



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Alison MacLachlan

Greetings from TCI! We have had a very busy school start-up, and the articles in this newsletter describe some of the exciting activities and initiatives that took place this fall; as well as some of the events coming up in the near future. Please read and enjoy and we hope to see you out at our next Parent Workshop evening on Nov. 22nd.

Thistletown Collegiate Institute's School Learning Foci this year will follow our Director's plan to identify specific goals in Achievement, Equity and Well-being. We have decided that improving our Math scores on the EQAO test and in our Math courses needs to be our focus. We have a whole school plan to imbed Math literacy skills as well as English literacy skills across the curriculum into daily lessons to provide extra practice on these essential building blocks. Our Equity goals include the need for more Differentiated Instruction and variety of instruction and assessment in our curriculum to make understanding and learning more accessible to all students. We are also requiring the use of Accommodations to support the learning needs of our Special Education students. We are striving to support the learning of all of our students. Well-being is also an essential component to success. At TCI we want our students to feel safe, feel valued and have a voice in their surroundings. We are working to promote a positive, inclusive atmosphere that is welcoming of community.

I know that the teachers and staff at TCI care deeply about our school and about the success of our students and I am very proud to work in service with them to support you and your adolescents. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

NOVEMBER 2016

KEY DATES	
November 18	P.A. Day
November 30	Grade 8 Information Night
December 2	P.A. Day
December 9	Winter Showcase
Dec. 26 – Jan. 6	Holidays
January 19-20	Grade 9 Math EQAO
January 24	Last Day of Classes – Sem. I
Jan. 25 - 31	Exams
Feb 1	Exam Review Day
Feb 2	P.A. Day
Feb 3	Day 1 of Semester II
Feb 17	P.A. Day
Feb 20	Family Day (school closed)

NEWS FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ATHLETICS

The Fall Season

Varsity Football – coached by Mr. Smith, Mr. Hoare and Mr. Karam – The football team made it to the quarter finals against East York. It was an exciting season for the football team.

Senior Boys' Volleyball - coached by Ms. Susnik – The team qualified for quarter finals against Etobicoke C I. In a very evenly match game the team unfortunately were defeated 25 – 23 and 26 – 24. Great job team!

Cross Country – coached by Mrs. Tzankova and Mr. Bernard – The small but mighty team of runners battled the elements this season and ran in three mini meets this year. Congrats runners!

The Winter Season

Junior Boys' Basketball – coached by Mr. Donavon Williams and Ms. Susnik. The team will begin their season with a tournament on November 17th at Woodbridge College.

Senior Boys' Basketball – Ms. Susnik
The team is in the beginning stages and will start their season with an exhibition game on November 22nd against Metro Prep.

Senior Girls' Volleyball – coached by Mr. Jansen. The team is preparing for their season which will begin in early December.

Indoor Cricket – coached by Mrs. Mangat and Mrs. Kharotia. Please listen to announcements to know when the tryouts will begin.

Athletic Banquet

The annual Thistle town Athletic Banquet will be held on **June 7th, 2017**. This is an opportunity for coaches to recognize individual athletes and team achievements.

Curriculum

PLF4M - Recreation and Leadership

On October 25th, 2016 the students in the grade 12 leadership class held a school wide event called the Great Big Crunch. It was an initiative to bring awareness to healthy eating habits and nutrition to the staff and students. Approximately 500 apples were distributed to the school and at 11 a.m. everyone took a bite into their apple, making a great big crunch! The class also raised \$176 for the Syrian Refugee organization, Lifeline Syria!

The leadership class is preparing for Grade 8 visits on November 16, 21 and 23 from our feeder schools The Elms, Beaumonde Heights and West Humber Junior Middle School.

On November 25th the leadership students are organizing a coed basketball tournament for surrounding elementary schools.

On December 6th, the class will be bringing awareness to the White Ribbon Campaign - Violence against Women.

TAC – THISTLETOWN ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Staff Advisor: Ms. Susnik

Soccer Intramurals

Soccer Intramurals wrapped up on November 8th, with the footballers as the champions.

