

MAC NEWSLETTER

Principal: H. Vokas

Vice Principals: C. Morrison, L. Pagnotta



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Admin Team News

It has been an exciting transition back to school this September! Our staff have been working hard to ensure our students feel engaged and supported after a year full of challenges. Please reach out to your child's teacher or check their google classroom for important curricular information.

School Council meetings are an excellent opportunity to meet other parents and school staff, and to have on-going conversations about issues that affect us all. Please consider attending our next meeting on Wednesday October 27th at 7:00 p.m. At this meeting, we will nominate our executive slate and introduce you to our new Vice-Principal, Mr. Clenton Morrison.

A reminder to all parents that classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and our doors open at 8:30 a.m. We kindly ask that if you are dropping off your child, to please do so early enough so that he/she has time to be screened at the door and make it to class on time. As well, parents are required to wear a mask/face covering while outdoors on school property.

We look forward to working with our community to keep our school environment healthy and safe. Wishing everyone a positive school year!

Student Success Department News

Below is a list of extra supports available to students.

Mac PALS

Mac PALS is up and running! Mac PALS (Peer Assisted Leadership Support) are a group of senior students that work one on one with students to support them in their classes. If a student identifies as needing a peer tutor they will be connected to a Mac PAL and together they will establish a schedule to meet virtually. If you believe your child/ward would benefit from a peer tutor, please reach out to erin.mackay@tdsb.on.ca so that she can connect your child/ward to a Mac PAL.

Mathify

Need extra help with math homework? **Mathify** is free 1:1 Grade 6-11 math tutoring with Ontario Certified Teachers!

Build your math skills and confidence with a personalized math coach. To support learning at home, tutors are available online Monday-Friday 9am to 9pm ET and 3:30pm to 9pm ET Sunday. [MATHIFY](#)

Toronto Public Library - Brainfuse

Online homework help for students in grades K-12 offered daily from 2:00p.m. - 11:00p.m. Also includes practice tests, writing assistance, skills building and more. [BRAINFUSE](#)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“
Work harder
than you
think you did
yesterday.
”

Alex Elle

Mac Wellness

This year is very exciting for many reasons, but since we are all back in school, there can be many reasons for stress. That is why the Mac Wellness campaign is continuing to post and encourage the students of Mac during this school year with weekly posts to the school's Instagram account. Check out our posts every Monday on Instagram, @macdonaldathletics and stay safe Mac!

Mr. Karellas



The MEAC is Back!

While the leaves will soon be less green, the Macdonald Environment Action Council (or MEAC) hopes to soon make the Mac community more green! This Council has done so much throughout the twenty years of its existence from community cleanups to environmental fundraisers with plenty of self-education and excursions into nature's local gems along the way. This year we have a brand new executive seeking the involvement of students and staff alike in order to make the most of 2021/2022. All students are welcome to show up virtually and, with a little luck, in person, any future Wednesday at 3 p.m. Please contact Mr. Brown (david.brown@tdsb.on.ca) for more information. The MEAC is where you want to be!

Mr. Brown

Extra, Extra, Read All About It!

Nancy Zou and Karen Mitro, this year's Editors-In-Chief of the school's newspaper, have been busy organizing and interviewing so that the first issue of *Mac News* is scheduled to appear in just a few weeks. A new dedicated team of writers, editors, photographers and comic artists will have no shortage of stories and opinions to share. New contributors are always encouraged. The staff advisors, Ms. Diamandas and Mr. Brown, are very excited to be a part of yet another year at *Mac News*. But it is entirely a *student* paper, published [online](#) through the Mac homepage and, in a limited capacity, in print. So please check out the impressive student perspectives that will soon cover various stories in the Mac community. They've got you covered!

Mr. Brown

Photo Day

Photo day will be on Thursday, October 7th. Photos for in-person learners will be taking place during school hours in the Auditorium. Students will be called down with their class/teacher.

