

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

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Laurier University 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	5	6 Gr. 9 “Take Your Kids to Work” Day Grade 8 Tours	7 College Panel & Fair 10:30 AM Gr. 12 College English Visits	8	9
10	11 Remembrance Day Assembly P2	12	13 Report Card Distribution Beaver Computing Challenge	14 Semi-Formal at Parkview Manor	15 PA DAY	16
17	18	19	20 Canadian Senior and Intermediate Math Contests	21 Parent/Teacher Interviews 2-4PM & 6-8PM	22 Late start	23
24	25 MIA Five Days of Freedom	26	27	28 Special Schedule (Staff Meeting)	29 Jr/Sr Girls Volleyball Tournament at Mac	30

A Letter to Freshman Blackscots: A Guide to High School

Valerie Yao

Dear Freshman Blackscots,

Two months have passed since you began your wonderful high school journey. You may have searched for high school survival guides already, however, I can assure you that this guide will be most practical for you at Mac.

First and foremost, your overall enjoyment and happiness are important. So, take full advantage of the opportunities at Mac and strive to be the person that you want to be. Don’t let anyone hold you back from pursuing your passion. For me, I have always loved writing. However, I did not join the school newspaper in Grade 9 out of fear and concern that I would have trouble balancing my school work alongside my extracurricular activities. As time passes, I feel grateful for my decision to join MacNews as I made friends and strengthened my writing skills by frequently contributing to articles. As long as you have this burning passion for something, and you grasp the opportunities in high school to fan the flame, you will enjoy your moments at Mac. I promise you that.

As for socializing, you should try to open up and seek out chances to meet other people. This does not mean that you should distance yourself from your past friends. Instead, this is an opportunity to meet new people and grow as an individual. A great way to meet new people would be to join some clubs and councils. Yes, I agree that it can be nerve-racking to make the first step, but you shouldn’t be shy! As a wise man once said, “Shyness is not a protection, it’s a prison. You have the key, so walk out into your kingdom”.

While you are enjoying yourself, don’t forget that high school is a place for you to study and build important habits. Mr. Hung suggested, “Make your future bigger than your path.” Your time in high school can teach you to develop a strong work ethic, which will be valuable in the coming years. Although Canadian universities don’t look at your grade 9 marks, it is still important to stay on top of your work. Build up your good habits early. One studying strategy that you can practice is “preview and review”—preview the lesson to help grasp the content and then review it to reinforce what you learned. Overall, begin planning for your success in your freshman year. Future you will be extremely grateful that you did.

Finally, you should look far into the future and start considering your post-secondary education. If you are unsure of what career you would like to have in the future, don’t worry. You don’t have to decide on what program to study just yet. However, it’s never too early to start looking for information on different colleges and universities and know which programs require which prerequisites. As you receive more freedom to choose what courses to take in the following years, these courses will ultimately shape your path in post-secondary school. It’s better to begin constructing an idea on which field of study you would like to pursue at this early stage. This will allow you to choose your courses accordingly when course selection day comes.

Whether your high school experience is reminiscent of those in movies or not, your experience will ultimately be unique as you are the writer of your own journey. Whatever you choose, take advantage of this opportunity. Good luck!

Best Regards,

Your Senior Blackscot

Commencement

Nelosha Suganthan

High school is filled with numerous opportunities to make new friends, join new clubs, learn new hobbies and more. But, we are aware that we will eventually have to graduate one day. This year marked MAC’s 55th annual Commencement!

Commencement is a chance for all last year’s Mac graduates to meet their past classmates; together, they celebrate completion of their high school diploma while receiving awards. Graduates were delighted to come back and share their experiences in their current programs and share their future goals.

Brandon Wong, a Mac graduate, commented on his university experience so far. “University is much more difficult than high school,” he explained. “The workload is definitely larger; however, you have more spare time to complete assignments.” Parents were ecstatic to see their children’s accomplishments. This year’s Commencement was a huge success as graduates took a walk down memory lane by having a chat with their previous teachers and friends. Cheers to next year!



