

# MAC NEWSLETTER

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Art by Mindy Lu



Art by Amanda Ma

## Admin Team News

Welcome to the month of April!

As we ushered in spring, we are encouraged by the continued collaboration of our staff and students as they engage in student life here at Mac. This month's newsletter is chalk full of what's happening at Mac, as well as key information regarding the EQAO Literacy test and the achievement reporting cycle. We have also been eagerly planning spring events for our students as well as prom and commencement for our grads. Although learning and academics always come first, it's never too late for students to get involved, as many clubs/councils are looking for new participants. In the meantime, please enjoy reading this month's newsletter.

## Downie Wenjack Youth Ambassador Program

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF) is offering the DWF Youth Ambassador Program in partnership with RBC Future Launch this summer. They are increasing the enrolment to 100 youth participants! This program will offer the youth participants the opportunity to gain practical work experience, network, strengthen 21st-century skills, and gain leadership experience while learning about DWF and Canada's true history with residential schools.

Throughout the 4-week leadership training program, 100 Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth from throughout Canada will engage in online, part-time work that will support them to become champions of reconciliation in their schools and communities.

At the end of the program, the youth participants will receive an honorarium for their participation and have the chance to make lasting change through their new volunteer Youth Ambassador Committee. The Youth Ambassador Committee helps to guide DWF programming and champion their work.

The application deadline is April 15, 2022. For more information and to apply online, visit <https://downiewenjack.ca/our-work/youth-ambassador-program/>

## Mid-Semester Reporting

We are quickly approaching the midterm point of Semester 2. Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> is the start of Term 2. Midterm marks will be submitted during the week of April 25<sup>th</sup> and report cards will be electronically sent shortly afterwards. We encourage all parents to review their child(ren)'s report cards and if you have any concerns, please reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher.

# Student Success Department News

## Coop

Thank you to all those students that handed in their coop application. The applications are being reviewed and Coop interviews will be scheduled this month.

## Community Resources for Homework Help

Does your child/ward need extra help beyond our homework clubs and Mac PALS? If so, please check out the resources below for support in the community.

- ✓ [Brainfuse - Toronto Public Library](#)

Online homework help for students in grades K-12 offered daily from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Also includes practice tests, writing assistance, skills building and more. You just need to log in with your Toronto Public Library card to access the site.

<https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDMEDB0193&R=EDB0193>

- ✓ [Mathify - Ontario Ministry of Education](#)

Free 1:1 Grade 6-11 math tutoring with Ontario Certified Teachers! Build your math skills and confidence with a personalized math coach. Tutors are available online Mondays-Fridays from 9am to 9pm ET and Sundays from 3:30pm to 9pm ET. Once you register for an account, you can access this fantastic resource. <https://www.tvomathify.com/students>

- ✓ [Youth Hubs - Toronto Public Library \(Fairview\)](#)

Youth Hubs are a welcoming place for teens after school and in the summer, where helpful staff are always available. We've reopened our Youth Hubs with revised services and new safety protocols in place. Youth Hubs are open Monday to Friday from 3:30 to 7:00pm.

<https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/services/youth-hubs.jsp>

- ✓ [Mac PALS](#)

At Mac, we still have Mac PALS available to work with the junior students. We also have the Literacy program running every Thursday from 3:00-4:00 in room 117 with Ms. Jhutti. In addition, we run a Numeracy Program with Ms. Eshaque and Ms. Amirthalingam every Wednesday from 3:00 - 4:00 in rooms 209 (grade 9) and room 227 (grade 10). For more information about any of these programs, please email [erin.mackay@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:erin.mackay@tdsb.on.ca)

Ms. MacKay

## International Day of Pink

The International Day of Pink is a worldwide anti-bullying and anti-homophobia event held annually during the second week of April. This year, the International Day of Pink is on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all students, staff members and families to wear pink on this day to show their support and we encourage our students to stand up against bullying towards our 2SLGBTQIA+ community.



## School Settlement Workers at MAC

We are excited to welcome back our school settlement workers at Macdonald. The settlement workers will be in the building one day per week in the month of April to provide one-on-one services for our Newcomer students and supports for their families. For our Cantonese speaking community, please see the [flyer](#) for information about their April workshop.

Mrs. Pagnotta

# Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

The Ministry of Education has waived the OSSLT graduation requirement for students who are graduating this year. However, for students in grades 10, 11 and non-graduating grade 12 students, the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test is a graduation requirement. This year, the test is completely online and will be administered at Macdonald over the course of two Period 1 classes between April 13<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>. Information about specific testing dates will be sent directly to families and students who are writing the test this year.

Our Literacy Committee has been working hard to create opportunities for students to prepare for the test. If you would like to know more details about what is on the test and what students can expect of the test, please follow this [link](#) to a summary document. Below is information about the various opportunities we have created to prepare students for the test.

## PRACTICE DAY

Literacy is a whole school initiative and at Macdonald, we will be having a Practice Literacy Day on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Students will focus on elements of the Literacy Test each period and learn how to best answer the questions. As a school community, we will come together to prepare students to write the test.

## OSSLT (LITERACY TEST) PREP

Are you wanting practice for the Literacy Test? Feeling unsure about what it will look like? If so, we have you covered! On March 28<sup>th</sup>, we began our OSSLT Prep Sessions after school in the library. These sessions will continue for the next two weeks. Each session will have a different topic as we go over elements of the practice test, what it looks like and how to complete the questions. Take a look at our [schedule](#) and feel free to stop by after school.

