

MAC NEWSLETTER

Principal: H. Vokas

Vice Principals: C. Morrison, L. Pagnotta



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Admin Team News

Welcome back to a new year! We hope everyone took some time to relax and rejuvenate over the much-needed break. Given the recent Ministry announcement, school will be starting back on Wednesday, January 5th for both in-person and virtual students. We will provide more detailed information regarding any new public health measures and/or changes, as soon as possible.

As we look ahead to January, we will be finishing this modified semester model on January 27th with credit rescue days to follow and final report cards emailed on February 7, 2022.

We would like to remind all parents/caregivers that our next Virtual School Council meeting will be on Wednesday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m. We invite all parents/guardians to join us.

Wishing Everyone A Happy & Healthy New Year!

End of Semester Credit Rescue

Credit rescue days at the end of a semester are an opportunity to help those who are in jeopardy of failing a course. Credit Rescue days will be on January 28th, 31st and February 1st according to the schedule below.

	January 28	January 31	February 1
10:00am - 12:00pm	Day 1 Period 1	Day 2 Period 1	By appointment
12:00pm - 12:45pm	Lunch		
12:45pm - 2:45pm	Day 1 Period 2	Day 2 Period 2	By appointment

Student Activity Fees

All parents and guardians who have not paid for their child(ren)'s student activity fee, are asked to do so by January 31, 2022. 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. Yearbooks will not be sold separately. Fees are to be paid online through [School Cash Online](https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com).

Student Activity Fee

What it provides you:

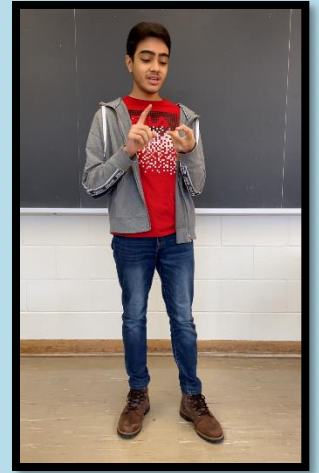
Subsidizes:
Clubs and Councils
Athletic Activities

\$50

Pay Online!
tdsb.schoolcashionline.com

ESL Speech Competition

Students in Ms. Perry's ESL C and E classes have been working on perfecting their public speaking skills in preparation for the TDSB's annual speech competition. Students have been participating in various activities to improve pronunciation, intonation, hand gestures, as well as practicing speaking English in front of their peers. To become more comfortable speaking in front of others, we did an activity where students told a funny story to the class, in their first language. In this activity, students had the chance to shine in their first language while becoming more at ease speaking in front of a group. Not only did we have a few laughs, but it was noticeable that students gained a lot of confidence!



The TDSB speech competition was held virtually on December 1st. Danial Salim and Aimal Noor presented speeches that were carefully crafted, creative, and delivered with excellent attention to detail. They represented Mac like true Blackscots! Well done Danial and Aimal, Mac is proud of you both!

Ms Perry

MIA's Annual Winter Food Drive is Back!

MAC IN ACTION (MIA) is back in action and will be hosting our Annual Winter Food Drive after the winter break. During the holidays many people donate to food banks, but people are in need of support throughout the entire year. Our goal is to collect as many non-perishable food items from January 5th to January 21st to donate to the Daily Bread Food Bank. Non-perishable food items include: canned food, pasta, dry foods, oatmeal, cereal, etc. We encourage all of you to participate and give what you can to this worthy cause. The class that brings in the most non-perishable food items by January 21st will win a prize! Please join MIA and help pave the way!



MIA Executive

Winter 2021/2022 Well-Being Guide

The TDSB has put together a Winter Well-Being Guide. The guide has many resources for students and caregivers. Follow the link to access the [Winter 2021/2022 Well-Being Guide](#).

Mrs. Pagnotta

Housing and Home Design

Over the last few months students in Ms. Whetter's Housing and Home Design class have been learning about mortgages and how to establish good credit. We have also been learning about real estate and clever design techniques. Students recently completed designing their own digital homes. For this assignment students created functional floor plans and decorated the interior of the home. Click on the links below to see some of the students' digital homes.

