



Macdonald Collegiate

••Newsletter

January, 2024

A Message from Student Success

Happy New Year MAC!

We hope you enjoyed the Winter Break and had an opportunity to spend some time with family and friends. But mostly, we hope you are feeling relaxed and rejuvenated!

Semester 1 is quickly coming to an end, which means it is time to start thinking about and preparing for exams.

Exams will run from Wednesday January 24th to Monday January 29th. For many students, especially those who are in Grade 9, the thought of writing exams can be very stressful and overwhelming. It is very important to start preparing ahead of time, so that you are not cramming the night before. Here are some helpful tips to get you ready and organised:

Firstly, give yourself enough time to prepare and study.

Think about creating a schedule to organise your time - make yourself accountable!

Start studying the concepts that you know the least.

Give yourself more time to grasp the information that you don't know as well.

Study in different ways - review your notes, make additional notes, create flash cards, and organise study

groups. Using different study methods will increase your chances of retaining and recalling the information. Organise your study space. Clear all distractions, find a quiet space to focus, make a playlist of your favourite songs, and avoid studying in your bed where you might be tempted to sleep! If you want more tips on how to study for exams, listen to upcoming announcements from Student Success. We will be running Exam Prep Workshops in the Library after school on Tuesday January 16th and Thursday January 18th.

We encourage as many students as possible, especially Grade 9 students, to join!

Exam Schedule

Semester 1 Exams start Wednesday, January 24th. For full exam details select the link to our website below and look for the EXAM SCHEDULE link on the right hand side of our Home Page.

About Us

"Prudentia et Scientia" (Vision & Knowledge) reflects our commitment to excellence in education.

Our diverse student population has multiple opportunities to excel in a full range of academic programs and co-curricular activities. Through our values of encouragement, self-discipline, cooperation and fairness, we strive to develop our students into life-long learners that positively contribute to our society.

Please visit our Website Here.



Student Activity Council (SAC)

December was an action-packed month, with the SAC hosting yet another fantastic month of spirit days and fun events. As the year comes to a close, let's take a moment to reflect on the exciting spirit events that took place this month! **The Door Decorating Contest** was our first spirit day of the month, where students could bring in materials to decorate their doors within the first 20 minutes in their period 2 classes. Mac demonstrated their creativity with numerous festive and decorative doors, which were a sight to behold!



The judges walked around the school and determined the best doors of their category, being awarded a pizza lunch in 2024! The two winners were (TBD) and (TBD), for winning the most traditional holiday-themed door and the most eco-friendly door.

The SAC also held the **Holiday Cheer Assembly**, an annual assembly that many students look forward to every year! Auditions were held at the beginning of the month where Mac showed off their amazing talents, whether that be singing, dancing, or playing an instrument. The Heads of Councils along with the SAC performed a fun and enriching play, with performances by students in between the scenes!



Also on the day of the assembly, the SAC held an Ugly Christmas Sweater and Pajama Day. Students wore their favourite sweaters and PJs showing off their holiday spirit, closing off the year of 2023! December has come to an end, the SAC has more spirit events planned for the month of January. To kick off the new year, our first spirit day planned is Anything But a Backpack Day on January 10th! An event loved by many students every year, students will be able to bring in a variety of items for storage of their school materials during this fun event! From shopping bags to briefcases, students will have the chance to show off their creativity and have a chance to be featured on our instagram page. Restrictions on what you can bring on this day will be posted on the @blackscotpride instagram page! A week after, on January 17th, the SAC will host **Karaoke in the Cafeteria!** Students will have the opportunity to sing and dance to their favourite songs during lunch time, hooked onto an audio system with speakers and microphones. We hope that everyone will have a fun time and enjoy themselves in these wonderful and spirit-packed events!

On behalf of the SAC, we hope you had a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year! May 2024 bring you good health, happiness and prosperity.

Make sure to follow @blackscotpride on instagram, and listen to the morning announcements for more updates on upcoming events in January!



