

MAC NEWSLETTER

Principal: H. Vokas

Vice Principals: C. Morrison, L. Pagnotta



Admin Team News

Welcome to the 2021/2022 school year! We had hoped to be able to send this out to our community sooner, however we were experiencing a technical issue with School Messenger.

Despite the challenges we all face during this unique time, our staff welcomed your child(ren) into their class and began their learning journey. We look forward to working and learning with your child(ren)!

Rest assured that your child(ren)'s safety is our top priority. We remind everyone to practice social distancing, wear a mask and complete the online Covid screening prior to attending school every day. Let's do this!

We want to work with you and your child(ren). If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail the school. Our staff is here to help.

You can look forward to our newsletter every month. Please be sure to visit our website: www.schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/johnamacdonald

We look forward to the year ahead.

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School Year Calendar and Day Schedules

This year, the Toronto District School Board is following a modified semester system. Here are the Dates and School Day Schedules.

SEMESTER	TERM	DATES	EXAM DATES
1	1	Sept 9 - Nov 12	Nov 10
1	2	Nov 15 - Feb 2	Jan 27, 28, 31, Feb 1
2	1	Feb 3 - Apr 22	Apr 20
2	2	Apr 25 - Jun 30	Jun 24, 27, 28, 29

PERIOD	REGULAR	LATE START
1	9:00 - 11:30	10:00 - 12:00
Lunch	11:30 - 12:15	12:00 - 12:45
2	12:15 - 2:45	12:45 - 2:45

Macdonald Staff

This year we welcome many of our returning staff members, along with new staff and we look forward to a wonderful year ahead. Below is a list of our Macdonald staff.

Amirthalingam, V.	Teacher	Karellas, M.	Teacher - ACL
Andal, S.	Teacher = ACL	Katrivanos, M.	Teacher - ACL
Armstrong, H.	Teacher	Kim, M.	Teacher
Bansal, A.	Teacher	Kotsopoulos, J.	Teacher - ACL
Beca, V.	Teacher	Kurtyka, J.	Education Assistant
Borromeo, L	Caretaker	Lasenby, T.	Teacher
Boseovski, M	Teacher - ACL	Latchman, O	Teacher
Bowman, P.	Office Administrator	Lee, D.	Caretaker
Brassard, L.	Teacher - ACL	Lewczuk, D.	Teacher
Brown, D.	Teacher	Liu, M.	Teacher
Burdi, T.	Office Assistant	Luck, A.	Teacher
Callingham, J.	Safety Monitor	Ma, E.	Teacher
Capogiannis, V.	Teacher	MacKay, E.	Teacher - ACL
Carunanithy, J	Teacher	Mizzi, C.	Caretaker
Chopra, R	Teacher	Montague, K.	Teacher
Coppa, P.	Teacher	Moore, C.	Child & Youth Worker
Covent, J	Teacher	Morrison, C.	Vice Principal
Diamandas, A.	Teacher	Mouratidis, J.	Teacher
Dinally, S.	Office Assistant	Mouratidis, N.	Teacher
Domville, P.	Teacher	Ng, R.	Teacher
Edwards, A.	Teacer	Pagnotta, L.	Vice Principal
Elawar, C.	Sr. Office Assistant	Perry, L.	Teacher
Fagan, N.	Sr. Office Assistant	Peza, A.	Teacher
Ferguson, J.	Caretaker	Piercey, A.	Teacher
Fracassi, A.	Teacher - ACL	Piperias, D.	Teacher
Fraser, B.	Teacher	Pluscauskas, D.	Teacher
Galapon, N.	Caretaker	Reeder, L.	Teacher
Galacia, F.	Child & Youth Worker	Sealy, R.	Social Worker
Geary, L.	Teacher	Sheehan, M.	Teacher
Georgiou, G.	Teacher - ACL	Small, S.	Teacher
Gopaulsingh, K.	Teacher	Steel, L.	Teacher - ACL
Goutziomitros, G.	Teacher	Stretch, R.	GCIS
Grosdanis, J.	Teacher	Tanos-Johnson, E.	Teacher
Hardeo, B.	Teacher - ACL	Velez, C.	Teacher
Herman, M.	Teacher	Violin, C.	Teacher
Howe, E.	Teacher	Vokas, H.	Principal
Hung, A.	Teacher	Whetter, L.	Teacher - ACL
Hunnisett, A.	Teacher - ACL	Whetter, M.	Teacher - ACL
Jhutti, G.	Teacher	Wong, A.	Teacher
Jun, H.	Teacher	Wynn-William, B.	Teacher
Kalanderopoulos, J	Teacher - ACL	Xiao, L.	Teacher
Karaoulis, L.	Head Caretaker		

Lockdown & Fire Drills

At the beginning of each school year, our students and staff prepare for the year ahead by establishing the foundations for success. One of the ways we know we can help students be successful is to create a safe environment in which to learn. Though no one ever wants to see an emergency happen at a school, it's important for school staff to be equipped to deal with those situations, should these occur.