[House Design #1](#)

[House Design #2](#)

[House Design #3](#)

Ms. M. Whetter

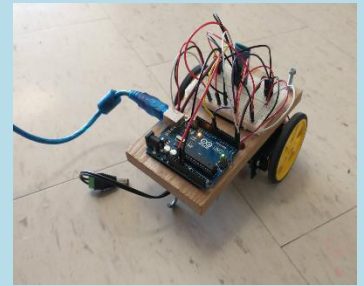


Robotics in Computer Engineering...continued

Here's a continuation from last month's article from the TEJ4M1 class.

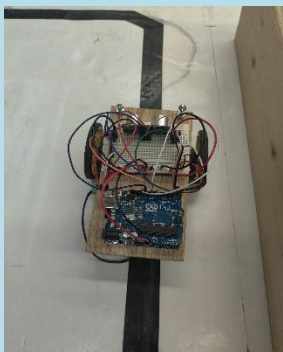
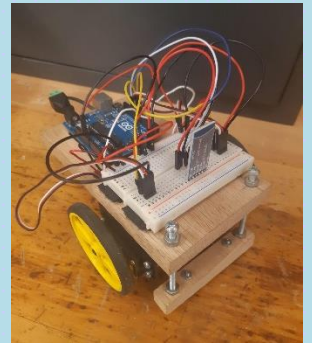
Remote Control of MOTOR and LED Combination (Amol Venkataraman)

By combining what we had learnt from the past two experiments (Motor Control and Remote LED On/Off), we were able to make the Arduino change the direction of the motor's spin when receiving the signal from the bluetooth module. We had to wire up the motor and the Bluetooth module at the same time. We then had to add the part of the code that spins the motor to the part of the program that would run when a signal was sent from the Bluetooth module. The Bluetooth connection process was the same as for the previous experiment.



BOT Remote Control (Saranjen Anandarajah)

Using what we know from our prior experience and knowledge, we were able to wirelessly remote control our bot, such that it was able to move forward, backwards, left, right and stop with just the click of a button. We configured the bot such that it was supplied with 5V and grounded, and wired such that the bluetooth device was able to be configured with the app, *Arduino Controller*, that we downloaded from our phone. Knowing how the motion of a motor (servo) works, we were able to apply that knowledge to the program, and were able to wirelessly control our bot.

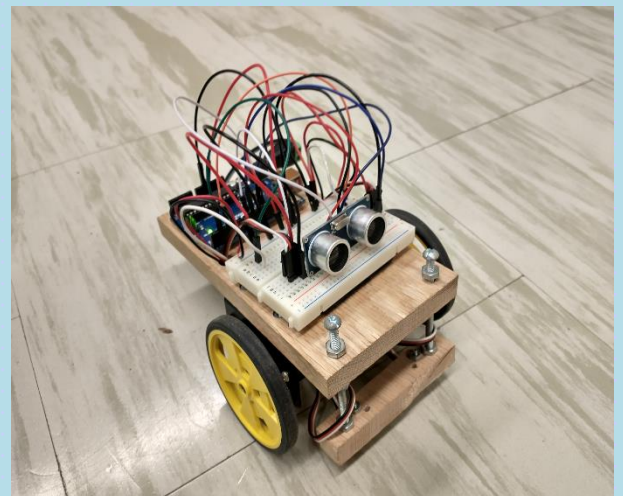


BOT Line Following (Vince Song)

Using the light emitting sensors on the robot, we were able to detect when the bot would ride over the black line. This being the case it would take corrective action to stay clear from the black line. The light emitting sensors have three wires that are connected as follows. The red wire was connected to the 5V power rail of the breadboard. The black wire was connected to the ground rail, and the signal wire was connected to an arduino digital pin. The light emitting values for black and white surfaces were studied through the serial arduino monitor. The program had a look at these values and gave the appropriate commands to the motors to follow the line even in a bent curve.

BOT U-turn (Amol Venkataraman)

For this experiment, we used another sensor (an ultrasonic rangefinder) to check if there was an obstacle in front of the robot. The rangefinder works by emitting ultrasound and calculating the time it takes for it to bounce off an object in front of it and come back to it. When the distance of an object was less than a certain value (between 10cm and 20cm), the program would tell the bot to make a U-turn. This would be done by spinning one motor forward and the other in reverse for ~ 1.5 seconds. In this time, the bot should have fully turned around and would be facing the opposite direction to what it used to be facing. It will then continue following the line with the method mentioned above.



