

# Central Technical School NEWSLETTER

March 4th, 2024

## Breakfast Television and Best Buy Grant!



CTS has been awarded Best Buy's School Tech Grant of \$15000. The grant aims to bring new technology into Canadian Schools and classrooms to keep students inspired while they learn. As this is the 15th year it is being awarded, Breakfast Television produced a segment featuring Central Technical School.

We will be using the Best Buy Grant to create a podcast and recording studio to:

1. Amplify student voice and empower students to advocate for their needs;
2. Support assessment that honours the variability and brilliance of each of our learners;

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3. Support learners in developing their skills necessary for success in our digital/modern world.

Central Technical School would like to thank Best Buy for considering our application and selecting us as one of the 18 (out of 960) grant winners!

Please see this [link](#) for the segment which aired on Breakfast television on March 4th at 9:40 am.

## **African Heritage Month:**

African Heritage Month (Black History Month) provides the opportunity for students, staff and families to learn more about and celebrate Black history and to honour the legacy of Black Canadians and Black communities globally. In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month, following a motion introduced by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine.

*“TDSB’s theme this year is **Our Black is . . . Our Black Is... Our Black Is Resilient, Community, Beautiful, Unity, Joy, Self-Determination, Excellence, Empowering, Purpose, Brilliance, Engaging, Creative, Belonging, Tenacious, Powerful, Faith, Audacious, Powerful, Me...**”*

Black students at CTS attended conferences, celebrations and learning experiences throughout the month of February focusing on the theme, *Our Black is . . .* All students engaged in learning about Black identity, Black resilience and Black joy and how systems of oppression operate. As well learned about the outstanding achievements of Black Canadians in all areas of Canadian life including in science, technology, media, the arts, sports, education, law, healthcare, military services, financial services and more.

## **Looking for Donations - from the Prom Committee:**

We are students from the Prom Committee at Central Technical School, and we are writing to ask you to support our fundraising efforts for our graduation dance (Prom). As a public school, we do not receive any funding from our school for Prom, and it is our hope to make the tickets more affordable to more students. We do not want financial need to limit any students' ability to participate in this important right of passage.

You can support us in a variety of ways. We will accept goods at a reduced price to resell for profit, gift cards for raffles, or cash donations. All donations are tax deductible, and we can provide you with a receipt.

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All graduating students at Central Technical School deserve the opportunity to celebrate their success with a great Prom. The Prom is where our diverse group of graduates come together for one last time as CTS students, to take stock and to honour all that they've accomplished – through a global pandemic, no less! These are the events that make memories. We do not want the cost of the tickets (currently at \$130) to prohibit any student from going to Prom. Without sufficient fundraising to lower the cost, we risk being inequitable and only providing these key opportunities to a limited number of our students.

We are appealing to you as a community member in the hope that you can support us the way we have consistently supported your business over the years. Please help us to make the 2024 CTS Prom affordable to all students.

While we are limited in our ability to advertise due to school board restrictions, we would give credit for your donation and can make any flyers or menus available to staff acknowledging your as a donating partner. Donations can be made via the link below, where a tax receipt will automatically be issued.

<https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/457/153/false/true>

On behalf of the 2024 graduating class, a huge THANK YOU!!!! 🥰🥰

## **Council Corner (For Parents/Caregivers and Guardians):**

The next Council meeting is **May 15th at 7 pm**. If you are planning to attend, virtually, please register here:

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErfuytqzwtH9NbSdzi1q0MtKS7NF6UEw5k>

Please email Crystal at [crystal.stewart@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:crystal.stewart@tdsb.on.ca) if you have any questions or ideas for our next meeting.

## **Ward 10 School (Trustee Williams)**

### Digital Media Literacy Skills in the Age of AI

Thursday, March 7, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

Join Trustee Debbie King, Trustee Alexis Dawson, and Trustee Deborah Williams for a special virtual joint ward forum.

It can be challenging to sort fact from fiction online, and an increase in hate speech, alongside ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence tools, have made it even harder.

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This virtual workshop, led by CIVIX and TDSB staff, is designed to help parents and caregivers learn simple skills for spotting misinformation in the context of social media platforms and AI.