The safety of students and staff is a top priority at our school and to that end, as with all emergency drills, it is essential that we are prepared and understand the importance of procedures that will help ensure the safety of everyone in our school.

The TDSB has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans that include steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, how staff will get students away from possible dangers, and how students' families will be contacted.

One aspect of emergency preparedness is the lockdown and fire drill. All schools are required to conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills and six fire drills each school year. Lockdown drills, like fire drills, are an essential component to ensuring student and staff safety. It is important that all staff and students are prepared and know how to respond in cases of emergencies. The drills last approximately 5 minutes and ensure plans are effective and can also systematically identify any safety concerns.

Communication is also very important in any emergency situation. The emergency contact information kept on file is important in helping this happen. It lists the people who can pick up a student from the school. If you have not yet provided this information to the office or have updates to the information on file, please make sure our office staff members have that information as soon as possible.



Anaphylaxis - Taking The Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and works with Toronto Public Health and other partners to ensure the successful implementation of Sabrina's Law, which came into effect on January 1, 2006.

Sabrina's Law requires every school board to establish and maintain an anaphylactic policy that includes strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas. The TDSB has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions.

Although this may or may not affect your child directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that your child not bring any snacks that contain nuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform the office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.

Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available on the Food Allergy Canada website at www.foodallergycanada.ca.



Bell Times & Punctuality

Being punctual is a life skill that is important to learn. When your child is late, it causes disruption to the learning that has begun in the classroom and may result in your child missing important information. Arriving to school at least fifteen minutes before the bell ensures your child isn't late. Please refer to the school bell times on the front page of this newsletter to ensure your child practices punctuality and is prepared for learning. School doors open at 8:30 a.m.

If you **CANNOT**
be on Time,



Then
Be **EARLY**

Macdonald's Guidance Department

Follow us @guidanceatmac on Instagram for updates from the Guidance team! Students are assigned a guidance counsellor based on the surnames. Introducing our wonderful Guidance Team:

Ms. Line Brassard (Surnames A - H) - line.brassard@tdsb.on.ca

Ms. Bhanuja Hardeo (Surnames I - R) - bhanuja.hardeo@tdsb.on.ca

Ms. Erin MacKay (Surnames S - Z) - erin.mackay@tdsb.on.ca

To make an appointment, visit: <http://sjam.counsellorappointments.com/>

Returning Devices

If you borrowed a device last year and have yet to return it, we ask that you please bring it to the Main Office as soon as possible.

Covid Screening

All students and staff must complete the Covid Screening prior to entering the building. Students can either download the NOW Mobile app by visiting the Google Play Store (Android devices) or Apple App Store (iPhones or iPads).

Alternatively, students can complete the [TDSB Student Health Pass](#) daily and show it at the entrances.



Concussion Policy

In March of 2015, the Toronto District School Board developed a Concussion Policy. A concussion affects the way a person may think and remember things and can cause a variety of symptoms and signs. It is a brain injury that cannot be seen on routine x-rays, CT scans, or MRIs. You do **NOT** need to lose consciousness to have a concussion.

It is important for parents and educators to familiarize themselves with the steps to follow if you suspect a student has a concussion. Attached with this newsletter is a Concussion Guideline for parents and caregivers to review.

If you suspect a concussion, it is important to be examined by a medical professional and inform the school. Nothing is more important than one's health.

Terry Fox Run

Due to the pandemic, the Terry Fox organization has once again set up The Terry Fox Virtual Run to occur on Sunday September 19, 2021. This year's run theme is "He Never Gave Up" #TryLikeTerry. The Terry Fox organization has come up with some ideas for individuals to honour the occasion: go for a walk/run on your own or with those in your "bubble"; challenge members of your group by setting up a run on Facetime; go for a bike ride, etc. If you can't walk/run this year, but wish to donate, please visit www.terryfox.org

"Even if I don't finish, we need others to continue. It's got to keep going." ~Terry Fox



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 PA DAY	3 PA DAY	4
5 Day 1 All Week →	6 Labour Day	7 No School	8 PA DAY	9 First Day Of School	10	11
12 Day 2 All Week →	13	14	15	16 Virtual Grade Assemblies	17	18
19 Terry Fox Run Day 1 All Week →	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Day 2 All Week →	27	28	29 Late Start	30 Virtual Commencement 7pm		

*I want to set an example that will never be forgotten ~ Terry Fox
#TryLikeTerry*