

Macdonald C.I.
"We've Got You Covered."

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Credit Rescue Day	3 Take Our Kids To Work Day	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Credit Rescue Day	11 Modified Schedule Parent-Teacher Interviews Remembrance Day	12 Late Start Photo Retake Day - 10AM	13
14	15 Term 2 Begins	16	17	18	19 P.A. Day	20
21	22	23	24 Late Start School Council Meeting - 7PM	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Mac Is Back *In* School!

Afrah Atif

After quarantining for almost a year, many students have finally returned to in-person learning at Mac! Everyone has gone through an abnormal experience during these past eighteen months and has been impacted in varying ways. So, what's it like to be back? Let's hear directly from the students at our school about how their school year is going so far!

"I was really nervous," says Michaela Mcbean, an in-person Grade 10 student at Mac. "The whole new system was confusing and it made me worry about who was in my classes and who wasn't. However, I was really excited and looking forward to seeing all my friends again. On the other hand, I am not looking forward to all of the schoolwork I have to do tonight. The workload for math is crazy. I hope this year goes smoothly and I don't have to worry about any drama."

It has surely been challenging for everyone to adjust to this new schedule, especially after a year of cohorts and quadesters, so it is important to know that support is available for all of us. You can accomplish this by going to teachers for extra help, to your guidance counsellor for personal matters, or to your supportive peers at Mac. Hopefully, these transitions will become second nature to us in no time!

I then interviewed one of Mac's virtual students. Manahil Manzoor in Grade 10 shares their virtual experience: "The school year has been pretty easy so far. I haven't had to deal with much of a hassle. I definitely miss my friends, and I wish I could see them. I might choose to switch to in-person learning if that is allowed. I'm also really relieved that we probably won't be doing exams this year. However, I am not enjoying the homework part of school, but does anybody? I felt a huge jump between Grade 9 and going into Grade 10, and it's only the start of the year, so I hope that everything will go well. My goals for this year are to do all of my homework and make new friends."

It is intriguing to hear the perspectives of two of our Mac students on opposite ends of the classroom continuum. Perhaps many of their points resonated with you. How has your school experience been so far?

Photo Day

Rachel Tang

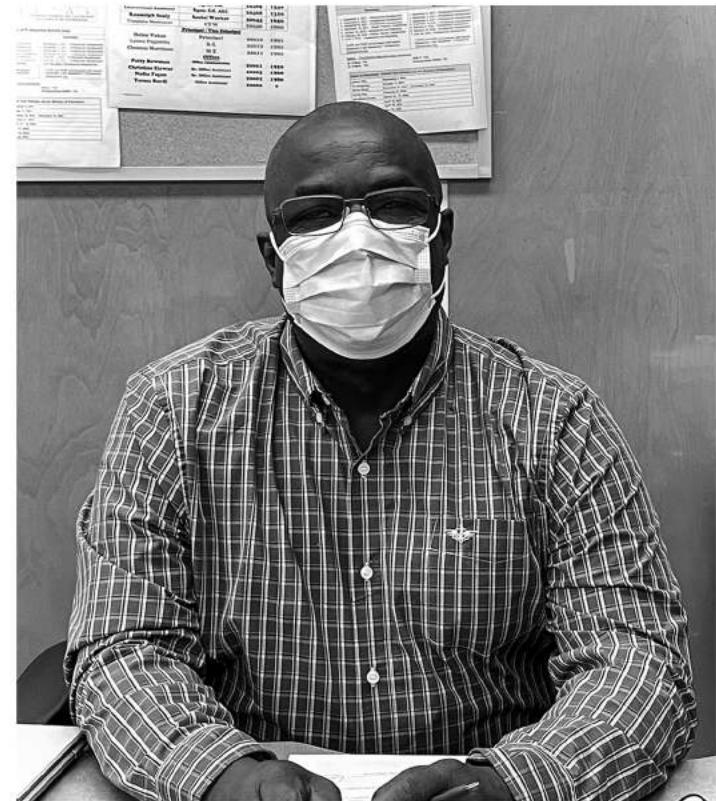


Photo Credits : Zarina Gibson

Welcome Mr. Morrison!

Selena Sarwari

As a new school year begins at Mac, we welcome new additions to our student and staff body. Among them is our new vice-principal, Mr. Morrison!