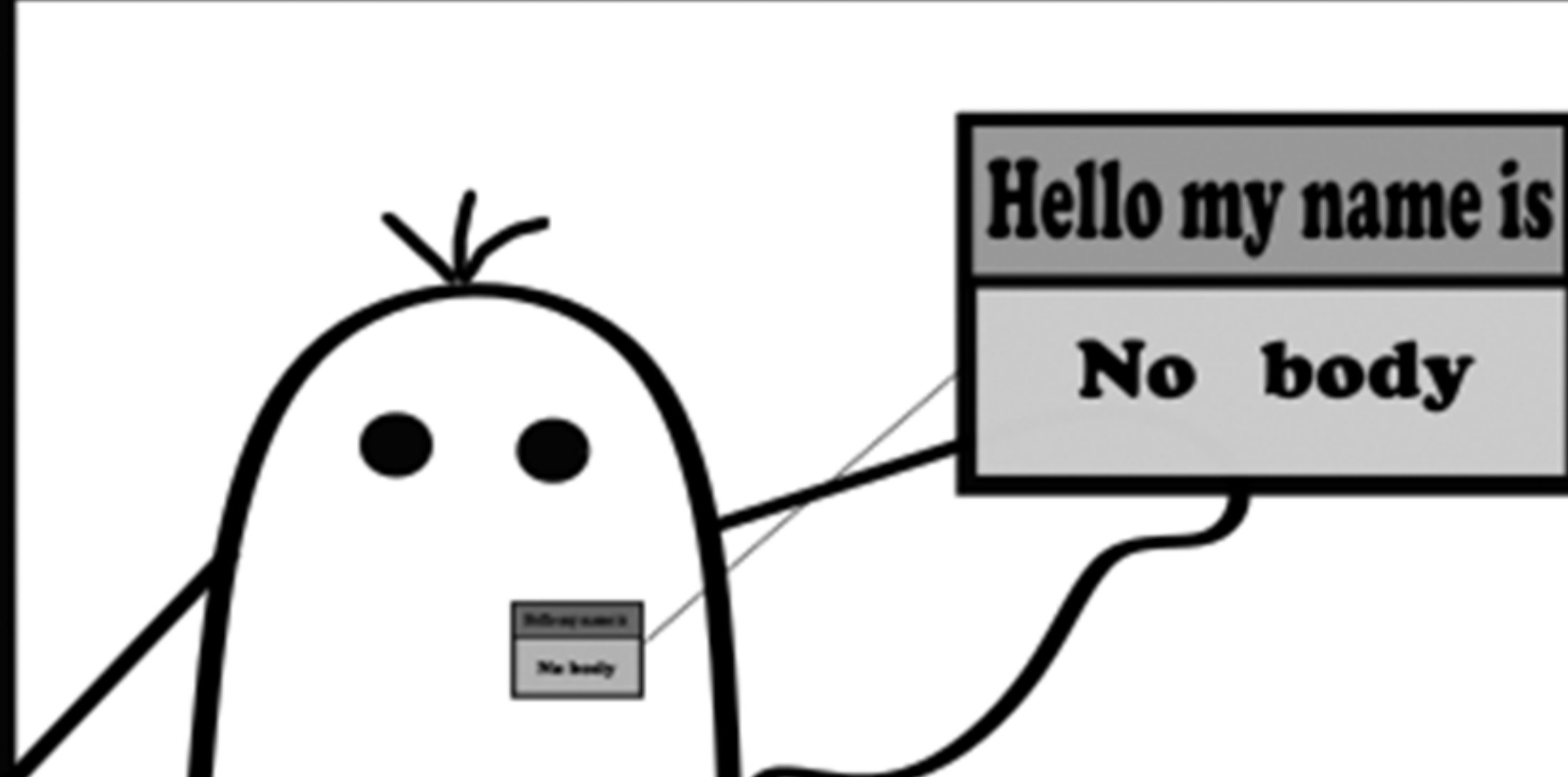
Photo Credits : Wameeya Tasnim

How to Celebrate Halloween At MAC


Jenny Phung

How to Celebrate Halloween at MAC

Make a Costume for SAC's Costume Contest



Scare Hunger with MIA



Halloween Coffee House

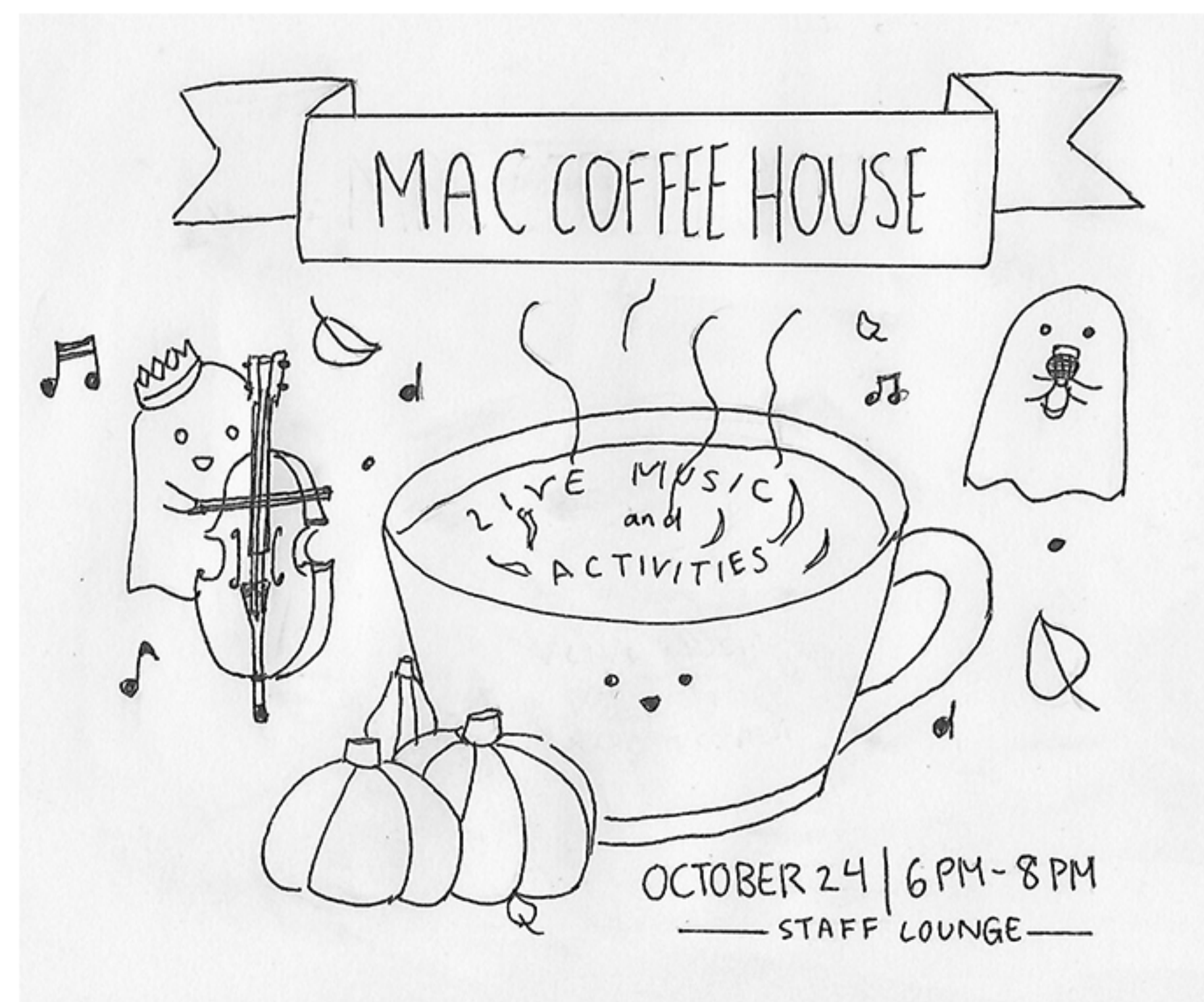
Kathy Zhou

Coffee House is an afterschool music event hosted by the Music Council on special occasions. This year's Halloween Coffee House took place from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on October 24 in the staff lounge. All Mac students, whether a part of Mac Music or not, were welcome to attend. Attendees enjoyed some of the most talented performances at Mac and were treated to delicious homemade desserts by members of the Music Council. In addition, almost everyone excitedly engaged in playing a Halloween themed kahoot, where the winner won a Tim Horton's gift card.

