

Central Technical School NEWSLETTER

March 4th, 2025

Celebrating African Heritage Month: Honouring Our Legacy and Embracing Our Future



**Image created by Chedson Germinal*

February is a significant month as we celebrate African Heritage Month, also known as Black History Month. This is an important opportunity for our students, staff, and families to learn about, honour, and celebrate the rich history and contributions of Black Canadians and Black communities around the world. This year, the Toronto District School Board proudly recognizes African Heritage Month with the theme "Lift Every Voice," inspired by the first line of the Black National Anthem. This powerful theme encourages collective strength and unity within the African/Black diaspora, celebrating the vibrant and diverse cultures, experiences, and achievements of our community. At CTS, all students have engaged in learning about Black identity, resilience, and joy, while also examining the systems of

oppression that exists. We have explored the remarkable achievements of Black Canadians across various fields, including science, technology, media, the arts, sports, education, law, healthcare, military services, and finance.

Throughout February, our Black students at CTS have actively engaged in conferences, celebrations, and enriching learning experiences. Notably, our ACDC club co-created



"Black Love Day," where students participated in student-led workshops focused on Black Love, culminating in an inspiring keynote address by Ms. Elaine from the Blackhurst Cultural Centre.

Additionally, students attended the Black Student Day event hosted by MLSE, where they

enjoyed a day filled with learning and excitement—including a surprise visit from the Toronto Raptors, making it a truly unforgettable experience! Picture on the left is of student, Chedson Germinal and Raptor, RJ Barrett.



Our students also took the lead in organizing and performing at our school-wide assembly, "Bring Back Black!" This spectacular event was months in the



making and showcased the immense talent within our student body. Attendees were treated to powerful spoken word performances, heartfelt poetry, engaging dances, a thought-provoking podcast discussing the need for better recognition of Black history in schools, and a lively steel pan performance by Earl La Pierre. The assembly was a celebration of Black Excellence, joy, and resilience, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended. A heartfelt congratulations to all the students and staff who contributed to making this assembly a success, and special thanks to Stacey Hamilton, Maureen Buntin-James, and Candida Brito for their invaluable support.

As we conclude this month of celebration and reflection, let us carry forward the lessons learned and continue to honor the legacy of Black Canadians in our daily lives.

Indigenous Word of the Month:

Due to the current political environment, this month's Indigenous word is **together**. Here are those words or phrases in the language of the groups recognized in the TDSB Land Acknowledgement:

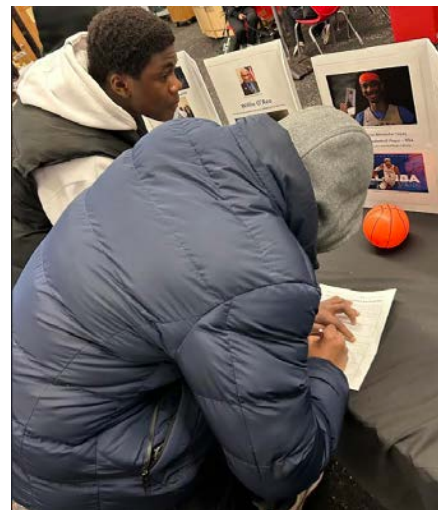
Anishinaabe: **maamawi** (courtesy of the *The Ojibwe People's Dictionary*; includes pronunciation)

Haudenosaunee: **Entsitewahwe'nón:ni ne 'onkwa'nikón:ra** ("We will put our minds together"; courtesy of *First Voices*)

Wendat: **Titsatont tsindiahay!** ("Let's all eat together from the same plate!"; courtesy of the *Dictionary of the Wendat Language*)

Library Learning Commons:

The CTS Library Learning Commons honoured Black History Month with a visit from the Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum (CMIM). About 250 students came through the space to learn about the contributions of Black Canadians in the fields of science, technology, business, politics, sports, art, dance, music, and history. To learn more about CMIM and take a virtual tour, visit multiculturalmuseums.com.



Visual Arts:

To celebrate Black History Month L, grade 11 & 12 Ceramics students are creating coiled pots, in traditional Greek style, which will be illustrated with portraits and inspiring quotes from significant figures in black history and contemporary culture, including Viola Desmond, Donovan Bailey, Kendrick Lamar, and more.

