

Central Technical School

NEWSLETTER

November 1, 2021

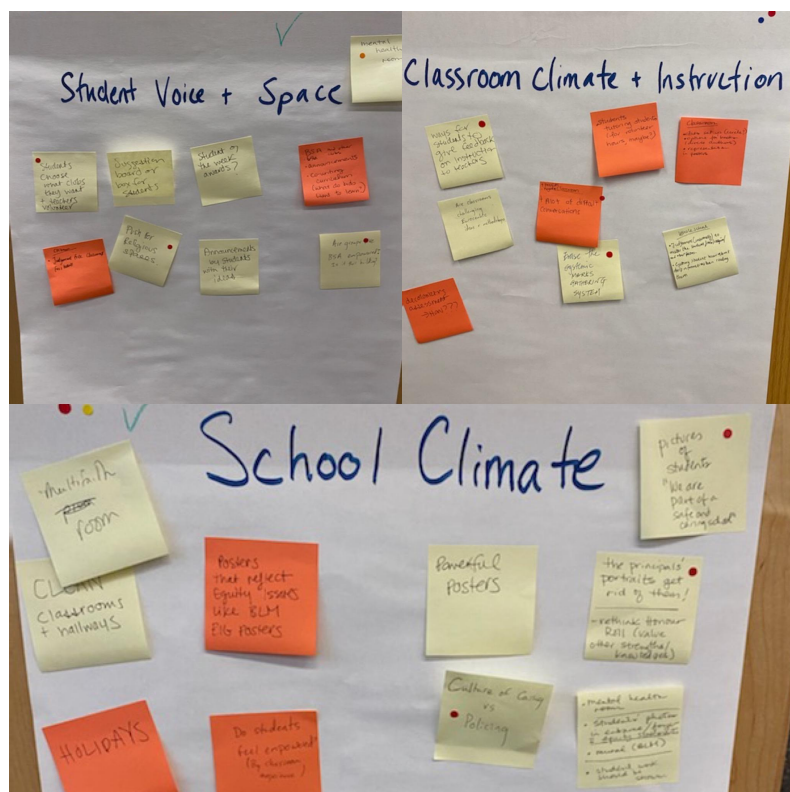
November is Indigenous Education Month!



In November, we celebrate Indigenous Education Month at the TDSB. This month provides an opportunity to examine how Indigenous perspectives, histories and contemporary realities may be centred across the curricula, and to focus on treaties and the legacy of residential schools. Indigenous education is not just for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students, but for all students and staff. When non-Indigenous people learn about the rich histories, cultures and contemporary contexts of diverse Indigenous peoples, cross-cultural understanding occurs and a common commitment is formed, leading to equitable and more inclusive learning spaces.

At CTS, classes are learning about treaties to gain a greater understanding of treaty rights and treaty relationships, students are reading texts written by Indigenous authors, and Elders have been invited to share their lived experiences, to support greater understanding of some Indigenous concepts of relationship, reciprocity and respect.

Co-constructing our Equity Continuum



Using the indicators from the Framework for Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy created by the Centre for Urban Schooling and OISE/University of Toronto, staff and students have co-constructed look-fors as to what they want CTS to look, sound and feel like. The Equity Continuum will be used as our tool to determine our strengths, but also where we need to improve. The indicators that we are examining are: School climate, classroom climate and instruction, student voice and space, school leadership, parent/caregiver connections, community connections, and the culture of professional development. We are hoping to include Parent and Caregiver voices into creating this tool. If you would like to be part of this process, we welcome you to

come to our next **School Council meeting on Tuesday, November 2nd at 6 pm**, where we will work on this further. The Zoom link for School Council on Tuesday is:

https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvdOyrrz0sEtC_FHNBgLqJ0So2UuUvCg9N

Parent/Caregiver - Teacher Interview Day!

Parent/Caregiver - Teacher interview day will be on Wednesday, November 3rd. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 pm. Interviews will be held from 2:00 - 4:00 pm and 6:00 - 8:00 pm. All interviews will be completed via zoom or by phone. Booking interviews will be open to parents and caregivers on Monday, November 1st and Tuesday, November 2nd. Go to <https://centraltech.parentinterview.com> to schedule your interviews. More information has been sent to you via your email and by school messenger on how to schedule.

