



Macdonald Collegiate

••Newsletter

April 2025

Student Activity Council - April Update by Sophia Avakian

As we roll into the month of April, the SAC introduces some of the best spirit days in weeks to come! These last couple months before the summer begins are always the most hectic and memorable months especially for the graduating class who want to absorb their last high school spirit events before graduating.



On April 3rd students were encouraged to come to school wearing school jerseys or even the jersey of a favourite sports team. Seeing as though April is also the month when many students celebrate and come together for Easter, the SAC will once again be setting up an Easter Egg Hunt for all students to participate in. On April 16th during lunchtime, clues as to where Easter Eggs will be hidden will be posted on our Instagram account. The prizes this year include: a Tim Horton's gift card for the student who finds the most eggs, and a free Prom ticket for any grade 12 or a free semi-formal ticket for a student in grades 9-11 who finds the Easter Egg that contains the golden ticket!



On April 9th, Staff and students are encouraged to wear pink for the International Day of Pink to stand against bullying, discrimination, and support inclusivity. Come on MAC! Let's show our unity and pride.

We continue to encourage all students to participate and get involved in all the amazing spirit events planned!

The memories formed from dressing up with friends and enjoying spirit at school do not have to stop in middle school; they can continue in high school and they definitely make for amazing memories!

Believe it or not...but we are already thinking about the next school year and so should our grade 9, 10 and 11 students! Applications for next school year's SAC positions open at 8:00 am on Monday, April 14th and close at 9:00 am on Tuesday, April 22nd (link to the Google Form Application will be found on the grades 9-11 Guidance Google Classroom).

So it's time to think about getting involved and help organize events to promote school spirit for 2025-2026!

But before we move onto next year, we have our grade 12 students to think about and they too need to think about something...COMMENCEMENT!

Commencement is fast approaching, and we do not want the grade 12 students to miss out on this important milestone! Grade 12 students, make sure to order your cap and gown through school cash online. This is essential for the graduation ceremony, so do not wait and place the order today!

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!**

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.

Credit Recovery Courses are open to current TDSB students only who have completed the course in the last two years and earned a final mark of less than 50%. Courses are offered either in the AM or PM. You can sign up for 2 credit recovery courses.

Remedial Math (for students who have failed - less than 50%) the **ONLY** option available is in-person remedial.

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**.

Having trouble understanding Summer School options. Here is a quick summary. **TDSB Summer School Programs**

Special Education Department

Read&Write for Google Chrome is an assistive technology toolbar that can help students with reading, writing and research tasks.

The Read&Write extension will automatically appear for students when signed into their TDSB account and using Google Chrome on any device, even at home.



MAC Library Learning Commons Update:

April is Poetry Month! For the month of April students will have a chance to compose their own black out poetry at our craft table. All poetry submissions are due by April 25.

Winning poems will receive prizes.

White Pine Book Club will wrap up at the end of April with voting day on Friday April 25.

Students have enjoyed reading all ten nominated books and will vote for their favourite at the end of the month.

April is Hispanic and Sikh Heritage month.

Throughout the month students can explore book displays featuring both cultures to learn more.

See you @ the library!

From the Main Office: Free Webinar Series from School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) on Substance Use, Addictive Behaviours and Youth Mental Health

We are excited to share a valuable opportunity to support your child's well-being.

School Mental Health Ontario is offering a free webinar series as part of the **By Your Side learning hub**, designed to help parents/caregivers/guardians navigate important topics related to substance use and addictive behaviours.



**School
Mental Health
Ontario**

This expert-led series will provide insights and practical strategies on:

- How to talk about substance use at home
- The intersection of addictions and mental health
- Recognizing signs of substance use and behavioural addictions
- Current trends in student substance use in Ontario
- Technology overuse and problematic gaming

The webinars will also include answers to questions that parents/caregivers can provide ahead of the webinar, giving you the chance to ask questions and gain practical guidance.

- Sessions run throughout April and May
- **Register for free today**
- For more information and to submit questions prior to the webinars, please use this link:

By Your Side Webinars - Parents and caregivers - School Mental Health Ontario



We encourage all parents/caregivers/guardians to participate in this informative series and thank you for sharing this with your school communities.

If you have any questions, please email:
mentalhealthandwellbeing@tdsb.on.ca

Spain 🇪🇸 and Portugal 🇵🇹 - March Break 2025



Ten days in **Spain and Portugal** including myself and three other chaperones (Addison Hung, Bryan Fraser and Magdalene Stavrou) and 26 students was an amazing March Break adventure! Despite the rain and chilly temperatures on our first day in **Madrid**, the trip was absolutely phenomenal!

We were in awe of the stunning architecture, the rich history and of course, the churros were absolutely delicious!

One of the highlights of our trip was wandering through the narrow cobblestone streets of **Ávila**, a city rich with medieval charm. Walking along its ancient walls and exploring the impres-

sive fortress that once protected the city transported us back in time. The history, the architecture, and the stunning views left us in awe.

