

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

DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Grade 8 Info Night 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm	4 MIA Winter Food Drive	5	6 White Ribbon Campaign	7
8	9	10	11	12 Winter Concert	13	14
15	16	17 Door Decorating Competition	18	19	20 Holiday Cheer Assembly Ugly Sweater Day	21
22	23	24 <i>Holiday Break</i>	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				

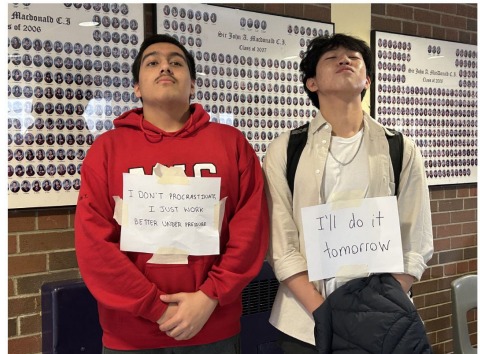


Photo Credits : Kun Hong



Photo Credits : Neel Fayyad

Sports Column

Hannah Emberley

Junior Boys Volleyball

Mac 2 : 0 Downsview

Mac 2 : 0 Northview (SEMI-FINALS)

Mac 1 : 2 Earl Haig (FINALs)

Senior Boys Volleyball

Mac 2 : 0 CW Jefferys

Mac 1 : 3 Earl Haig (SEMI-FINALS)



SAC White Lie Day

Yuma Tamai

The SAC here at Mac threw yet another successful spirit day for both students and teachers to participate in! White Lie day occurred on November 5th, 2024 in the main hall during lunch. For a little history, the expression was created in the 14th century, and the word “white” was used in front of “lie”, as white is associated with innocence and purity. Thus, a white lie is a harmless lie that doesn't hurt anyone's feelings. White lies can be about anything and can be super simple. For example, someone may say, “Green is my favourite colour” when their favourite colour is actually pink.

During lunch, students were able to stop by the main hall and write a white lie on a sheet of paper and tape it onto themselves! It was a fun and easy activity that students and teachers could participate in, and many people had fun coming up with their lies! I saw various types of white lies and had a fun time reading each and every one!

Many students commented about the white lies that were written about Mr. Fraser, one of our math and science teachers here at Mac, saying that they were hilarious! Mr. Fraser seemed very happy that his students were writing about him, although some of the papers did read “I love Mr. Fraser.”

Remembrance Day

Vishva Sritharan

Remembrance Day is a day for Commonwealth Countries, including Canada, to commemorate those who sacrificed their future for our freedom in wars. Formerly known as Armistice Day, it was first observed a year after the signing of the Armistice agreement in 1918, which was responsible for ending WWI. It was signed on November 11th, 1918 at 11 AM. It was only in 1931, when a member of Parliament for Comox-Alberni, Alan Neill, introduced a bill re-named Armistice Day to Remembrance Day. Additionally, the bill proposed that Remembrance Day should be observed on the 11th of November as opposed to being observed on the Monday of the week in which the 11th of November was.

In the 11th month, on the 11th day, in the 11th hour, Canadians are asked to pause for a minute of silence to remember those who've fallen for our freedom. Many government and institutional services oblige this moment of silence, such as school boards, where assemblies are held by each school. Even public transit systems can be seen having a pause in service for this minute during the 11th hour. Churches and public ceremonies include the playing of the fourth stanza of the poem, “For the Fallen,” written by Laurence Binyon in September of 1914.

On this prominent and solemn Remembrance Day, the students of Macdonald CI were brought to the auditorium for a special presentation. Followed by the playing of O Canada, “Arioso” (by J.S Bach) and “Noble Portrait” (by Steve Hodges) were performed by the string/band orchestra. Staff and students were then asked to stand up for a moment of silence during the playing of “The Last Post” by Allan Su. The drama class finalized the commemoration by performing an amazing, yet heart-breaking, play of life in the war.

We shall continue to remember those who sacrificed their lives for our future and appreciate the gift of freedom and peace. Lest We Forget.

Guidance Swiftie Day

Yuma Tamai

On November 13th, Guidance hosted a brand new event called Swiftie Day. Students were able to make bracelets to commemorate Taylor Swift’s Toronto stop for her Eras Tour.

Throughout lunch, students stopped by the main hall and created bracelets with a wide selection of beads provided by the Guidance Department. This was a fun and free activity anyone could participate in. Even if you do not listen to Taylor Swift, the Guidance Counsellors urged students to take a few minutes to turn off their minds and make bracelets for the fun of it.

The event was a huge hit! Many students stopped by to create bracelets for themselves or their friends. Some made bracelets inspired by the iconic Taylor Swift letter beads, while others made friendship or personal bracelets. The entire hall was buzzing with activity as students and Guidance staff made bracelets and sang along with Taylor Swift songs playing on the speaker.

I interviewed Ms. Brassard, the Guidance Counsellor who prepared the event for the students. She said, “The theme of friendships is an important one. I was excited that students were willing to participate in this event. The friendships that you build in school will last a lifetime. To be able to do something fun with your friends and to share this experience is all part of the reasoning behind our event. We were able to jump on the idea that we have family, but we also have friendships, which are often equally as important. In ten years from now, you may not remember what happened in chemistry class, but chances are you will remember sharing laughs with friends and maybe even making friendship bracelets!” I love the thought and effort she put into the event to build upon friendships and create a memorable experience for Mac students.

Although Taylor Swift has now left for Vancouver to close off her tour, she has made many fans ecstatic here at Mac. We are glad that we were able to celebrate her concert in Toronto through the Swiftie Day event, and thank you to all the Guidance staff for hosting this fun activity!