Mr. Morrison, a hardworking and friendly educator, has been appointed to Mac this 2021-2022 school year. I interviewed our new vice-principal to get to know him and ask about his plans to help Mac grow into the future.

I first asked Mr. Morrison what he thought of Mac. Mr. Morrison responded, "I found this to be an awesome school. I thought to myself: Wow, I hit the jackpot being placed at this school! The students here are so polite and I'm impressed with the wide range of course offerings which are available to the students." These words certainly paint a positive image of what he thinks of Mac as a school, and of its teachers and students.

Going deeper into the subject, I asked him: "What compelled you to come to Mac? Is it everything you'd thought it'd be?" Mr. Morrison said that when he first transferred here, he visited the neighbourhood to get a sense of the school community. He said that Mac has surpassed his expectations.

I was also curious to see what goals he has set out to achieve at Mac. Since every educational institution has its strengths and weaknesses, I asked Mr. Morrison how he hoped to improve our school. He explained that he wanted to expand experiential learning opportunities through working with the admin staff and introducing new clubs and programs to Mac. These include Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs, more extracurricular activities, and more sports teams, such as cricket — look for it, cricket fans!

Afterwards, I asked Mr. Morrison about his motivations for becoming a vice-principal and educator for high school students. Mr. Morrison recalled his high school math teacher named Mr. Phillips back in Jamaica. "This teacher motivated me to become a teacher," he explained, "I was about fifteen years old when I made up my mind. I wanted to be an educator, a high school teacher. I want to not only teach academic subjects, but also technological subjects, in which you get to build relationships and have a say in the future of our generation."

Mr. Morrison mentioned that he had a rather interesting journey into education. Starting as a high school teacher in Jamaica, he later immigrated to Canada to become an industrial electrician. In Toronto, he worked in the fields of construction and manufacturing for almost fifteen years, until he found an opportunity to return to his passion: education. Mr. Morrison then taught at the former Sir Robert Borden Business and Technical Institute for almost nine years, until he saw a job offer at the board level. Since then, he has become an instructional leader looking after experiential learning programs, technological education, cooperative education and business programs. After some time, he was transferred here to Mac as our new vice-principal!

So, we are happy to welcome Vice-Principal Mr. Morrison to Mac and we look forward to his positive impact and great contributions to our school!

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Extracurriculars



“Knitting Club”

Photo Credits: ZhenYan Lin



“Chamber Strings”

Photo Credits: Jalan Bayram



“Art Council”

Photo Credits: Corina Neculau

Mac Health Council (MHC) strives to teach Blackscots about living a healthier but enjoyable lifestyle. With various monthly topics, such as nutrition and stress, MHC is the perfect place to strengthen your bond with health. (@mahealthcouncil on Instagram)

Art Council was created for the students at Mac to express their creativity through the form of visual arts. Students with a passion for art have an opportunity to display their pieces throughout the school and even at other venues. (@macartcouncil on Instagram)

Athletic Council provides support for all of our athletic programs. This council provides scorekeepers and arranges games that take place at Mac. They film games to not only document game plans, but also to create a year-end banquet video to highlight athletics at Mac. The Athletic Council is also in charge of organizing and distributing Mac Wear. (@macdonaldathletics on Instagram)

These are only a small number of the clubs and councils offered at Mac. Others include Knitting Club, Black Student Alliance (BSA), Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA), HOSA, Business Club (formerly known as DECA), Music Council, Choir, Mac Fab Lab, Computer Club, and Coding Club. Here at Mac, we strive to create a welcoming place for everyone with an array of passions and we hope you take advantage of the opportunities!

Councils at Mac

Lia Sayegh

It's going to take a lot more than pivoting, online switches, and foreign routines to vanquish Mac's school spirit. Bouncing back to make the most of what we have, Mac offers endless incredible clubs and councils where you can make new friends, improve certain skills, and enjoy yourself overall. From art to athletics, there is definitely a club suited for you!