Amy Daiu, a grade 12 student, commented, "my favourite moment from coffee house was when all the grade 12s went up on stage and sang "I want it that way" by Backstreet Boys. All the lights were turned off, people had their phone flashlights on, and everyone was singing along, making it even better!"

"I had a lot of fun at Coffee House!" added Betty Guo, a grade 11 student. "It was nice to sit with friends to enjoy the ambience and amazing musical performances. Music Council and the music executives put a lot of hard work into the event and overall I think everything went really well!"

Whether it be entertaining musical performances, tasty desserts or a night of fun and games, Coffee House does not disappoint! Keep your ears open for more information on the next coffee house! For more information, visit Music Council's instagram page @macmusiccouncil.



Comic Artist: ???



Photo Credits: Sharika Khan

Mac In Action Assembly

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Mac In Action, our very own volunteer council, hosted the annual MIA assembly on Monday, October 28th to inform students at Mac about all the amazing events you can get involved with throughout the school year! They discussed a range of opportunities such as the Scotiabank Marathon, the MIA Winter Food Drive, Rafiki Sales, just to name a few! Blackscots who have participated in these events in the past shared their memorable experiences in an interview. The MIA assembly also raised awareness for organizations such as MeToWe, the SickKids Foundation, Jays Care Foundation, and many more. Not only do these events act as great ways to support and give back to your community, but they also offer a great opportunity to earn volunteer hours!

For an exclusive insight, Molly Chen, Senior Coordinator of MIA shares her most valuable experience in being involved with MIA; "Every experience in MIA has been valuable, but running all of our events has allowed me to become more open-minded. After working with such a talented and hardworking group of students to plan events throughout the year, I've learnt to appreciate every idea brought to the table. I've also been inspired by my team's ambition to help other students "give greatness," or in other words, get involved in the community."

If you missed out on the fun and informational assembly, be sure to keep your ears open for the morning announcements regarding upcoming MIA events, and follow their Instagram page @macinaction to learn more about all the ways you can get involved with Mac In Action. Remember, MIA is a great way to help those in need and to give back to your community! Join the greater movement with MIA.

Health Council - Pumpkin Carving

Farhan Zahid

Every month has that one special event. February? Valentine's Day! June? Exams! December? Christmas! Wait...

Well, can you guess that one special event for this month — October? That was a silly question because everyone knows what it is: Halloween! You can imagine the sight: strolling spookily through the spooky streets on a spooky night, wearing spooky suits - oh what a fright! Doesn't it sound like a great opportunity to set aside the stress of high school, create memories, and feel completely free for an entire night?

Of course it does! But, the question is, how do you commemorate and celebrate a holiday as awesomely spooky as Halloween?

The answer is easy: by joining the Mac Health Council's annual pumpkin carving! The pumpkin carving took place on October 29th and many enthusiastic students showed up to show off their love for Halloween. Everyone was welcome, and you didn't have to be absolutely amazing at the art of pumpkin carving to join!

