

MAC NEWSLETTER

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Vice Principals: C. Morrison, L. Pagnotta



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Admin Team News

Happy March! For the last three weeks our students and staff have been hard at work this semester in their classrooms and beyond, as evidenced by the positive energy in the school. Our teams have had some healthy competition and our clubs and councils are now allowed to meet in-person in addition to on-line. Key dates for the month of March include the School Council meeting on March 30th at 7:00pm and Parent-Teacher Interviews on March 31st.

We would like to remind parents/guardians that the TDSB has announced that the 2022-2023 academic school year will follow a semester model with students taking four courses per semester.

With only two weeks to go until March Break, which begins on March 14th, whether you are participating in some fun activities with your kids or simply enjoying a staycation, we wish everyone a relaxing March Break! Classes will resume on Monday, March 21st, a Day 1 schedule.

Letters of Concern

Letters of Concern will be emailed out to students beginning March 28th, 2022. If a teacher is concerned about a student, a formal letter will be emailed out to parents to express the specific nature of the concern. It is our goal to have teachers, students and parents working together to support a student's success.

Ms. MacKay

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place on Thursday, March 31st from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Parent-Teacher interviews will be virtual once again this semester. Information on how to book an appointment will be emailed to parents/guardians closer to the date. Below is the modified schedule that students will follow for the day.

	Modified Schedule
Period 1	9:00 – 9:45
Period 2	9:50 – 10:35
Period 3	10:40 – 11:25
Period 4	11:30 – 12:15
Students dismissed for the day. There will be no cafeteria services	

SAC News

The month of February was full of culture, love, and appreciation, and the SAC enjoyed every moment coordinating events that reflected these themes.

In recognition of African Heritage Month, the BSA (Black Student Association) and SAC created a bulletin board dedicated to appreciating African heritage. This bulletin board was composed of detailed information on Black Canadians who made an impact in Canadian history.



Then to celebrate Valentine's Day, the SAC opened a Google Form from February 7th - 10th. There, students submitted messages to one another, and the SAC was responsible for sending them out on February 14th. Hundreds of e-cards were crafted and delivered — what a heartwarming turn out! (Shoutout to Art Council for designing the e-cards.)



Immediately after, on February 16th, members of the SAC and HOC (Heads of Councils) worked together to deliver a presentation on Student Voice at Mac. We provided insight into the lives of students, while hearing back from teachers and staff. It was truly an invaluable opportunity and we look forward to working collaboratively with the staff.



To conclude February, the SAC hosted an iconic spirit day on the 24th: Twin Day! Students and staff were encouraged to wear matching outfits with another person or even multiple people. Watching twins, triplets and quintuplets walk down the halls was amusing to say the least. Well done Mac!



The next spirit day will be hosted on March 25th, and it's called Represent the 6ix! On this day, students and staff are welcome to wear clothes that represent Toronto. A few examples include Maple Leafs, Blue Jays or Raptors merchandise. We're excited to see how the student body represents our city!



February was truly an eventful and joyful month. Remember to follow us on our Instagram page @blackscotpride for updates. Wishing you the best of luck this month!

Judy Zhang (SAC President) & Sachi Taploo (Vice President)



Cooperative Education

On February 16th, interested grade 10, 11 and 12 students attended a Cooperative Education Information Session. This session was used to inform students about Coop before it was chosen for course selection.

The Cooperative Education (Co-op) program provides Grade 11 and 12 students with the opportunity to earn High School credits through the completion of a work placement. Coop Programs are designed to meet students' individual career goals, strengths and interests so that students can gain relevant experience in the workplace.

Students that have chosen Coop on their course selection should fill out the Coop Application by March 28th. The Application can be found on the Guidance Google Classrooms. A paper copy is also available in the Guidance Office.

Ms. MacKay

Programming to Support Students

As students move into four new courses they may be faced with new challenges. If your child/ward is in need of additional support, Macdonald has programming in place to support students.

After School Literacy and Numeracy Support

Support in **Literacy** is available with Ms. Jhutti every Thursday after school from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm. The goal of this program is to work one on one with students to help with their literacy studies. Ms. Jhutti will support students by teaching foundational concepts and improving literacy skills. Students may be recommended by teachers to attend the program, but all grade 9 and 10 students are welcomed to attend to receive support.