All parents/ guardians/ caregivers, students, staff, and members of school communities in Parkdale-High Park, Davenport, Spadina - Fort York, University - Rosedale and Toronto Centre are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

[REGISTER HERE](#) to confirm your interest in participating via Zoom

[PIAC newsletter](#)

## Canadian and World Studies Department

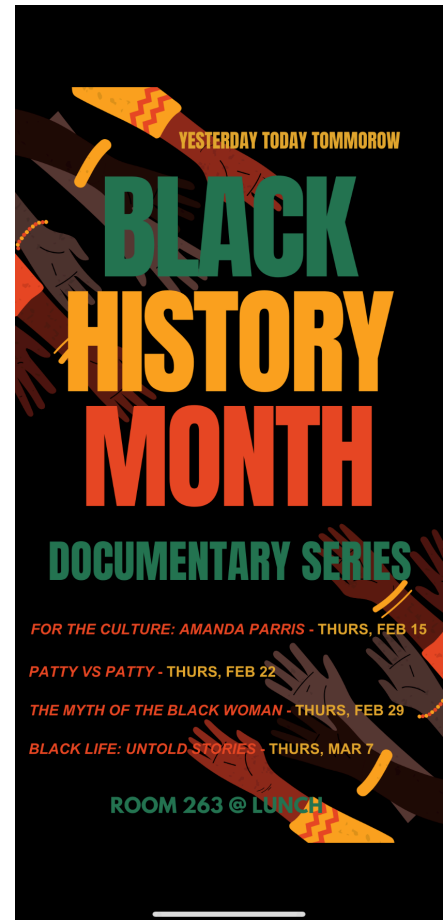
As part of the Canadian and World Studies department's commitment to Black Excellence, they hosted a weekly documentary series that showcased not only the achievements of Black Canadians but important conversations relating to Black Identity, Culture, Education, and Stereotypes.

## CTS Library and Learning Commons

The Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum visited the CTS library on Thursday, Feb. 22nd.



CMIM commemorates the contributions of African Canadian, American, Caribbean & Continental African Scientists and Inventors by displaying artifacts and information boards. The museum was well attended with classes booking in to visit and approximately 300 students walking through and learning about Black Scientists and Inventors.



## Grade 11 and 12 Ceramics:

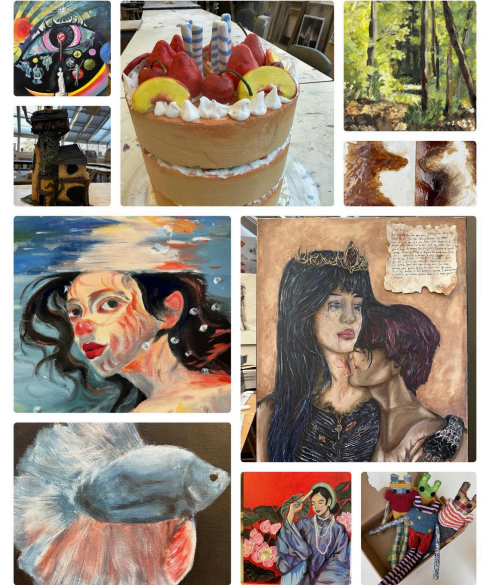


Ceramics students have been busy in the studio creating hand-built pieces and beginning to learn throwing on the pottery wheel.

Clay club is open to everyone, on Thursdays at lunch in room A205!

## Grade 9 and 10 Specialized Art Classes:

Grade 9 & 10 Specialized students finished their semester strong with outstanding culminating art pieces and portfolios. Students chose their preferred medium and made pieces that were both personal and meaningful.



## Cameralinks 2024: Who Am I?

Cameralinks is an annual student photography exhibition held at Gallery 44, featuring the lens-based work of elementary and secondary school students from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The exhibition, which ran from February 16 to 24, 2024, invited students to explore the theme of “Who am I?” through their lens. This year, the talent of Central Tech students was represented by Justine Estrada-Schoen, Vikesh Mehta, Calla Bomers, Callie Hooper and Jason Su.



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## ESL-A and Hospitality



Friday, February 23 was "Patty Day" in Toronto, on which Torontonians celebrate the 1985 victory of local patty shops in a dispute with the Federal Government, regarding the legality of calling this delicious Caribbean treat a "patty."

In honour of this special day, Ms. Leckie's Restaurant Services class joined forces with Ms. Naka's ESL-A class to prepare homemade Jamaican beef patties. If you'd like to learn more about this moment in Toronto's history, please check out the CBC short documentary, *Patty vs. Patty*, which is available

to view free on CBC Gem or Youtube.

In Mr. Chong's TFJ2O classes, they learned how to make delicious chocolate cake!



## Automotive Technology and TIJ!

The field trip to the Toronto Auto Show provided students with the opportunity to see firsthand the latest automotive technology. With the push for electric vehicles, this experience offered insights into the advancements of electric cars. Students were able to see the vehicles up close, sit in them, and ask questions directly to manufacturer representatives. They were able to gain an understanding of electric vehicle technology and the future of the transportation industry.



