

Sir John A. Macdonald
 “We’ve Got You Covered.”



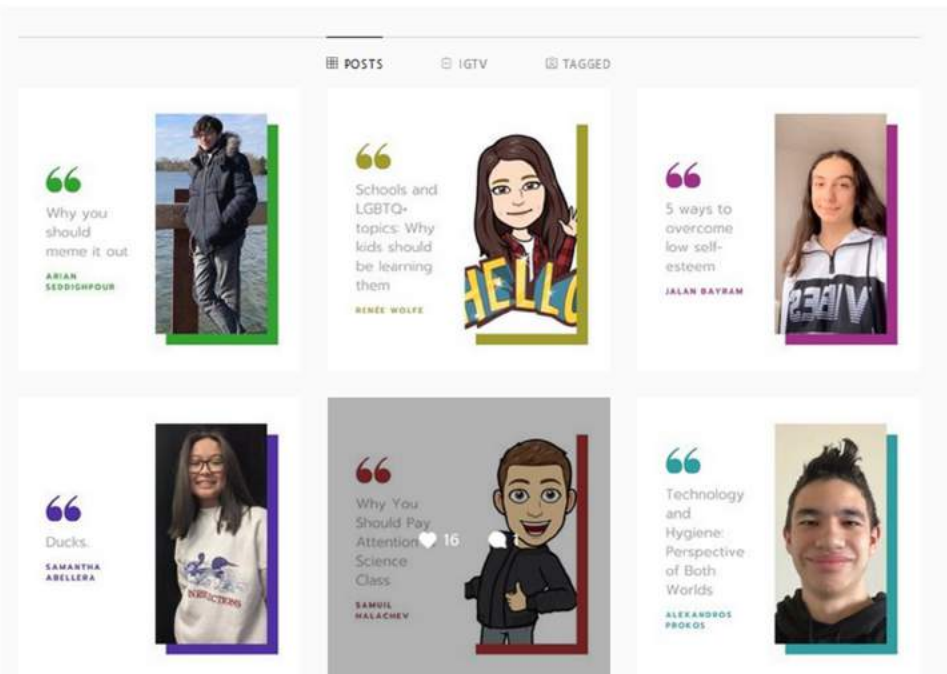
Mac Ted-Ed Club

Maliha Mahjabin

In November, students at Mac introduced the brand new Mac TED-Ed Club, a place where Blackscots have the opportunity to create, present, and share their very own TED-style talks. The club, generously supervised by Ms. Bristow, was founded by two of our grade 11 students: Prisha Sareen and Yathavi Nandakumar. Prisha shared the inspiration for the club: “I saw a person on TikTok who had their own Ted-Ed club, so I decided to see if we could do one too. This club lets people share their ideas by discovering something they are passionate about and then creating their TED-style talks about it. Along the way, members further enhance their skills in public speaking, writing, collaboration, and time management.”

Over the last four months, members dedicated themselves to learning, researching, and writing their TED-style talks. Yathavi stated, “We were able to successfully discuss ideas and share our thoughts throughout thirteen explorations and three phases which consisted of activities and workshops to help develop our TED talks. All [the members] incorporated certain aspects from the activities but were able to interpret them in different ways to cater to their own individual talks. It was amazing to see the diversity of topics the club members chose to work with.” Members have the chance to have their talk featured on the Mac TED-Ed Club’s Youtube channel as well as the TED-Ed Student Talks channel where their talks can be viewed worldwide.

Furthermore, the Mac TED-Ed club hosted an event called the Showcase Event where Blackscots from all grades watched the Talks created by their peers in the club. Topics of discussion ranged from memes, self-esteem, to even ducks! This event took place on April 23rd but if you missed out, no worries! Follow @mac.teded on Instagram to stay tuned for future events, or email teded.mac@gmail.com for any questions.



Mac TED-Ed Club’s Instagram

Entrepreneurial Spirit Interview

Aaron Prince Anu, Interviewed by Mac News

Social media provides platforms for various content creators to reach audiences without geographic boundaries. We see creators with millions of followings that likely inspire us to develop our online presence. However, if you ever attempted to curate media such as YouTube videos or blog posts, you may have discovered many obstacles, such as lack of motivation, the need to learn new technical skills, and more. Aaron Prince Anu, a Mac News photographer, shares his experience in running his YouTube channel named “The Guitarist Next Door”.