For virtual students, photos will be scheduled after school hours. Virtual students with last names beginning with the letters A-L are to arrive at 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Virtual students with last names beginning with the letters M-Z are to arrive at 3:15 p.m. Students are to enter the building through the main doors wearing masks and must show their [Covid-19 health screen pass](#).



From the Guidance Department

Guidance Google Classroom

We ask that all students please join their grade appropriate Guidance Google classroom.

Grade 9 class code: wb8dazz

Grade 10 class code: iissfu7

Grade 11 class code: veucc2s

Grade 12 class code: rgn4lep

2021-2022 Graduates

Students graduating in the 2021-22 school year are exempt from the literacy graduation requirement. Students graduating in the 2021-22 school year will only require 20 hours of Community Involvement Activities.

Post-Secondary Information Session

The TDSB invites families of Grade 12 students to attend an upcoming Post-Secondary Information Session on Wednesday, October 6, 2021. This session is aimed at helping parents/guardians and students better understand the post-secondary admissions process during COVID-19. This event is meant to support the post-secondary initiatives that schools are coordinating for their students locally. Grade 12 students and families will be encouraged to direct any questions about post-secondary planning to their school Guidance Counsellors.

Following a brief overview of the post-secondary application process, participants will have the opportunity to hear from a number of GTA post-secondary institutions regarding their admissions process and how their institutions are addressing teaching and learning during the pandemic. Presenters include:

OYAP

George Brown College

University of Toronto

OCAS

Seneca College

Ryerson University

Centennial College

Humber College

York University

This Post-Secondary Information Session will take place on Wednesday, October 6th from 7 to 8:15 p.m. via Zoom. Click [here](#) to join the Information Session on Wednesday evening.

Families can request interpretation services for this event in advance, by completing this [online form](#).

Guidance will also be hosting Virtual Post-Secondary Info Sessions. Please click on the link to see the list of current [Info Sessions](#). A sign-up Google form will be available to all grade 11 and 12 students one week prior to the virtual meet.

Scholarships

Please find the Guidance Scholarship presentation in the grade 12 Guidance Google classroom. Upcoming scholarships include:

National Book Award: Nominees must submit their google form by October 8th at 9:00am. Form and information can be found in the Guidance Google classroom.

The Loran Award: The Loran Scholars Foundation looks beyond transcripts to find the next generation of leaders for Canada. Loran Awards of up to \$100,000 are awarded to Canadian students who demonstrate integrity, courage, grit, and personal autonomy. Visit <https://loranscholar.ca> Deadline: October 13, 2021

U of T National Scholarship: The National Scholarship covers tuition, incidental and residence fees for up to four years of study. Visit <https://future.utoronto.ca> Deadline: October 21, 2021

Mental Health Corner

Professional Support Services is offering virtual drop-in hours beginning October 5th for parents and caregivers to discuss strategies to help support the mental health and well-being of your child.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Join Tuesday's session on Zoom:

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/93004338438?pwd=ZmJTZEFTTRlNqK203YXVjYVY4VnVWUT09>

Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Join Thursday's session on Zoom:

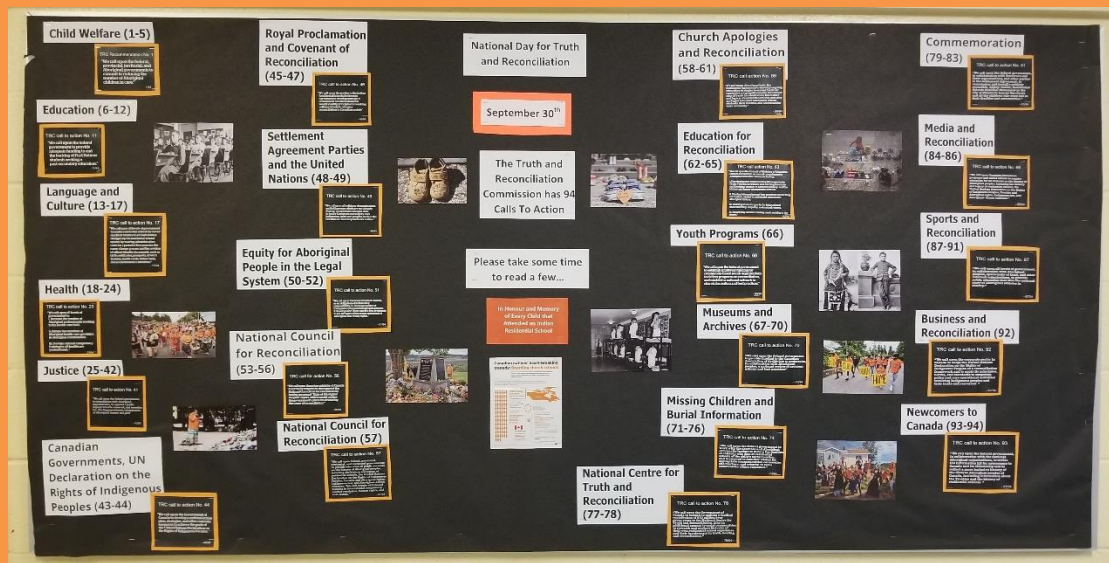
<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/98920693610?pwd=RmVXQ1pRWXBZSUy4YmI3eHJ5T3QyQT09>

Truth & Reconciliation Week

During Truth & Reconciliation Week (September 27 - October 1st) we, as a school, raised awareness about the legacy of Canada's residential school system and together we continue to learn the many truths of these institutions. Through morning announcements, displays, classroom discussions, participation in Orange Shirt day and continued ongoing education, we commit ourselves to learning and understanding the critical importance of truth and reconciliation. There cannot be reconciliation without truth. As Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair said in 2015 as the Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, "Education got us into this mess and education will get us out of it."

As we come to the end of Truth and Reconciliation Week

- ✓ let's continue to listen to the stories of the survivors of the residential school system,
- ✓ let's commit ourselves to learning and understanding the critical importance of truth and reconciliation,
- ✓ let's affirm our commitment to ensure that every child matters, NOW AND ALWAYS.



S.H.A.R.P.

SHARP (**S**elf-Awareness, **H**ope, **A**ppreciation of **C**ultures, **R**esilience and **P**eer Network) is an after-school program, developed by Across U-hub, partnered with Toronto District School Board that focuses on self-discovery, peer relationships and leadership development for high-school students of East Asian immigrant descent.

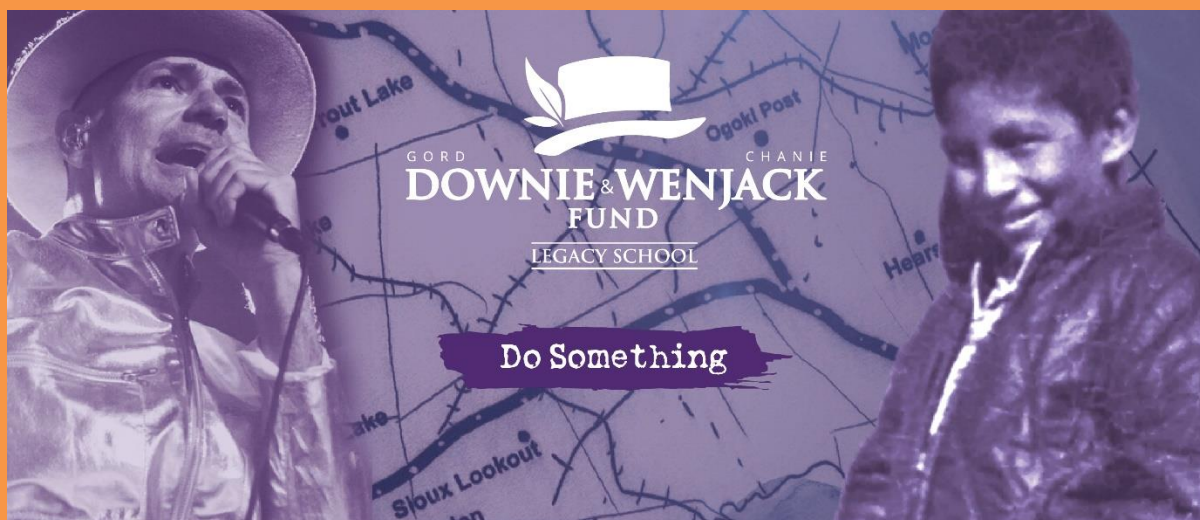
Representatives from the SHARP program will be meeting virtually with our ESL core classes to let students know more about the program. Click [here](#) to learn more about the SHARP program.

