



Macdonald Collegiate

••Newsletter

February 2025

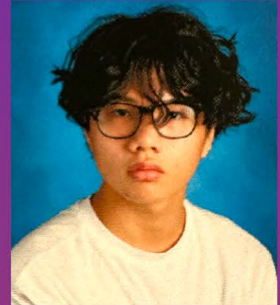
Student Activity Council - February Update by Alphen Tan

As we roll into the new semester, students have the opportunity to meet new teachers, make new friends, and learn new subjects. Although exams can be stressful for our Mac students, we had many fun events during this crisp New Year that eased the students' minds.

The SAC held events such as Rhyme Without Reason (January 14) and Bingo Bash (January 21).

The first spirit day of the month was Rhyme Without Reason. On this day, students brought in two items that have rhyming names, such as socks and rocks. Mac students surely filled the school with their school spirit.

There were many participants, and the SAC saw some great rhymes such as DJ and PJ.



The second spirit day the SAC held was Bingo Bash. This was a fun event where students played bingo in the cafeteria for a prize. With screams of excitement and laughter in the air, students seemed to love this one as we filled the entire left side of the cafeteria with school spirit. The goal of Bingo Bash is to get one full row of numbers. The first person to achieve this goal and yell "Bingo" won a \$20 Tim Hortons' gift card.

As always, the SAC has even more fun and exciting events planned. In the beginning of February, Valentine's cards were on sale in the Main Hallway. Students could buy one for a friend, a special friend, or a teacher. Each card had space for student messages and the cards were supposed to be delivered during Period 1 on February 13th. However that turned into a "Snow Day", followed by a PA Day followed by Family Day, and so cards were finally delivered on Tuesday February 18th! Even though they were slightly late everyone really appreciated them!

After Valentine's, the SAC held Twin Day on February 20th. Students could match with another student or many other students to show off their school spirit. The SAC was very excited to see what Mac came up with, as Twin Day is one of the most beloved spirit days at Mac!

Make sure to follow @blackscotpride_tdsb on Instagram for the latest updates.

Please find the minutes to our **Parent Council Meetings Here!**

Our next **Parent Council Meeting** is Tuesday, May 6th 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
Erin.MacKay@tdsb.on.ca



TDSB Form for Opting Out of e-Learning Graduation Requirement

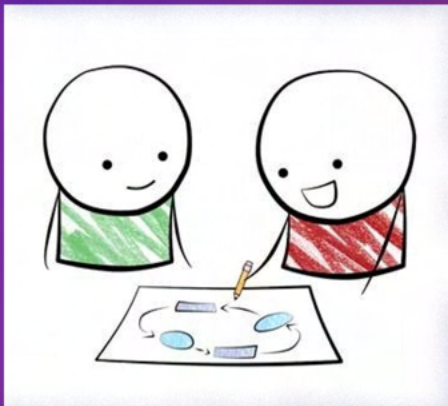
Students are required to earn two e-Learning credits to graduate from secondary school.

Students and parents/guardians may choose to opt back into the e-Learning graduation requirement at any time if they change their decision. **Click here to download the form!**

Student Success - In School Supports

Mac PALS are ready to help Semester 2! 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 erin.mackay@tdsb.on.ca so that she can connect your child/ward to a Mac PAL.

Extra Help in the Community



Brainfuse - Toronto Public Library

Online homework help for students in grades K-12 offered daily from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Also includes practice tests, support for adult learners, writing assistance, skills building and more.

Click here to Register!

Mathify

To support learning at home and in class, tutors are available online Monday to Friday from 9 am to 9 pm ET, and Saturdays and Sundays from 3 pm to 9 pm ET. Boost math understanding and confidence with a personalized math coach that works with your child's schedule. Access the math tutoring website from any digital device, whenever you need the help.

Click here to Register!

Mid-Semester Credit Rescue

On April 10th teachers will be hosting their Semester 2 Mid- Semester Credit Rescue program - Find It, Finish It (FIFI). FIFI is a day program where students have the opportunity to rescue their credit, catch up on missed assignments or receive extra help in their classes. During FIFI, students complete assignments with the support of their classroom teachers. FIFI also supports students who are in need of help with curriculum they are struggling with in class.

Department of Mathematics

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 (The ARC) is open all four periods of the day. Students with IEPs may use room 132 for academic support, an alternative space to complete work and evaluations, or to discuss their IEP, accommodations, assistive technology, or anything else.

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" students have the opportunity to have a "Blind Date" with a book. From February 3rd -13th, 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 by March 3rd, after which there will be a draw for prizes! Good Luck!

Freedom to Read Week in Canada is from Feb.23-28th. 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).

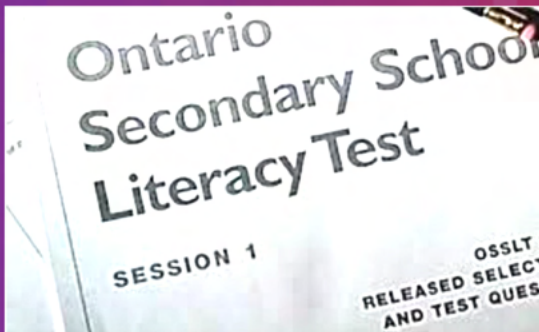
Here at the library, students can check out our "banned book display" and participate in trivia and puzzles to raise awareness about books that have been previously challenged or banned.

