



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Alison MacLachlan

Greetings!

Semester one has now drawn to a close. We are very proud of ThistleTown CI students' accomplishments this semester. We would like to thank you for all that you have done to encourage and support your children to ensure their success. Please take some time to review and discuss with your children their **Semester 1 Report Card**, including their strengths, weaknesses and next steps.

As a collective team it is important that we work collaboratively to support and nurture your children's academic, social and emotional success. A key and critical component to this success is attendance. It is essential for them to **attend their classes regularly and be on time.** When your child is away it is necessary for you to notify the office and remind your son or daughter to get any missed work. Also, if any of your contact information changes, please notify the main office or the guidance office as soon as possible. Additionally it is important to ensure your child is placed in the appropriate academic level in order to contribute to their academic success. This will be especially important when your child selects their courses this month, for the upcoming school year.

In order to communicate more effectively with you and our students we will be launching our TCI website this week. We encourage you to use our website to stay up to date with upcoming events at TCI. Please

## FEBRUARY 2017

join us at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Parent Information Evening, scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup>, where we will be discussing Student Supports, the importance of Communication, including the TCI website.

Please note March 8<sup>th</sup> is scheduled as a TCI Learns day, so there is a half day schedule in the afternoon. The EQAO Literacy test is scheduled for Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Only students writing the literacy test will come to school on this day.

This semester our dedicated TCI staff will be offering the following free support for our grade 9/10 students:

1. Literacy support program every Wednesday from February 8<sup>th</sup> to March 29<sup>th</sup>, after school (3:15 – 4:15 p.m.).
2. Numeracy support program every Tuesday and Thursday from February 14<sup>th</sup> to May 25<sup>th</sup>, after school (3:15 – 4:15 p.m.).

Please register your child for these programs by filling out the Student Registration Form attached to this letter and returning it to the school as soon as possible.

If you have any concerns, please contact a guidance counselor or your children's teachers.

I am very proud of the work that is being done at TCI and look forward to an exciting and industrious Semester two.

Kindest regards  
Alison MacLachlan

### KEY DATES

<b>Feb 16</b>	Semi-Formal
<b>Feb 17</b>	P.A. Day
<b>Feb 20</b>	Family Day (school closed)
<b>Mar 7</b>	Interim Reports Available
<b>Mar 7</b>	Parent Teacher interview night
<b>Mar. 8</b>	new TCI Learns (late start)
<b>Mar. 13 – Mar 18</b>	March Break
<b>Mar 30</b>	OSSLT
<b>April 14</b>	Good Friday (school closed)
<b>April 17</b>	Easter Monday (school closed)
<b>April 27</b>	Mid-term Marks sent home

Badminton – Donovan and Mr. Jansen  
Ultimate – coached by Ms. Susnik  
Coed Volleyball – Ms. Susnik  
Girls' Baseball - TBD  
Boys' Baseball – TBD  
Track and Field - TBD

---

### NEWS FROM ENGLISH



As we mentioned in the last ThistleTalk, TCI was one of a small group of schools whose students and staff persevered through the many problems which occurred on the day of the on-line EQAO literacy test. Though a number of our students were unable to complete the test, quite a few were able to complete the test successfully.

As we move into the second semester, these students will be notified of their excellent results. For those who were not successful, largely due to the technical glitches of that day, we now have even more time to focus our remedial assistance on a smaller group of students in the two months leading up to the actual literacy test which will be done on paper.

This help will consist of short workshops that will focus on the larger writing features of the test, namely the news article and the essay, and a thirty minute class every Wednesday after school in room 209. What we ask of you is that you provide quiet time at home each day for your child to read. Reading skills do not develop quickly and can only be fostered over time and with your support and cooperation. We thank you for all the great work you do.

---

### NEWS FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT



### ATHLETICS

#### The Winter Season

**Junior Boys' Basketball** – coached by Mr. Donovan Williams and Ms. Susnik  
The junior boys finished their season undefeated and number 1 in the northwest division. Playoffs begin February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Senior Boys' Basketball** – Ms. Susnik  
This year's team worked on teamwork and sportsmanship and had a great season.

**Senior Girls' Volleyball** – coached by Mr. Jansen  
The girls finished second in the league and begin playoffs on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### Upcoming 2017 Spring season

Senior Girls' Soccer – coached by Mr. Hoare  
Junior Boys' Soccer – TBD  
Senior Boys' Soccer – TBD

## NEWS FROM STUDENT SERVICES



### Course Selection Process for Grade 9, 10, and 11 students

The course selection process for students to select courses for the 2017-2018 school year has begun. Students in grades 9, 10, and 11 have received a variety of information on courses that will be available to them for the upcoming school year.

