

Central Technical School

NEWSLETTER

October 3, 2023

Welcome back to a new school year!



A message from your Principal - Anne Chirakal

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I have really enjoyed connecting with our students and families over this last month and look forward to meeting many more in the days ahead. Welcome to all of our new families and staff - you have joined a terrific community!

We have had an amazing start to the year. Over 175 students attended our Head Start to Highschool, a day to support grade 9's transitioning to highschool, and more than 100 parents participated in our information breakfast. Lots of clubs and extracurricular activities have already started and your students are fully enjoying life at CTS!

As part of our CTS Strategy (Student created), our new vision and mission is:

Our vision is that every student leaves CTS with:

-
- A love of learning
 - The real-world skills to choose their next steps
 - A strong sense of self and other

For this vision to come to life, our mission is to make Central Technical School a place of:

- Student-centered imagination and action
- Cultural enlightenment
- Safety

As part of our learning and unlearning together, staff and students have determined their commitments to the vision and mission, actions, timelines and metrics (how do we know it is working?) and this will be visible throughout the school soon. If you would like to read the document you can find it [here](#).

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 learned that we will be hiring four new teachers. This will help to alleviate class sizes and hopefully provide more options for students and their timetables. Unfortunately, these changes will likely impact a lot of student timetables as we work through this process.

The process will be occurring as soon as possible to lessen the impact on student learning. 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.

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 took place on **Tuesday, September 26th**. I am happy to report that I was able to meet so many parents/caregivers and I am excited to continue coming together! We are looking for Co-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer volunteers, email me if you are interested, or would like to learn more (anne.chirakal@tdsb.on.ca). Please see below for meetings for the remainder of the year:

Tuesday, October 17th @ 6 pm

Tuesday, December 5th @ 6 pm

Tuesday, February 27th @ 6 pm
Tuesday, May 14th @ 6 pm

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.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 29th, the TDSB and Central Technical School recognized Orange shirt day to commemorate the legacy of Residential Schools. Commemoration of the tragic



and painful history and the ongoing impacts of Residential Schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. Students and staff wore orange shirts as schools explored resources to help students understand the difficult history of residential schools. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations. 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?***

Congratulations to Zoe King!

Central Technical School's very own Zoe King has won the prestigious Bill Robertson Memorial Award. A graduate of SHSM Plumbing Program and gold winner of the TDSB plumbing skills competition, her future looks bright.



The Bill Robinson Memorial Award is offered to a graduating TDSB student who is pursuing a trade specifically in the construction sector and will be or has attended co-op in a **construction sector** placement this year (2022-23). Examples of these trades include but are not limited to: Carpentry, Drywall, Plumbing, Electrical or HVAC. The award consists of a plaque and a **\$1,000 bursary cheque** which will be presented to the successful candidate at the TDSB Trade Council's Bill Robinson Memorial Golf Tournament.

Congratulations Zoe!

Extracurriculars

CTS is offering the following teams this fall!

- Girls' Basketball (Mrs. L. De La Cruz)
- Coed Cross Country (Ms. Chau)
- Junior Boys' Football (Mr. Buy and Mr. Johnstone)
- Coed Golf (Mr. Min)
- Junior Boys' Soccer (Mr. Allan)
- Senior Boys' Soccer (Mr. B. Waldie)
- Varsity Boys' Volleyball (Ms. French and Mr. Estick)

All students who participate in a school team must pay their **ATHLETIC FEE (\$30)**

School Cash Online--> <https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

Cross Country Team:

Congratulations to Tristan, Alonso, and Eliyah for running their first two Cross Country meets!! We are a small, but strong team with a lot of camaraderie!!

Eliyah is in Grade 9 and challenged himself in the Senior Race so that he could run alongside his Grade 12 teammates!! Tristan finished the 5km race in 22:15, Alonso finished in 23:00, and Eliyah finished in 34:30!! Tristan was a fantastic teammate, meeting Eliyah at the top of the hill and all three athletes sprinted Eliyah to the finish line!! Way to represent CTS for the first time in SEVERAL years!!