Lip Dub

Mariana Zapounidis

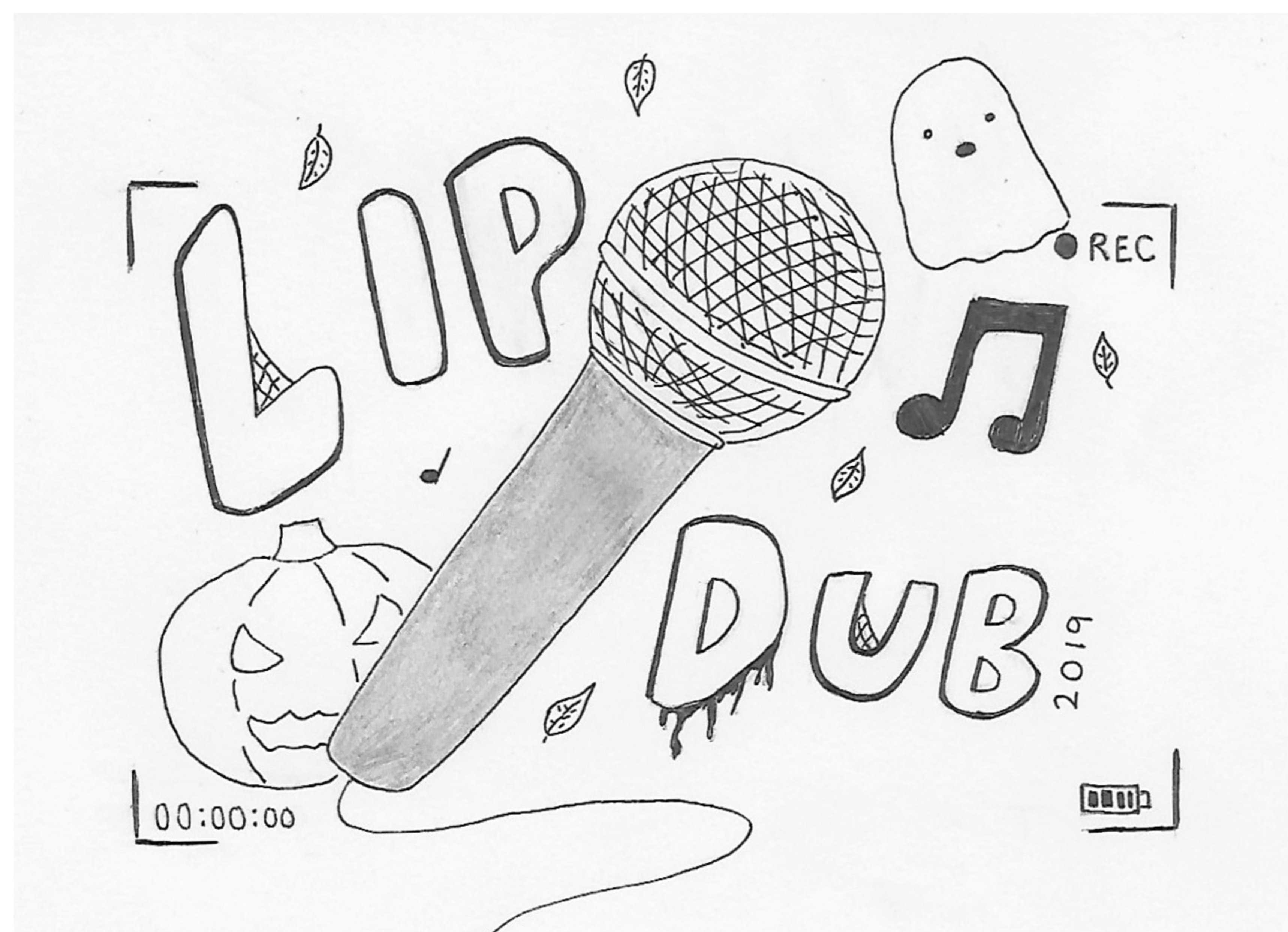
As Halloween draws near, students grow excited for Macdonald's annual event: Lip Dub!

This exciting event has been part of Mac's Halloween tradition for the past eight years, making this year our ninth annual Lip Dub.

But what is it? Lip Dub is an event where students lip-synch on camera to hit songs, as the camera is steered through halls of students showing off their clubs, councils, costumes, and, of course, spirit! Students without a costume all wait in the auditorium, gym, or outside on the field for the grand finale. This is where all the students sing along to the main song of the video. Once the event is over, the video is edited and posted to the YouTube channel "MacTvNews." Grade ten student Arian Seddighpour was asked to voice his opinion on this annual event: "Lip Dub is a fun and entertaining event which brings the students at Mac and modern media together. It's a great time to talk with my fellow peers about their costumes, and get to know people more."

Personally, I am excited for Lip Dub. Last year, I unfortunately sat in the auditorium with my friends since we didn't dress up, but we had a lot of fun singing the lyrics to "I want it that way" by Backstreet Boys (the main song of the lip dub). It was fascinating to see a big film project like this being made. When the lip dub came out at the Christmas cheer assembly, I was very impressed with all the editing! Well done to all those involved!

Make sure to prepare your costumes and get ready to have a blast at this year's ninth annual lip dub, Mac!



Comic Artist: ???

Young Voices Magazine
2019

Cindy Liu

On Thursday, October 17th, two of our fellow Macdonald students, Adrianna Georgiou-Prattas and Jesse June-Jack, presented their literary pieces to a large audience at the North York Library. Their pieces were published in the 2019 issue of the Young Voices magazine by the Toronto Public Library, in which the creative works of many young individuals across Toronto are carefully selected and showcased in the magazine every single year.