Volleyball Intramurals

You can sign up your team of 6 players in the cafeteria. Be sure to obtain an intramural form to be able to participate in all intramurals for the year.

Spooky Halloween Trivia

TAC ran a Halloween Trivia contest against the homeroom classes in the month of October. Ms. Pepper's homeroom class were the proud winners of the chocolates. Congratulations!

The Terry Fox Run

TAC organized a school wide run/walk on October 5th which raised \$250 for Cancer research and the Terry Fox Foundation.

NEWS FROM ENGLISH

It is impossible to ignore the biggest literacy news story of the first semester, the first online EQAO literacy test. It is unfortunate that with all of the news about the problems surrounding the test that more attention was not given to schools like TCI who persevered throughout these difficulties. All staff who was assisting students on the day of the test can attest to the fact that our students patiently worked through all of the difficulties of that day. As a result, many students were able to complete most or all of the test. A number of schools throughout Ontario were not as lucky as TCI and had to cancel their test day completely. However, I am certain that it was not only luck that was demonstrated at TCI on the day of the test. Both TCI staff and your sons and daughters collaborated to make the best of a more than challenging day. We are proud to be working on behalf of such amazing students.

As you have recently been informed, the EQAO has announced that those schools like TCI, who persevered through the difficulties they encountered on the day of the test, will have their tests marked. I am quite certain that a number of our students will discover that their hard work

will pay off, and they will soon find that they have passed the test. This information will be passed on to you as soon as we receive it. Rest assured if anyone was not successful, we are already in the process of preparing students for the regular date of the spring EQAO.

Going beyond preparations for the literacy test, the English department at TCI is encouraging the development of Deep Reading. One of the biggest challenges facing a 21st Century North American student is digital distractions. For too many students, screen time has unfortunately replaced quiet time that was once given to reading, writing and conversation. Within TCI's classrooms, we are providing both time to read and strategies to better comprehend challenging texts. Our goal is that your sons and daughters are not just passing tests and gaining credits, but that they are gaining the skills to make them lifelong learners and successful students in their post-secondary pursuits. To this end, we ask that you provide an hour each evening of screen-free time for reading and conversation. We are always most successful when we collaborate with you in making our TCI students successful. Thanks so much for working with us.

NEWS FROM STUDENT SERVICES

Post-Secondary Visits

On November 10, senior students had the opportunity to participate in presentations from a variety of post-secondary institutions from around the GTA. Our 'Post-Secondary Afternoon' gave students the opportunity to ask questions and hear from a variety of college and university representatives. Our aim is to encourage students and give them opportunities to research and explore the opportunities that exist for them after high school.

College and University Applications

On December 1st students in a graduating position will be invited to an assembly to learn about the application process for college and university. The deadline for college applications is February 1, 2017 and January 11, 2017 for university applications. We encourage students to have conversations with their parents/guardians about this important decision and to complete their applications early. Guidance staff is always available for questions or consultation.

Parent Workshop Evenings

We are pleased to announce parent workshop evenings for parents and guardians of Thistletown students. As part of our commitment to student achievement and equity, we are inviting parents and guardians to partner with us to improve well-being and understanding of our students.

Four workshops have been scheduled this year: September 21, November 22, February 22, and April 25. Please join us at our next workshop on Tuesday, November 22 at 7 pm where we will further examine the educational planning tool, myBlueprint.ca, learn about teen cognitive and social development, and explore opportunities in apprenticeship.

Course Selection

Beginning last month, Guidance staff has been taking Grade 9 and 11 students through the course selection process. Grade 10 and 12 students will begin selecting their courses in November and December, respectively. During this time, students will be reviewing and selecting their courses for the 2016-2017 school year via the website, www.myblueprint.ca/tdsb, this site continues to be an excellent resource for students as they explore pathways and courses during and programs after high school.

Co-operative Education

Qualified senior students who are interested in learning in a full or half-day workplace setting should enquire about co-op placements prior to the start of Semester 2. There are a variety of alternative placements for some students who may benefit from a program that is outside the regular classroom. Please come to Student Services for assistance.