Mac News is Mac's one and only phenomenal newspaper council, responsible for the paper you are reading right now! With hard-working individuals and their wide-ranging talents, the published stories, opinions, opportunities, and images are always interesting and informative. (@macnews__ on Instagram)

Mac PALs consists of senior students (Grades 11-12) who offer one-on-one tutoring to junior students (Grades 9-10) regarding an array of school subjects. School can be tough at times, so be sure to check out the Mac PALs Instagram or contact your guidance counsellor if you are in need of a tutor! (@mac.pals_ on Instagram)

Yearbook Committee is a group of passionate and enthusiastic students who share the goal of capturing and recording the memories of Mac students that will culminate into a yearbook to be purchased at the end of the school year. (@its.yearbook on Instagram)

Student Activity Council (SAC) is undoubtedly the council with the most school spirit, devoted to running school events with liveliness! Dedicated members plan and create all school-spirited events, such as semi-formal, prom, school dances, and more! (@blackscotpride on Instagram)

Mentorship Council is a recent addition to Mac's club and councils. It consists of experienced Grade 12 students who offer to tutor others. The tutors are paired up with students in need of little extra help outside of the classroom, so they can assist students in subjects of their choice. High school can be overwhelming but knowing more about learning strategies and social situations can be advantageous to a lot of students.

Macdonald Environmental Action Council (MEAC) aspires to understand the environmental impact of personal actions and spread awareness about environmental issues. (@meac.mac on Instagram)

Mac Association of Canadian Cultures (MACC) promotes diversity and equity of cultures throughout the school and Mac community. (@maccdiversity on Instagram)

Macdonald Representatives (Mac Reps) is the largest council here at Macdonald. With over 50 students from Grades 10-12, the council organizes, facilitates, and participates in major events such as Moving On Up (Grade 9 Orientation), Photo Day, Commencement, Parent-Teacher Interviews, and more.

Mac in Action (MIA) is Macdonald's student-run philanthropic and volunteer council. This council consists of eight committed student-leaders who strive to make the world a better place by volunteering in the community in addition to providing donations to charities. Every year, MIA helps over 500 students complete their volunteer hours as well as fundraise for those in need. (@macinaction on Instagram)

Fall Athletics

Todd Ash-Duah

Hey Mac! Last year was extremely rough for all of us. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, we all had to go through a school year without being able to play our favourite sports. But, not this year! Fall athletics are coming back in full swing, and, thankfully, there is a multitude of sports and intramurals that will be happening this fall. The sports are Girls' Field Hockey, Junior and Senior Boys' Soccer, Boys' and Girls' Rugby, and Boys' and Girls' Golf (Boys', Girls', Junior, and Senior events are all separate).

Co-Ed Ultimate Frisbee Intramurals have also returned! The jam-packed action began on October 12th with teams of 5-7 energetic and dynamic Mac athletes. There may be some people who may not know how exactly the game of Ultimate Frisbee works, so here are some basic rules:

- Both teams line up in front of opposite end-zone lines.
- In order to score, the offence has to catch the frisbee in the opponents' end zone. The teams switch sides after every score.
- After catching the frisbee, the player may not run with the frisbee. The person with the frisbee has ten seconds to throw the frisbee to a teammate.
- Change of possession occurs when a pass falls incomplete (for example, the frisbee is intercepted by the opposing team).
- Ultimate frisbee is a non-contact sport (no tackling, screens, etc).
- By catching the frisbee in the opposing team's end-zone, the other team earns one point. The team that scores 15 points first wins the game.

From October 19th until October 25th, Co-Ed Football Intramurals were also back in action! Mac students teamed up with their friends and planned for victory in Flag Football!

If Flag Football isn't for you, maybe the Mezz Club is! Beef up your muscles and improve your overall fitness with many fellow Mac students who have really enjoyed being back in the Mezz. One such student is Grade 12 Anthony Vazquez who says, "The Mezz club has been great so far! A lot of kids come in and work out and everyone has fun in the morning." The Mezz will be open every day in the morning from 7:40 am to 8:40 am, and you can join by signing up through the Google Form in the @macdonaldathletics bio on Instagram. If you are interested in any more athletics opportunities, stay updated with @macdonaldathletics on Instagram. Let's get fit, Mac!



Photo Credits: @macdonaldathletics

Interviewing Blackscots

Interviewing Mac's Class of 2021: Betty Guo at Queen's Commerce

Karen Mitro & Nancy Zou

Happy November, Mac! Do you often wonder what life after high school might look like? How experiences differ between post-secondary schools and programs? Luckily for you, Mac News introduces a new monthly series in which we interview recent Mac graduates about their post-secondary lives!

For this issue, we reached out to Betty Guo, former Head of Layouts at Mac News. Let's hear about her experiences and advice that led her—and perhaps you—to Queen's Commerce!