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!**



English Department

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (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.**

You can do it if you think you can. ~ Mr Hung

Athletics and Physical Education

Option Selection

It's time to pick your courses for next year. Research shows a positive effect of physical activity on one's academic performance and mental health. Be sure to choose the right fit for you by visiting our **Course Options Video** or speaking with a physed teacher.



Intramurals

Ten teams participated in our most recent dodgeball intramurals.

Nine were eliminated, and only one team learned the five d's of dodgeball: "dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge"!

Congratulations to our winners, Strike Force!

Athletics

Congratulations go out to several teams that have advanced to the next round of playoffs:

The senior girls volleyball team won a tough game against York Mills CI and advanced to the North Regional Finals.

The varsity girls indoor soccer team placed third in the standings and will be competing in the quarter finals against Downsview. The senior boys soccer team has one more league game but will be going straight into semi finals. Goodluck in the playoffs Mac!

Make sure to follow us on **instagram @macdonaldathletics_tdsb** for other sports updates and events!

Macdonald Pantry Program

Macdonald is participating in the TDSB's Nutrition Pantry program, which provides nutritious, non-perishable food to participating families in our school community.

Any student or parent/guardian wishing to receive a package from our pantry can complete the google form linked below or by using the QR code displayed.

Our team will then be in contact to select items with you and arrange pickup.

Alternatively, students can speak with their guidance counselor about the program.

There is no charge for accessing this service.

Here follows a list of some of our commonly-received items:

- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Canned tuna
- Apple sauce cups
- Individual oatmeal packets
- Canned fruit
- Individual bowls of Cheerios
- Breton crackers
- Canned beans



Click Here to Access the Google Form

Celebrating African Heritage Month at MAC

The month of February is recognized as African Heritage Month within the TDSB.

The Black Students' Alliance here at MAC worked with the staff to create a display board with information on over eighty black Canadians and Americans who have contributed to the advancement of black citizens. There was also an interactive African drumming session at lunch time for all students who wanted to participate. Students and staff practiced basic drumming techniques and played along to Bob Marley's music and other Caribbean artists. Students and staff expressed their appreciation to the presenters for this session.



Macatronics

The M.C.I. Robotics Club (also known as Macatronics) is a new and exciting addition to our school's many extracurriculars. There were many highlights this year, some of which included the incredible efforts of our fundraising and marketing committee. We successfully raised hundreds of dollars for our club, organizing many food and beverage sales, which proved to be immensely popular with the student body! Additionally, we designed, programmed, and constructed a complex robot, capable of performing a multitude of tasks. We attended multiple qualifier events and represented our school proudly at FTC First Tech Competitions, which hosted a panoply of schools across the city and even Ontario. While starting a brand new club was not without its challenges, we met them with professionalism, diligence, and enthusiasm. The M.C.I. Robotics Club had an auspicious start this year, and we are looking forward to an even better sophomore outing!



Chinese Heritage Month

The TDSB proudly recognizes Chinese Heritage Month in February each year.

This year, we celebrate the Year of the Snake: Tenacious and Transformative. We hope to encourage students, staff, and the TDSB community to make impactful changes amidst challenges.

All TDSB students were invited to participate in the popular Chinese Heritage Month Poster Contest. We are excited to share the **winning posters here!**

In addition, all TDSB students and staff were invited to submit a one-minute video on one of four guiding questions emphasizing the importance of Chinese heritage or traditions.

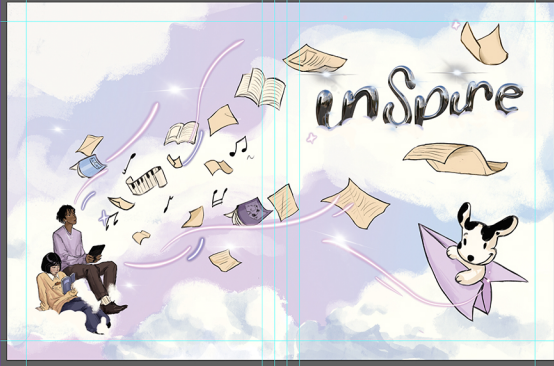
Submissions are currently being collected, and a selection of the entries will be posted shortly.

Here at Macdonald Collegiate Institute, we are proud to celebrate Chinese Heritage Month.

We celebrate Chinese heritage in a multitude of ways, including sharing fun facts about Chinese history and culture during our morning announcements, and playing both popular and culturally relevant music to begin our day!

Please follow us on X at **@tdsbChineseHM** for daily messages throughout February.

Yearbook Deadline



The Student Activity Fee is not optional, it is mandatory. It is collected every year and supports sports teams and all of our Clubs and Councils extracurricular activities. It also pays for your Student Card and your Yearbook. **The absolute deadline** to pay your Student Activity Fee and receive a Yearbook is **Thursday March 6th**. Please pay using **SchoolCashOnline**. Unfortunately there is no way to "buy-it-later".

- Thank you!

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.

February				
3 Day 1	4 Day 2	5 Day 1 SAC Valentines Sales	6 Day 2 Assembly Schedule	7 Day 1 myBlueprint Opens
10 Day 2	11 Day 1	12 Day 2	13 Day 1	14 Day 2 PA Day
17 Family Day	18 Day 2 School Council Meeting - 7pm	19 Day 1 Late Start - 9:55	20 Day 2 myBlueprint Closes SAC Twin Day	21 Day 1 Drumming in the cafe!
24 Day 2	25 Day 1	26 Day 2 Pink Shirt Day Late Start - 9:55	27 Day 1	28 Day 2