

MAC NEWSLETTER

Principal: H. Vokas

Vice Principals: C. Morrison, L. Pagnotta



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Admin Team News

Our students continue to be fully engaged in their learning and have begun a number of activities and athletics. Throughout this newsletter and on our website, you will read about our clubs, councils, athletics, and wellness initiatives and how your child can get connected and involved.

December brings snow and the anticipation of a welcomed holiday break which will begin December 18th to January 2nd. Our first day back to school will be on January 3rd, a Day 2 schedule.

Together, as a community, we have navigated the worst of this pandemic and we will continue to do so. Please be mindful and continue to mitigate by wearing our masks, washing our hands, and practicing physical distancing.

Wishing Everyone a Wonderful Holiday Season!!! For our community members that celebrate: We wish you a Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and a Merry Christmas!

Student Activity Fees

We encourage all parents and guardians to pay for their child(ren)'s student activity fee. The \$50 fee provides students with a Yearbook and a Student Activity Card and helps to subsidize the many clubs, councils and events that we are running this year. Fees are to be paid online through [School Cash Online](https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com).

Ministry Announcement

As was announced by the provincial government, all Ontario public school students will be sent home with five rapid COVID-19 test kits to use over the holidays and throughout the return to in-person learning. Once received, the school will develop a plan for distribution to all in-person students. Further information will be provided closer to the holiday break.

Provided in the Ministry announcement was an update regarding Semester 2. Schools will be able to return to a regular semester model, which the TDSB is currently working to solidify. We will inform students and parents when more detailed information becomes available.

Student Activity Fee

What it provides you:



YEARBOOK!



STUDENT
ACTIVITY
CARD!

Subsidizes:
Clubs and Councils
Athletic Activities

\$50

Pay Online!

[<tdsb.schoolcashonline.com>](https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com)



Welcome Back to the Library!

This month, the library has re-opened and we are beyond excited to welcome students back into our space! Students have been trickling in as they slowly rediscover the library. We have been working hard at creating a warm and welcoming environment for students. We have recruited a wonderful group of Library volunteers that are eager and enthusiastic about keeping the library running well and enriching the program.

The library is a versatile space that supports student learning and well-being in many ways. We are open before school at 8:30 during lunch, and after school until 3:15. We have been working hard to rebuild and update our book collection. Students are super excited to be able to borrow books again! Students may borrow books for three weeks, and they may also renew their books if they need them longer than 3 weeks. There are 35 desktop computers also available for student use before school, at lunch and afterschool. Students may print their work as needed.



Don't forget that in addition to the physical space, students have access to the [TDSB Virtual Library](#) which has a wealth of useful resources. To access the resources from home, students will need [usernames & passwords](#). For a brief introduction to the Virtual Library, please check out this [video](#).

TDSB JUST READ IT - Read a good book lately? Share your book recommendations on [Just Read It](#) for your chance to win a free book!

Here are some exciting things we are working on in the upcoming weeks:

White Pine Book club -White Pine books are part of the Forest of Reading program that runs yearly in Ontario schools and libraries. We are eagerly awaiting our collection to arrive and as soon as this happens, we will begin having monthly book club meetings for students who are interested. Meetings will take place in the library seminar room. Come read with us! This year's books are amazing! [2022 White Pine Books](#)

TikTok book display - We are currently working on a new and exciting book display and making sure all the most popular YA novels are available to our students to encourage a love for reading. Many of our students want to get their hands on the latest popular books as seen on TikTok so keep your eyes open for our new display, coming soon.

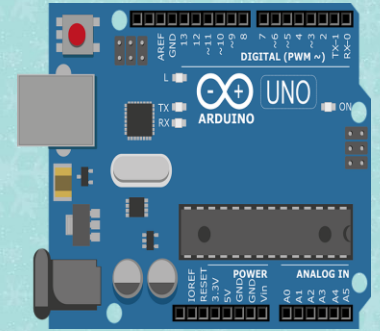
Mrs. Katrivanos

Robotics in Computer Engineering

Wondering how robotics works...here's breakdown from the TEJ4M1 class.

Study of the Arduino Microcontroller (Mr. Goutziomitos)

We can group computers into general purpose computers, controllers, and microcontrollers. The Arduino is a microcontroller type computer. It has a 5-volt external USB power supply, and a 9-volt battery autonomous external power supply. It interfaces to the external world with digital and analog pins. Moreover, it has a transmit and receive pin for remote control. The Arduino itself can power external devices with a 5-volt power supply, and ground terminals through its 5-volt and ground pins. Through these pins the power and ground rails of the breadboard are powered.



