



# Macdonald Collegiate

## ••Newsletter

January 2025

### Student Activity Council - January Update by Rawan Hariz Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

We hope you had an enjoyable and restful break and are ready to kick off the new calendar year!

Before we headed off for the winter break, the SAC organized some amazing holiday-themed activities to spread cheer.

**Door Decorating Contest:** December was all about celebrating the holiday season, and we kicked things off with our annual Door Decorating contest on December 18th. This event was a great success, with students bringing in materials to decorate their Period 2 classroom doors. The doors were judged by SAC members in two categories: Traditional and Most Eco-Friendly.

Congratulations to Mrs. Mouratidis' class for winning Most Eco-Friendly, and Mr. Fraser's class for winning Most Traditional. We hope you enjoyed those well-deserved pizza parties!



### Holiday Cheer Assembly

To wrap up before the break, we had our annual Holiday Cheer Assembly and Ugly Sweater or Pyjama Day on December 20th. Students and staff were encouraged to come to school in their pajamas or ugly sweaters and join us after classes for the assembly. It was a fantastic event, with many students showcasing their talents through singing, dancing and even a Polar Express skit put together by our SAC and Heads of Council members. It was a perfect way to spread holiday cheer before we headed out for the holidays!

As we jump into the New Year, the SAC has lots of exciting events and spirit days planned for this month! On January 14th, grab a pal or a friend group and show up with a pair of items that rhyme! You can be as creative or simple as you like! For example, one could hold a teddy bear and the other a pear! No foul language or offensive items are permitted.

On January 21st, join us in the cafeteria during lunch for a fun game of Bingo Dash! We'll be hosting three exciting rounds of Bingo, and the winner of each round will receive a gift card. Don't miss out on the fun!

As the semester comes to an end, on behalf of the Student Activity Council, we would like to wish all students the best of luck on their culminating activities and final exams. Stay focused and finish the semester strong.

Be sure to follow us on our instagram [@blackscotpride\\_tdsb](https://www.instagram.com/blackscotpride_tdsb) to stay updated on what's happening here at Mac!

Our next **Parent Council Meeting** is Tuesday, February 18th at 7PM.





## Welcome to Guidance

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  
Ms Erin MacKay

Surnames A - I  
Surnames J - R  
Surnames S - Z

Line.Brassard@tdsb.on.ca  
Bhanuja.Hardeo@tdsb.on.ca  
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## Exam Tips and Schedule

With the exams coming soon at the end of January we have sourced out some **Exam Tips** from the Centre for Learning Strategy Support @ U of Toronto. Please find the **Exam Schedule Here**.

**OUAC** - Apply to University - Equal consideration deadline is January 15.

**OCAS** - Apply to College - Equal consideration deadline is February 1.

## ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 10-12 - OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) requirement



### OSSD Requirements-Started Grade 9 In or Before Fall 2023

Grade 9 - New OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) requirement  
**OSSD Requirements-Started Grade 9 Fall 2024 and After**

**Grade 11 Career Conversations** will begin in early December. This is a great opportunity for your child to connect with their alpha guidance counselor and discuss pathways. The more they learn about options, requirements, job prospects and opportunities, the better chance they will have of building a life for themselves that makes them happy and fulfilled.

### NIGHT SCHOOL - Semester 2

Please note that Semester 2 night school includes credit recovery, full credit and remedial Math. You will need to CAREFULLY read the information and follow the registration steps.

### Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

A PLAR Webinar for families will be held on **Wednesday January 15th from 7-8:30**.

After a short presentation from Central Guidance, the Subject Co-ordinators will run breakout groups to answer any questions about the process.

A link will be provided once this is arranged.

Families can find the application on the TDSB Website under Guidance.

Complete packages are due by **February 27th at 4:00 p.m.**



### Job Opportunities with Ontario Public Service Summer Employment



**Department of Mathematics**

**Math Culminating Activities (30%)** – Moratorium is from January 16th to January 21st and exam days are from January 22nd to January 28th.

To be proactive, please consider starting preparing for the upcoming culminating and the final exam. Exams (January 22 to January 28) will be scheduled by blocks.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		January 22 Day 1 Period 1	January 23 Day 1 Period 2	January 24 Day 1 Period 3
January 27 Day 1 Period 4	January 28 Credit Rescue			

**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 from Mr. Hung to all math students on a first come first serve basis from Monday to Friday **during the second half of lunch in Room 225.**

**Special Education Department**

The Academic Resource Centre is available as an accommodation for students writing exams who would like to write in the alternative setting, use assistive technology, etc.

Messaging about this went out in early January. If any students missed signing up and would like to use the ARC for their exams, please **contact Mr. Pascaris** in the Special Education department.



**Student Success - Health and Wellness SHSM; Experiential Learning**

On December 13th, our SHSM and Kinesiology students went to the University of Waterloo to participate in the Kin Lab Days. Students signed up for labs of interest and were able to apply their knowledge learned in class to real life experiences. Students were introduced to the sensory inputs used for balance as well as how those inputs can be affected. Additionally, students learned about heart rate, blood pressure, and cardiovascular testing. Students were introduced to neuroscience and examined muscle activation during exercise. Students learned about the human skeletal system, athletic taping and musculoskeletal and cardiovascular systems.