SAC News

2022 is finally here! We hope that everyone enjoyed a well-deserved Winter Break filled with joy and relaxation. 2021 was a long and exhausting year, but we're beyond grateful for the persistence of staff, students, and families.

In December, MAC participated in Pajama Day on the 10th. Everyone was welcome to wear their pajamas to school and it was arguably the most comfortable day of the year thus far. There were also some incredibly adorable stuffed animals being fawned over that day. Then on December 17th, we celebrated the last day of school in 2021 with Ugly Sweater Day! We also watched, online, some talented students who sang, danced, played instruments and acted in our annual Holiday Cheer Assembly. It was definitely a treat to watch as the members of the SAC put together a Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed event. Along with the holiday spirit floating in the halls, it was the perfect way to wrap up the year.

For the new year, we will be hosting Formal Attire Day on January 14th! On this day, students and staff are encouraged to wear attire such as: skirts, dress shirts, trousers, ties and more. Following that, we have a classic spirit day - one that the students look forward to - Twin Day! This will take place on January 21st where Blackscots pair up or organize a group of students and wear matching clothes. We can't wait to see what's in store!



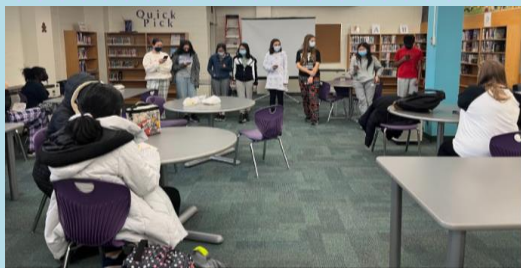
If you haven't already, follow @blackscotpride on Instagram to stay informed on upcoming spirit days and events. Make sure to follow your respective grade accounts too! On behalf of the SAC, we would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Judy Zhang & Sachi Taploo
SAC President & Vice-President

Wellness + Guidance + Health

MAC HEALTH COUNCIL

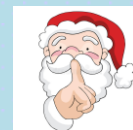
The Health Council's December theme was sleep. On December 10th, the council hosted a sleep seminar, where participants watched the TED talk, "Sleep is Your Superpower", learned about healthy sleep habits, and enjoyed popcorn, all in their pajamas!



The council also enjoyed an afternoon decorating gingerbread houses...actually an entire gingerbread village! See for yourself all the budding artists and architects!



Getting into the Macdonald holiday spirit, the Health Council delivered 360 candy grams this year! Throughout the entire month, students had the opportunity to buy a sweet treat - Brookside Chocolate - for their friends! A big thank you goes out to the generous Macdonald staff and students who spread kindness with their anonymous donations, providing 70 Secret Santa deliveries!



A final BIG thank you to everyone who supported, participated, and assisted with all our events, this month! You're all awesome! If you're interested in getting involved in our council, our door is always open! Follow us on Instagram @machealthcouncil to stay updated with our latest events.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

This month the PLF4M Leadership Class will be hosting "Wellness Wednesday" for the entire month of January. Wellness Wednesday is an afterschool program every Wednesday that engages students in activities that helps promote physical and mental health.

For the month of January, we will be hosting Drop-in Dodgeball on January 5th in the gyms, Board Games in the Cafe on the 12th, Self Defense and Yoga in the gym on the 19th and finally Movie Afternoon in both gyms on the 26th. All events will take place from 3:00pm-4:00pm. Stay tuned for our announcements and look out for our posters! Hope to see you all there!

Have a great holiday MAC, and don't forget, Health is Wealth!

Mac Wellness Team

Guidance News

PLAR

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process whereby students may obtain credits for prior learning. The 2021/2022 PLAR Challenge process will kick off with a [Virtual PLAR Information Session for Families](#) on January 17, 2022.

Optional Attendance

Students wishing to attend a different school in September must apply through optional attendance. Forms can be found in the main office. These forms must be received to the designated school no later than January 28. It is your responsibility to hand them in at your requested school.

Graduation Updates

Grade 12 - Equal Consideration Deadline: **OUAC** - Wednesday January 13, 2022 and **OCAS** - Tuesday, February 1, 2022

- ✓ Literacy requirements have been waived for 2021-2022 graduates this year
- ✓ Community involvement hours have been reduced from 40 to 20 hours for graduates this year. Visit [Ontario Volunteer Centre Network](#) or [Volunteer Toronto](#).