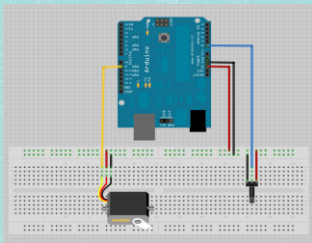
Programming the Arduino (Tejesh Arujuna)

One programs the Arduino using the Arduino IDE. The Arduino IDE contains a text editor for writing code, a message area, a text console, a toolbar with buttons for common functions and a series of menus. It connects to the Arduino hardware to upload programs and communicate with them. Arduino programming is based on two loops: the setup, and the loop. The setup loop runs only once. The loop function is an infinite loop. From within the loop other functions are being called. Basically, the loop function is where the main program resides and will run continuously. The basic tools of programming: integers, reals, and names are also available. Other libraries may be included in programming. And of course, variables can be defined.

```
void setup() {  
    // put your setup code here, to run once:  
}  
  
void loop() {  
    // put your main code here, to run repeatedly:  
}
```

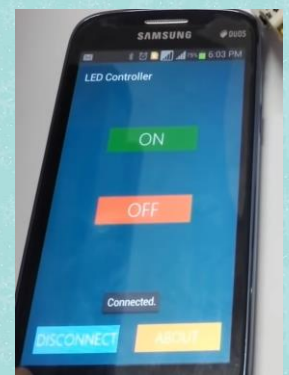
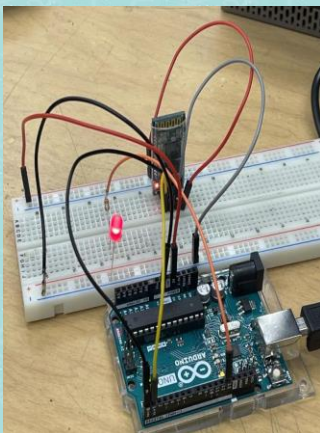
Study of Motor Control Concept (Derry Niu)

The behaviour of motor control is being investigated in a knob servo wiring combination and program. Different values for forward, backward, left, right, and U-turn movements are recorded. The study of motor control concepts can be simply summarized as the turning of a motor. Motor control is important for many machines. It allows movement in any direction possible. An example of this would be a remote-control toy car.



Remote Control of LED on/off Concept (Vithushika Kokilarajan)

A bluetooth controller allows us to remotely control devices connected to our breadboard and Arduino. The device we were remotely controlling was an LED light bulb that was wired to a resistor. We were able to control the light being emitted from the bulb using our phones through the Controller app. This was done by programming the Arduino to revive input from our phones using the bluetooth controller and respond to that input with an output operation. The output either emitted 5-volts of energy through the resistor and to the light bulb causing the bulb to light up or emitted 0-volts of energy to the resistor and bulb causing the bulb to turn off.



More to come on Robotics in the January Newsletter!!!

SAC News

It's finally December! We don't know about you, but the SAC is definitely feeling the holiday spirit. With just over two weeks left before Winter Break, we're sure that many students are just as excited. The SAC hosted two spirit days this past month and they both had outstanding turnouts. We can only look forward to what everyone brings to the table in December!



On November 18th, Colour Wars took place. Students wore the colour that represented their grade: Grade 9's wore blue, Grade 10's wore red, Grade 11's wore black, and Grade 12's wore white. Staff also participated by wearing any kind of patterned clothing. On November 25th, it was Jersey Day! On this day, everyone wore a variety of clothing from either their favourite sports team or MAC athletic team. It was amazing to see such a variety of sporting merch!



Moving onto December, we will be kicking off with Pajama Day—arguably the most loved spirit day. On December 10th, staff and students are welcome to rise out of bed and head straight to school in their comfortable PJ's. Then on December 17th, we invite everyone to dig up their holiday-themed sweaters to celebrate Ugly Sweater Day!

Lastly, our annual Holiday Cheer Assembly is now in the works. This assembly has a performance component, so if you know someone at MAC who would like to showcase their talent, please let them know! The assembly will be recorded and played in each class on December 17th.

Wishing the best to all staff, students, and families. Let's end the year with a bang!

