

Macdonald C.I.  
 “We’ve Got You Covered.”



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Grad Photos	2
3	4 MIA Winter Food Drive	5 Grade 8 Open House	6	7	8	9
10	11 MIA Winter Food Drive	12	13 Late Start	14 Winter Music Concert	15	16
17	18 Candy canes	19 Door Decorating	20 Late Start	21	22 Holiday Assembly	23
24	25	26	27 Holiday Break	28	29	30

## Semi Formal

Sophia Avakian

If you were to ask a student in five years time what they were to remember from high school, they would not reply and say all the hours they spent studying or the one assignment due date they were overthinking. They will remember the nights they stayed up laughing with their friends, screaming their favourite lyrics at the top of their lungs, and taking photos in their best dress. They will remember all the fun dances attended, all the games they participated in, and all the ones they stayed back and watched after school. They will remember all the clubs they joined and how high school became their second home.

Soon all of that will be over, and they will be walking across that stage wanting to go back and relive those nights they stayed up all night dancing with the people that felt like sunshine.

Opportunities to make memories will always be there, you just have to look for them. All the posters are spread around the school, on social media, from one person to another. Everyone was talking about it for weeks; Semi Formal was right around the corner. A night to dance with your friends, take photos, and bond over the playlist. Thursday November 16th, 2023 was the night to make those memories and to dance the night away. We were given the chance to make those memories in the way we wanted to, and with the people we wanted to.

Located at Parkview Manor, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Sir John A MacDonald hosted a Semi Formal for all students to attend, organized by our very own Ms. Georgiou with the help of our Student Activity Council. Many students continuously expressed their love and appreciation for the night. Students were quick to express just how much of a success it really was. Areej Abdelrahim said, “This night was a ten out of ten experience and I’m so happy I came!” Prashan Piratheepan shared, “I had like six cups of this drink! This party was very, very lit.” Even dinner was a great success as Abigail Cockburn screamed, “This pasta slaps!”

Students are continually encouraged to go out and take those chances and to make these short years memorable. Though the night went on for four hours, it felt as though it was over in a matter of minutes, leaving everyone clinging onto the hope of having another chance to get to experience this again next year.

To those who attended their first Semi, we hope you had the night of your lives; and to those who experienced their last, we hope it was the memorable night you will never forget; and to those reading this now, let this be your sign to continue to take chances to make beautiful memories and to have fun. Cherish the moments you will one day miss.

## DECA Regionals Winners and Provincials Qualifiers

Brandon Feng

Mac students showcased their remarkable talents and business knowledge at the recent DECA Regionals competition held at their respective competitive zone (Area 4), Seneca College’s Newnham Campus on the 12th of November. The event brought together aspiring young entrepreneurs and leaders from various schools and our students truly stood out, leaving a lasting mark.

In the competitive atmosphere of DECA Regionals, three exceptional individuals from our school emerged as winners in their respective categories, earning them a well-deserved spot in the top 10. Xavier Truc, Abigail Parkinson, and Aaron Gao demonstrated unparalleled skills and dedication.

The journey doesn't end here for these accomplished students. Many more students, who performed well but did not earn a top 10 award in their categories, have still been chosen to compete at Ontario’s DECA regionals. The following students will be representing our school at the DECA Provincials in February at the Sheraton downtown:

- Allan “AJ” Savini
- Brandon Feng
- Xavier Truc
- Sael Mohammad Naeem
- Amrith Sivalakshmiathan
- Matteo Maceirinha
- Aaron Gao
- Abigail Parkinson
- Anisha Aravinthan
- Rajendra Ramadhan
- Anthony Athanasoulis
- Eleanor Zhang
- Konstantina Paschalidis
- Panteleimon Paschalidis
- Harine Ganenthyran

Thank you to everyone for participating, and a special congratulations to our winners and provincial qualifiers!

## Remembrance Day

Vishva Sritharan

Remembrance Day (formerly known as Armistice Day) signifies the sheer determination, will-power, and sacrifices Canadian soldiers gave to protect the freedom of Canadian citizens. It was first observed in 1919 when King George V sent a message to the then Prime Minister, Sir George Foster, regarding the first anniversary of the armistice which brought World War I to an end. He stated that everyone in the British Empire should cease any sound or movement during the 11th day, the 11th month, and the 11th hour (the time of the ceasefire originally being held) to commemorate the fallen soldiers, as stated in his own words, “The thoughts of every one may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead.” This event was later referred to as “Armistice Day” and was re-named to “Remembrance Day” by the House of Commons in 1931.

While Remembrance Day this year was on a Saturday, the students of Macdonald were determined to show their honour for the fallen soldiers. A Remembrance Day assembly was held where the strings orchestra, band orchestra, and the drama class performed beautifully. Students remained respectful throughout the performance, allowing for a seamless and enjoyable overall experience.

Even if Remembrance Day has passed, we will still remember, and continue to be grateful for the opportunities available by their sacrifices. Thank you.

