Macdonald Collegiate

Newsletter

October 2026

Student Activity Council - October Update by Andre Butler



As we move into October, the energy at MAC continues to grow.
After an exciting start to the year, the SAC has continued its momentum with even more events and opportunities planned to bring students together and make this month one to remember.

Starting with our very first school-wide spirit day on September 18th: the Colour Contest. This spirit day also kicked off MAC's new spirit point system, where each participant wearing their grade's colour earned a point for their grade. The competition was extremely close, as the Grade 11s edged out the competition and are our current leaders with 58 points.

On September 30th, MAC came together to recognize Orange Shirt Day and honour Indigenous communities. Students and staff wore orange shirts to recognize the history and ongoing experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada, while coming together as a school community to show our support, raise awareness, and continue learning about the importance of reconciliation.

We kicked off the first of October with our Pink Ribbon Campaign, where students and staff came together to support breast cancer screening, research, and treatment. Pink ribbons were handed out throughout the school, and members of the MAC community made donations while showing their support for this important cause. They are encouraged to wear their pink ribbon for the entire month of October.



On October 2nd, MAC came together for our school-wide Spirit Assembly with an Inside Out theme created by the SAC! Students were taken through a fun and energetic assembly while getting the chance to learn more about the many councils and clubs available at MAC. We wanted to send a message that there is something for everyone at MAC, and it is never too late to get involved. Whether students are interested in sports, arts, leadership, culture, media or something completely different, there is a club or council where they can meet new people, try something new, and make an impact on the school community.

To finish off the month, on October 30th, the SAC will host its annual Halloween Costume and contest and school wide LipDub. Costumes will be judged in three categories: scariest, most creative, and most eco-friendly. Students are encouraged to dress up and be ready to fill the halls with energy as we show off our MAC spirit.

What's in store for November? First, semi-formal ticket sales begin on October 19th and end on November 4th through School Cash Online. The semi-formal is on November 19th from 6:00 pm to 10:30 pm at Parkview Manor.

To find out more about our clubs, councils and future spirit events, please make sure to follow our Instagram page **@blackscotpride_tdsb**

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	Surnames A - J, Z	Line.Brassard@tdsb.on.ca
Ms. Bhanuja Hardeo	Surnames K - Q	Bhanuja.Hardeo@tdsb.on.ca
Ms Erin MacKay	Surnames R - Y	Erin.MacKay@tdsb.on.ca



Nadia Fagan	Office Administrator for Guidance	nadia.fagan@tdsb.on.ca
Rory Stretch	International Visa Counsellor	rory.stretch@tdsb.on.ca
Jennifer Storey	Child and Youth Worker	jennifer.storey@tdsb.on.ca

Booking a Guidance Appointment:

We are excited to introduce a new booking system via Google's Appointment Schedules. Students will be able to securely book a time and receive an email reminder! Booking will begin September 14 but appointments will start on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

Ms. Brassard A - J , Z **https://calendar.app.google/HNWhEz1Ue2ysftUc7**

Ms. Hardeo K - Q **https://calendar.app.google/p7ioJrktCqNjhebP7**

Ms. Mackay R - Y **https://calendar.app.google/8nQ5Rou8iveju8Wi7**



Guidance Google Classroom:

We ask that all students please join their grade appropriate Guidance Google classroom.

Grade 9 class code: umnx25xl
Grade 10 class code: jdwljjqi
Grade 11 class code: ivhbfes
Grade 12 class code: iqd3cns
International Students: don3mlw



Post Secondary Fair

We are happy to be hosting a Post Secondary Fair on Tuesday, Oct. 27.
Representatives from across Canada will be here to speak with you and our students.
All are welcome to attend.
The Guidance department has been visiting grade 12 classes to discuss the application process for both OUAC and OCAS. Information will be available in the grade 12 Google classroom.





Student Success

Find It - Finish It

November 5th is Find It - Finish It at Macdonald.
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.

Mac PALS are 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 ask your child/ward to fill out the Google Form on the Guidance Google Classroom or linked here:

Mathify

Need extra help with math homework? Mathify is free 1:1 Grade 4-12 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-Friday 9am to 9pm ET and 3:00pm to 9pm ET Saturday and Sunday. **https://www.tvomathify.com/students**

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

Our school proudly offers two Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs: Health and Wellness, and Business.

We are thrilled to launch our new Business Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) for Grade 11 and 12 students. This specialized pathway allows students to customize their high school experience toward the business sector—whether their goals point toward university, college, or direct entry into the workplace. Through a curated bundle of credits and cooperative education, students gain crucial financial literacy and problem-solving skills. The program includes fully funded, sector-recognized certifications (including WHMIS and Customer Service) that give them a competitive edge when applying for post-secondary programs and entry-level jobs.



On October 1st, SHSM students had the opportunity to go to Cedar Glen Outdoor Education Centre for a full day of team building and certifications. It was an action-packed day of hands-on learning, team building, and crisp autumn air!
We are incredibly proud to share that every student walked away with two official, industry-recognized SHSM certifications to add to their high school diploma: **Personal Inventory and Customer Service.**

Coming up for SHSM:
October 27th - Post Secondary Fair @ Macdonald (Reach Ahead Experience)
October 29th - College Information Program @ Durham College (Reach Ahead Experience)
November 3 - Infection Control Certification and Wrapping and Taping for Performance and Injury Certifications and Experience @ Macdonald (Certifications)
February 18th & 19th - First Aid and CPR Certifications @ Macdonald (Certifications)

Special Education Department

All IEPs are updated for the current year by October 20th



(30 school days from the start of the year). IEPs are mailed home to the mailing address of the primary contact.
Parent consultation letters were sent home the same way in September.
If you do not receive the parent consultation letter/form, or the IEP by the end of October, please contact the school's Special Education department.