Judy Zhang & Sachi Taploo

Remembrance Day Assembly

Every year on November 11th, we stop and take the time to reflect on the sacrifices that people have made to protect and defend our safety, so that we can live peacefully and freely. Since the end of the First World War, each Remembrance Day commemorates and honours Canadians who served and continue to serve in the Armed Forces. These courageous men and women have done so with great pride, respect, commitment, and devotion to keeping all Canadians safe. During our virtual assembly, staff and students were able to watch and listen to stories of service from active soldiers and veterans, as they shared encouraging messages of hope and remembrance. Many students also partook in our virtual assembly by recording their reflections on what this day represents. Additionally, we had the pleasure of listening to the vocal music students, led by Ms. Reeder, who sang a beautiful rendition of O Canada, as well as a very moving performance by Ms. Covent's Grade 12 Drama students. Finally, our virtual Remembrance Day assembly was made possible by the incredible hard work and tech expertise of Mr. Steel. We here at Macdonald CI are tremendously appreciative of our rights and freedoms, and we thank and commemorate those who have risked their lives so that we can continue to live in peace. We would like to share our [Remembrance Day Video](#) with our school community. Lest We Forget.



Ms. Kotsopoulos

Reflecting On Our Past

The Grade 10 Canadian History course pays specific attention to the Indigenous perspective throughout all units of study. These acrostic poems demonstrate the students' learning of the Residential School experience in Canada. The emotions described show that the students have a deep connection to and understanding of the legacy of this horrific chapter of Canadian history. These lessons also illustrate why it is important to continue to support learning that integrates Indigenous culture, teachings and contributions throughout the curriculum. These acrostic poems were written by English Language Learners in the Grade 10 Canadian History Since World War 1 course:

Ms. Geary

CULTURAL GENOCIDE

Consequences of abuse and torture, many boys and girls died.

Using the Indian Act to force indigenous children onto reserves.

Language, culture and customs pass away from their lives, they aren't allowed to keep that anymore.

Trying to escape, trying to be safe, trying to go home.

Until 1990 this massacre didn't stop.

Real nightmares pass through their minds, they didn't want to stay there.

Assimilated indigenous people to become Canadians. Loneliness, sadness, frustration were the feelings of the children, when they were trying to survive the abuse.

Government and Catholic church were responsible of this genocide.

Echos of their voices sound in their parents mind.

Nuns, priests and political leaders want to "kill the indian in the child".

Options were just for work, study and live on reserves.

Conditions in the reserves were poor and dirty, no one cared about these children.

Indigenous people aren't going to be ignored, they want justice.

Darkness from the 1920s to the 1990s, all across Canada.

Ending - all the residential schools have closed but their legacy continues.

By: Carlos Morales

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

Really hurtful and abusive

Experiences that emotionally

Scarred many of the

Indigenous children.

Deep down the

Experiences they faced there

Not only affected them but also

Their parents and the

Indigenous community

Anti-indigenous racism made them

Lose their voice and culture.

Sir John A. Macdonald represented the Canadian government, he made them feel like they had no right to speak.

Hearing the stories now, makes me feel grateful that I am learning and living in a supporting and positive environment.

Only they can feel and understand the legacy of this place.

On-going loneliness, abuse, nightmares, sadness, stress and

Loss in the world full of racism and discrimination.

Somewhere called "school" there was endless torture, abuse, disrespect and hurt.

By: Zulaikha Sediqi

Debate Team

The Macdonald Debate Team (MDT) is under way and we invite everyone to join. If you are interested in discussion and debate, then this group is for you. Our topics include: social, political, economic, cultural issues and more! We are a group of 30+ students who meet virtually with our staff advisors, Ms. Domville and Ms. Capogiannis, every Monday at 3:45pm. If interested, please email Ms. Cap at vicky.capogiannis@tdsb.on.ca. We look forward to seeing you there!

MAC Debate Team Executives



Visual Arts Students...Creative Concepts, Skillful Techniques

Mac students have the creativity that's needed to enrich this world, and are always improving their skills for how to show their fun and interesting ideas. These artworks show Grade 10 student creations... Mrs. Piperias' Visual Arts students developed realistic drawings skills, with their choice of either black and white or colour, and found an object that they wanted to draw from observation. Mr Herman's Grade 10 Digital Art class used Photoshop and their imagination to create "Somebody in an Unusual Situation". Each student chose their own artistic adventure!



Mr. Herman

New Visual Arts Course: Gr 12 Drawing & Painting (AWM4M)

Macdonald will now be offering a focus course for next year's Grade 12 students who would like to dive deeper into exploring drawing and/or painting. Like one more than the other? In this course you'll have lots of choice, for how you want to show your voice!

Mr. Herman



MIA's Opposition to Child Exploitation

MAC IN ACTION (MIA) hosted their first in person event after school on November 25th. The event was a great success with 50 students in attendance including our executive members. Students positively contributed as to how we can better the situation of exploited children. They were interested and engaged and received volunteer hours. We'd like to thank all students who attended, our advisors Ms. Hardeo and Ms. Capogiannis, Thajaie Sewell from yearbook who took photos, and especially Ms. Kibedi who came to show her support. In December, we will be hosting our Annual Winter Food Drive and then look out for our next event in the new year. We look forward to you joining MIA, to help pave way! Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday!