Night School

Night school registration for qualified students will begin in January.

Resources for Youth with Substance Use Issues

- Breakaway Youth & Family Services
Day treatment for youth 14-18 years with addiction and mental health issues, consultation and support to families
416-234-1942
breakaway@breakawayyouth.org
1-800-836-6209
www.breakawayyouth.org

- Centre for Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH) Youth Addiction Services
Youth 16-24 years with substance use issues, with or without mental health diagnosis, assessment and outpatient counselling, individual and group counselling
416-535-8501 ext. 1730
mail@ctys.org
www.ctys.org
- Griffin Centre
Services for youth ages 12 to 24 with mental health and/or substance use concerns. Day program with academic support, and community-based individual, group and family support and counselling
416-222-1153
contact@griffin-centre.org
- YSAP (Youth Substance Abuse Program)
Counselling and education for youth 16-24 non-residential treatment, assessment, crisis intervention, counselling, outreach
416-504-1710 ext. 206
www.ymcatoronto.org
- SPACCY (Substance Abuse Program for African and Caribbean Youth)
A free weekly support-discussion group for male black youth to explore issues of substance use and taking control of their lives.
416-951-6769

Braeburn Neighbourhood Services

We are pleased to have Braeburn Neighbourhood Services return for their 7th year at TCI, offering after-school assistance to students in virtually every subject. The 'Lunch and Learn' program is also available. Both programs require parental consent. Students may visit Student Services for more information and application forms.

Attendance and Lates

Staff has been calling home to parents of students who have developed poor attendance habits. Success in school and good attendance go hand in hand. Please ensure your son or daughter arrives to school and class on time, every day.

Stay Organized

With six report cards sent home per school year, plus other important school information, it is easy to lose track of essential school records for your son(s) or daughter(s). One suggestion is to keep a folder where this information can be stored. Then when you need it, it is readily available.

Call Us!

If you have any questions regarding your son or daughter's development at school, please do not hesitate to call us. You may call Student Services at 416-394-7710, extension 20040 to speak to your son's or daughter's Guidance counsellor or to make an appointment.

NEWS FROM VISUAL ARTS.



This semester, the grade 9 Visual Arts course NAC10 Expressing Aboriginal, Metis and Inuit Cultures has been busy finishing up the History of the Land mural that is now hanging on the cafeteria wall for all the school to enjoy. This large scale mural was started in the spring semester with Phil Cote our Indigenous Guest artist. He assisted the class with historical information that the class painted onto the mural. The acrylic painted mural reaches 8 feet high and 25 feet long and tells the story of the Indigenous presence on this land since before the ice age and travels in a chronological fashion from left to right across the ages from settlement times and first contact until today at TCI! The Humber River is the background for the images because the story relates to our own school being on previous aboriginal land with the Humber River just behind our school.

The nines are now enjoying a TDSB sponsored Art Gallery of Ontario tour of artworks and attending a First Nations themed studio workshop. Aqua and Rebecca Baird, two other aboriginal artists, will be visiting the class in November to share their wisdom of their culture and experiences as artists.

The grade 11 /12 class is busy as usual with professional guest artists in Interior Design and Printmaking. These workshops will provide certification opportunities for the five SHSM students in our senior Visual Arts class. Our trip to the Graphic Arts North American University and Colleges Expo was successful in guiding our students toward their post-secondary decisions. Another trip is scheduled to the McMichael Arts gallery for the seniors to participate in a contemporary art workshop.

Also, the Visual Arts Department has three students entering the OSSTF Marion Drysdale "Mirror, Mirror" competition in poetry and painting. The Visual Arts students' next public art show competition is the Delisle Youth Art Show and Sale.