Continuing Education Registration

- ✓ Night School: Semester 2 registration will open on Monday, December 6, 2021 and close on January 28, 2022. www.creditprograms.ca
- ✓ eLearning Day school: Semester 2 registration will open on Monday, December 6, 2021 and close on Friday, February 11, 2022. [eLearning > e-Learning Day School \(tdsb.on.ca\)](http://eLearning > e-Learning Day School (tdsb.on.ca))

Career Conversations

Every year, Guidance meet with all grade 11 students to discuss their future plans. This is a time for them to learn about the various research tools available for them prior to making their course selection for grade 12. Guidance will meet with students the week of January 10, 2022.

Course Selection

myBlueprint will open for course selection on Friday, February 4, 2022 and will close on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Guidance counselors will be visiting all grades the week of February 7 - 11, 2022. Course information will be available on our website the first week of January 2022.

We are encouraging all grade 11 parents to join us during our next School Council Meeting on January 26th to hear more about post-secondary education and how you can help your child research the various programs. You will join your child's guidance counsellor in their appropriate breakout rooms.

Best Course at Mac, For Real World Experience

My name is Aishvini Partheepan, I am a grade 12 student that attends MAC and has been a part of Macdonald's Cooperative education program (co-op) this year. This course allows students in grade 11 or 12 to be able to gain valuable work experience within a professional work environment in a field of their choice. By joining the workforce students get a practical aspect while learning and growing their skills in their chosen career path.

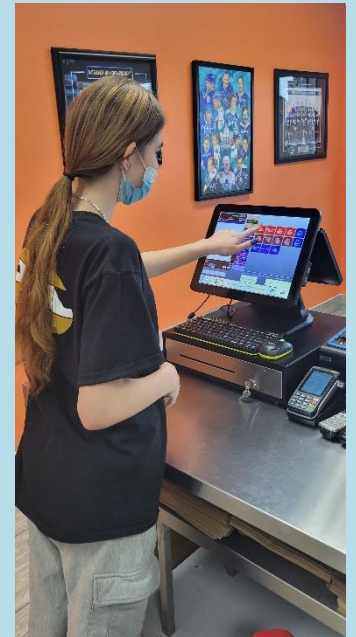


The reason I joined the course was to gain experience in a workplace environment and to get hands-on experience in the field that I am interested in. Due to the pandemic this year it was very difficult to get a placement of my choice (architect firm) but I was finally able to get one that was related to design with the help of my co-op teacher Ms. Lewczuk. The company I am placed at is called Creatica. They are a creative agency that does many different things from video editing, graphic design to branding. As a student that enjoys art and loves being creative, I was very interested in doing my placement there.

My overall experience in this program has been amazing. I have gained extensive knowledge on the working environment during my placement. I have performed tasks such as video editing, taking on big projects and designing posters for clients. This has been a great opportunity in allowing me to explore another career path that I didn't consider before.



This course has taught me a lot about job preparation. In the classroom component of the curriculum I learnt how to prepare a proper resume, cover letter and how to prepare for a job interview. By learning this information, it has prepared me for a future job interview.



Co-op has given me the opportunity to make connections with many diverse people that work at my placement. These connections have opened doors for me in the career I am interested in. My supervisor has expressed that my artwork has a lot of potential. She was so impressed with some of my work and my work ethic that she made a call to someone in the industry. This individual was also impressed and wants to meet with me to discuss the opportunity to be a special effects makeup artist during an internship this summer!

I strongly believe that many students should take this course because of the great opportunities that can arise. This program has taught me many skills that I can apply to my future career path. I want to tell parents to encourage their kids to take part in this course, it will allow them the opportunity to work in a real-life work setting. Being prepared for the workforce at a young age lets you get a hold of the skills and knowledge that can bring you further opportunities. The Co-op program allows students the opportunity to figure out what career they want while earning credits and making connections in the real world.

Aishvini Partheepan

Technology Design at MAC

It has been a great first few months of awesome work and initiatives by students in MAC's Technological Design Program. Courses are delivered in a studio learning environment which puts an emphasis on designing for real-life scenarios. Students in our senior classes have been developing their design thinking skills through project-based programming, including: 3D Printed Articulating Holiday Toys, Shipping Container Home Designs, and Laneway Suite Design Proposals.