First, can you introduce us to “The Guitarist Next Door”?

“The channel is dedicated to everything guitar, music, and production related. It is especially useful for those who want to learn how to play guitar. The channel has been running for around two years now and has 19 videos, including content that introduces theory, which can be used by both beginner and advanced musicians. I upload monthly as I do have school work, but I’m hoping to upload a bit more over the summer break.”

What motivated you to start the channel? As well, why did you choose to focus on guitar and music, and why YouTube of all platforms?

“I was motivated to start the channel after seeing a couple of my friends create channels for gaming. I didn’t go the route of gaming because that wasn’t my speciality; my speciality was music and media production. I chose music to be the subject of my channel because I started music at a very young age. I had a burning passion for music which grew over the years. Music is also an experience that can be shared easily and is universally accepted. I chose guitar specifically because I have played the guitar for about seven years. It is an instrument I’ve grown to love and I am more comfortable playing it than piano or violin. I originally thought of writing blog posts about music and music theory because I wanted to try another platform, but I was never a good writer and my English grammar is sub-par. YouTube was my next platform of choice because of its easy accessibility and my background in media production. I chose YouTube over Twitch or Instagram because Twitch needs powerful hardware, and Instagram is a very sensitive platform. Publishing content can also clean up two of my talents, which are music and production. Music being, I play different songs or make my own, and production being, I edit and render each of my videos.”

Where do you want to go with this channel in the future? It appears that it plays a big role in gluing together your interests. Do you want to keep it as a side hobby or do you plan on investing more time into it?

“I am probably going to keep this as a side hobby unless the mysterious YouTube algorithm makes my channel grow. I am planning to be an engineer as my full-time career, but I will return to my talents as quickly as possible. I have realized I have a lot going for me if I play my cards right; I don’t want to spoil that. That’s the same reason why I’ve joined Mac News. Taking pictures is media production; it’s a win-win situation.”

Have there been any times in your YouTube journey where you lost hope or motivation? How did you bounce back if so?

“There have been times where I lost motivation, but I got over it by setting my priorities straight. Growing your talents should be one of your top priorities because that is what you are great at. I can always learn and grow faster if I set my mind to music. I make sure my mind does not drift from this central idea.”

Thanks to Aaron Prince Anu for talking about his experience in running a YouTube channel. We hope that this helps you gain insight into media related entrepreneurial projects or inspires you to create a venture of your own!



Extracurriculars

Blackscot April Break Plans

Marian Farra

With the third quadmester coming to a close, Blackscots looked forward to the spring break that was postponed to the week of April 12th. Unfortunately, due to the strict stay-at-home order, students were unable to leave their homes and meet up with friends. However, many still managed to have a good time from the comfort of their homes. After answering a questionnaire through Instagram, these were some of the responses regarding how students spent their break:

Before the break began, Jackie Yi informed us about his plans: "Due to the lockdown, a few of my April plans have been cancelled but I understand that it is necessary. The weather is really nice so I plan on going outside more. I also purchased a bunch of books and I hope to finish them during the April break. I'll be taking the time to unwind and relax from school, so I'm very excited." Prioritizing time for yourself during the break is a great idea, and reading books is a wonderful way to pass the time. When catching up with Jackie after the April break, he replied, "Well, the break went by way too fast! I genuinely didn't realize how much time I was wasting. I spent most of my days calling my friend. We played Jackbox together (which was so fun), and I worked on one of my assignments. When I checked the date it was already Sunday. Did I fulfill all my April break goals? Not really, but overall it was a good time." Don't worry Jackie, or anybody else who can relate! Even if your goals are not fulfilled one day, there's always another. So long as you enjoyed the time, it's not time wasted!