Mark your calendar for the T.C.I. STUDIO 150 HOLIDAY ART SHOW AND SALE on Wednesday, December 21st with displays of Aboriginal handicrafts, clay ceramics, and the grades 9, 11 and 12 hand-printed cards and paintings in water colour and acrylic for viewing. Parents are welcome while teachers will bring in their classes in to walk around and observe the art show while enjoying hot apple cider and student homemade cookies. Money raised from the sale will be donated to **YOUTH WITHOUT SHELTER**, our neighborhood charity.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day is an important day in the Canadian calendar and is an opportunity to give meaning to past sacrifice and acknowledge the courage of those presently serving. Each year, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we gather together at Thistletown Collegiate to observe a moment of silence and mark the sacrifice of so many. Our Remembrance Day service includes the playing of the *Last Post*, the recitation of poetry, and honouring the fallen with a memorial address over the public address system as well as the wearing of poppies.

NEWS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

A small group of students from TCI Environmental Club participated in Eco-Schools Kickoff Conference on October 3 at Humber Arboretum. These students participated in three workshops on the topics of Eco footprint, Powerful Pollinators and Water. There was also an opportunity for participants from different schools to share their best practices and learn from each other. Students also used this event as an opportunity for program planning for the year 2016-17.

The month of October was celebrated as International Walk/Bike to School month. The health and the environmental benefits of walking/biking were highlighted through daily PA announcements to encourage walking/biking to school.

Earth Hour was observed for the months of September & October, 2016 with an objective to reduce energy consumption.

In the months of November, campaigns will be organized to minimize waste.

Environmental Club, in collaborations with Ms. Pepper, Ms. Jackson, and Ms. Carter is also involved in Canada's 150 Anniversary Celebrations. More information on these celebrations is provided separately.

We wish to extend our heartiest thanks to all TCI staff members for supporting all the events, activities and initiatives of the Environmental Club. We also thank all members of the Environmental Council and Cinthiya Venu, a volunteer student from York University, for their efforts, time and contributions.

Teacher Advisors

Mrs. A. Kharotia
Mrs. B. Mangat

Canada's 150 Anniversary Celebrations: Highway of Heroes Living Tribute

Thistletown's Environmental Club in collaboration with Ms. Pepper, Ms. Jackson, and Ms. Carter is involved in Canada's 150 Anniversary Celebrations. The first part of these celebrations began in November and is dedicated to remembering, commemorating, and paying tribute to the Canadian Soldiers who have sacrificed their lives to defend our country, its interests, its values, and contributing to international peace and security. The following events were organized at Thistletown to remember and pay tribute to those fallen soldiers

Tulip bulbs were planted in our school's vegetable garden on Friday November 4. A number of students from Ms. Pepper's and Mrs. Mangat's period 2 classes and members of the Environmental Club helped out with the planting of Tulips. These bulbs will bloom in the spring of 2017, the time we will be celebrating Canada's 150 Anniversary

Display cases with information and pictures of some of our soldiers, who travelled along the Highway of Heroes, were set up by Ms. Jackson during the Remembrance week, November 7 to November 11.

We are also supporting "The Living Tribute" initiative of "Highway of Heroes" through fundraising. The mission of this Living Tribute is to plant 117, 000 trees, in five years, one for every fallen Canadian Soldier since Confederation, along and near the Highway of Heroes between Trenton and Toronto. Environmental Club members will be collecting donations in the front foyer in the morning and in the cafeteria during lunch throughout the months of November and December to support the "Living Tribute" mission. Funds will also be raised through a Samosa Sale on November 30 and a Hot Chocolate Sale on December 8.

Students also participated in a 15 -30 minutes long "Reflections" activity in their homerooms classes on Friday Nov. 11. Students had a chance to express their understanding of "Freedom and what Canada stands for", "Highway of Heroes", and "Living Tribute" through this activity. Students' reflections from this activity have been

posted in the cafeteria for the month of November.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Pepper, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Carter and all TCI staff members for supporting this initiative. Our special thanks also go to all members of the Environmental Council and Cinthiya Venu, a volunteer from York University, for their commitment, dedication, time and contributions.