MAC Library Update - M. Katrivanos (Teacher Librarian)

The library is a central hub of the school that is a warm and welcoming environment for all.
It is a favourite spot for many of our students.
While our library is being renovated, you can find us in Rm 128.



Hours of Operation:
Our library is open from 8:30 - 3:30, closed for period 3.
We are open before school, at lunch and after school.
Students may come here to study or do homework during their spares.

Book Sign out:
Students may borrow books with their student card or student number.
The loan period is 3 weeks for books and 1 week for graphic novels and manga.

Printing: Students may print their assignments for free at the library. Students may use their own chromebook and print to the library printer or may use our designated printing station.

TDSB VIRTUAL LIBRARY:
https://www.tdsb.on.ca/library/HOME/schoolNo/4154
The TDSB Virtual Library is an extension of your school library.
There are lots of digital resources to help students succeed.
Students can use the VL to access databases containing online encyclopedias, journal articles, newspapers, e-books, as well as links to digital tools and other helpful resources.
See Ms. K in **Rm 128** for more information and help navigating the Virtual Library.

MAC BOOK CLUB - Will meet every first Friday of each month at lunch in the library. Every month we will have a different theme and books will be carefully selected based on the theme of the month. October's theme: Scary/Horror. All students and book lovers are welcome to join! Our next meeting will be Friday Oct. 30th at lunch.

Fall Bookmark Contest
All students are invited to participate in our FALL Bookmark Contest.



We are looking for original bookmark designs. This year's theme: the library or book as "sanctuary" - a place to disconnect from the digital world and find peace.
All artwork is due by Monday, Oct.19th.
Students can come down to Rm 128 for contest details and to pick up a template.
Winning designs will be professionally printed and offered to students at the front desk.
Don't miss out on this chance to have your art celebrated!

Athletics and Physical Education

On Monday September 28th, our Athletic Council and Mac In Action Club hosted our annual Terry Fox Walk to remember Terry's courageous Marathon of Hope and to raise funds for cancer research. With the help of our community we were able to raise over $600!



Teams

Macdonald Athletics is excited to be back up and running! Please follow along on our Instagram page for all Athletic information, scores, pictures and highlights throughout the year.

EMA - If you wish to try-out for any teams this year please create an account on TDSB Excursion Management Application.
Once your account has been created please select the team you wish to try-out for and follow the on screen steps. If you have any questions please contact the Physical Education Department.
Link to EMA: **EMA Parent Log In**



Intramurals and Mezz Club

We have a robust intramural program organized by our Athletic Council where students can sign up to participate in a variety of sports during the lunch hour to stay active.
We also have a Mezz Club supervised by teachers where students can use our fitness centre to help them achieve their fitness goals.
Parents/Guardians must fill in the "Start of the School Year Forms" in order for your child/ward to participate in our intramural program or the Mezz Club.
A link to the forms was emailed on August 27th from the Toronto District School Board.

Seasonal Calendar

Fall	Winter	Spring
All Gender Golf	Varsity Boys Hockey	Varsity Boys Baseball
All Gender Tennis	Varsity Girls Hockey	Varsity Girls Slo-Pitch
Jr Boys Volleyball	Jr. Boys Basketball	All Gender Track and Field
Sr Boys Volleyball	Sr. Boys Basketball	All Gender Varsity Volleyball
Varsity Girls Field Hockey	Jr. Girls Volleyball	Varsity Girls Soccer
Varsity Girls Ultimate	Sr. Girls Volleyball	All Gender Jr. Ultimate
All Gender X-Country	Varsity Girls Indoor Soccer	All Gender Sr. Ultimate
Jr Boys Soccer	Varsity Boys Indoor Soccer	All Gender Cricket
Sr Boys Soccer	All Gender Badminton	
Varsity Girls Basketball	Varsity Wrestling	

Make sure to listen to announcements and follow us **@macdonaldathletic_tdsb and @sjam_phe_tdsb** for all the latest updates and tryout information!

From the Main Office

Please join us for discussion on our **School Council Nights**.
Tuesdays - November 24th, February 23rd, April 20th and May 25th.

SafeArrival is an automated student absence-reporting system managed through the **School Messenger** app and website. **Click here to get started!**
Mobile App: Download the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Select Sign Up using the exact email address or phone number your child's school has on file.
Website: Go to the SchoolMessenger Portal and create an account using your school-registered contact details. **Click here for further details!**

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.

October

Sept 28 Day 2 Terry Fox Walk	Sept 29 Day 1	Sept 30 Day 2 Orange Shirt Day	1 Day 1 Pink Ribbon Campaign	2 Day 2 SAC Spirit Assembly
5 Day 1	6 Day 2	7 Day 1 SAC Jeopardy! Cafeteria	8 Day 2	9 Day 1 SAC Kahoot! Cafeteria
12 Day 2 Thanksgiving Holiday	13 Day 1	14 Day 2 Rally Event for Student Leaders	15 Day 1 Gr 9 Camp Robin	16 Day 2
19 Day 1	20 Day 2 SAC Candy Jar Guess! - Cafeteria	21 Day 1 Interim Reports Sent Late Start - 9:55	22 Day 2	23 Day 1 Jr / Sr Boys Volleyball Tournament @MAC
26 Day 2 Photo Retake Day	27 Day 1	28 Day 2 Late Start - 9:55	29 Day 1 Parent Teacher Interviews 2:00 - 4:00 6:00 - 8:00	30 Day 2 Halloween Costume Contest Lipdub XII Video Shoot

Our next School Council Meeting is Tuesday, November 23 @ 7pm

tdsb Toronto District School Board