

# MAC NEWSLETTER



Principal: H. Vokas

Vice Principals: C. Morrison, L. Pagnotta

## Admin Team News

Welcome to February! So far it has been a winter that has required us to dig ourselves out of not only snow, but the challenges that this pandemic has found us in. We continue to persevere with resiliency and the constant reminder that together we will get through this.

February is designated African Heritage Month within the TDSB and many organizations around the world. During February, we highlight the many contributions that Canadians of African descent have made to various sectors of our society. We will also draw attention to some of the challenges black students and adults continue to face in Canada. At MAC, our BSA (Black Students Alliance) is working collaboratively with the SAC (Students Activity Council) to spearhead the activities that include displays, posters, a slide show, and daily quotes from prominent black leaders during the morning announcements.

As we finish semester one, we begin semester two with excited anticipation of what's to come. Please be mindful of important dates for February which include no school on the PA Day on February 18<sup>th</sup> and Family Day on February 21<sup>st</sup> and the deadline for student course selections submissions which are due by February 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Student Timetables

Students will be receiving their Semester 2 Macdonald Timetable via email on February 1<sup>st</sup> and will also be available on the TDSB Connects App. Students who are shared with another school may receive a separate timetable from the shared school.

Semester 2 Virtual students are expected to have their cameras on during class time. Semester In-Person students are expected to attend in person or will be marked absent.

*Mrs. Pagnotta*

## Daily School Schedule

The Regular Day and Late Start Daily Schedule has been updated and is below for your reference. Students can access the school calendar to see which days are Late Starts.

	Regular Day	Late Start
<b>Period 1</b>	9:00 – 10:15	10:00 – 11:00
<b>Period 2</b>	10:20 – 11:35	11:05 – 12:05
<b>Lunch</b>	11:35 – 12:20	12:05 – 12:50
<b>Period 3</b>	12:20 – 1:35	12:50 – 1:50
<b>Period 4</b>	1:40 – 2:55	1:55 – 2:55

### CONTENT

Admin Team News.....	1
Student Timetables.....	1
Daily School Schedule .....	1
SAC News .....	2
Creating in 3D.....	2
Physical & Health Dept News .....	3
Guidance News .....	3
Report Cards .....	3
Don't Forget .....	3
Grad Photo Retake .....	3
Farewell & Welcome Back To.....	4
Happy Retirement Ms. Elawar .....	4
Chinese Heritage Month.....	4
February Calendar .....	5

## SAC News

Welcome back to the school building, Mac! After a week and a half of online school after the Christmas break and then an unexpected Snow Day, we're glad to have you back. For those of you who are staying home, we hope the virtual world is treating you well.



To start off the year, the SAC hosted a classic spirit day: Formal Attire Day. On this day, students and staff were encouraged to wear formal clothing they usually wouldn't wear when attending school. This included: collared shirts, skirts, heels, wedges, slacks, and more. Everyone looked amazing in their attire!

For the month of February, we will be acknowledging African Heritage Month. Along with the Black Students' Association (BSA), we have put together many educational resources to share with the school. If you want to learn more about African Heritage, stop by the billboard (located on the first floor across Room 101) and read the posters created by the BSA! Instagram posts will also be going up on our account @blackscotpride.



Members from the SAC and the Heads of Councils (HOC) will also be joining a staff meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be developing a presentation to provide insight on the school year from a student's perspective. Our goal is to represent the student body and promote student voice, be it about mental health or their academic experience thus far.

Lastly, Blackscots can look forward to another iteration of our virtual Valentine's Day event! The SAC is working with the Art Council to create digital cards with a Valentine's Day theme. Students will be able to complete a Google Form from February 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> to send a message to a friend or a teacher to show they care. This message will then be emailed to the recipient on one of the designed cards!

Clearly, February is full of activities, significant events, and love. Remember to follow us on our Instagram page @blackscotpride for updates. Wishing you all the best for the second month of 2022!

*Judy Zhang (SAC President)*

## Creating in 3D

Back in the dark ages of March 2020 when the pandemic first started, our Grade 9 students were just about to start clay sculptures. Like so much in all of our lives, that plan was put on pause... but, back in the classroom, our students who returned for Grade 11 sculpted with clay this year to fulfil our clay making destiny! Here are some examples of our clay Character Design sculptures, and papier mache Wearable Art from our Grade 10 students.



*Mr. Herman*





# Physical and Health Department News

As we get ready for the new semester, we hope students have enjoyed their in-person and virtual experience in our physed classes this semester. Physed, Racquets, and Mezz classes have developed their well-being through engaging in sport, fitness pursuits and learning about various health topics. Our PLF4M leadership class has been instrumental in providing mental health promotion through our athletics instagram page (@macdonaldathletics).



Kinesiology students consolidated their learning of anatomy and physiology through various labs and creating their own human joint models. February also brings option selection time. We encourage students to visit the [school website](#) where they can explore their options for staying active and healthy next year, visit the Physed office and follow us on instagram @sjam\_phe where more info about courses will be posted.

*Ms. Hunnisett*

## Guidance News

### Course Selection

Information regarding Course Selection can be found by visiting the Guidance website page. Counsellors will be visiting all grade 9-12 students in their classrooms. This will be done the week of February 7-11. Visit our school website and find the information under Guidance - Course Selection. myBlueprint will open **Monday, February 7 and will close on Tuesday, February 22.**

Visit our Virtual Course Fair! You can check out the promotional materials that the departments have put together describing the various optional courses available at Macdonald.