1. Which university and program are you going to? How did you decide?

Currently, I go to Queen's University for their Commerce program as a part of the Smith's School of Business. Originally, my plan was to go into the medical field, but after thinking realistically, I realized that it wasn't the best idea for me. Instead, I decided on business, due to the versatility and opportunities that the field provides.

2. Tell us about your transition to university so far. Did Mac prepare you well?

Academically, I'd say that Mac does prepare you well in comparison to many other schools. However, university courses go a lot faster and there is a lot more content to cover. You will find yourself self-learning a lot, as it's less convenient to ask a professor something compared to finding your high school teacher at lunch. Many courses for commerce are structured in a way where your final exam will be worth more than 50% of your mark; however, other programs may have more deliverables, thus the final exam will be worth less.

3. Could you describe the application process specific to your current program?

Many business programs require a supplementary application and a video interview. Each school had different requirements and looked for different things in your answer as well. For example, the Western Ivey AEO application really stressed extracurriculars whereas the Schulich application cared about what you learned. I did quite a bit of research for what was expected of me and I highly recommend doing so yourself to be more prepared as a whole!

4. How would you describe the atmosphere of your university community?

One of the main reasons why I picked Queen's Commerce was because of the community. I'd say that compared to other schools, people at Queen's are very social and more friendly. Life has gotten a lot harder with being away from home due to factors of homesickness. However, upper years at Queen's, especially those in commerce, are always willing to talk and help you whenever you need it.

5. What advice would you give to Blackscots interested in your field?

When it comes to applications for business schools (or competitive programs in general), there is a heavy emphasis on who you are outside of academics. Having a high average isn't enough anymore; extracurriculars really help differentiate you from everyone else and you will need them for your supplementary applications. I was heavily involved with the Music Council at Mac and consequently, my supplementary application mainly discussed my experience as an executive on the council. Scholarships and supplementary applications look for meaningful experiences in leadership positions or personal side projects. Activities like sports, music, or dance exemplify your other interests and make you a more well-rounded student.

6. What advice would you give to Grade 12s who are still undecided?

As someone who didn't know what program they wanted to go into until basically the last day to choose, I understand your struggles. Something that really helped me was the advice I received from my Grade 10 careers teacher: think about what you're good at and enjoy. Are you good with your hands? Do you like to speak and network? Or, do you prefer numbers and logic? Another piece of advice is to see if your goals and values realistically align with your program. Consider how much money you need to make to suit your lifestyle, but also pick something you will enjoy since you will spend a good portion of your life doing it.

We at Mac truly appreciate Betty's advice and wish her the best! Stay tuned for our new series and for more interviews from Mac's Class of 2021!

Entrepreneurial Spirit at Mac: Interviewing Amaya Hunnisett

Megan Eng

en·tre·pre·neur

/, ăntɹəprə' nər, ăntɹəprə' noo(ə)r/

noun

a person who organizes and operates a business or businesses

An entrepreneur is a person (or group of people) who start and run their own business. Mac has been a school of many aspiring entrepreneurs, and today, I had the chance to speak to one remarkable and successful individual.

In this interview, Amaya Hunnisett tells us about her incredible business, designs, inspirations, and thoughts on entrepreneurship. You can find her on Etsy at etsy.com/ca/shop/AmayaDesignsCo or Instagram (@amayadesignsco).

Amaya's Etsy shop has had sixty sales and all the reviews give her five stars! So, of course we are interested in the details of her success.

To begin, what is your business about?

I sell sticker sheets and digital stickers of designs that I paint using watercolours. I also do custom orders where someone can commission me to paint anything: for example, a pet portrait or a landscape with lettering on it.

What inspired you to start your business?

Watching people on YouTube making stickers and using them in their bullet journals is what mainly inspired me to start my business.

When did you first start?

I started my business on August 10, 2020, but it took me several months to prepare for the opening. I had to take product photos, set up social media accounts for marketing, and make sure I had the supplies for products and packaging.

If you could, is there anything you would have changed when you first started?

There is nothing I would have changed when I first started if I had gotten the chance because I made sure I had everything planned out (ex. pricing and fees, photography and marketing, etc).

What do you like most about selling online?

What I like most about selling online is that I can get orders from basically anywhere in the world! My physical sticker sheets are only available to ship to Canada and the US, but for Digital Download stickers, anyone in the world can purchase them. So I've gotten orders from across Canada, across the US, Japan, Singapore, Germany, and many other places!

That sounds amazing! What is the most challenging problem you've faced when it comes to your business?

