



April 2016

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings from ThistleTown Collegiate Institute! On April 4 we hosted a group of 13 Administrators from China, who were very interested in our students' engagement, curriculum and programs. Our Student Council made excellent tour guides and really helped to answer the many questions they had.

April is "Cuts for Cancer" at TCI where our SAC, student body and staff fundraise and bring awareness for a cure for Cancer. This month is host to Bake/Samosa sales; Whack-a-SAC, the Community Car wash on April 22, and the Culminating Assembly on April 25 where we have a few brave souls cut their hair for Cancer.

TCI also had an amazing showing winning five Gold medals at the City-wide TDSB Skills Competition! Congratulations to Justice Chea, Amit Marocha, Oma Persaud, Jodi-Ann Pettigru and Jake Spencer! They now proceed to the Provincial Skills Competitions. Well done and Congratulations to our own Chef Keith Hoare.

Attention must also be drawn to our Arts department: Congratulation to our Visual Arts students under the direction of Ms. Nicole Pepper for their amazing contributions to the Delisle Art Show and Auction. Also to our Music Department for coaching and leading our music students to a spectacular performance on April 7 for the Sounds of Toronto Concert held at Massey Hall. Lastly but far from least to Nikki Coleman and Maddie Peterkin for hosting our Coffee House on April 12 showcasing multi-talented student performances! It was an outstanding show!

TCI hosted the International Day of Pink on April 13. It was great to see so many people wearing pink in support of Anti-Bullying. The day brought focus to the need to stand up to Discrimination, Racism, Sexism, Ageism, Classism, Homophobia, and the many

stereotypes, and prejudices that lead to Bullying, Harassment, Hate and Violence! A big thank

you goes to Ms. Susnik and her Leadership class and Ms. Karen Melbourne our CYC.

We are looking forward to the second term and our continued efforts to support our students at TCI towards their final exams and to the sunshine which will bring good things from our TCI garden, which has just started up again for this year.

You are always welcome to contact the school with any question or queries.

Sincerely
Ms. A. MacLachlan
Principal

KEY DATES

May 23	Victoria Day – No School
May 26	Arts Night
June 3	Prom
June 8	Athletic Banquet
June 10, 13	Grade 9 Math EQAO
June 20	Last Day of Classes
June 21 - 27	Exams
June 28	Exam/Mark Review Day
June 29 - 30	P.A. Days

MERIT AWARD BURSARY PROGRAM

The *Merit Award Bursary Program* provides bursaries to senior high school students as an incentive to continue their studies. It recognizes those who demonstrate a commitment to their school work, extra-curricular activities and community. Whether your child is returning to high school next year or continuing to a post-secondary program, they may be eligible for this bursary. Could your son or daughter benefit from financial assistance to complete high school

or pursue post-secondary education? Personal circumstances are given special consideration.

Are they doing their best? Contact your Guidance department for more details or visit our website at *meritaward.ca*.

Ms. B. Rasul
ACL – Student Success

NEWS FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

A number of students participated in a variety of activities organized by the Science department since the beginning of Semester 2. A brief description of these activities is provided below.

Seven students from Grade 10 wrote the Michael Smith Challenge on February 23. This challenge was organized by the University of British Columbia, Department of Physics and Astronomy. We are still waiting for the results of this challenge.

A number of Grade 11 students from TCI participated in the High School Partnership Program coordinated by U of T's International Health Program. The first component of this program was an in-class presentation that took place on March 4 and focused on topics surrounding application of science and policy towards improving the health of populations around the globe. The second component took place at Hart House of U of T on March 12 where students participated in "Take Action Conference" and got an opportunity to explore careers related to science, medicine and health policy. There were a number of presentations on topics related to global health, refugees and their problems, and problems related to university life by U of T professors, Ph. D students and undergrads.

A Chinese delegation visited Ms. Link's Grade 11 university biology class on April 6. Members of the delegation chatted with students and observed her classroom while students were working on Polygenic Inheritance patterns.

One of our Grade 12 students, Mohamed Hirole, participated in the Toronto Science Fair on April 2 and got an opportunity to view projects on diverse science topics and to interact with other participating students.

Mrs. Mangat's Grade 12 University Biology class visited Ontario Science Centre on April 8, 2016 for a DNA Fingerprinting Lab. Through this lab students first learned to extract DNA by using their cheek cells as source of DNA. Then, they learned to make multiple copies of DNA through the molecular biology technique known as Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). They also learned to carry out Gel Electrophoresis. Students also had the opportunity to analyze their results from Gel Electrophoresis. The real-world applications of these molecular biology techniques were also discussed.

I want to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all staff and students who participated in these activities. Please stay tuned for the following upcoming events.

- Sick Kids Medical Health Workshop, April 24
- University of Waterloo SIN Exam, May 5
- University of Waterloo Chem 13 News Exam, May 12
- York University Biophysics Contest – Deadline May 15
- University of Waterloo Avogadro Exam, May 19

Mrs. B. Mangat
ACL – Science

NEWS FROM THE PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Athletics:

Mid-Season Sports:

Badminton – coached by Donovan Williams and Mr. Smith – The team had a successful season with five athletes qualifying for regionals on **April 13** at Martingrove C.I. The athletes were Safali Patel, Nakshi Patel, Kalp Patel, Ishpreet Jhattu and Preya Vyas. Congrats to the entire team for their strong efforts throughout the season.