Chloe Limbag shared that his family would be celebrating three birthdays consecutively during the break, his included! "My plans for spring break are that my family and I will spend the week at our cottage and celebrate my mother's, brother's girlfriend's, and my birthday there." After asking Chloe if he followed through with the plans, he stated, "No, I did not follow through [with] my plans because of the lockdown. It was disappointing because I was expecting to travel outside of my home and celebrate my birthday in a cottage. But my birthday turned out great because my brother and nephew came over."

Ciara Cyopick mentioned, "Due to the new COVID restrictions, my plans are pretty boring. I work at Harvey's so that's what I'll be doing. I'll be staying home when I'm not working or seeing my girlfriend." Although it is disheartening to hear so many plans were cancelled, I'm glad you were able to find time to spend it with the people that matter.

Mohamad Sinjab had an eventful week planned: "My plans for the April break mainly involve sleeping in and finishing off some of my last assignments for the quadmester, but I'm also planning to bake myself some cake after seeing countless inspirations online. I'm also going to practice my drawing skills by doing sketches every day and potentially even make some completed pieces." Baking sounds like such a great way to pass the time, as do sleeping and drawing. When following up with Mohamad's plans, he replied with, "Yes, I did go through with my plans and it was a great way to relax during the break while still keeping busy. A low, I would say, is that one big assignment I spent the entire week working on." It is wonderful that you followed through with your plans, and I wish you good luck with keeping up with all of your assignments in this last quadmester, Mohamad!

Thank you to everyone who replied and shared their spring break plans! Due to COVID restrictions, April break must have been a letdown for some. It was a time meant to relax and have fun with your friends after a long time, but I'm glad most of you made the most of it from home and were not discouraged due to the lockdown. Everyone deserved the April break after a stressful quadmester, and I'm thrilled so many people took time off to focus on themselves and catch up on work, sleep, and their personal relationships.



Photo Credits : Aaron Prince Anu

Summer Jobs

Nikki Guo

WHERE TO FIND SUMMER JOBS

Recommendations:

- Grocery Store
- Food Service
- Retail
- Toronto Recreation Jobs
- Tutoring
- Summer Camp

Helpful Sources:

- www.ontario.ca/SummerStudents
- <https://jobs.toronto.ca/recreation/>
- www.tropicanaemployment.ca/job-seekers/services/students
- <https://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/teens/jobs.html>



Camera operating summer job

Photo Credits : Aaron Prince Anu

Importance of Extracurriculars

Claudia Poon

IMPORTANCE OF EXTRA-CURRICULARS

TO FUTURE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

HOSA is a health science conference and competition held annually. It allows students interested in health science to expand their knowledge and compete against other students from all over the world.

our HOSA president: EIAINE LIU



- "meet like-minded individuals who also want to pursue a career in the healthcare field"
- "develop organizational and time-management skills"
- "understand one's own leadership style better and find ways to improve"

THANK YOU :-)



April Fools'!

The History of April Fools' Day

Sachi Taploo

Every year on April 1st, people prank each other in the most ridiculous and creative ways imaginable. However, because of the pandemic this year, many people lost the opportunity to do so. On April Fools' Day, I couldn't help but wonder: how did it all start? Why celebrate a day full of pranks, jokes, and laughter specifically on April 1st? Well, let's find out together!

Historians believe that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France had finally made the switch from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as ordered by the Council of Trent. As a result, the start of the new year changed from April 1st to January 1st. People ignorant or confused about the change in calendars were called "April fools." A paper fish, known in French as "poisson d'avril," became the symbol of a gullible person. Sticking these paper fish onto the backs of the "April fools" was one of the first April Fools' pranks.

However, some historians also speculate that April Fools' Day can be linked to a festival called Hilaria, the Latin word for joyful. In Ancient Rome, people belonging to a cult called *Cybele* would dress up and prank people in public. They mocked citizens, magistrates, and possibly Egyptian Gods such as Seth and Osiris.

One last and simple theory revolves around the fact that April Fools' Day is celebrated around the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, known as the vernal equinox. Since the weather becomes more unpredictable around this time, people believed that they were fooled by Mother Nature.

After researching April Fools' Day, I wondered: how would students at Mac have celebrated it if the pandemic hadn't occurred? I asked a few grade 10 Mac students for their opinion.