## Guidance News

### GRADUATING STUDENTS

Please submit your community hours. It should be noted that the hour requirements have been reduced to 20 hours for our 2021-2022 graduates. Forms may be found on our [Macdonald Guidance website](#). For more information, please see [Spark Ontario](#) or [Volunteer Toronto](#).

Remember to check your College or University portals for important information.

### SUMMER SCHOOL

Please note that Continuing Education and eLearning Programs are two different departments. eLearning is NOT part of Continuing Education. Summer school course offerings have been posted in the Guidance Google classrooms.

- ✓ **eLearning:** Registration will open **Tuesday, April 5 (tentative) at 10:00 a.m.** e-Summer is fully virtual and consists of synchronous and asynchronous learning.
- ✓ **Continuing Education:** Registration will open **Tuesday, April 19 (tentative) at 9:00 a.m.** Full credit courses will be offered in person and remotely. Credit Recovery courses will be offered remotely. Mandatory attendance daily from 9:00am to 3:15pm from Monday to Friday.

Find more information at [TDSB Continuing Education Summer School](#).

### FULL DISCLOSURE DATE FOR SEMESTER 2

Friday, May 20, 2022 is the full disclosure date for students who would like to drop a Grade 11 or Grade 12 course. Please note that parent/guardian approval is required.

*Ms. Brassard*

## Credit Rescue Days

April 11<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> are Credit Rescue Days. Credit Rescue Days are an opportunity for students who are in jeopardy of receiving a failing grade to resubmit work or catch up on work that hasn't been completed. No new material will be covered on these days. The regular school day schedule will be followed.

*Mrs. Pagnotta*

## SAC News

March at Mac was one of a kind; it was driven by student voice, cultural representation, and a well-deserved week-long break. That being said, I hope that everyone had the chance to rejuvenate over the March Break!

At the beginning of the month, the SAC worked with our staff advisors to pilot two newly implemented initiatives: Question of the Month (QOTM) and the Student Voice Survey. Conducted on March 1st and March 8th respectively, both surveys allowed students to provide insight and suggestions for the school. Thank you for participating, Mac. We hope to continue these activities moving forward in order to improve everyone's school year!

March was also Greek Heritage Month. The SAC designed a bulletin board to recognize Greek history, Greek culture, and influential Greeks. Additionally, students and staff wore blue and white on March 25th to celebrate Greek Independence Day (the colours of the Greece flag). As we move into April, we will be working with the MACC (Macdonald's Association of Canadian Cultures) to recognize Hispanic Heritage and Sikh Heritage!

Of course, we did not forget about our regular spirit days! On March 10<sup>th</sup>, we hosted Plaid Day. This theme, as usual, was incredibly successful. We saw plaid pants, shirts, jackets, and even masks! It was a nice way to enter the March Break.

Finally, we are bringing back our annual Spirit Week. Everyday beginning April 11<sup>th</sup> and ending April 14<sup>th</sup> will be dedicated to one theme. They are as follows:

- ✓ **Monday, April 11: White Lie Day.** Wear a white t-shirt or tape a piece of paper to your shirt and write a white lie on it!
- ✓ **Tuesday April 12: Tourist Day.** Wear vacation clothing/accessories or clothes you bought from tourist attractions from around the world!
- ✓ **Wednesday, April 13: Formal Attire Day.** Wear formal or business casual clothes to school!
- ✓ **Thursday, April 14: Era Day.** Wear clothing from different eras!

These last couple of months are going to be incredibly eventful! Be sure to follow us on Instagram @blackscotpride, as well as other councils, to be up to date with everything happening around the school. Let's look forward to another exciting month and another long weekend!

*Judy Zhang*  
*SAC President*



## Hispanic Heritage Month at TDSB

During the month of April the TDSB recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month. In March 2010, the TDSB Board of Trustees voted that April be designated as Hispanic Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board.

As stated in the Hispanic Heritage Month Act, (May 5, 2015): "Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of Hispanic people in the province."

## Sikh Heritage Month at TDSB

Sikh Heritage Month is proudly recognized at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) during the month of April since 2016 as the Board of Trustees voted to designate April of each year Sikh Heritage Month making the TDSB the first school board in Canada to do so. This designation matches the recognition by the Province of Ontario that proclaimed Sikh Heritage Month Act in December 2013, and the recognition proclaimed by the Government of Canada on April 30, 2019. Sikh Heritage Month is recognized nationally across Canada.

This year the theme is *Come to learn, go to serve; the goal of education is to serve humanity.*

## Ramadan

The first week of April this year marks the start of Ramadan, one of the holiest months in the Islamic Calendar. Muslims around the world abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset for 29-30 consecutive days. Eid is celebrated at the end of Ramadan and is one of the most significant Islamic holidays.

## Don't Forget

There is a lot happening in April! Don't forget Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> are holidays. Mark your calendars as there will be no school on these dates.

Mrs. Pagnotta



## Congratulations Junior Boys Volleyball City Champions!!!



# April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Day 2 Ramadan Begins	2
3	4 Day 1	5 Day 2	6 Day 1	7 Day 2	8 Day 1	9
10	11 Day 2 Credit Rescue Day	12 Day 1	13 Day 2 	14 Day 1	15 <b>HOLIDAY</b>	16
17 Happy Easter! 	18 <b>HOLIDAY</b>	19 Day 2	20 Day 1 Credit Rescue Day Late Start	21 Day 2	22 Day 1	23
24	25 Day 2 Term 2 Begins	26 Day 1	27 Day 2 Late Start	28 Day 1	29 Day 2	30

*When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.  
Dr. Wayne Dyer*