Secret Path Week

Annually from October 17 - 22, Secret Path Week is a national movement commemorating the legacies of Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack. This is a meaningful week as October 17th and 22nd respectively mark the dates that Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack passed away.

During Secret Path Week we will be calling on all classes to take part in a Walk for Wenjack. The first Walk for Wenjack took place in 2016 and retraced the steps of Chanie Wenjack, a 12-year-old Anishinaabe boy who died after escaping residential school and attempting to reach his family 600km away. Funds raised during our school's Walk for Wenjack will go towards the Downie Wenjack Fund. As a school, we will continue the conversation about the history of residential schools and answer Gord Downie's call to action, to **"Do Something"**. #DoSomething

To learn more about the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund, visit www.downiewenjack.ca.



Nutrition Pantry Program at Macdonald

We are excited to announce the continuation of the Nutrition Pantry Program at Macdonald from the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS). The mission of [TFSS](#) is to remove barriers for children so that every child is nourished and able to learn. They believe, as do we, that if we improve the health and well-being of our children they will do better in school, and if they do better in school then they will have a better future.

We recognize the impact this pandemic has had on many families and it is our mission to continue to help our students, families and the community in any way possible. We encourage any student or family to reach out to us to access items from our Nutrition Pantry. There are many items available. Here is a list of some of the pantry items: Granola Bars, Cereal, Kraft Mac & Cheese, Apple Sauce, Rice, Canned Soups, Canned Corn, Pasta, Tomato Sauce, Canned Beans.



School Settlement Workers

Annette Wong and Anjali Dhanesh are the school settlement workers serving our school. Anjali is fluent in Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam and Annette is fluent in Cantonese and Mandarin. Both are fluent in English. If you are new to Ontario, Canada, you may need help with the available services and resources around you. For those of you who have been living here for a while now, you may want to keep yourself updated with the new information and resources as well. This is where our settlement workers are here to help. As settlement workers, they provide services through connecting families with the school and other community resources, while also working closely with staff and teachers at school. They can also provide one-on-one services where they can talk about your settlement needs, including your child's education, employment, government benefits, immigration and various topics concerning your child(ren). In addition to their one-on-one service, they will also conduct various online informative sessions from time to time. They have provided [flyers](#) of upcoming info sessions. Feel free to participate, you are all invited! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to them and they will be more than happy to help you! You can reach them by phone (Anjali: 647-999-3106, Annette: 647-888-1494), writing an email (Anjali.Dhanesh@cicscanada.com or Annette.Fong@cicscanada.com).

No School - Happy Thanksgiving

This is just a friendly reminder that there will be no classes for students on Monday, October 11th as it is the Thanksgiving Holiday. We wish our students, staff and the Macdonald community a Happy Thanksgiving. We look forward to seeing students back at school on Tuesday, October 12th.



OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Truth & Reconciliation Week→					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Day 1 All Week →				PHOTO DAY		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Day 2 All Week →						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Day 1 All Week →	←	SECRET PATH WEEK			→	
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
Day 2 All Week →						

Do Something ~ Gord Downie