The Phys Ed department is pleased to offer seven sports this spring season.

- **Varsity Girls' Soccer** – coached by Mr. Hoare – The season begins at the end of April. On April 12 the team travelled to the

Major League Sportsplex in Scarborough where they had a positive experience in their first tournament of the season.

- **Co-ed Volleyball** – coached by Ms. Susnik – The season began on April 11 where the squad played North Albion C.I. and then on April 13 they played Kipling C.I. The team starts the season 1-1. The co-ed team travels to Westview Centennial S.S. on May 13 for a tournament.
- **Junior Boys' Soccer** – coached by Mr. Simnor – The junior boys begin their season later this month. On April 11 the team travelled to the Major League Sportsplex in Scarborough where they had a team-building experience in their first tournament of the season.
- **Senior Boys' Soccer** – coached by Mr. Simnor – The senior boys also start their spring season later this month. On April 18 the team travelled to the Major League Sportsplex in Scarborough to compete in their first tournament of the season.
- **Ultimate Frisbee** – coached by Ms. Susnik and Mr. Smith – The season begins at the start of May. The team travels to Silverthorn C.I. on May 20 for the 12th Annual Ultimate tournament in which TCI has participated well in the past.
- **Track and Field** – coached by Mr. Simnor and Ms. Tzankova – Tryouts have started with the first mini meet on April 22.
- **Girls' Softball** – coached by Mrs. Peterkin – With brand new equipment and uniforms the team looks good to start the season in mid-May!
- **Indoor Cricket** – coached by Mrs. Kharotia and Mrs. Mangat – The indoor team has a lot of enthusiasm as the season continues on April 22 when they travel to North Albion C.I.

TAC – THISTLETOWN ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Staff Advisor: Ms. Susnik

Floor Hockey Intramurals

TAC finished the floor hockey intramurals in January. It was a very well-run intramural.

5 on 5 Basketball Intramurals

The basketball championship will be held on April 19 in Gym A/B. It should be a very exciting game.

Soccer Intramurals

The next intramural is Indoor Soccer. Sign-ups continue in the cafeteria until April 20. The season is to begin on April 21.

Toronto Food Bank

TAC travelled to the Toronto Food Bank at the end of March to assist with the distribution of foods for the Greater Toronto Area. The enthusiastic students fed 122 families with their efforts.

Coat Drive

TAC ran a coat drive in January and donated 55 coats to the Children's Wish Foundation.

Senior Boys' Basketball Alumni Game – April 29, 2016

This is the 6th Annual Senior Boys' Basketball Alumni game which is being held on April 29. It is a great opportunity for the alumni to come back and play basketball against the 2016 Senior Boys' team. Admission is \$1 and students are asked not to bring coats, hats or backpacks into the gym. There will be no in and out privileges except at half time. If you have any questions please see Ms. Susnik or a TAC representative.

Athletic Banquet

The annual Thistle town Athletic Banquet will be held on **June 8, 2016**. This is an opportunity for coaches and staff to recognize individual athletes and team achievements.

Curriculum:

PLF4M – Leadership and Recreation

The Great Big Crunch:

The Leadership class hosted the Great Big Crunch, which is a kick off to April's Nutrition Month. The class organized apple distribution to 440 students and staff. At 1:30 p.m. all participating individuals took a big bite out of the apple at the same time. Great job!

International Pink Day – April 13

April 13 marks International Day of Pink, where Toronto District School Board staff and students wear pink in support of diversity and to raise awareness to stop discrimination, gender-based bullying, homophobia and transphobia. This day began at a Nova Scotia high school, when a student was bullied for wearing a pink shirt. His peers decided to take a stance against homophobic and transphobic bullying and got the entire school to wear pink in solidarity for the cause.

The Leadership class ran a prize raffle to encourage students to wear pink and also organized a poster contest in the categories of informative and creative. The poster winners were Mital Patel and Kaylah Campbell.

Ms. C. Susnik
ACL – Physical Education and Health

NEWS FROM THE TCI ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Thistletown Environmental Council has been in action since the beginning of the school year 2015-16. A number of activities and events were organized and implemented. Brief descriptions of activities/events organized during Semester 2 are given below.

Earth Hour was observed for the months of February and March, 2016 with an objective to reduce energy consumption.

The month of April is being observed as Earth Month.

An effort is being made to enhance Eco-awareness among TCI students and staff through sharing one environment-related fact/quote over the PA system daily.

April 7 was observed as Green Day. Importance of healthy eating and healthy surroundings was highlighted on this day by asking TCI students and staff to wear green and to bring a "litter less" lunch with lots of greens.

Thistletown actively participated in the annual Earth Day by taking time to clean Thistletown C.I. and its surroundings and the Humber River trail.

An application for Eco School Certification for this school year has been made, and we are looking forward to an audit date. Remember TCI that we hold a "**Silver Certification**" status from last year and are hoping to do better this time.

We wish to extend our heartiest thanks to all TCI students and staff members for supporting all the events and activities of the Environmental Council. We also thank all members of the Environmental Council for their efforts, time and contributions. Please stay tuned for the upcoming events.

Mrs. A. Kharotia
Mrs. B. Mangat
Teacher Advisors