### Works Cited

- Government of Canada. “Remembrance Day | 2. History of Remembrance Day.” Canada.ca, 8 November 2022, <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/remembrance-ceremony/2.html>. Accessed 23 November 2023.
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# Clubs & Councils

## MACC's Hindu Heritage Month

Jatin Taploo

The Macdonald Association of Canadian Cultures (MACC) dedicates its time to acknowledge and embrace various cultures in Canada! Every month, the council will spread awareness of the respective heritage through announcements, posters, and bulletin boards. The month of November is recognizing Hindu Heritage. The MACC has created various media dedicated to celebrating Hindu Heritage across the school. They even decorated a bulletin board displaying famous Hindus and what they have done for Canada!

The MACC also held fun and interactive activities representing Hindu Heritage Month, such as Diya painting. Diyas are very important in Hindu culture and are heavily used during Diwali. They are a source of enlightenment, happiness, and good over evil. Students were invited into the main hall to participate in a Diya painting session, where they were instructed on how to paint Diyas and learned a little bit about the history of Diyas.

The MACC continues to embrace and acknowledge various Canadian Cultures and hopes to carry out more and more events for every Heritage Month during the school year! For more information about further events at MACC, follow them on their Instagram page, @maccdiversity, and listen to the morning announcements for future events.



## MEAC's Battery Bake Sale

Gabriella Ribeiro

Hey Mac! Did you see the huge crowd of people around a delicious smelling table in the main hall a couple weeks ago? Well, that was because of MEAC's annual battery bake sale! They sold chocolate chip cookies, sugar cookies, oreos, muffins, cupcakes, oatmeal cookies, and many more delicious eats. For only two batteries, you could enjoy a tasty treat and support a good cause! Now, many students were asking why they couldn't buy the snacks using money, so we asked MEAC's Vice President, Maria Evangelo in Grade 11. She replied, "We use batteries as currency because they aren't usually recycled properly, contributing to landfill waste and pollution. The goal of the MEAC is to take action in recycling around the school along with other eco-friendly initiatives, so we do the battery bake sale to promote better recycling as we're going to bring the batteries to a recycling place for the Mac students to dispose of them properly."

Talk about a great idea! Thank you to MEAC for organizing such a great event and thank you to Blackscots for showing their school spirit! Keep an eye out for more fun eco-friendly events like this on MEAC's Instagram @meac.mac.

## Oreo Challenge

Bisma Chowdhury

Oreos, we all love them but not everyone has heard of the Oreo contest! On November 29th, students gathered together so they could get a free cookie by eating an Oreo but with a catch – it would be on your forehead and you couldn't use your hands or the help of others!

During lunchtime in the cafeteria, the contest began. Though not many students participated, it was still a blast! We had our first 7 rounds with only one person winning and the set rules from before: if you won, you would only get one Oreo. But, as the clock struck 12:30 p.m., a new rule was established: if you won, you would get the full box of Oreos!

As word spread in the cafeteria, anticipation followed suit as more people gathered and we had an additional 7 rounds. In these 7 rounds, most people struggled to eat the Oreos given. Many Oreos fell to the floor and as many of the contestants tried to do it again and again in the short minute they were given. Only 2 people had the agility and planning in mind in order to get their desired prize.

With all the Oreos being won and with many Oreos also on the floor, the event ended early at 12:40 p.m. with the contest gaining a well-rounded reception in its short run time! We look forward to more events like this one and to more students joining in!

## Compliment Week

Vishva Sritharan

World Kindness Day is observed on November 13th every year with a simple objective of spreading kindness to everyone! It started in 1998 after being founded by the World Kindness Movement at a conference in Tokyo, Japan. Kindness organizations from different nations were present with the goal being to launch a global kindness movement. It is now recognized across many countries where schools, workplaces, social events, and other organizations celebrate.

From November 13 to November 17, the Mac Health Council hosted their "Compliment Week" in respect to World Kindness Day. During Compliment Week, students came down to the Main Hall at lunch and wrote anything positive they had---whether that was a simple sweet message, motivational messages, or even some pickup lines---on a sticky note. These sticky notes were collected and were placed throughout the school at the end of Compliment Week for students to see. A great touch for students who are feeling under the weather!

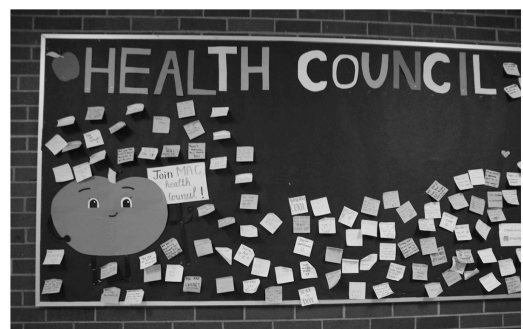


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## Debate Club is Back

Brandon Feng

Word is in the hall that the Debate Club is back at Mac Collegiate Institute. Debate Club, formerly run by Aaron Zeleke & Wareesha Khalid (Class of '23) along with Brandon Feng & Dilaksha Sutharjan (Class of '24), was forced to shut down due to a lack of participation and commitment from its executives.