Guidance Update

Students are assigned a counselor when they arrive at Macdonald Collegiate based on the first letter of their last name. Counselors are available to support students with interpersonal conflicts, educational planning and career exploration.

Ms. Line Brassard
Ms. Bhanuja Hardeo
Mr. Matthew Sheehan

Surnames A - I, Z
Surnames J - Ra
Surnames Rb - Y

line.brassard@tdsb.on.ca
bhanuja.hardeo@tdsb.on.ca
matthew.sheehan@tdsb.on.ca



Booking a Guidance appointment

To book a guidance appointment, students are asked to complete the following form:

Book an Appointment.

Guidance Google Classroom:

We ask that all students please join their grade appropriate Guidance Google classroom.

Grade 9 class code: iqd3cns

Grade 10 class code: nim6caw

Grade 11 class code: nqyiv7b

Grade 12 class code: wb7dazz

York University - Academic Accommodations and University Workshop:

This workshop provides the opportunity to learn some key things to consider and understand about accessing accommodations. It takes place **7-8:30 p.m. on Thursday January 18, 2024, via Zoom.**

You will learn about:

Documentation required to access academic accommodations,

The supports and accommodations available through Student Accessibility Services at York,



Night School

Toronto District School Board offers Night School (TDSB) credit courses to all high school students and adults with current prerequisites.

All courses run two nights per week: either on Monday AND Wednesday or Tuesday AND Thursday.

Attendance is mandatory from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Click Here to REGISTER

Course Selection: myBlueprint.ca/tdsb will open on Friday, February 9, 2024 and will close on Thursday, February 22, 2024

Information regarding courses will be delivered in a classroom presentation format the week of February 5th.

OUAC.OCAS Important Dates

E.Y.I...	COLLEGE OCAS	UNIVERSITY OUAC
COST	\$125 5 program choices	\$156 3 program choices \$50 each additional
ACCESS TO APPLICATION	Ontario Education Number	Ontario Education Number
APPLICATION OPEN	NOW	NOW
EQUAL CONSIDERATION -OR- APPLICATION CLOSES	FEBRUARY 1, 2024	JANUARY 15, 2024
TRANSMISSION #1	NOVEMBER 17 2023 DEMOGRAPHIC INFO GRADE 11/12 FINAL & 12 MIDTERM MARKS	NOVEMBER 17, 2023 DEMOGRAPHIC INFO & GRADE 11/12 FINAL MARKS and/or MIDTERM
TRANSMISSION #2	FEBRUARY 16, 2024	FEBRUARY 17, 2024
TRANSMISSION #3	APRIL 26, 2024	APRIL 25, 2024
CONFIRMATION OF ACCEPTANCE	MAY 1, 2024	JUNE 3, 2024



myBlueprint

(Guidance continued:)

NEW: How do I apply for Out-of-Area Admissions?

Provided the school is permitted to receive applications, you may decide to apply to attend a school other than your designated school by address. Some schools are only able to accept applications from students attending feeder schools, or from students with a sibling already in attendance in Grades 10-12 and returning to the secondary school next year.

The Online Out-of-Area Admissions application will be available on Monday, January 8-26, 2024.

PLAR: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process whereby students may obtain credits for prior learning. The PLAR process involves two components: "challenge" and "equivalency".

Registration for January 17, 2024 - PLAR Information Session @ 7:00pm

Click Here to REGISTER

From the University of Toronto

As the OUAC Undergraduate Application deadline nears (January 15, 2024) we have another opportunity for students to ask us questions about U of T and the application process.

We are also sharing amazing programs with applications that are now open.

Please see our **Equity & Outreach Community Newsletter** – January 2024 (attached).

There is also a summary below!



Financing Your U of T Education - Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 pm EST

Location: Virtual Zoom (register to receive the link)

Join this webinar to learn about how to finance your U of T education.

Recruiters will cover topics such as admissions scholarship, the awards profile, and share resources to support you in navigating the wealth of financial supports at the University of Toronto.