### OUAC/OCAS

The equal consideration deadline is fast approaching. **OCAS** - Tuesday, February 1, 2022  
<https://www.ontariocolleges.ca>

### Post Secondary Info Session

Student Accessibility Services at York University will be hosting a post-secondary transition event, ASD Transition Day, on February 17, 2022. To register, please complete this [ASD Transition Day Registration Form](#). Registration will close once they reach the maximum number of participants. This is an information day for students on the Autism Spectrum or those with a Non-Verbal Learning Disability (NVLD) and their families. It is intended for students who are in grades 10, 11 or 12 and are planning to attend a post-secondary institution (university or college). Topics to be discussed include: transition realities for students and their families, accessing support systems at university/college, strategies for academic success, social life at university/college, and nurturing independence

### Free Skills Upgrading Classes for Adults in Toronto

Community Services is operating free Essential Skills Upgrading (ESU) classes remotely for adults in the community. Individuals seeking to upgrade math, reading/writing or computer skills so they can pursue more education or employment should visit [upgrademyskills.ca](http://upgrademyskills.ca).

### **Credit Recovery Night School**

The Toronto District School Board is offering current TDSB students the opportunity to recover one or two compulsory credits through a new night school credit recovery program. All classes are virtual. Regular attendance in the virtual environment is a requirement.

Semester 2 - Credit Recovery Registration will close on Friday, February 4, 2022 at NOON. For more information go to [Remote Night School Secondary Credit Recovery Program - TDSB Students Only](#)

All courses run one night per week, either Tuesday or Thursday from 6:30pm - 9:30pm. Students may enroll in one course, either on Tuesday or Thursday, or in two courses, one on Tuesday and one on Thursday.

### **English Instruction for Adult Newcomers with Free Childcare**

The TDSB's Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) classes is the largest LINC provider in Canada. All sites provide free care for newcomer children, so adult newcomers can gain English instruction without worrying about costly childcare. Visit [linctoronto.ca](http://linctoronto.ca) to learn more.

### **Mental Health Corner**

There are many things that are just out of our control. For some of us, it has brought additional challenges and changes to our lives. Please do not struggle alone. Here is a link that will give you additional resources to help you find support and take action.

<https://smho-smso.ca/parents-and-families/>

The [TDSB Winter 2021-22 Well-Being Guide](#) has many resources for students and caregivers. This guide has been translated into 18 languages and we hope it can reach many students and caregivers. Please visit the website. For more information, you can also contact the referral to government, health, community and social services, call or text 2-1-1, search 211Central.ca, live-chat at 211Ontario.ca/chat or email [gethelp@211Ontario.ca](mailto:gethelp@211Ontario.ca).

*Ms. Brassard*



### **Report Cards**

Students will be receiving their Semester 1 report cards on Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Report cards will be sent electronically.

### **Don't Forget**

There is a lot happening in February! Don't forget Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> are PA Days. As well Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> is Family Day. Mark your calendars as there will be no school on these dates.

*Mrs. Pagnotta*



### **Grad Photo Retake**

Grade photo retakes will be taking place on Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Make sure to book your appointment at [bookmygrad.ca](http://bookmygrad.ca) and use school code SOA. Don't miss your final opportunity.

*Mrs. Pagnotta*



## Farewell and Welcome Back To...

As we come to the end of Semester 1 and look to the start of Semester 2, we would like to say farewell to the teachers who are leaving us in Semester 2. We say farewell to Ms. Armstrong and Ms. Kim and we look forward to having them back with us next year. In Semester 2, we warmly welcome back Ms. Ma in the Computer Science department and Ms. Sami in the Math and Science departments.

New to Macdonald for Semester 2, we would like to welcome Ms. Chau in the English department. Welcome to MAC!

*Mrs. Pagnotta*



## Happy Retirement Ms. Elawar!

After an impressive 32 years of service at Macdonald CI, Ms. Christine Elawar our dedicated senior office assistant has decided to retire. We will miss her sunny disposition and her infectious laughter in the main office. We wish Christine and her family all the best as she enters retirement. Congratulations Ms. Elawar!

## February is Chinese Heritage Month

The Toronto District School is proud to recognize Chinese Heritage Month (CHM) during the month of February 2022. This year CHM coincides with one of the most important Chinese celebrations, the Lunar New Year which begins on Tuesday, February 1st. Lunar New Year is also known as the spring festival and begins with the first moon of the lunar calendar 15 days later. We encourage everyone to participate and make our Chinese Heritage Month spectacular. This year's theme is YEAR OF THE TIGER - Brave, Compassionate, Adventurous, and Optimistic. A poster contest was held and all students from the TDSB were invited to submit images that best reflect this year's theme. The selected images are posted on the [TDSB website](#).



# February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1 Happy Lunar New Year	2 	3 Day 1  SEMESTER 2	4 Day 1	5
6	7 Day 2	8 Day 1	9 Day 2	10 Day 1	11 Day 2	12
13	14 Day 1  Valentine's Day	15 Day 2	16 Day 1  Late Start	17 Day 2	18 	19
20	21 	22 Day 1	23 Day 2  Late Start	24 Day 1	25 Day 2	26
27	28 Day 1					

*You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right.*  
*Rosa Parks*