



Macdonald Collegiate

••Newsletter

March 2025

Student Activity Council - March Update by Abinesh Thayalan

As we roll into March, the SAC keeps up the momentum to ease the transition into this new semester. These next few months tend to fly by, so the SAC has taken every opportunity to build school spirit and create invaluable experiences.

On February 20th, it was Twin Day - a MAC favorite where friends come to school matching. Some kept it simple with identical hoodies, while others went all out, almost as if they were identical clones of one another. The effort and collaboration put into this day made it a memorable day of the month.

We ended the month of February with Pink Shirt Day (February 28). Pink Shirt Day is an important time when students show their support for anti-bullying initiatives. It is a day about respect, inclusion, and standing up for those we love. It was great to see MAC students and staff come in droves to support the movement, with many wearing pink attire.



On the same day was Karaoke Day. A recurring event in which MAC students gathered in the cafeteria to perform their favorite songs or cheer their peers from the audience. It's a time when students take their minds off academic stress, and truly live in the moment. The Cafeteria was full of students enjoying the music, and laughter of their peers.

The SAC had even more plans for March, starting with Country vs Country Club on March 5th. Students could choose to either wear plaid button-ups, bootcut jeans, cowboy boots, cowboy hats, and even overalls following a western country theme. Or they could wear what members would wear at a country club, such as tennis outfits, like tennis skirts, collared shirts, khaki shorts, or polo shirts. This was the first time MAC had ever tried this, and it was interesting to see which side the students chose to dress up as.

We also have a MAC Wear Day, where students can proudly wear their MAC merchandise, from hoodies to shirts. If students do not have any MAC wear, then they can wear our MAC colours - red and black. It's a fun way to showcase school pride and spirit!

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

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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!**

Continuing Education Registration

- Summer School - **Con. Ed Summer School:** Registration will open in April.
- Summer School classes will be held from July 2 to July 25, 2025

Monday to Friday, from 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. These classes are available only in July.

E-Learning Summer School



eLearning Summer School: Registration for the 2025 e-Summer School Program will open on Tuesday, April 15 at 10:00 AM for TDSB students. Please note that **ONLY** Grade 11 and 12 online Summer School credit courses will be delivered asynchronously through the **e-Summer Program**.

Volunteer and Job opportunities can be found in students Google classroom.

Student Success - April 10th is Find It, Finish It Day

Find It, Finish It (FIFI) is an opportunity for learning to pause and allow students to demonstrate any missed expectations to their teachers. 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.

FIFI also supports students who are in need of help with curriculum they are struggling with in class.

When is Find It Finish Day?

This day will take place on April 10th (before the report card).

On FIFI days, students will follow their timetable and complete assignments that need to be finished (with the support of their classroom teacher).



Who is FIFI for?

FIFI is for all students 9-12, who are missing assignments, but for grade 9 and 10 students it is more formalized and paperwork is provided for the student to become organized (an organizational form).

Why is this important?

This is important as it allows students an extra opportunity to get their work done. It helps students to get on track to complete and not repeat.

Special Education Department

There are some great transition programs that Student Accessibility Services at York University has coming up for students with disabilities and their families.

For more information about these workshops, please see below and visit our website <https://students.yorku.ca/accessibility/transitioning-to-university>

1) Strengthening Transitions to Post-Secondary for Autistic Students and their Families:

These informational sessions are designed for grade 10, 11, and 12 students who are Autistic and planning to attend post-secondary, as well as their families.

Why Attend?

- Understanding the realities of transitioning to post-secondary education for students and families.
- Accessing academic and non-academic support services.
- Developing strategies for academic success.
- Learning from current York University students about life on campus.
- Building independence and fostering confidence.

Virtual (Zoom) Session: Thursday, March 20, 2025 (7pm to 8pm)

Registration: **Strengthening Transitions (Virtual Session)**

Please note: The last day to register in this session is **Thursday, March 20.**



2) Academic Accommodations and University Workshop:

All high school students and parents (or other support persons) who have questions or concerns about the transition to university for students with disabilities are invited to attend this session. This **workshop** is for you, your family and support team to ask questions about the transition to university.

You will learn about:

- Documentation required to access academic accommodations;
- The supports and accommodations available through Student Accessibility Services at York;
- Transition planning.

This workshop will take place from 7 to 8p.m. on the date listed below.

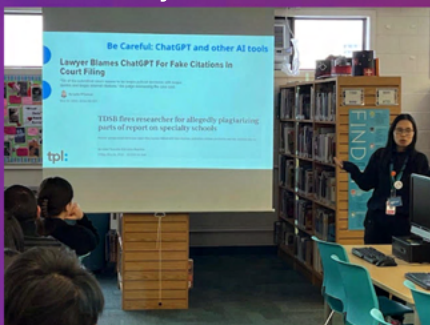
To participate, register before the workshop begins.

Wednesday, May 14, 2025: **Registration Form**

MAC Library Learning Commons Update: Toronto Public Library Visit

During the last week of February, MAC students had the opportunity to take part in information sessions run by the Toronto Public Library. The sessions introduced students to TPL resources, programs and services as well as research strategies, citation techniques and how to spot misinformation on the internet.

Students also had the opportunity to obtain a library card or renew their old one. Our partnership with the TPL is definitely an enriching experience for our students and we are grateful for the TPL high-school outreach librarians for their great work with our students.