Click here to REGISTER

NSBE Hacks 2024! Date: Feb. 24 @ 9 am– Feb 25, 2024 @ 5 pm

Age Group: High school students

Location: St. George Campus

National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) U of T Chapter is offering an exciting opportunity to showcase your creativity and problem-solving skills by participating in our annual Hackathon this February.

The theme for this year's hackathon is Hack the City. The event is open to anyone from high school and beyond, at any skill level.

Deadline to apply: End of January

Click here to APPLY

Summer Mentorship Program

Program Dates: Four Weeks in July 2024

Application deadline: First Deadline January 12, 2024

The Summer Mentorship Program (SMP) gives high school students of Indigenous or African ancestry a chance to explore health sciences at the University of Toronto over four weeks in July.

Click here to APPLY

Department of Mathematics

Math Culminating Activities (30%):

Moratorium is from January 18th to January 23rd and exam days are from January 24th to January 30th.

To be proactive, please consider starting preparing for the upcoming culminating and the final exam.

Exams (January 24 to January 30) will be scheduled by blocks.

Extra Help and Math Homework Club:

All students are strongly encouraged to reach out to his/her/their math teacher first.

Math Homework Club is available to all math students on a FCFS basis

(Monday to Friday at 8:25am in room 225).



Canadian & World Studies Department



Students in Ms. Geary's Crime and Criminal Justice course, participated in a Crime Scene analysis in early December. This interdisciplinary course focuses on the elements of crime, criminal behaviour and the legal institutions in our society. In the weeks leading up to this hands-on experience, the Gr 12 students learnt the basic skills of Forensic Investigations. These skills include understanding the types of evidence left at a crime scene, how to package evidence, analysis of tool mark and shoe print

impressions, fingerprinting basics - including how to lift fingerprints - and blood science.

This unit of the course is usually a favourite of students, as each lesson includes a hands-on

activity where they have the opportunity to practice the skills that are being taught to them.

The unit of study ends with the examination of a Crime Scene, where students are given the opportunity to put their new skills into practice and solve "The Modelling Agency Murders".

The students worked to uncover clues, photographed evidence, took observational notes, analysed blood patterns and spatter and even lifted real fingerprints left at the scene of the crime. It was an authentic learning opportunity for all students, they were engaged and had a great time!

Special thanks to MAC Alumni that helped to set up the Crime scene - Christopher Makris, William Makris and John Tsoutsos.



Athletics Update

Our Athletic Council ran a Holiday Sports Contest in support of Toy Mountain. Thank you to all that participated and for making this initiative a success! Winter Sports are moving into the second half of their seasons and will pause during the exam period. Stay up to date by following our Instagram page for all Athletic and Intramural information, scores, pictures and highlights.

IG Link: @macdonaldathletics

Ski Trip

Mac is running a one day ski/snowboarding trip this year to Mount St. Louis Moonstone on Thursday February 22nd. A coach bus will be picking students up at Mac for 7:30 am and returning by 5 pm. We will be taking the first 54 students.

Payment will be through Cash-on-line and will open Wednesday Jan.10th.

The total cost for the trip, which includes transportation, is \$77 for lift pass/bus, or \$100 for lift pass plus ski/snowboarding rental/bus.

For more information see **Ms.Lewczuk** in the PE Office.



January

8 <i>Day 2</i> Field Trip Moratorium Begins	9 <i>Day 1</i>	10 <i>Day 2</i> Late Start - 9:55	11 <i>Day 1</i>	12 <i>Day 2</i>
15 <i>Day 1</i> University Applications Due for Equal Consideration	16 <i>Day 2</i>	17 <i>Day 1</i> Late Start - 9:55	18 <i>Day 2</i> Moratorium →	19 <i>Day 1</i>
22 <i>Day 2</i>	23 <i>Day 1</i>	24 Exams Exams Begin →	25 Exams	26 Exams
29 Exams	30 Exams Exams Finish	31 <i>Day 1</i> Exam Review Day	Feb 1 <i>PA Day</i> College Applications Due for Equal Consideration	Feb 2 <i>Day 2</i> Semester 2 Begins