As our time in **Spain** came to an end, we found ourselves wandering the charming streets of **Salamanca**, home to the oldest university in Europe. If only we could turn back time and study in such an awe-inspiring place! The university's architecture, surrounded by chapels, a monastery, unique little shops, and traditional foods, made it feel like stepping into a different era. The combination of history, culture, and stunning buildings made **Salamanca** an unforgettable stop on our journey.

Next stop was **Portugal**. From the moment we arrived, we were all captivated by the charm, history, and vibrant energy of this beautiful country.

Coimbra was an absolute dream. Wandering through the old town felt like stepping back in time with its narrow cobbled streets, picturesque views, and a sense of history at every turn. The city's beauty is truly timeless.

Next, we went to **Porto**, and wow! What a place! Climbing the tower of a historic church and taking in the breathtaking views of the city from above was an unforgettable experience. Having lunch by the **Douro River** is the way to live! The combination of great food, stunning views, and a relaxed atmosphere made it the perfect way to soak in the city's charm.

One of the absolute highlights was visiting the famous **Livraria Lello**. As a book lover and English teacher, I was in heaven - and believe it or not, so were the students - they even purchased a book or two! The stunning architecture, the magical atmosphere, it's no wonder J.K. Rowling found inspiration here for Harry Potter. Walking through the streets and hearing live performers made the experience even more special. Even our students danced in the streets!



There's something about **Portugal** that just filled our souls with joy.



Next March Break, we are off to Paris, The Riviera and Rome.

If you are interested in learning more about next year's trip, we welcome you to check out the itinerary, price and much more using this link provided by EF Tours: <https://www.eftours.ca/2842684ZK>

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at gail.georgiou@tdsb.on.ca. - Gail Georgiou Assistant Curriculum Leader of Student Leadership/Voice/Engagement and English Teacher

Athletics and Physical Education Update

Congratulations to our soccer intramural winners - Avi FC. They played well and came out on top after a very successful season. Thank you to everyone on the 12 teams that participated, we hope to see you in the next intramural season.

The MAC **Three Point Contest** made a comeback!

This year it was extremely successful with many students participating and many students coming back to play multiple rounds. The competition was intense with a tie-breaker round in the playoffs, but one student was victorious.



Congratulations to our winner - Ali!

Stay tuned for information about basketball intramurals which will be starting up soon!

Follow [@macdonaldathletics_tdsb](#) on instagram for further updates.



Greek Heritage Month @ the TDSB:

March is recognized as Hellenic Heritage Month throughout the TDSB.

On March 25th, the Macdonald Association of Canadian Cultures (MACC) under the direction of Staff Advisors, Laura Geary and Hellen Jun, transformed our school cafeteria to a place where students created head wreaths known as the laurel wreath and the Hellenic Students' Association invited students to make their very own martaki (a red and white bracelet worn in March as a tradition to welcome spring). We also had the beautiful sounds of the bouzouki playing and students and staff enjoyed themselves dancing to a few dances - Kalamatiano and Hasaposerviko.

I was truly honoured to attend the closing ceremony at the Greek Community Centre on Saturday, April 5th, where we celebrated the 10th anniversary of Greek Heritage Month alongside fellow TDSB teachers, staff, students, and members of the Greek Community committee.

The highlight of the event was watching six of our incredible students (Anastasia Tsiopelas, Zoe Karkas, Joanna Berdousis, Sophia Avakian, Foti Fotiou and Alyssa Smilis) perform the traditional "Levendiko" dance with pride and passion, doing an outstanding job representing Macdonald.

A heartfelt thank you to staff advisor Magdalene Stavrou for her unwavering commitment to the Macdonald Hellenic Students' Association and for helping keep traditions alive. Opa!

Gail Georgiou

Assistant Curriculum Leader of Student Leadership/Voice/Engagement and English Teacher



Spring Concert



Mac Music is proud to announce that our annual

Spring Concert is scheduled for **Thursday, May 22!**

The String Orchestra, Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra will be performing along with a number of soloists and our choir.

Sweet treats will be available in the main hall and there will also be with a special video presentation!

It starts at 7PM right here in our very own Mac auditorium!

Come on out and support our hard working **Mac Musicians**.

All are welcome... hope to see you there!

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>April</h1>														
					1	Day 1		2	Day 2		3	Day 1		4	Day 2				
										SAC Spirit Day									
7	Day 1		8	Day 2		9	Day 1		10	Day 2		11	Day 1						
					International Pink Shirt Day					Find it Finish it Day!									
14	Day 2		15	Day 1		16	Day 2		17	Day 1		18							
															Good Friday No Classes				
21					22	Day 2		23	Day 1		24	Day 2		25	Day 1				
Easter Monday No Classes										Late Start - 9:55					MACC Food Fair				
28	Day 2		29	Day 1		30	Day 2							The next School Council Meeting is Tues. May 6th.					
					Late Start - 9:55														