunities that empower them as both artists and global citizens.

Special Education:

IEP Consultation Form

Dear Parents/Guardians and Caregivers, IEP consultation letters have been emailed home for all students who have IEPs. Your input into IEPs is greatly valued, as you know your children best. Completed forms can be emailed to one of our ACLs of Special Education (listed below) or can be dropped off in our Vice-Principals office, room 266.

If your student is new to the TDSB this year and has Special Education needs and/or an IEP, please reach out to us. We'd like to connect with you as soon as possible so we can best support all CTS students.

Julie Beattie, ACL of Learning Disability LD ISP Program: Julie.beattie@tdsb.on.ca

Alia Bunting-Fraser, ACL of Mild Intellectual Disability MID Workplace Bound ISP Program: alia.bunting-fraser@tdsb.on.ca

Kristin Kniehl, ACL of Resource Support Program: kristin.kniehl@tdsb.on.ca

Where are CTS grads now?

Each month we would like to feature graduates from CTS. If you, your child, a sibling or a friend is a graduate and want to be featured, please send information to:

centraltechnicalschool@tdsb.on.ca

Important Upcoming Dates:

October 10th: Commencement - Half day, classes end at 12:00 pm

October 11th: PL Day

Interim Reports will be sent home. Comments will only be made for students who are in-risk of not earning a credit.

October 22nd: Parent Teacher Interviews - Half day, classes end at 12:00 pm.
Interview schedule: 1-3 pm and 5-7 pm. Interviews can be virtual or in-person. More information on how to book is to come.

November 13th: Open House

Guidance

Counsellor Contact Information:

Eleonora Ferrari (A-F) (416) 393 – 0060 ext 20042
eleonora.ferrari@tdsb.on.ca

Ryan Rasmussen (G-N) (416) 393-0060 ext 20043
ryan.rasmussen@tdsb.on.ca

Mike Cormier (O – Z) (416) 393 – 0060 ext 20046
michael.cormier@tsb.on.ca

Night School:

- **Registration is now closed.**
- All classes are remote and attendance is mandatory.
- Classes run either Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- Classes begin the week of October 7th, 2024.

Post Secondary Information:

October 5 & 6	Ontario University Fair 9:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre https://www.ontariouniversitiesfair.ca/
October 16 & 17	OCF - Ontario College Fair - Enercare Centre Exhibitions Grounds https://ontariocollegefair.ca/
October 22	Everything you need to know about applying to University Rm 210 Lunch time
October 24	CTS/Bloor College Panel - 2nd period - Auditorium
October 29	Everything you need to know about applying to College Rm 210 Lunch time

Scholarship Information

- Join Mr. Cormier in **room 214** for a Scholarship & Awards meeting on **Thursday October 17 @ 12:00pm**.
- The Loran Scholarships (potentially win over \$100,000) are due on October 15, 2024. Click this link for more information: <https://loranscholar.ca/>
- The TD Community Leadership Scholarship application is due on November 13, 2024.
- Click this link to access our Scholarship Chart (pay attention to the tabs at the bottom of the sheet): [📁 Scholarships & Awards](#)
- Join the Guidance Google Classroom for notifications and information: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MzcxNDIzMjQ2OTcy?cjc=rzzv44l>

Google Classroom Codes:

Grade 9/10	https://classroom.google.com/c/MzUwNzA1MTc0MjM2?cjc=6hdk43k
Grade 11/12	https://classroom.google.com/c/MzcxNDIzMjQ2OTcy?cjc=rzzv44l

SHSM Meeting

There will be a SHSM meeting for all SHSM students and students who are interested in SHSM in mid-October date TBD. This will be announced in the school announcements and through the guidance google classroom.

Math Tutoring

We are looking for senior students who are good at math who would like to get some community service hours by tutoring fellow students. If you are interested please see Mr. Rasmussen in guidance.

If you are looking for tutoring please see Mr. Rasmussen in guidance ASAP so he can connect you with the U of T tutoring program Universal Minds, which is free of charge.

Jobs

There is a job fair coming at Dufferin mall on October 3. Click the link to get details: [Job Fair](#)

Volunteer Hours for Graduation

Graduation is on October 10th. Mr. Rasmussen is looking for volunteers to help with making it a special evening. If you are interested please mail Mr. Rasmussen at ryan.rasmussen@tdsb.on.ca

LATE START SCHEDULE

October 23rd, 2024	October 30th, 2024	Schedule on these days: P. 1: 9:55 am - 10: 55 am P2: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:05 pm P3: 1:05 pm - 2:10 pm P4: 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm *** We ask that your student does not come to school until 9:45 am.
November 20th, 2024	November 27th, 2024	
December 11th, 2024	December 18th, 2024	
January 8th, 2025	January 15th, 2025	
February 19th, 2025	February 26th, 2025	
March 19th, 2025	March 26th, 2025	
April 23rd, 2025	April 30th, 2025	
May 21st, 2025	May 28th, 2025	