Credit Rescue Day

Credit Rescue day will be held on Friday, November 5th and Wednesday, November 10th. The goal of credit rescue at mid-semester is to provide targeted support for those students needing to engage in activities to catch up and plan for continued support throughout the semester. No new content or assessments will be done on these days. Teachers will communicate to students and parents/caregivers who should be accessing these teacher-directed credit rescue opportunities and should attend these days. Unfortunately, due to attendance-taking protocols we must still take attendance. So students who choose to stay home because they do not need to access these opportunities will be marked absent. Parents and caregivers should report student absences by phone or email to the attendance line - 416-393-0070.

Extracurriculars

Students may participate in a maximum of two indoor in-person activities in the fall, outdoor activities with appropriate physical distancing, and virtually any number. Some activities and clubs that are occurring are: ultimate frisbee, Students For Action, Student Council, Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Young Women on the Move, Black Students' Association and many more. We encourage students to join the CTS Extracurricular and Club google classroom to learn and get updates on current and new activities happening at the school. The google classroom code is: fd6jfmk

Student Council

The student council has been hard at work creating activities to boost school spirit. Last week, council put on a variety of Halloween activities and contests to support student engagement and well-being. Students who want to participate on the Student Council, can join as a general member, for more information join their google classroom: y6zwf7f. Students can expect weekly announcements, meeting links, information on upcoming events, and surveys on the Google Classroom!



Students for Action:

The CTS SFA (Students for Action) is a group of young activists who work towards improving the quality of students life through equity initiatives at CTS and beyond. Interested? Contact us at: students4CTS@gmail.com or @sfa.cts

Coming soon! CTS BSA!

If you are a self-identified Black student at CTS and are interested, consider joining the the CTS BSA (Black Students' Association):

Purpose:

To create a platform for diverse voices to be heard.

To create strong networks of support to ensure your academic success at CTS and beyond.

To work collaboratively with Admin and Staff to create a culture of empowerment for Black youth at CTS.

To explore topics of interest and have meaningful conversations.

To organize programming and workshops geared towards Black youth.

To enhance community connections.

More information is coming soon!

ESL Students . . . Law Makers and Human Rights Defenders!

In October, both the ESLC and ESLD classes invited Stephanie Nilausen from the L.A.W.S. program to broaden their understanding of Canadian Law.

The ESLCs showed off what they already knew about criminal court, and then put their creative talents to work imagining brand new laws they would like to see in the future. Having fun with the task, students drafted important “laws” such as: establishing a mandatory “10 minute sleep time” for every two hours of school or work; including skateboarding as a recognized school sport; and punishing litterbugs and food wastage with suspension of tech privileges. Finally, two students who are worried about distractions in the classroom decided we must “cut love”, forbidding anyone from falling in love!

The ESLDs, already familiar with The Charter, examined the Ontario Human Rights Code. Deep discussions about harrassment and discrimination allowed the students to share their knowledge, experiences, and crititcal thinking on some very complex scenarios. Impressed with their insight, Stephanie commented that she felt like she was back in law school! This class is passionate about human rights and I think we will see them make a significant difference in the world!

Book Talks!

At CTS we believe in the power of reading! Reading is proven to increase memory, vocabulary, empathy, and reading stamina as well as make positive contributions to one's mental health, writing ability, and overall brain function. As a result, we help our students find books that they love, in order to help them become avid readers. Records show that our program has helped students increase their reading volume by six times on average! Furthermore, as our students become increasingly confident readers, we suggest more sophisticated works, which helps our students read for breadth, quality and volume. Grab a book CTS and join in on the fun!

Check out one of our student's [book talks](#) about a book they enjoyed reading!

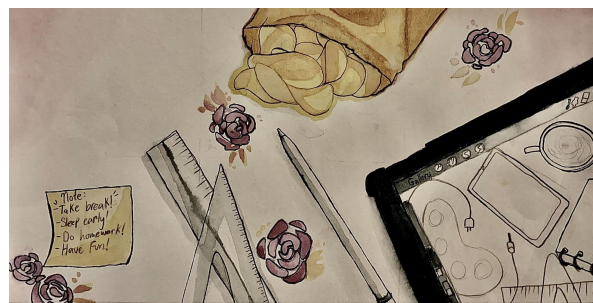
LAWs

Law in Action Within Schools (LAWS), a partnership between the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and Osgoode Hall Law School, is an education engagement and support program for high school students facing barriers to post-secondary access. Guided by equity and possibility, LAWS exposes program participants to legal thinking and the justice system through workshops, mentorship, and employment programs.