If you are interested in reading Adrianna and Jesse’s literary pieces, the magazine is available online at the Toronto Public Library’s website under the “Teens” tab. If you are interested in submitting your own work to be published in magazine’s 2020 issue, the instructions are also posted on the website. We are incredibly proud of Adrianna and Jesse for not only representing themselves but for Mac as well, and we hope to see more Mac students’ works published in



Photo Credits : Ms Diamandas



Photo Credits : Ms Diamandas

A Shirt’s Life

Sachi Taploo

I’m a shirt.
I have a lot to say.
You are not taking care of me.
In any form or way.

You wore me and went downstairs.
You had spaghetti and meatballs
You ate it with a fork.
I hope it doesn't fall.

Let's start the day.
Early in the morning.
You're drooling on me.
And loudly snoring.

But it did anyways.
I’m again covered with grime.
This is a shirt’s life.
Be careful with me next time.

You wake up in disgust.
And throw me in the laundry.
You didn't say goodbye.
You didn't say sorry.

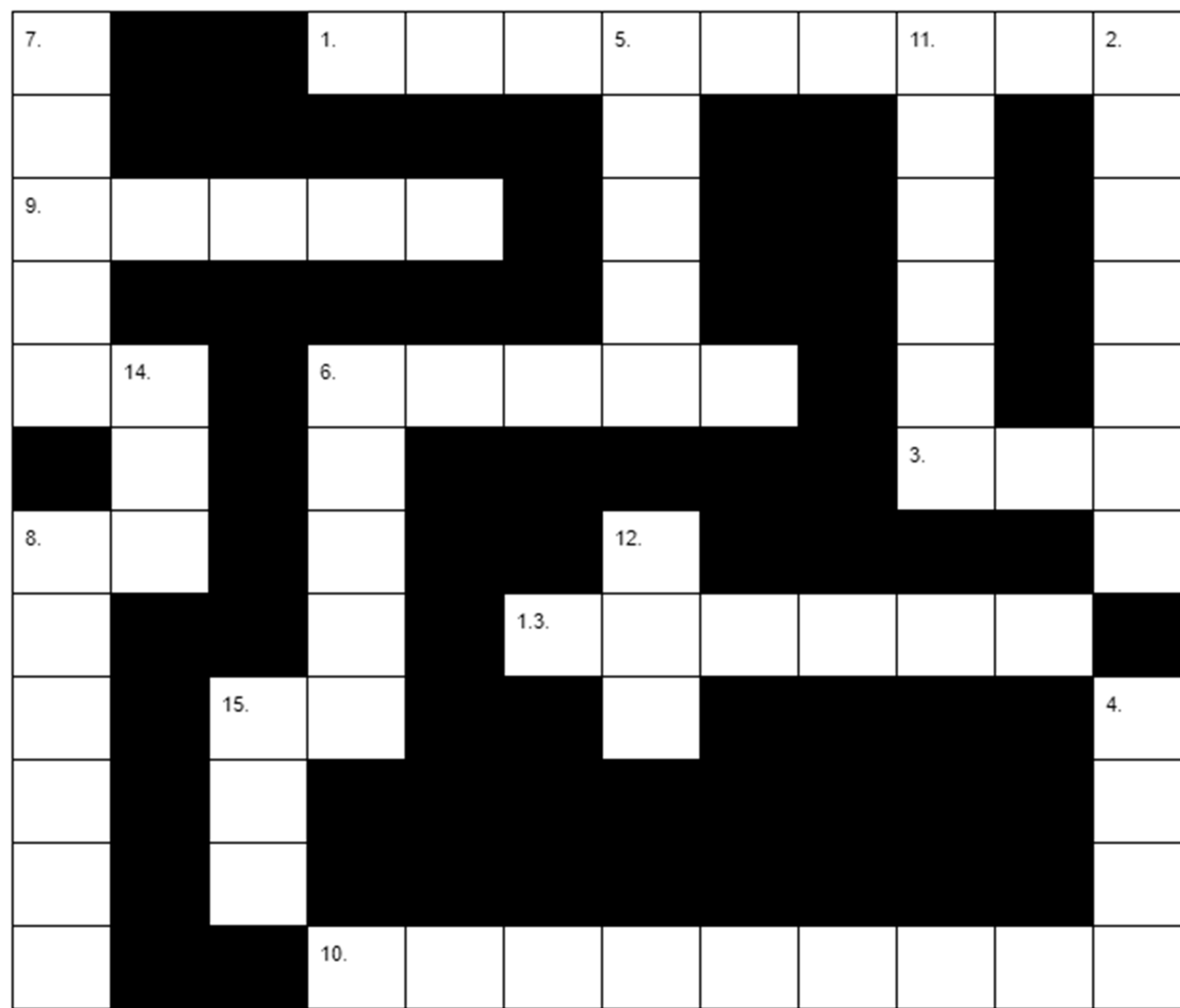
It's been a week.
And I stink of smells.
I'm still in the laundry.
Can't you hear me yell?