**December Meet and Greet**

On December 18th, Grade 10 SHSM hopefuls met with grade 11 and 12 SHSM students for a pizza lunch. This was an amazing opportunity for SHSM students to ask their questions about SHSM and learn from our current SHSM students. The lunch was well attended and many SHSM prizes were distributed for students asking and answering questions.

The best part was that students are well informed about what SHSM will look like next year.



## Student Success (Cont) Dual Credit - Spots Available for Grade 11 and 12 Students

### What is a Dual Credit?

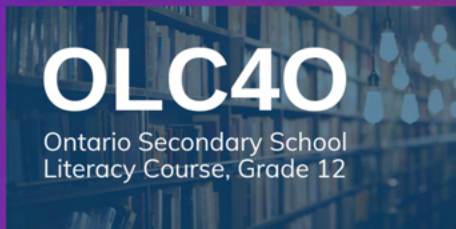
- A dual credit is a college course, delivered on a college campus, by a college professor which you add into your regular homeschool timetable.
- They are called DUAL credits because students earn TWO credits: a secondary high school credit AND a college credit
- Dual credits require half the in class time as a traditional high school course, and are offered once per week for a 3-4 hour block of time.
- Dual credits are FREE - tuition, transportation and supplies are all included
- Course offerings include a huge array of interest areas and potential careers paths which go above and beyond what is offered at high school, many are lab or shop based with hands on experiences.
- While others provide you with a lecture style format in a college classroom.
- Dual credit programs are intended to assist secondary school students in completing their OSSD and supporting a successful transition to college and/or apprenticeship programs.



If your child/ward is interested, connect with Mr. Brinder in the Coop Office in the Library. His Office Hours are 11:00 am -12:00 am.

### English Department Update

**OSSLT:** Grade 10 students will be writing the OSSLT sometime this Spring. More details to come soon. Any Grade 11/12 students who were not yet successful will have the opportunity to participate in this OSSLT session as well. Students can join the Literacy Google Classroom to prepare and practice: luzmv57. Reminder: You must successfully pass the OSSLT or its course equivalent OLC40- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course as part of your high school diploma requirements (OSSD). The OLC40 course is being offered at MAC in Semester 2.



See your Guidance Counsellor for more information on the course and potential next steps.

### Social Science and Family Studies Department

Students in Ms. Stavrou's World Cultures class and Ms. Geary's Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology and Sociology class, participated in a Field Trip to the Gardiner Museum this semester.

This experiential learning opportunity gave students the chance to develop their critical and creative thinking skills through the Sculpted Identities session that the museum offers. Students explored the museum and uncovered the narratives told by the diverse works in the ceramics displayed.

We heard about the stories behind several pieces of ceramics and how they revealed the layers of identity of the artist and contemplated questions of equity and social justice.

Students were also able to learn the techniques used in ceramic making by creating their own unique works of art that expressed their personal and cultural identities.



Take a look at our creations and it's easy to see that fun was had by all



### Lunar New Year and Marks Review Days

Marks review day is scheduled for the morning of January 29.

On this day students can review their culminating assignments, exams, and final grades with their semester 1 teachers. Students who cannot attend that day because of Lunar New Year celebrations and other commitments will be able to review on **Friday January 31** from 2:15 -3:15.

Period 1	9:00 - 9:40
Period 2	9:45 - 10:20
Period 3	10:25 - 11:00
Period 4	11:05 - 11:40
Lunch	11:40 - 12:40
Credit Rescue by invitation	12:40 - 3:15

Semester 2, Day 1, Period 1	9:00 – 10:00
Semester 2, Day 1, Period 2	10:05 – 11:05
Lunch	11:05 – 12:05
Semester 2, Day 1, Period 3	12:05 – 1:05
Semester 2, Day 1, Period 4	1:10 -2:10
Semester 1 Culminating, Exam and Marks Review	2:15 – 3:15

Jan 29th Marks Review/Credit Rescue      Jan 31st - Marks Review in lieu of Lunar New Year

### 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.

**Please visit our Website Here.**



# January

6 Day 2 Field Trip Moratorium Begins	7 Day 1	8 Day 2 Late Start - 9:55	9 Day 1	10 Day 2
13 Day 1 Field Trip Moratorium	14 Day 2 SAC Rhyme without Reason	15 Day 1 EQAO Equal Consideration Late Start - 9:55	16 Day 2 Moratorium →	17 Day 1 SAC Bingo Bash!
20 Day 2 Moratorium	21 Day 1 Moratorium	22 D1 P1 Exams Begin →	23 D1 P2 Exams	24 D1 P3 Exams
27 D1 P4 Exams	28 Exams Exams Finish	29 Welcome 2025 Exam Review	30 PA Day	31 Day 1 Semester 2 and Exam Review Special Schedule

