



# Macdonald Collegiate

## •• Newsletter

February, 2024

### Student Activity Council (SAC)

As we head into February and the new semester, we can look back on all the fun activities that took place in January. Our first spirit day of the month was Anything but a Backpack Day, a day where students could leave their backpacks at home and bring anything to contain their school items. MAC students showed their creativity, with people bringing tote bags, gym bags, and drawstring bags. Another spirit event that occurred in January was Karaoke Day. During this event, students came to the cafeteria and were encouraged to get out of their comfort zone and sing a song with or without friends.

Countless students attended this spirit event, and it was a major success. Seeing how MAC students enjoyed Karaoke Day, likely making it one of MAC's most participated events, it will now be held monthly for students to enjoy. Future Karaoke Day dates will be posted on our Instagram page [@blackscotpride](#) and will also be mentioned during the announcements.



### Upcoming Events

Going into February and the first month of the new semester, we will have several spirit days and events planned. Our first spirit day was Jersey Day on February 8th. Students participated by wearing their favourite team's colours, jerseys, or t-shirts to school. Next in partnership with the Art Council, is the Valentine's Day Card Sale. Students can choose from a variety of cards crafted by the Art Council and add a heartfelt message to their friend or partner or teacher. Cards will be distributed on Valentine's Day and all proceeds made will be donated to an anti-bullying charity chosen by the SAC. Finally, we will recognize Pink Shirt Day on February 28th to stand against bullying of all forms to create a more positive and safe world for everyone. To show support for anti-bullying, MAC students are encouraged to wear a pink shirt or hoodie.



On behalf of the SAC, we wish all of MAC a fantastic beginning to Semester 2!

Make sure to follow [@blackscotpride](#) on Instagram, and listen to the morning announcements for more updates on upcoming events in February!

### 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.**



## 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

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](https://myBlueprint.ca/tdsb) opened on Friday, February 9, 2024 and **will close** on **Thursday, February 22, 2024.**

Information regarding courses was delivered in a classroom presentation format the week of February 5th. Course Fair took place Thursday, February 8th.

### OUAC.OCAS Important Dates

E.Y.I...	COLLEGE OCAS	UNIVERSITY OUAC
COST	\$125 5 program choices	\$155 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: Merit Award**

Merit was started in 1996 by a group of Toronto residents, who believed in the importance of supporting and inspiring grade 11 and 12 high school students to stay in school and pursue post secondary education.

**NEW: The Study and Go Abroad School Finder Fairs** are coming together to offer you even more study options. Check out the Canadian pavilion for local and out-of-province universities and colleges. International pavilion to meet with institutions from around the world, including the UK, US, Australia, Switzerland, France, Belgium etc. Don't forget to visit the Travel Zone for work abroad, internships, immersive language travel and volunteering.

When? Sunday, March 3, 2024 - Fair Times: 1 pm – 5 pm

Free Seminars: 12 noon – 5 pm

Where? Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building



**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!

**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**

**STEAM Design**

Program Dates: July 2 - 26, 2024

Application open until March 31, 2024

The **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) **Design** Program is an experiential learning program with an equity focus, as it is designed for grades 10-12 students identifying with groups that are underrepresented in health sciences (i.e., Black, Indigenous, Filipino, Latin American, racialized, and/or from any background experiencing socio-economic barriers)

**Click here to APPLY**



**STEAM**

(University of Toronto continued:)

**Blueprint:**

Program Dates: July 8 – August 2, 2024

Application open until March 24, 2024

Blueprint is an academic enrichment program designed for highly motivated Black students interested in science and engineering. Blueprint is open to students currently in Grades 10 and 11, and are interested in careers in STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Math).

**Click here to APPLY**



**Business and Computer Science**

The Annual Canadian Computing Competition run by the University of Waterloo will take place in our Macdonald computer lab on February 21st from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. The Mac Coding club has been preparing for months, meeting every Tuesday at lunch. Good luck to all students competing!



**Library Update**

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH - All this month we

are showcasing some amazing fiction and non-fiction titles to highlight the achievements and stories of Black Canadians. These are on display all this month so students and staff had a chance to check them out more readily.

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK! In honour of "Love month" this month, students have the opportunity to have a "Blind Date" with a book. Students can pick up a specially wrapped book from the display and then take it home to unwrap and read it. After they read the book, they complete a pink ballot to "rate their date" (rate their book). Ballots are due into the library by the end of February, after which there will be a draw for prizes!