Library Commons Continued:

The OSSLT is Coming UP

The Spring session of the OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) is fast approaching. Successful completion of the Literacy test is one of the requirements to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).



The test will take place on **Tuesday April 8th and Wed April 9th.**

Grade 10 students will write the test as well as students in grade 11 and 12 who have not yet participated or who are retaking the test.

Students will use their own TDSB issued chromebooks to complete the test. The Library is gearing up to offer information sessions to all students who will be writing the test. These will take place starting on Thursday March 20th through to March 31st. Extra help sessions will also be offered in the library at lunch and after school in the two weeks leading up to the test.

In preparation for the OSSLT, students are encouraged to join the MAC Literacy google classroom, **class code: luzmv57**. Students are also encouraged to visit the EQAO website to become familiar with the online practice test and its platform: **www.eqao.com**

Spaces and Services @ Agincourt Library



Youth Hub

The Youth Hub is a staffed safe space for teens between Grade 7 and 12. It is open Monday to Friday from 3:30 to 7:00 PM. We offer free snacks, laptops, board games, free printing, and programs for teens. Students can drop in any time during our open hours, and no library card is required to use any of our services!

Here is the Youth Hub Calendar for **March**.

Shout Outs from the Music Department

Congratulations to all the Band and String students on their wonderful performances at the Kiwanis Music Festival this year. The Kiwanis Music Festival is 82 years old this year!

The Concert Band received a Platinum award, the String Orchestra received Silver, and the Symphony Orchestra received a Gold award!

In recognition of their performance, the Symphony Orchestra has been invited to the Provincial Finals. Thank-you for all your hardwork and dedication Macdonald Musicians - Bravo!! - Mr Luck.



Athletics and Physical Education Update

Congratulations to all of our winter sports teams as the winter season has come to a very successful end!

A huge shout-out to our Indoor Boys Soccer team who had a great undefeated season and won the Cities Final!



Our Mac Wrestling team had a wonderful season with two athletes making it to the OFSAA championships in Kitchener. Serop Chavez finished an impressive 6th, and his sister Simeh Chavez made it to the championship match, and came home with an OFSSA Silver medal!

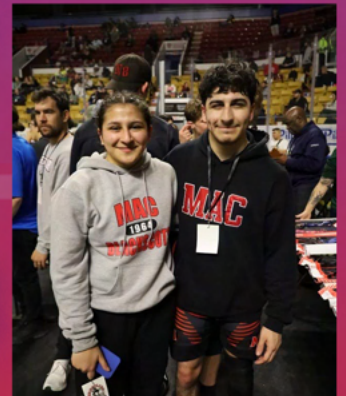
Our Senior girls volleyball team had a very successful season making it all the way to the city semi finals!

Finally, our senior girls indoor soccer team made it to the North Region Finals, coming home with a well deserved Silver medal.

The spring sports season is upon us and the signups for new sports have been posted. Go to **EMA** to sign up for any sports you are interested in trying out for. Tryouts will take place after the March Break.

Soccer intramurals are back! Games have been taking place throughout the last few weeks, with the group stages coming to an end after the break.

A very exciting event is coming up in the month of March. The Mac three point contest. Further details will be posted @macdonaldathletics_tdsb on Instagram in the coming weeks.



Islamic Heritage Month - Ramadan Resources

Saturday, March 1, 2025, marks the first week of Ramadan - one of the holiest months in the Islamic calendar. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims worldwide abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset for 29 to 30 consecutive days - as determined by the lunar calendar. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims break their fast each evening with a communal dinner called an iftar.

TDSB's Islamic Heritage Month Committee is pleased to share resources to support TDSB staff as they affirm Muslim student identities during Ramadan.

Please see the **click here to see the attached** document in support of our Muslim students.

Greek Heritage Month @ the TDSB:

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is proud to recognize Greek Heritage Month (GHM) during the month of March. This heritage is also celebrated across the Province of Ontario since 2019 with the implementation of the Hellenic Heritage Month Act, 2019.

This year marks the 10th year of recognizing GHM in the TDSB and for this reason, our theme for this year is: Odyssey - A Decade of Celebrating Greek Heritage Month.

Please see the **click here to see the attached** for the full announcement.

SHSM Update



On February 27th and 28th, our grade 11 and 12 SHSM students completed their Standard First Aid and CPR Training. These full day workshops taught students how to save lives by focusing on first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and AED for adults, children, and infants.

On April 11th, students will take part in a Sector Partner Experience with Flashpoint Training Inc. Additionally, on May 1st students will get their Ethical Certification Certificate at Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre.

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.

 <h1>March</h1> 							
3 Day 1	4 Day 2	5 Day 1	6 Day 2	7 Day 1	8 Day 2	9 Day 1	10 Day 2
11 Day 1	12 Day 2	<i>SAC Spirit Day</i>		15 Day 1	16 Day 2	17 Day 1	18 Day 2
19 Day 1	20 Day 2	<i>Late Start - 9:55</i>		23 Day 1	24 Day 2	25 Day 1	26 Day 2
27 Day 1	28 Day 2	<i>Late Start - 9:55</i>		31 Day 1	Apr 1 Day 1	<i>The next School Council Meeting is Tues. May 6th.</i>	
10 March Break →	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	Apr 2