We are proud to celebrate the achievements of Julio Alarcon Marek, Rayyan Batada, Calla Bomers, Eli Castillo, Eluney Escalante Santin, Lucas Francescucci, Gabriella Gomes-Silva, Leonardo Gucciardi, Kevin Parada, Pralove Sahota, Eve Mikaela Prufer, Jason Su and Abigail Tasker who participated in CameraLinks at Gallery 44 this year! Their creativity and dedication to photography were on full display, showcasing their unique perspectives on this year's theme "Hidden Worlds". Congratulations to all for representing our school's Visual Arts program with excellence! (Photo by Jason Su)



Transportation:

The field trip to the Toronto Auto Show gave students the chance to experience the latest in automotive technology. As electric vehicles evolve, the show provided insights into the innovations in modern cars. Students had the opportunity to explore the vehicles up close, sit inside them, and talk with manufacturer representatives. This experience allowed students to gain a deeper understanding of electric vehicle technology.



Hospitality:

Thank you to Ms. Margaret for creating a delicious lunch for staff and students to celebrate Black culinary traditions.

CTS Swim Team:

Congratulations to Mila Eylon (grade 9) for competing at the City Swim Championships at The Pan Am Centre. Mila swam in 3 different events; the 200m freestyle, 100m individual medley, and the 100m freestyle after qualifying with great results from the Regional Championships the week before. In each of these events she was swimming against faster and

**Celebrating Black
Culinary Traditions**
Honoring flavors from Guyana



Join us in celebrating the rich history of Black cuisine

Thur. Feb 13th at Lunch in the Caff. Kitchen
Hosted by Margret from the CTS Culinary department:

Guyanese Pepperpot (beef) and Freshly baked rolls \$10
Pine tart (pineapple tart) \$3
Family meal for 4 ppl for \$45 Pre-order only
Beef Patties \$3per or 6pcs for \$15



Together, we can honor and cherish
these food legacies.

experienced grade 12 swimmers. Mila held her own and posted fast times at both the Regionals and the City Finals. Congratulations Mila, on a great season representing CTS!

Level Up Day

We are excited to share important information about our ongoing support for student success at CTS. In addition to our continuous Credit Rescue initiatives, we will be hosting two special "Level-Up Days" this semester—one in Term 1 and one in Term 2—designed to help students improve their academic standing.



What is Credit Rescue?

Credit Rescue is a proactive approach that involves collaboration between classroom teachers and Student Success Teachers. It provides students with additional opportunities to complete missing assignments and improve their grades when there is a risk of not earning their credit. Instead of waiting for Credit Recovery options, we implement Credit Rescue to support student success throughout the course.

Please note that while there will be designated times for Credit Rescue, opportunities will be available continuously throughout the semester for students who need assistance.

Level-Up Day Details

Our first Level-Up Day will take place on Friday, March 7th. This day is specifically designed for students who are currently earning less than a level 1 (50%) in their classes, giving them a chance to catch up on outstanding work. However, students earning a level 1 or above are also encouraged to participate—they can use this time to work on assignments, study for upcoming tests, and help classmates who may be struggling. We believe that in a strong community, we support one another in achieving success!

It's important to note that on Level-Up Day, no new material will be introduced; it will be a regular school day, and attendance will be taken for all students. We expect everyone to be present and engaged.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a successful learning environment for our students. If you have any questions about Credit Rescue or Level-Up Days, please feel free to reach out.

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



Student Name: Juan Renan Castanos Almonte

Graduated Class of: 2014

Program: SHSM Plumbing

I am incredibly grateful for taking this class, as it set the foundation for my plumbing career and personal growth. Without it, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet my amazing teacher, Mr. Schrader who played a pivotal role in guiding and supporting me along the way.

Today, I am proud to say that I have a full-time plumbing job and also own a plumbing company as a side business. Additionally, I specialize in hydronic heating systems and mechanical room installations. This program gave me the skills and confidence to branch out and create opportunities that benefit not only myself but also my family.

Looking back, I can see how this class shaped the path I'm on today. It didn't just teach me technical skills but also instilled in me the work ethic and determination needed to succeed.

Thank you for giving me the tools to build a bright future.

Important Upcoming Dates:

March 10th-14th: March Break

March 17th -21st: Progress Report Distribution

March 25th: Parent Teacher Interviews (Half Day)

April 22 - 25th: Mid-term report Distribution

April 18th: Holiday

April 21st: Holiday

May 3rd: 110th Anniversary

May 15th: [PACE](#)

May 19th: Holiday

May 22nd: Spring Concert




May 28th: Prom

June 5th: CTS film festival

June 11th: Annual Arts Exhibition

Guidance

- Please use the link below to schedule the appointment for alpha counsellor:
- If an appointment time is unavailable with your alpha counsellor Please contact/see dolores.douglas@tdsb.on.ca in room 205 to set up an appointment. An extra guidance counsellor will be available.