Numeracy support is available with Ms. Eshaque and Ms. Amirthalingam every Wednesday from 3:00 pm - 4:00pm. Through this program, students will be able to work one on one with math teachers to practice fundamental skills and concepts to support numeracy. Students may be encouraged by their teacher to attend, but all grade 9 and 10 students are welcome.

Mac PALS

Macdonald Peer Assisted Learning Support (Mac PALS) are a group of students that have been trained by Licenced to Learn to be a tutor. All our Mac PALS have undergone several training sessions and are now certified tutors. Our tutors have expertise in many different subject areas and are happy to support other students. If your child/ward would like extra support through peer tutoring, they can be connected to a senior student for support.

If students/families are interested in any of the supports above, please contact Erin MacKay at erin.mackay@tdsb.on.ca for more information.

Ms. Mackay

Fun February in the Library!

It has been a busy and fun filled month in the library!

WHITE PINE BOOK CLUB is back! Our book club met again on February 16th. Students shared their thoughts and opinions on this year's nominated titles. New members are always welcome. It seems there are some great mystery/thriller books in this year's selection. Check out the titles by clicking [here](#). We will have one more meeting before March Break on Wednesday, March 9th at lunch.

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH - All this month we showcased some amazing fiction and nonfiction titles to highlight the achievements and stories of Black Canadians. These were featured prominently on display so students and staff had a chance to check them out more readily.



BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK - In honour of "Love month" this past month, students had the opportunity to have a "Blind Date" with a book. This event generated a lot of interest and fun at the library. Students would pick up a specially wrapped book from the display and then take it home to unwrap and read it. After they read the book, they complete a pink ballot to "rate their date" (rate their book). Ballots are due into the library by March 8th, after which there will be a draw for a free book!

FREEDOM TO READ WEEK in Canada is from February 20th - 26th. It is an "annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, which is guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms" (Book and Periodical Council). Here at the library, students can check out our banned book display and participate in trivia and puzzles to raise awareness about books that have been previously challenged or banned. Students are encouraged to think about the importance of freedom of speech and intellectual freedom and what it means in their own lives.



Ms. Katrivanos

Guidance News

COURSE SELECTION

Thank you to everyone who selected their courses and submitted them on time.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SUPPORTS

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.

For information and 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

Guidance News Continued...

STRENGTHIN Workshops

StrengthIN will continue to empower our youth by teaching them to take care of their mental health and well being. Our grade 12's had an opportunity to talk about post secondary destinations and life stressors.

Grade 10 - Managing Peer Relationships (Wednesday, March 23)

Grade 11 - The Adolescent Brain (Wednesday, March 30)

Ms. Brassard

Health Council News

Health Council's theme of the month this February was healthy relationships! The council sold candy grams for Valentine's day, enabling students to show gratitude to the people they cherish most.

The council also held an event to learn how to create a variety of intricate friendship bracelets! Participants learned a bit about the history and significance of friendship bracelets, and had the opportunity to use string to make their choice of a heart or chevron pattern, or a beaded bracelet instead!

A BIG thank you to everyone who supported, participated and assisted with all our events this month! You're all awesome. Stay tuned for next month's theme- nutrition! 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.

Ms. Mouratidis



Greek Heritage Month

March is Greek Heritage Month. The theme for this year is based on healthy living - Harmony of Life - Healthy Mind, Healthy Body! Check out the [activities](#) planned in celebration of Greek Heritage Month at the TDSB, featuring two of our very own students on March 28th!



Student Voice Survey

It is that time of year once again for our Student Voice Survey. This annual Macdonald survey is an opportunity for students to share their voice with us. Students will be able to complete the online survey either within their class or on their own, beginning March 8th and we ask all students to complete the survey by March 10th. As a school we are committed to making positive changes that reflect the needs of our student body and we encourage all our students to share their voices with us.

March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28 Day 1	1 Day 2	2 Day 1	3 Day 2	4 Day 1	5
6	7 Day 2	8 Day 1  International Women's Day	9 Day 2	10 Day 1	11 Day 2	12
13 	14 	15	16	17 	18	19
20 	21 Day 1	22 Day 2	23 Day 1 Late Start	24 Day 2	25 Day 1	26
27	28 Day 2	29 Day 1	30 Day 2 Late Start School Council Meeting 7pm	31 Day 1 Parent Teacher Interviews	April 1 Day 2 Late Start	2

*I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change...I am changing the things I cannot accept.
Angela Davis*