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## Athletics:

### Wrestling:

CTS is sending two students to the OFSAA wrestling championships! Bea Abad and Tristan Monssen earned a spot in the provincial final by winning gold at the city championships hosted by Newtonbrook Secondary School on Feb. 23. Bea competed in the female 41 kg weight class and Tristan in the male 83 kg division.

In addition to his gold medal, Tristan is the recipient of the Aaron Rankine Wright Memorial Award. The honour is bestowed upon a wrestler who is coachable, shows natural athleticism, and is a great teammate. Aaron, a former CTS student-athlete, was kind, funny, and a force to be reckoned with both on the mat and the field; he is greatly missed by his teammates, friends, and teachers. Tristan was chosen because of his positive attitude and strong wrestling skills.



OFSAA will be held March 5-6.

Go Blues!!!

### Swimming:



CTS had a small, but mighty team! We had so much fun sharing the pool this season with Bloor, which elevated our competitive edge!

This season we had 5 athletes compete at Regionals, 3 of which made City Finals, and TWO qualified for OFSAA.

At Regionals, Jade placed 6th in his 100m breaststroke and 9th in his 50m breaststroke. James placed 5th in his 100m freestyle, 6th in his 50m breaststroke, and 12th in his 50m freestyle. Katalina placed 18th in the 50m backstroke, unfortunately, she was unable to compete in her other events. Mila swam her hardest and finished all her events, she had an amazing season showing so much determination and improvement. Tristan had

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a phenomenal season representing both the swim team and the wrestling team. He won two gold medals at Regionals where he swam 6 seconds under the OFSAA qualifying time in his 100m freestyle!! His other gold was in the 50m freestyle and had a comedic stroke infraction in his 50m butterfly. (you'll have to ask him about it)

Thank you CTS for an amazing season! We hope to continue our success in the pool during the water polo season!!

### **Basketball:**

The Senior Boys' Basketball team started their training very early in the school year, which allowed them to get on a hot start. They overcame a lot of adversity but ended up finishing 4th in the strongest division in the TDSSAA. Their season culminated in a heartbreaking loss in the OFSAA Semi-Finals game against a very strong Silverthorne team. The team is looking like a real threat in the TDSSAA as everyone except two players will be coming back next season!



Special thanks to Coach Chevy (CTS Alumni) for volunteering his time for the boys!

### **Senior and Junior Girls Volleyball:**

The juniors learned and advanced a lot throughout their season, fighting hard for every set and managing to finish off the season with a win against Jarvis. Unfortunately they were eliminated in the playoffs by Danforth, but the progress they made from the beginning of the season has been fantastic to watch! The senior girls team played an amazing regular season, only losing one match to Parkdale in the entire 8-game regular season. Beyond that, they fought hard and took commanding wins in their quarter and semi-final playoff matches. Their final match was against the undefeated Rosedale team who had not lost a set in their regular season. After a tough first game, the CTS team managed to come back and win the second set by a large margin. The third set was tight from the first point to the last where the Rosedale team just managed to pull ahead of us, giving our team a silver medal. For a small team of ladies who self-identify volleyball as their secondary sport, they had an absolutely fantastic season, and we couldn't be more proud of what they've accomplished!



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## CTS Fitness Club

The CTS Fitness Gym is a popular spot each lunch hour. Our students have discovered a healthy way to spend the lunch hour, and the energy is awesome!

The Fitness Gym is located on the first floor, room 125, and is open at lunchtime everyday.

See you there!



## 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](mailto:centraltechnicalschool@tdsb.on.ca)



**Student: Brett Roworth**

**Class of: at Central Technical from 05-08**

**Where are they now?** Since leaving in '08' Brett, like many former students, has been involved in the Residential Construction Industry. This has led him to building luxury Custom Homes. "We were always taught to take pride in the work we do. However it's definitely worth visiting old teachers and seeing how they have taken pride in educating students! A Special thanks to Mr.Cormier, Mr. Vole and Mrs. Bloom for the awesome job !"

**Student: Abel Tesfaldet**

**Graduated Class of 2012**

**Programs and Extracurriculars:** Drafting with Mr. Lambert

**Where are they now?** Went to York University to study Psychology. Has been working for the City of Toronto since 2011; began a full time job with the city as a Youth Outreach worker in 2021. Abel is currently working full time out of the St. Lawrence/Downtown area, which includes school visits. Central Tech is now officially in Abel's catchment which means he'll be here every Wednesday!

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**Fun Fact:** Abel's three brothers are also CTS grads. His brother Matthew is doing a PhD in A.I. at McGill; Thomas is in Japan doing computer programming; Nathan (the youngest) went to George Brown for Computer Programming and will be working with the City of Toronto.