MAC

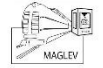
SIR JOHN A MACDONALD C.I.

21/22 TECHNOLOGICAL DESIGN ROAD MAP

PROJECTS

CULM

GRADE 9 (TU1O1)
INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGIES



GRADE 10 (TDJ2O1)
TECHNOLOGICAL DESIGN



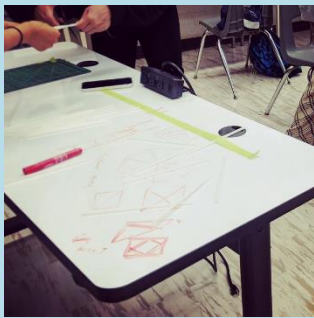
GRADE 11 (TDJ3M1)
TECHNOLOGICAL DESIGN



GRADE 12 (TDJ4M1)
TECHNOLOGICAL DESIGN



3D PRINTING



Correspondingly, students are learning to develop a critical approach and methodology to design by developing solutions to meet specific human needs. Assignments and projects are presented using a variety of sketching, illustrations, proto-types, presentation drawings, Computer Aided Design (CAD) drawings, 3D modelling, and production prototypes to communicate design ideas effectively.



Ground Floor



Front



Back



Green Roof

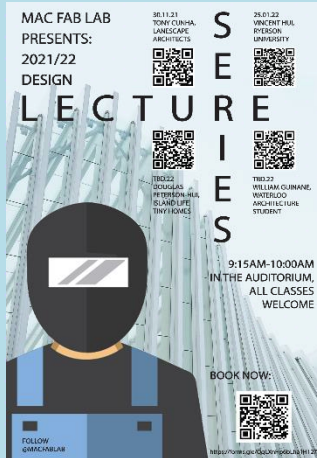
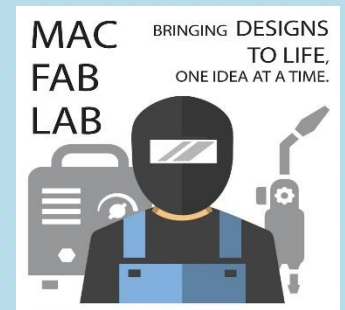
MAC Fab Lab

Our Fabrication Lab is now fully operational and as part of the Technological Design Program students are able to use the space to bring their design ideas to life. The space has four [Makerbot Sketch 3D Printers](#) running 24/7, and a brand new piece of equipment, the [V-One](#) on loan from Voltera which creates custom Printed Circuit Boards.



MACFabLab Club

The MAC Fabrication Lab Club is focused on the design and fabrication of products/artifacts for the MAC and local community. We are focused on a variety of innovative 21st century fabrication and manufacturing methods including but not limited to 3D printing. In the New Year, as part of the club students will be participating in 3D Printing Certification along with involvement from industry. **FOLLOW US @MacFabLab**



MACFabLab Lecture Series

MacFabLab presents MAC's first ever Design Lecture Series. Four curated design talks in the auditorium will be held on Tuesdays between 9:15-10:00am. The lecture series started on November 30th and teachers can sign up their class by emailing Mr. Chopra. More information on the talks themselves are posted outside room 150 and guidance. Book your spot today!

MAC Toy Factory

As part of our MACFabLab club, our 3D Printed toy production and sale initiative has helped raise funds for our club to purchase new and innovative equipment. Moreover, for each toy sold, one was donated to CTV Salvation Army Toy Mountain to a child in need. This year alone we donated over 125 toys. With a goal of developing and producing 3D Printed Toys year-round, the club will be starting online sales in the New Year. Our new donation goal for 2022 is 1000 toys! Follow us @MACFabLab



Mr. Chopra



JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Day 2 All Week →	3 No School	4 No School	5 Return to School	6	7	8
9 Day 1 All Week →	10	11	12	13	14 	15
16 Day 2 All Week →	17	18	19 Late Start	20	21 	22
23 Day 1 All Week →	24	25	26 School Council Meeting 7pm	27	28 Late Start Credit Rescue Day	29
30	31 Late Start Credit Rescue Day					

This is the beginning of anything you want.