Last week, Debate Club started up again with President Arvin Jimal (Class of '24) leading club meetings along with Ms. Whetter. It seeks to hold weekly meetings every Wednesday at lunch, and gather like minded students to discuss and learn about hot topics.

Stay tuned for how you can get involved in this awesome club!

## Poem

Zulaikha Sediqi

As autumn arrives and you must take your leave,  
Once again a void in my heart, but I won't grieve  
Remember, like the seasons, we'll reunite once more,  
Just as autumn follows summer, our love will restore.

Though distance may part us it's not the end, you see,  
For in my heart, you'll forever be a part of me.  
Just as leaves must fall, drifting far and wide,  
Our connection remains strong, with love as our guide.

When autumn's cool winds call for you to depart,  
Know you've left your mark and you've captured my heart.  
Like the vibrant leaves that rustle and sway,  
Your memory lingers in every passing day.

In every falling leaf, I find reminders of you,  
In the whispering breeze, your laughter echoes through.  
Though you're going away, my love's always here to stay,  
Just like autumn's return after summer's sunny day.

## SAC's Funky Hair Day!

Jatin Taploo

On November 8th, the SAC kicked off the month with their first November event, Funky Hair Day! Students came to school with the most colourful, creative, and unique hairstyles imaginable!

I spoke with Jim Guo, Senior Vice President of the SAC, who also participated in the event. Guo shared, "For Funky Hair Day, I tied the top of my hair all in one with a rubber band, making it look like a ponytail at the top of my head! Overall, it was great to see how people were participating in Funky Hair Day, and it made me feel content with the fact that school spirit is slowly on the rise again. The SAC continues to promote school spirit and boost student voice, both to students and faculty. We hope our December events will attract even more students to participate!"

Have you participated in any SAC events recently? If not, that's okay! Follow @blackscotpride on Instagram to never miss a spirit day, or actively listen to the morning announcements for further, live updates on the next spirit event! Let's see some school spirit, Mac!

## Personal Project Club

Anaisha Jain

### 1) What is the main idea and theme of the Personal Projects Club?

While brainstorming this club, the main idea was to create a relaxed space where Mac students could work on their personal projects. The goal was to foster a casual, easygoing atmosphere that encourages collaboration and keeps everyone motivated to pursue their unique passions.

Essentially, it's a laid-back club where students can collaborate, work side by side, and find ongoing inspiration for their projects!

### 2) What is the primary goal that the club aims to achieve? And how will it be achieved?

The club's main goal is to help students get their personal projects across the finish line. We hang out every Friday at lunch, working on our own stuff. Once a month, we do a quick check-in to see how far we've come. It's all building up to the big finale – the Personal Projects Showcase at the end of the year!

### 3) What will a person gain from participating in the club on an individual level?

Joining the club comes with some solid perks. You'll tap into a supportive community, get valuable feedback, and hone your skills. Regular check-ins keep you on track, and by the end of the year, you'll have something impressive to show for your hard work. In short, it's all about inspiration, improvement, and a sense of achievement.

### 4) What qualities should a club member possess in order to be successful in this club?

To shine in the Personal Projects Club, bring dedication, creativity, and a friendly attitude. Dive into your projects, share ideas, and support your fellow club members. It's all about having a good time while making progress on your projects!

### 5) Which kind of projects are students allowed to indulge and participate in?

Students can engage in a range of projects within the club, spanning arts, business, sports/fitness, and STEM. We're open to other project ideas, providing a space for diverse interests and passions.

### 6) Which kind of projects have you seen other members pursue, and which were the ones that you personally found the 'coolest' or the most 'unique' in idea or execution?

In the past, members have pursued a variety of projects. One standout example was a voice recognition code developed by a member of our coding department last year – that was pretty cool! We've seen a range of unique ideas and executions across different departments, making it tough to pick the "coolest" one. It's awesome to see the diverse talents and creativity our members bring to the table!

### 7) What appealed to you both the most when joining about the Personal Projects Club?

Joining the Personal Projects Club, we were excited about the chance to work on our projects in a supportive community. The collaborative environment and diverse range of projects appealed to us the most.

### 8) Using only three words, what are the most interesting traits about the club?

Collaborative, Diverse, Inspiring.

### 9) How would one reach out for help and guidance in the club, when they are stuck on something related to their project and are in need of assistance?

Members can connect within their committees for assistance, and both Daniel and I (Piraveen), along with our dedicated staff advisors, Mr. Sheehan and Ms. Stavrou, are readily available for guidance whenever needed.

### 10) Lastly, when and where does the club usually meet for those interested in joining?

The club meets every Friday during lunch, from 12:00 to 12:40, in room 114. If you're interested in joining, that's the time and place to be!