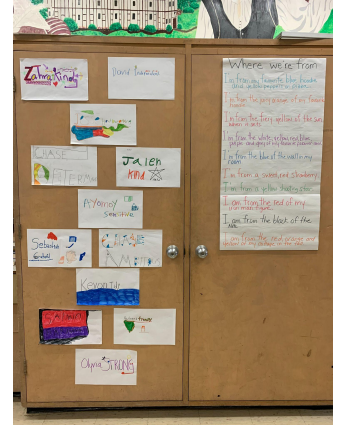


Our team is still open for new runners and can start training with us for Regionals on October 19!

The Google Classroom Code is: **ot7eoqn**

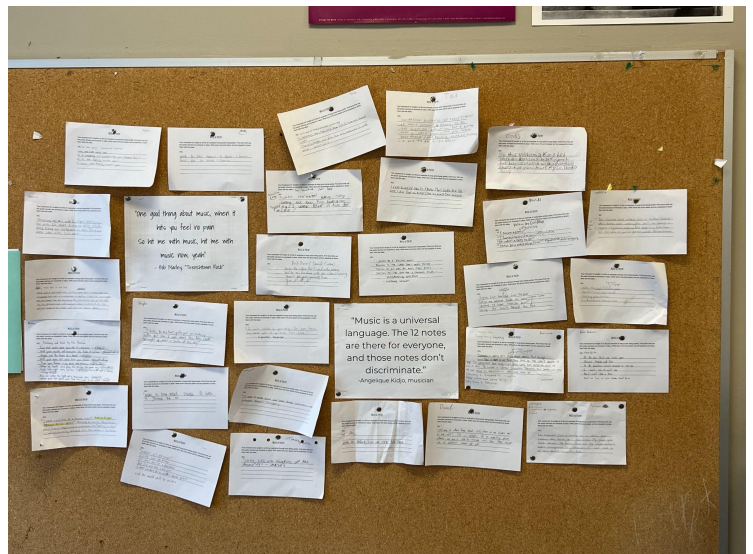
Ms. Mughal's English class for students with MID:

Ms. Mughal's English class has been working hard on goal-setting and building the foundations for writing an identity text. They have written colourful and reflective "I am from..." statements inspired by Melanie Poonai's poem, *Where I'm From.*



Ms. Bloom's ENG 2D class:

Ms. Bloom's grade 10 English classes looked at how music, specifically song lyrics, is poetry. Students chose lyrics from a favourite song and identified poetic devices (simile, metaphor, repetition) in the lyrics. Below are a few samples of what the students came up with.



Arts:

Visual art students in gr 11/12 drawing & painting and gr 9 specialized program took advantage of the beautiful September weather to photograph, sketch and then compose botanical drawings of native "weeds" with various materials.

Literacy and/or Math Support for Grade 9/10 students:

We are hoping to provide students who need additional support with Math and/or Literacy with an afterschool or lunchtime class once or twice a week.

At this time we need to identify students who would be committed to this help. Please indicate your interest in participation using [this form](#).

Program Details .

- Classes are taught by qualified OCT teachers from Central Technical School.
- Classes are scheduled outside the school day and are offered **once or twice a week** (e.g., lunchtime or after school every Monday/Wednesday).
- Classes Focus on Literacy, Math, or both.
- **Students are expected to attend for the full duration of the program.**

Special Education:

IEP Consultation Form

If your student has an IEP, you will be receiving a IEP Consultation form electronically this week from the TDSB. Your input into creating the IEP is invaluable, so please return the form to the school either as a physical copy to the VP's office or you can email the form to one of the people listed below.