Counsellor	Ms. Ferrari	Mr. Rasmussen	Mr. Cormier
Student Last Name	A-F	G-N	O-Z
<i>Use the scan codes to set up an appointment to see your guidance counsellor.</i>			

COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION

Deadline: DUE - March 6

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

Scholarship Information

Our next scholarship meeting: Wednesday, March 19, 12:00pm, room 214

Check out the February Scholarship Report:

[TheScholarshipReport](#)

If you need a code to enter ***scholar678***

Upcoming Scholarships:

- **Schulich Builders - Scholarships for Skilled Trades**
 - [SchulichBuildersScholarship](#)
 - (Get name and information to michael.cormier@tdsb.on.ca by May)
- **The Merit Award** - \$500 - \$2000. All grade 11 & 12 students can apply!
 - <https://www.meritaward.ca/>
 - Deadline - March 21st, 2025 for reference request
- **The Horatio Alger Scholarship** for grade 11 students, \$10,000 - \$20,000
 - [The Horatio Alger Scholarship](#)
 - Deadline - March 31, 2025
- **The Bridges EDU Scholarhip**
 - [BridgesEDU Scholarhip](#)
 - Deadline - June 30, 2025 (not grades-based)

Summer School Registration

- **eLearning** (asynchronous learning model) registration opens **April 15, 10am**. These course fill quickly!!
 - Registration page: [e-Summer School Registration](#)
- **Full Credit In-Person and Full Credit Remote** (synchronous learning model) registration opens **April 22, 10am**.
 - Registration page: [Summer School Registration](#)

Guidance Google Classroom links

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

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 - 12

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

LATE START SCHEDULE

March 19th, 2025	March 26th, 2025	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.
April 23rd, 2025	April 30th, 2025	
May 21st, 2025	May 28th, 2025	

In the Community:

Below are some summaries of current and upcoming volunteer programs we have available at Cecil Community Centre. Career Building Workshop– Between the age of 13-25. Interested in developing your career skills. Come join our Career Building Workshop Series. From March 26-28th from 4:00pm-5:30pm. Get help with building your resume, online

presence, interview skills and more! Register Today! [Career Building Workshop](#) Limited spots available. Those interested can email me at adam@cecilcentre.ca for more information

Youth Event Planning Committee – Between the ages of 13- 19 and interested in leading in planning fun event in the community? Join the Youth Event Planning Committee to plan out youth events, develop leadership skills, while building your professional resume. Limited spots available. Those interested can email me at adam@cecilcentre.ca for more information

Cecil All Girls Committee – Are you a girl between the ages of 13- 19, interested in leading in planning workshops and events for girls in the community? Join the Girls Workshop/Event Planning Committee to plan out workshops and events for girls. Develop leadership skills, while building your professional resume. Limited spots available. Those interested can email me at adam@cecilcentre.ca for more information

Youth Program Planning Committee – Between the ages of 13- 19 and interested in leading in planning fun programs in the community? Join the Youth Program Planning Committee to plan out youth programs, workshops, develop leadership skills, while building your professional resume. Limited spots available. Those interested can email me at adam@cecilcentre.ca for more information

Youth Outreach Assistants – I am looking for Youth interested in helping with Outreach. As a Youth Outreach Assistant you will earn volunteer hours while handing out posters for youth programs in the school year. Youth interested can email me at adam@cecilcentre.ca for more details and to sign up.

Upcoming Events at Cecil Community Centre.

Cecil Movie Screening – March 12 2025 2PM-4PM. Come on over to Cecil during the March break. Come join us in the youth lounge for some snack and movies. Meet new people and have a great time. **Register today** using link! [March Break Movie Screenings](#)

Cecil Squid Games – March 14 2025 4-5:30pm. Based on the hit TV show. Come and compete in various games to be the winner! Come for a fun time, meet new people, and compete to be the winner of Cecil Squid Games! **Register Today!** [Cecil Squid Games](#) Limited Spots!

Below are some summaries of current and upcoming Youth programs we have available at Cecil.

Cecil Weekly Contests – Want to earn Prizes like Gift cards, food, trips and more!? Come to Cecil Community Centre every Wednesday to participate in our Weekly contests. Scale up the leaderboards by winning challenges, signing up to workshops, events, showing up to programs and more! See you there!

CecilYouth! Drop-in

Monday to Friday from 3:00pm – 6:00pm. (Fridays hours vary) It's a place where youth can come in, relax, work on homework, get advice, play video games, learn about volunteer & job opportunities, play sports, ping pong, be mentored and snacks are provided.

Youth Drop-in Basketball Every Wednesday from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Youth ages 13 – 25 can drop-in at Ryerson Jr.&SR public School at 96 Denison Ave, Toronto, ON M5T 1E4 to play basketball