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

NEWS FROM THE CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM AT TCI!!!! WE HAD AN AMAZING SEMESTER

Our vibrant Culinary program continues to find amazing experiences for our students. The Specialist High Skills Major Culinary program helps students who might want to have a career in the Hospitality & Tourism field explore their options more thoroughly. Here are some of the highlights (so far) and some upcoming events:

- TCI High School Chefs had a booth at the 'Toronto Garlic Festival', (we produced over 400 garlic inspired dishes to raise over \$1200 for our March Break trip).
- TCI Euro trip students catered the Davisville Tennis Club season end gala, and catered the Humber Yacht club season end gala.
- TCI Culinary participated with Beau Bakery to create a dish for the Toronto Junk Food Festival.
- SHSM students visited the Toronto Luxury Chocolate Show and attended a Canadian Association for Foodservice Professionals Networking Seminar & Reception that featured a panel of 4 entrepreneurs that faced off on the Dragon's Den Television show.
- We also had the privilege of giving back to our community by preparing an amazing appetizer for 200 guests at the ROM for the *Ability Online* fundraiser. The Culinary program will also be hosted our 10th annual Holiday luncheon on December 15th, on the

same day we will be donating a Holiday dinner for the residents of 'Youth without Shelter' and 'Ernestine's Women's shelter'. (We are cooking a special meal in February for Gilda's Club of Toronto for those who have been affected by Cancer). Anyone wishing to donate funds or products for this charitable community dinners please contact keith.hoare@tdsb.on.ca

- 3 SHSM students will be competing at the 'Cook the Books' competition at the Royal Winter Fair (Nov.12) and attending the Canadian National Cookbook Awards Gala on Nov.14. TCI will be the only High School team to be selected to compete against 9 Culinary Colleges' teams.

With all the various projects and fundraisers that the students have participated in we have been able to raise over \$60 000 towards our March break Italy trip. The second semester promises to be even more jam packed with various Culinary competitions, field trips, industry recognized certification courses & fundraising events. If your son or daughter is interested in the Tourism & Hospitality/ Foodservice industry, please have them drop by and visit Mr. Hoare for details on Thistletown's Specialist High Skills Major programming.

NEWS FROM NUMERACY

Greetings from the Math Department!

A kindly reminder that students in the **Grade 9 Academic or Applied** math programs will be writing the **Math EQAO assessment on January 19th and 20th**. The EQAO assessment measures understanding of student's knowledge and skills at key stages of their education in comparison to provincial standards. It is compulsory in Ontario for all students registered in Grade 9 Mathematics (Academic or Applied) to write the **Math EQAO**. Results will count for **10%** of their final mark. This test will require students to answer a series of questions in multiple-choice and open-ended short answer questions, which are reflected in the math curriculum. An opportunity will be provided for our students to write a practice EQAO test in their classroom, which will provide them with

constructive feedback. If you have any questions, please contact your student's grade 9 teacher.

Our math teachers will continue to pursue new and innovative ways to build our math program. Currently our department is enrolled in the Math Renewal Strategies where our focus is on supporting grade 9 and 10 students in achievement and success. We hope that we can count on the support of our great parents to ensure that students come prepared for school on a daily basis with their learning materials (i.e. pencil, paper, binder, and calculator) and complete a minimum of 30 minutes of math homework every night.

Nick Smith
ACL of Mathematics

10th Annual TDSB Parent Conference: *Parent Involvement Makes a Difference*

Registration is now open for the:

10th Annual TDSB Parent Conference: *Parent Involvement Makes a Difference.*

Saturday, 19 November 2016, 8 am–3:45 pm
Earl Haig Secondary School, 100 Princess
Avenue, Toronto

The theme of the 2016 conference is *Parents and Communities Partnering for Student Achievement*. Presented by the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) and the TDSB Parent and Community Engagement Office, this **free event** will feature a keynote address by renowned author and speaker Jennifer Kolari, along with a wide range of workshops, networking opportunities, and information about TDSB programs and services.

Please note that child-minding, bussing and interpretation are available through advance registration ONLY. For details, please see the **flyer (attached)** or visit www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference to learn more. Registration closes on 11 November 2016, so register online today!

For additional information, please contact [Jim Spyropoulos](#), Executive Superintendent, Student Engagement & Well-being at 416-397-3678, or [Michelle Munroe](#), Central Coordinator, Parent & Community Involvement, 416-397-3528