Your mom comes to save me.
But why didn't you?
I'm your favourite shirt!
Isn't your favourite colour blue?

I look clean and nice.
And I just have to dry.
You come into the room.
And it looks like you're going to cry.

You hug me and kiss me.
And hang me up to dry.
Thank goodness I’m clean.
I thought I would die.
I’m done drying.
And I don't want to be dirty.
“It's time for dinner” your mom says.
It's 7:30.

HALLOWEEN CROSSWORD



ACROSS:

1. Playground for ghosts
2. Who? Whooooo?
6. Satan
9. If not tricked
10. A farmer’s tool
13. -of Waverly Place

DOWN:

3. A horror novel
4. -O’Lantern
5. A sucker for platelets and plasma
6. Spells but does not sound like “lemon”
7. A “mean” woman
8. A fantasy dwarf
11. A messenger of god
12. Often written on a tombstone
14. What a spider makes
15. A mischievous devil

A Recap of October Sports

Team	Results
Girls Varsity Field Hockey	Ended their season as north regional finalists after a tough loss to Birchmount Park C.I.
Senior Boys Volleyball	Remains undefeated.
Junior Boys Volleyball	Won 5 games against Victoria Park, Earl Haig, and York Mills and lost 1 game against York Mills.
Girls Varsity Basketball	Won 5 games against Victoria Park, A.Y Jackson, Don Mills, York Mills, and Earl Haig, and lost 1 game against George S Henry.
Cross Country	16 athletes competed at regionals, 8 moved on to city finals.
Junior Boys Soccer	Remains undefeated with one tie with Earl Haig.
Senior Boys Soccer	Won 4 games against Don Mills, Lawrence Park, George S. Henry and A.Y. Jackson, lost 1 game to Earl Haig, and tied 2 games with Victoria Park and York Mills.

Art Council Preparing for Halloween!



Photo Credits : Kelly Zhang

Spirit Week!

Marian Farra

From October 1st to the 8th, the Student Activity Council, also known as the SAC, hosted the first 2019-2020 school year's Spirit Week with fun and exciting events in the cafeteria!

Spirit Week started off with Twin Day and a "Twin Day Trivia" in the cafeteria. Students also participated as triplets, quadruplets, and even formed a group of ten! The Twin Day Trivia was also a major success; twins competed against other twins to prove they knew their twin the best! The first team to get 5 questions right about each other won a prize. If you didn't win...get to know your twin better to win those prizes during the next spirit week!

Colour Wars was the next spirit day (a classic, if I do say so myself). The objective of this spirit day was to wear the colour of your grade to earn bragging rights about which grade had the most spirit! The grade 9s wore blue, the 10s in fiery red, 11s were clad in white, and the 12s were showing off their emo mode with black. To add on to the already insane amounts of spirit, the SAC offered face painting for each grade in the caf at lunch.

On October 3rd, it was Mac's first Era's Day! We saw outfits from the '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s, and from the 2010's - people wore scrunchies and brought hydro flasks. Even the teachers were wildly creative! The "Guess That Song" event was also introduced with this spirit day, where blackscots had a chance to guess throwback songs. Overall, Era's Day was a great trip down memory lane. Pyjama Day was the second last Spirit Day. Walking down the halls of Mac, students looked immensely comfortable in their PJs, some even brought stuffed animals with them! Troy Abistado, a grade 10 student, said, "My personal favourite spirit day is Pajama Day because I like to stay comfy and relaxed while taking in work!" To make sure students did not fall asleep in their snug and comfy pyjamas on a Friday, the SAC hosted karaoke in the cafeteria; students showcased their amazing "singing in the shower" voices and sang their hearts out!