## **Important Upcoming Dates:**

March 11th - 15th: March Break

March 8th: Progress Report Distribution

March 21st: Parent Teacher Interviews (Half Day)

March 22nd: Late start

March 29th: Holiday

April 1st: Holiday

April 8th: Professional Activities Day (Originally scheduled for April 19th)

May 20th: Holiday

## **Guidance**

### **Counsellor Contact Information:**

Ryan Rasmussen ( A – F )                      (416) 393-0060 ext 20043  
[ryan.rasmussen@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:ryan.rasmussen@tdsb.on.ca)

Eleonora Ferrari (G – N)                      (416) 393 – 0060 ext 20042  
[eleonora.ferrari@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:eleonora.ferrari@tdsb.on.ca)

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

### **Stay Informed:**


### **Google Classroom Codes:**

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Grade 9/10: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MzUwNzA1MTc0MjM2?cjc=6hdk43k>

Grade 11/12: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MzcxNDIzMjQ2OTcy?cjc=rzzv44l>

- Please use the link below to schedule the appointment for alpha counsellor:

Mr. Rassmussen		Ms. Ferrari		Mr. Cormier	
A - F		G - N		O- Z	

- If an appointment time is unavailable with your alpha counsellor proceed to room 205 to set up an appointment.

### **Community Service Requirement:**

Students who will be graduating by June 2024 are required to complete 40 hours of community service.

Visit: [www.volunteertoronto.ca](http://www.volunteertoronto.ca) , <http://ovcn.ca/> and the CTS guidance bulletin boards and google classroom for opportunities.

Need community service hours? Visit <https://info.volunteertoronto.ca/ignitefair> to sign up for the Ignite Fair for Toronto based volunteer opportunities.

### **COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION**

**Deadline:** DUE - March 1

- Visit: [www.myblueprint.ca/tdsb](http://www.myblueprint.ca/tdsb) to enter courses for next year
- Course Selection Instructions in our guidance google classrooms or on the [website](#).

Post Secondary Presentations : No sign up required - all our welcome.

- **College Degree & Pathway Information Panel** - *March 26 at 11:40 am in room 210*

This presentation is for students who want to learn about College Degree programs, as well as the pathways from Diplomas to Degrees.

- **Skilled Trades Information Panel** - *March 28 at 11:40 in room 210*

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This presentation is for students to learn about the great opportunities in skilled trades and provides an overview of skilled trades programs offered at college as well as how the apprenticeship model works in Ontario.

- **Paying for Post Secondary - April 9 at 11:40 in room 210**

This presentation will review how to apply for OSAP to pay for post secondary.

### **Scholarship Presentation**

Tuesday, March 19, 12:00pm, room 214`

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- Join the CTS Guidance google classroom to receive information about the latest volunteer opportunities advertised by the guidance office.
- Grade 9 and 10 classroom code: **6hdk43k**
- Grade 11 and 12 classroom code: **rzzv44l**

### **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

### **Free Math Help - Grade 6 - 11**

- <https://www.tvomathify.com/students>

### **LATE START SCHEDULE**

March 20th, 2024	March 26th, 2024	<b>Schedule on these days:</b>  <b>P. 1: 9:55 am - 10: 55 am</b> <b>P2: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm</b> <b>Lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:05 pm</b>
April 17th, 2024	April 24th, 2024	
May 22nd, 2024	May 29th, 2024	

		<p><b>P3: 1:05 pm - 2:10 pm</b>  <b>P4: 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm</b></p> <p><b>*** We ask that your student does not come to school until 9:45 am.</b></p>
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**In the Community:**

Peacebuilders Canada:

*The "Sister to Sister: A Healing Initiative" is a 10 week FREE Saturday afternoon program targeted towards racialized young women between the ages of 14 and 18 years old. The program is run in partnership with The Neighbourhood Group (TNG) and aims to incorporate elements of a Healing Justice framework which "holistically responds to and intervenes generational trauma and violence and bring collective practices that can impact and transform the consequences of oppression on our bodies, hearts, and mind." Each week, through art, journaling, dialogue and movement, young women will restoratively explore topics such as identity, self-love, mental health and wellness, stress management, and generational trauma. The program will be held in person at the TNG's Central Neighbourhood House located at 349 Ontario Street.*

**SISTER 2 SISTER**  
 A HEALING INITIATIVE  
 Join us for 10 weeks of healing and restoration

**For Female Identifying Racialized Youth Ages 14-18**

Join us as we explore identity, self-love, mental health and wellness, self-care and much more!

Participants will receive snacks and an honorarium! Volunteer hours are available upon request.

**STARTING APRIL 13, 2024**  
 Every Saturday 2:00-5:00 PM

Central Neighbourhood House  
 349 Ontario St. M5A 2V8

Peacebuilders Canada TNG Community Services

SCAN ME!