If parents/guardians or caregivers would like a hard copy of the consultation form, please call the school or email the contacts below. As well, if you have questions about the form, please contact Vice-Principal Taiwo, adeyinka.taiwo@tdsb.on.ca, Ms. Bunting-Fraser, ACL -Special Education (MID ISP) - alia.bunting-fraser@tdsb.on.ca; Ms. Beattie, ACL – Special Education (LD ISP) - Julie.beattie@tdsb.on.ca or Ms.LeBlanc , ACL – Special Education (Resource) – shelby.leblanc@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

Name: Alex Eskandarkhah

Graduated class of: 2012

Extracurriculars: played on the Senior Boys Basketball team

What Alex is doing now?: After wrapping up my undergrad at York University in Sociology and playing some university basketball in the prairies, I ventured into the screen industries and started my own podcast “The Gifted Gab.” This led to co-founding other groundbreaking movements including the Collective for Black Iranians, and my production company Gamble Ave Filmworks. My love for film started at Central Tech, after taking a media studies class with Mr. Chandler. The philosophical discussions paired with a new way of looking at storytelling and media was birthed right in the halls and classrooms of CTS. I vividly remember a discussion in class about the camera technique shot in a specific scene in the movie Goodfellas that changed the way I would watch movies for the rest of my life. Going from appreciating stories to asking “how was that shot done?” really gave me a new lens to appreciate the world with. It was one of several decisions I made while a student at Tech, which led to my long, introspective journey into the storytelling world, and it started when I was a 17 year old student. These intentional decisions come full circle as I prepare to screen my debut documentary project “Coaching While Black” at the Reelworld Film Festival in Toronto after its world premiere at Calgary International Film Festival.

Alex recently shared his experiences with Ms. Tsouluhass’ Dismantling Black Racism class, and hopes to screen his film at CTS in the future.

Click on the link to learn more about Alex and his journey:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LI8An_Lp-nA&authuser=0

Important Upcoming Dates:

October 5th: Commencement - Half day, classes end at 12:00 pm

October 13th: Interim Reports will be sent home. Comments will only be made for students who are in-risk of not earning a credit.

October 26th: 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 16th: Open House

Guidance

Counsellor Contact Information:

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

Eleonora Ferrari (G – N) (416) 393 – 0060 ext 20042
eleonora.ferrari@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 16th, 2023.

Post Secondary Information:

October 12	CTS hosts GTA College Panel - 10:15 am - 11:40 am
October 19 & 20	OCF - Ontario College Fair - Enercare Centre Exhibitions Grounds https://ontariocollegefair.ca/
October 21 & 22	Ontario University Fair 9:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre https://www.ontariouniversitiesfair.ca/
October 19	Central Technical School hosts University Panel and Fair Panel Presentation - 10:15 am to 11:40 am Fair 12:40 pm to 3:15 pm
October 24	Everything you need to know about applying to University Rm 210

Lunch time

October 31 Everything you need to know about applying to College

Rm 210

Lunch tim

Scholarship Information

- Join Mr. Cormier in room 214 for a Scholarship & Awards meeting on Tuesday October 3 @ 12:00pm.
- The Loran Scholarships (potentially win over \$100,000) are due on October 11, 2023. Click this link for more information: <https://loranscholar.ca/>
- Join the Guidance Google Classroom for notifications and information.

Google Classroom Codes:

Grade 9/10

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

Grade 11/12

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MzcxNDIzMjQ2OTcy?cjc=rzzv44I>

SHSM Meeting

There will be a mandatory meeting for all Grade 11 and 12 students who are currently in a SHSM or would like to be in a SHSM on Wednesday October 4 at lunch in room 210.

Nutrition Program Back in Action

The Cafeteria is back up and running and we can again begin our nutrition program. This includes a morning snack, but also can include lunch for students who are having trouble.

LATE START SCHEDULE

October 18th, 2023	October 25th, 2023	Schedule on these days:
November 22nd, 2023	November 29th, 2023	

December 13th, 2023	December 20th, 2023	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.
January 10th, 2024	January 17th, 2024	
February 21st, 2024	February 28th, 2024	
March 20th, 2024	March 26th, 2024	
April 17th, 2024	April 24th, 2024	
May 22nd, 2024	May 29th, 2024	