After a year and a half of programming virtually, we are happy to return to in-person programming at Central Tech this fall, working collaboratively with teachers in five classes for our Core program and three classes for our Newcomer program so far this semester. We have completed 14 workshops and activities in these classes over the last month, where students have learned about many areas of law including criminal law, employment law and human rights. Students have practiced their interviewing skills and participated in a mock trial in Central Tech's very own courtroom. LAWS CTS students have had the opportunity to meet and interact with 33 University of Toronto Faculty of Law and Osgoode Hall Law School student volunteers through in-class and after-school programming. This past month we launched our law firm mentoring program with Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP, where 27 LAWS students have been paired with 27 lawyers from the firm for monthly mentoring sessions. LAWS students are developing their advocacy and critical thinking skills at our weekly online Mock Trial Club and working towards a mock trial tournament. LAWS has paired five students with one-on-one law student tutors, and provides drop-in academic support at our LAWS Labs every week after school.

CTS Arts!

In the grade 10 non-traditional art class, students have been examining and creating pieces similar to political artists, Blek le rat and Banksy. As well, we pictured art pieces from our Grade 9 classes.



Art by: Mimi Lieu (Grade 9)



Art by: Hong Truc Lam Pham (Grade 9)

OSSLT - Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

The OSSLT measures whether students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. Successful completion of the literacy test is one of the requirements to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. All students across the province write this test. As the literacy graduation requirement for all students graduating during the 2021–2022 school year has been waived, graduating students do not need to take the OSSLT.

The test will be written online, by students taking English in Semester 1 during the window of Wednesday, November 9, to Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Students taking English in Semester 2 will write the OSSLT in spring 2022. Virtual students will have the option of coming to school in-person to write the OSSLT, or they may choose to take the OLC401 course.

Update from Guidance:

Community Service Requirement:

Students who will be graduating by June 2022 are required to complete 20 hours of community service.

Students who are not graduating this year are required to complete 40 hours of community service.

Visit: www.volunteertoronto.ca , <http://ovcn.ca/> and the CTS guidance Instagram page - @cts.guidance for volunteer opportunities.

College Information:

Want to learn about the various colleges and programs?

Every Monday in October and November, there will be four panel groups running simultaneously on Zoom, each made up of six to seven colleges.

Each group will provide:

- A brief overview of the Ontario community college system
- Highlights from each college on the panel
- Time to ask your questions to individual college representatives
- Visit www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/colleges/college-recruitment

Application Deadline

- 2022 Application Deadline – February 1, 2022
- Visit www.ontariocolleges.ca

College Open Houses

Every college is hosting open house and tours either in person or virtually. Visit the individual college websites for dates and times.

University Information:

Application Deadline

- 2022 Application Deadline – January 13, 2022
- Visit: www.ouac.on.ca

University PINs – personal identification numbers

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- Every student applying to university using the 101 application for programs starting in September 2022, will need a PIN
 - PIN's will in mid-November
 - Counsellor will inform students when they arrive

Websites for Program/University Research

- <https://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/>
- <https://myblueprint.ca/tdsb>

FULL DISCLOSURE – Grade 12 students only

- Students who qualify may drop a course on or before November 25, should they wish for the course to not appear on their transcript.
- Students must see their counsellor and complete a request to drop form.

Upcoming Virtual Presentations (links will be posted in our guidance google classrooms)

- Scholarship Information Session – November 10, 4pm, virtual:
<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/98092535119>
- Dual Credit/SWAC information session in November: Date/Time TBD
- Everything you need to know about applying to college session in November: Date/Time TBD
- Everything you need to know about applying to university in November: Date/Time TBD

Semester 2 Night School Information:

- Information for semester two night school should be available in early December at
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Going-to-High-School/Night-School-and-Summer-School/Night-School>

Guidance Google Classroom Codes:

Grade 9: 6hdk43k

Grade 10: qfv4msg

Grade 11: ly2p2ud

Grade 12: rzzv44l

CTS Guidance Instagram:

@cts.guidance

Late Start Schedule:

October 6, 2021	October 27, 2021	Schedule on these days: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Course 1/3 12:00 pm-12:45 pm - Lunch 12:45 pm -2:45 pm - Course 2/4 *** We ask that your student does not come to school until 9:50 am.
November 17, 2021	November 24, 2021	
December 8, 2021	December 15, 2021	
January 19, 2022	January 26, 2022	
February 16, 2022	February 23, 2022	
March 23, 2022	March 30, 2022	
April 20, 2022	April 27, 2022	
May 18, 2022	May 25, 2022	