MIA Executives



Art Portfolio Consulting (for art school applications)

Post-secondary Arts schools have a February 1st deadline for portfolio submissions. Grade 12 Visual Art students, for all of Semester 1 are invited for portfolio tips and review with Mr. Herman. Email to arrange a time to meet together in Room 140 - michael.herman@tdsb.on.ca

Mr. Herman

Book Your Grad Photo

Attention graduates! It is that time of year to get your grad photos done. Don't miss out! Grad photos will be taking place during the week of December 13-17, 2021. You must book your appointment at www.bookmygrad.ca and enter the school code **SOA** to book an appointment at Macdonald. Graduating students who are virtual must book a time-slot afterschool.

**CLASS
OF
2022**

Wellness + Guidance + Health

"Wellness Wednesdays" will be taking place every other Wednesday after school to motivate and encourage students and staff to be physically and mentally active. Our activities also are a great way to meet new people and create friendships within our school community. Check out our Instagram page at [@macdonaldathletics](https://www.instagram.com/macdonaldathletics) for more information or check out the posters that are around the school with all the dates for December Events.

During the month of November, the Health Council hosted a successful compliment week! November 13th was World Kindness Day and to spread more kindness at MAC, sticky notes with positive messages were placed around the school to brighten up staff and students' days. A big Thank

You to all the members who helped make this possible!



In the month of December, the Council will be hosting a Sleep Seminar after school on the 10th. Anyone interested in learning more about the health benefits of sleep and/or improving their sleep hygiene, is welcomed to attend! It will be in collaboration with the SAC as we incorporate Pajama Spirit Day into our theme.

We are also excited to announce that Sweet Greet's is back! The Health Council will be selling Brookside chocolates that can be sent to friends at MAC to encourage holiday cheer. Pick some up at lunch in the main hall from November 29th to December 14th.

Lastly, don't forget to come by and have tea with us every Tuesday, for Tea Tuesday! Check out our instagram [@machealthcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/machealthcouncil) and our [website](#) to stay updated with our events. Have a great month MAC and remember, Health is Wealth!

The Wellness Team

Guidance News

YMCA Summer Work Student Exchange Program - this is a national exchange program that allows youth to build relationships while spending the summer in another province. www.summer-work.com

New Full Disclosure Date: Based on the current Secondary School Year Calendar the new full disclosure date is **December 15, 2021 in Modified Semester 1 and May 20, 2022 for Semester 2** for all secondary schools. For students that withdraw from a Grade 11 or 12 course after the posted deadline or "drop date," the course would be recorded on their Ontario Student Transcript (OST).

Night School: Registration opens for Semester 2 Night School on December 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. www.creditprograms.ca

Elearning Day School: Semester 2 registration will open on Monday, December 6, 2021 and close on Friday, February 11, 2022.

Optional Attendance: If you are looking to access a high school outside of your residential address, you must apply with an optional attendance form. This form can be found in the main office. Forms must be delivered to your intended high school by January 28, 2022.

Switching Between In-Person and Virtual Learning

For families who are interested in making a switch from In-Person Learning to Virtual Learning or vice-versa, you must complete the [Switch Form](#). The form will be open from **November 29 to December 6, 2021**. Families and students who do not wish to make a change do not need to complete a form. Semester 2 classes will reflect changes due to switches beginning on **February 3, 2022**.

We look forward to seeing many of our students return to In-Person Learning. For those who are either remaining virtual or switching to virtual for Semester 2, please note the following:

- ✓ Students are expected to have their cameras on, as per the board email sent on November 29th to students and parents
- ✓ Specific Semester 2 courses will only be available to in-person students, which include the following at Macdonald
 - Transportation Technology (TTJ)
 - Computer Engineering Technology (TEJ)
 - Physical Education (PPL)
 - Grade 9 Drama (ADA)

Visit the [Secondary Switch Form Page](#) for more information.

School Settlement Workers

Our School Settlement Workers offer a great number of resources for our community. Please see this month's [flyers](#) regarding upcoming workshops for students and parents.

Mrs. Pagnotta

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
Day 1 All Week →						
5	6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women	7	8	9 Grade 8 Virtual Open House 7:00 p.m.	10 	11
Day 2 All Week →						
12	13 Grad Photos All Week	14	15 Late Start Day	16	17 	18
Day 1 All Week →						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						
26	27	28	29	30	31	

A holiday is an opportunity to journey within.
~Prabhas