On October 8th, Spirit week concluded with a returning, desired blackscot event, Toronto Day! Not only did students showcase their remarkable spirit for our school, but for our city as well! Jerseys from the Toronto Raptors to the Maple Leafs to OVO shirts were worn at every corner of the school. We really showed Drake who runs The 6ix. (Us, not him). Students got to show off their spirit with Just Dance in the caf, bringing an end to our first Spirit Week of the school year.

But School Spirit should not stop at Spirit Week! You can keep showing spirit by joining sports teams, clubs and councils, and participating in other events! Thanks to everyone who came out to the spirit events and participated. Make sure to follow @blackscotpride on instagram for more information on our next Spirit Week!



"I love Toronto day. If I could wear a Raptors jersey every day, I would."
Photo Credits : Kelly Zhang



"I love twin day because it's a day to embrace your friendship and share your school spirit with someone."
Photo Credits : Kelly Zhang

MACC Islamic Cultural Cafe and Muslim Heritage Month

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Macdonald Association of Canadian Culture (MACC) hosted their first multicultural cafe on Wednesday, October 16 in the Cafeteria. The theme of their first cafe was the Muslim culture and heritage. Members of the MACC exhibited a variety of information which further enlightened the community here at Mac. There was food and information on the culture and history of Islam including: language, geography (major muslim countries as well as different denominations of Muslims), the origins of Islam, prominent figures, and clothing (both religious and casual).

Tazeen Atif, the president of MACC commented, "As a muslim myself, I find it amazing that our council has the oppurtunity to represent the religion through a positive light. The MACC members worked hard to put everything together and it was a great success!"

The cultural cafe was a great oppurtunity for students to learn more about the beliefs and practices of Islam while enjoying some delicious samosas. Sir John A Macdonald is a vibrant school with distinct diversity. Students should appreciate this diversity and learn about different cultures, expand their knowledge and perspective. To spread more cultural awareness, MACC hosts a cultural cafe every month so keep your ears open for more information!

Friday Night Lights

Cindy Liu and Valerie Yao

After a two year hiatus, Macdonald's annual Friday Night Lights event had finally returned, providing the students with yet another memorable experience for their high school journey!

Friday Night Lights is an annual sports event that is held between TDSB schools. This year, the soccer games were hosted at Esther Shiner Stadium on October 18th, in which Macdonald competed against Earl Haig's junior and senior boys soccer teams. The game began at around 6 p.m., and the stadium was filled with students who promoted their true blackscot spirit!

Carolina Lopez, a Macdonald graduate, opened the event by singing a beautiful rendition of the Canadian national anthem. From there, the junior boys soccer team took the field. With the support of many blackscots and the Macdonald band, the junior boys played with all their might against Earl Haig. The game however, resulted in a score of 3-2 in Haig's favour. After the juniors finished playing, the seniors began their game shortly after. Copious amounts of effort from both teams were displayed that game but in the end, the seniors' game had a score of 2-0 in Haig's favour once again.

Despite the losses, the Blackscot spirit and energy radiated throughout the entire stadium! Stas Paliouras, a goalie on the senior boys soccer team, commented on the game and the overall atmosphere of the event. "It was an amazing atmosphere to be a part of and our team put in a good effort despite the result." Esther Banahene, a senior Blackscot, also shares her experience at FNL with Mac News: "I went to FNL in 2016. I was on the cheer team so I was down on the track for the night. I had a great time. There was so much school spirit and just a really positive vibe. Even though it was freezing, it was obvious that everyone was enjoying the night."

The amount of positivity and support that was present at Friday Night Lights was astounding, and certainly many great memories were created at Esther Shiner Stadium that night. Even though our school didn't win the game of soccer against Haig, we've certainly won the game in terms of spirit!



Photo Credits : Esther Banahene



Photo Credits : Ms. Reeder