Pauline Kim said, "I would do the most classic prank! Pulling a chair right before my friend sits on it." (Note from Mac News: we do not condone this type of prank unless on a foam floor! Serious injuries may result!)

Hira Chaudhry mentioned, "To be honest, I don't usually prank anyone on April Fools' Day. However, if I had to, I would give my friend a bagel with a mayonnaise spread instead of cream cheese! That would be really funny!"

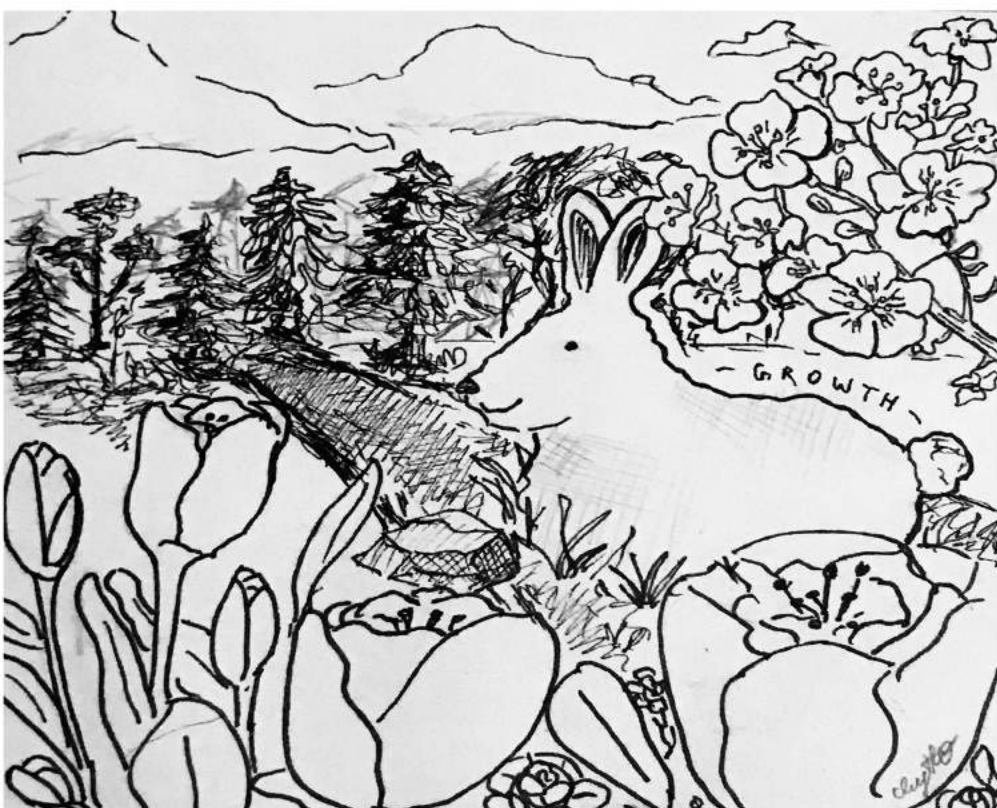
Alice Gao shared a brief story: "I'm not much of a prankster but I do recall a time I pulled a hilarious one. One day, I sent a letter to my friend who was at a summer camp up north. She was afraid of spiders, so I had a brilliant idea! I meticulously cut black construction paper into the shape of a spider and glued it to the bottom of the letter. When she got the letter, she screamed for her life! I think that's one of my most accomplished pranks!"

Hopefully next year's April Fools' Day will be filled with pranks, jokes, and laughter once again!

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/april-fools-day>

Growth

Ivy Guo



Spring is Here!

Aaron Prince Anu



Word Search

YiLin Luan

Name: _____

April Word Search



Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| APRIL | BUTTERFLY | GARDENING |
| APRILBREAK | EARTHDAY | PLEASANT |
| APRILFOOLS | EASTER | SOFT |
| AWAKENING | EGGS | SPRING |
| BASKET | ENERGETIC | SUNNY |
| BLOOM | ENJOYABLE | WARM |
| BUNNY | FLORAL | |