The most challenging problem I've faced is keeping up with posting to Instagram and Pinterest and making new products. It gets sort of busy managing an Etsy shop with school and other things that come up in life.

What would you recommend for aspiring entrepreneurs out there?

I would recommend going for it if you know you have the time. Make sure you have everything planned out before you open your business: price your products so you make some profit, take high-quality photos of your items, market your products through social media, and use keywords in your listings.

Thank you for speaking with us! Where can we find out more about your business?

You can find out more about my business on Etsy by searching Amaya Designs Co and on Instagram @amayadesignsco.



Photo Credits : Amaya Hunnisett

Ontario Universities Fair

Brandon Feng

Post-secondary decisions are stressful enough without the pandemic; it is understandable that many students may face further difficulties accessing information about post-secondary options as they graduate.

Fortunately, the Ontario Universities Fair is an annual event that keeps students informed while giving them a chance to contact the right individuals depending on whatever institution they are interested in. Normally, starting on Tuesday, the 26th of October, representatives from several universities based in the province would head to downtown Toronto to set up booths for the OUF. Participating universities included the University of Toronto, Ryerson, Queens, and more, totalling all 21 Ontario universities. Due to COVID-19 this year, the event was held 100% virtually.

This year, the annual event is open to all students and is two hours in length, featuring four 30-minute sessions where students can attend up to four participating universities' presentations. Students are recommended to attend this event, investigate their post-secondary interests and leave contact information with university representatives for future use.

Established in 1997, this year's Ontario Universities Fair was the 25th annual hosting of the fair. Previously, up to 100,000 guests were allowed to attend the event at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, located near Front St West and Simcoe Street, just 100 metres from the CN Tower. This year, there was no limit to the number of attendees.

Although OUF has passed, you haven't missed your opportunity to hear from universities. Thanks to our guidance counsellors, universities have been giving lunchtime Zoom presentations for students interested in learning more about each school. Keep updated on your Guidance Google Classroom for more post-secondary information, or ask your guidance counsellor for further details! each school. Keep updated on your Guidance Google Classroom for more post-secondary information, or ask your guidance counsellor for further details!

Halloween at Macdonald!

Vishva Sritharan

As the summer quickly faded into brisk, colourful days, we were met again with our Spook-tober month, where everyone engaged with their fears and shared sinister stories with one another. It was the season for sharing delightfully delectable treats with each other, and relishing the half-priced candy in stores. October was an opportunity for people to show off their creativity in costumes and make-up, and Macdonald certainly took advantage of the opportunity! Even though we have been living through an intimidating reality for the past year and a half, Halloween continues to be one of the most thrilling holidays for everyone to experience. While wandering the halls of Mac, you may have caught scary faces hidden in displays, courtesy of the Art Council. Some of these decorations certainly sent chills down our spines! Continue to bring your holiday and school spirit to Macdonald, and show your true chilling self to your peers! We hope you had a Happy Halloween and a truly spooktastic October, Blackscots!

P.S: Did you go trick-or-treating?



Photo Credits : Ms. Diamandas



Photo Credits : Saralyn Guo



Photo Credits: Niko Giannou



Photo of Chanie Wenjack
Photo Credits: Pearl Achneepineskum
(Chanie's sister)

Secret Path Week: Walk for Wenjack

Victoria Lin

During the week of October 18th, Blackscots participated in the Walk for Wenjack to commemorate the tragic story and life of Chanie Wenjack. Despite dropping temperatures throughout the week, Mac students were out every day, walking and reflecting. Chanie Wenjack was an Anishinaabe child who was forcefully taken from his family and put in a residential school. After escaping the school, he began a 600 kilometre journey home, braving the cooling temperatures of October with insufficient clothing. Sadly, he eventually succumbed to the weather. The Walk for Wenjack fundraiser organized by the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund was created to raise awareness about the true horrors of residential schools. It aimed to raise \$60,000—\$100 for every kilometre Chanie Wenjack had to walk home. By the end of the week, Mac had raised \$1,300, contributing to the current total of over \$100 000 in donations!

While anyone can do their own Walk for Wenjack anytime, the Secret Path Week is a national movement for everyone to come together and honour those who suffered and lost their lives in residential schools. The Secret Path Week is one of the many steps we are taking to fully acknowledge the history of the First Nations and residential schools.

Pumpkin Pie

Yushan Huang