HOSA Fall Leadership Conference

Erica Dewey

From November 17 - 24th, members of Mac’s HOSA club participated in the Fall Leadership Conference (FLC) to see where they ranked amongst their competition. In the process, they demonstrated their passion for healthcare and their determination to do well against top scholars. For those who aren’t familiar, the FLC requires members to write a written test on a healthcare subject of their choice. It takes place virtually and aids members in preparing for the Spring Leadership Conference (SLC) in March, which is held in-person and is much more rigorous. Aside from the testing, the FLC also consists of leadership workshops and presentations, providing an excellent opportunity for skill-building and networking. When asked about their experience at this year’s FLC, a Mac student stated, “The test was a good challenge. It showed me how much I’ve already learned and helped me to identify areas of improvement for the SLC.” Though students have not yet received their results, their work ethic and dedication will no doubt lead to excellent outcomes. Join us in wishing our students luck in preparing for the SLC!



Photo Credits : Ms. Brassard



Photo Credits : Ms. Brassard

DECA Regionals

Diana Basarab

This month has been both stressful and busy for Mac’s DECA team. DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) is an organization that provides a competitive opportunity for emerging entrepreneurs and business leaders to showcase and apply their skills to real world scenarios. DECA provides this opportunity through roleplay competitions, examinations, and written presentations. Mac’s DECA participants who attended regional finals described the event as an intense yet enriching environment filled with fast paced challenges, real-world scenarios, and tough competition. The competition tested various abilities, such as critical thinking, working under pressure, and the ability to present innovative solutions. Depending on the category chosen, students either had to pass a written exam or both a roleplay and written exam to move onto DECA provincials. All this hard work paid off as 20 Mac students qualified for DECA Provincials, showcasing their hard work over the past month. We’re excited to see what our students accomplish next at provincials. Good luck, Mac!



Photo Credits : Alphen Tan

Grade 9 Take Your Kid to Work Day

Amna Khan

This November 6th, the Grade 9 students at Mac had the opportunity to experience life in the workforce through the TDSB annual Grade 9 Take Your Kid To Work Day!

Students were able to experience a day in the shoes of professionals by heading to the jobs of their parents, guardians, siblings, or other family members! Students ventured to law firms, hospitals, offices, and even schools. I had the wonderful opportunity to explore the latter, and accompany my mother to her classroom in one of the local elementary schools!

This experience was truly eye-opening and, admittedly, exhausting. I gained a lot of respect for the teachers we often take for granted. The whole day consisted of a significant amount of behind-the-scenes tasks, that we as students often don’t realize, with extensive organization and managing a handful of kids. From preparing the classroom in the early morning, to running around gathering the kids for home time, it was an insightful experience. I had the incredible opportunity to help teach a group of Grade 4/5 English Language Learners (ELLs), and as they learned their words and sentences with me, I learned alongside them as they told me about each of their journeys and lives in various situations, and it made my heart extend out to each one of these amazing children.

This experience widened my perspective on a lot of different aspects. Not only did I gain an appreciation for teachers through the intense organization and issues that have to be dealt with in their day-to-day lives, but also for the students who showed that, despite a large variety of backgrounds and circumstances, they created a crowd of empathetic, clever, and loving peers.

Looking back, TDSB’s Take Your Kid To Work Day really is enlightening. Through many of our unique experiences in various workplaces, this day provided Grade 9 students with the opportunity to step into life through a different lens, and inspire what our students hope to accomplish here at MAC and beyond. This day marks a starting point in the journey new high school students are embarking on as they begin to think about their future pathways. The Take Your Kid To Work Day is quite significant to our students, strengthening bonds between young teenagers and their families, as well as building students connections in the community.

All in all, the TDSB Grade 9 Take Your Kid to Work Day has been an invaluable opportunity. I had an incredibly enriching experience, working with a group of ELL students to practice English, and broadening my perspective on the lives of young students in various situations, hardworking teachers, and ultimately the people who contribute to our communities. I’m happy to report the wonderful times my fellow students had at workplaces all over the city as they enjoyed a day off of school to work alongside and learn from someone they admire. Through Take Your Kid to Work Day, Grade 9 students embark on their journey into society by spending a day at work, considering their ambitions, and beginning to pave the way for their future.

Winter Activities



Hannah Emberley

Winter is rapidly approaching, Mac! I know it is very tempting to stay inside and hide from the bitter cold, but there are so many unique things to do around the city during this time of year.

If you make your way over to Vaughan, Canada’s Wonderland has brought back WinterFest for its fifth year. You are able to skate on their frozen lake, so make sure to bring your skates! There are also numerous skates available for rent in case visitors do not own a pair of their own. Other WinterFest activities include decorating cookies, taking pictures, making Christmas crafts, writing letters to Santa, and countless rides that are still open for guests. Throughout the amusement park, there are many themed areas, such as Candy Cane Lane and Charlie Brown’s Christmas Town. Live performances and entertainment are also attractions offered during winter. Canada’s Wonderland tickets typically range from \$24.99 - \$49.99.

If you turn the other direction into the heart of Downtown Toronto, you will end up at the Distillery Winter Village – my favourite winter event! This village offers various attractions, including pictures with Santa and carollers. They provide many shops and food within the district, several being brand new, so be sure to check them out! Tickets are usually \$15 - \$39.50.

In addition to Canada’s Wonderland and the Distillery Winter Village, Casa Loma will open their Holiday Lights Tour on December 5th for \$45 - \$150 per ticket. This activity is more on the pricier side, but it is certainly a unique experience.

Have fun this winter season, Mac, and be sure to go outdoors!