FREEDOM TO READ WEEK in Canada is from Feb.18-24th. It is an "annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, which is guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms" (Book and Periodical Council). Here at the library, students can check out our "banned book display" and participate in trivia and puzzles to raise awareness about books that have been previously challenged or banned. Students are encouraged to think about the importance of freedom of speech and intellectual freedom and what it means in their own lives.



**Click here to learn more!**

Congratulations go out to Iman Hussein, our latest JUST READ IT winner. Due to her book review submission, she won a free book in January. For a chance to win your own free book, submit a quick book recommendation on **JUST READ IT!**



## Department of Mathematics

### Upcoming Math Contest

Pascal (Grade 9), Cayley (Grade 10) and Fermat (Grade 11) (University of Waterloo) Math Contests will take place on Wednesday, February 28th, 2024 at 9:00a.m. in room 225. The cost per participant is \$6.00 (CAD). If you are interested in participating, please connect with Mr. Hung in person in Rm 225 by no later than Friday February 9th.

### Extra Help and Math Homework Club:

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

### Math Homework Club:

Extra help is available to all math students on a FCFS basis Monday to Friday from 8:25 to 8:55am in Rm 225.

### Math Peer Tutoring:

If you are interested in becoming a math peer tutor or being tutored please join the Math Peer Tutoring Google Classroom. There is a google form to fill out and a meeting will be held within 1 to 1.5 weeks to match up tutors and tutees. If you signed up from before you need to sign up again so we know you are still interested. If you have any questions please see Ms. Lasenby in Rm 230 or Ms. Peza in Rm 232.



### Mac Pals:

Mac PALS is up and running! Mac PALS (Peer Assisted Leadership Support) are a group of senior students that work one on one with students to support them in their classes. If a student identifies as needing a peer tutor they will be connected to a Mac PAL and together they will establish a schedule to meet in person or virtually. If you believe your child/ward would benefit from a peer tutor, please reach out to [matthew.sheehan@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:matthew.sheehan@tdsb.on.ca) so that he can connect your child/ward to a Mac PAL.

## At Home Supports Available

### FREE, Unlimited Online Tutoring:

The TDSB is continuing to support students with unfinished learning. Through the Ministry's funding for Tutoring programs, we are pleased to announce that TDSB students will now have access to free, unlimited, online tutoring, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We will be working with **Paper** and **Brainfuse**. Parents/Guardians/Caregivers and/or Students (18 years or older) who wish to participate in one of these free online tutoring services should contact the company directly to learn more about their services and the registration process.

### FREE help in the Community/Online Mathify:

Need extra help with math homework? Mathify is free 1:1 Grade 6-12 math tutoring with Ontario Certified Teachers! Build your math skills and confidence with a personalized math coach. To support learning at home, tutors are available online Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET and 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET Saturday and Sunday. Please visit **TVO Mathify** for more information.

**Athletics Update**

Our Athletic Council ran a 3-Point Basketball Contest during lunch between Feb 12th and 15th. Thank you to all that participated for making this initiative a success!

Winter Sports are moving into the second half of their seasons in Boys and Girls Indoor Soccer, volleyball, basketball and hockey.

Stay up to date by following our Instagram page for all Athletic and Intramural information, scores, pictures and highlights!

**IG Link: @macdonaldathletics**

**Ski Trip**

Our one day ski/snowboarding trip this year to Mount St. Louis Moonstone on February 22nd is a complete sell-out.

A coach bus will be picking students up **7:30am sharp** and returning by 5 pm. Do NOT MISS THE BUS!

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



# February

			1 Day 1	2 Day 2 Semester 2 Begins
5 Day 1	6 Day 2	7 Day 1 Report Card Distribution School Council 7pm	8 Day 2	9 Day 1 Course Selections: My Blueprint Opens
12 Day 2 Gr 12 Awards Applications Due	13 Day 1	14 Day 2	15 Day 1	16 Day 2 PA Day
19 Day 1	20 Day 2	21 Day 1 Late Start - 9:55am	22 Day 2 Course Selections: My Blueprint Closes	23 Day 1
26 Day 2	27 Day 1	28 Day 2 Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day Late Start - 9:55am	29 Day 1	March 1 Day 1