When determining course choices, students should consider a number of factors:

- Courses already completed or currently enrolled in (do they have the prerequisite course?)
- Academic achievement to date (have they performed well to ensure success in future courses?)
- Post-secondary considerations (is the student wishing to work or become an apprentice? What high school courses are required for specific college or university programs?)

Integral to this process is parent/student dialogue. Students have been provided a variety of material, primarily online, including course descriptions for all courses offered at TCI.

Students will be accessing the website [www.myblueprint.ca/tdsb](http://www.myblueprint.ca/tdsb) for course selection. This allows students access at home and we encourage parents to dialogue with students about appropriate course choices for next year.

Grade 12 students must also log in to [www.myblueprint.ca/tdsb](http://www.myblueprint.ca/tdsb) to indicate their destination after high school (apprenticeship, college, university, or workplace).

The deadline to submit course choices is February 24, 2017. Students must return course

selection forms, signed by a parent or guardian, to their homeroom teachers by this date.

### Post-Secondary Destinations

A component of transitioning in high school is preparing students for life after their final year. One way we do that is by providing opportunities for students to explore possibilities that await them as they prepare to move into the next stage of their lives.

In November, Grade 11 and 12 students and their teachers heard presentations from a number of different individuals representing various college, trade, and university institutions. This was an excellent opportunity for students to begin asking questions about opportunities after high school.

The Ontario College and University Fairs were held earlier this past fall.

Open Houses at colleges and universities will continue to be offered into the spring.

### Post-Secondary Planning

At this time of year, Guidance counsellors in Student Services have had conversations with Grade 12 students about their post-secondary choices and explained application procedures.

- An assembly regarding the college and university application process took place early December. This was offered to our graduating and senior students
- Students applying for skilled trades or for workplace training and experience have met with Cooperative Education teachers at TCI for second semester placements
- Students applying to college for programs beginning in September would have done so prior to the deadline of February 1, 2017
- The deadline for applying to university was January 11, 2017

- We encourage students to have alternative post-secondary plans in the event that the first choice does not materialize. For example, it is suggested that university applicants also apply to appropriate college programs. There are many excellent college programs that can lead to university completion if desired

Students can find many post-secondary resources online:

[www.apprenticesearch.com](http://www.apprenticesearch.com)

[www.careercruising.ca](http://www.careercruising.ca)

[www.ouac.on.ca](http://www.ouac.on.ca)

[www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca)

[www.skillscanada.ca](http://www.skillscanada.ca)

### **Braeburn Neighbourhood Place**

The opportunity for students to be tutored in virtually all subjects continues this year. We are pleased to host the Braeburn after school program again and it is available to all students with parental permission. It runs every day from 3:15 to 4:15 pm. Good food is provided. See Guidance for details.

---

## **NEWS FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**



Some of the activities that took place in the science department during semester 1 of 2016-17 are described below.

Mrs. Link's grade 11 Biology class participated in the Lets Talk Science Fish Market Survey Action Project through CurioCity. This was a national survey which examined the validity of the

labelling of fish species that were sold in markets and stores in our neighbourhood. Fresh and frozen fish were purchased from local stores and samples were collected and processed by students in preparation for DNA analysis at the University of Guelph. Students used an online app to submit information regarding labelling and packaging and source of the fish in order to complete the survey. All together over 200 samples were examined in this study with approximately 20% of the sample found to be mislabelled or misidentified in some manner. There are a number of important issues that can arise from mislabelling of fish; allergies to certain types of fish, pricing inequities of different types of fish, ecological implications of harvesting at-risk species to name a few. Our participation in the survey adds to the knowledge base and can lead to education and a better understanding of the issues for purchasers and retailers.

Mrs. Kharotia's grade 11 University Physics class prepared Model Bridges for their in-class culminating project. These bridges were tested for strength by loading the bridges with steel weights. Aesthetics and design were also considered for assessing and evaluating this project.

Students were informed of and invited to participate in the following events

- Student Advancement Research (StAR) program 2017 at Sick Kids Research Institute
- Applied Health Science High School Outreach Program, University of Waterloo, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences
- Science School at Ontario Science Centre

Mrs. B. Mangat  
ACL – Science

---

## NEWS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB



### 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 was dedicated to remembering, commemorating, and paying tribute to the fallen Canadian Soldiers through organizing a number of events and activities.

We also supported "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 collected donations throughout the months of November and December to support the "Living Tribute" mission. Funds were also raised through a Samosa Sale on November 30 and a Hot Chocolate Sale on December 8. We are proud to share with you that we were able to raise \$200.00 that has been sent to the Highway of Heroes –Living Tribute.

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

Teacher Advisors

Mrs. A. Kharotia  
Mrs. B. Mangat

---

## NEWS FROM THE TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:



We would like to welcome a new staff member to the TCI Tech Department; Mrs. Arseneault. She comes to us from the communications technology industry where she has used all sorts of media platforms including digital print, video editing, and graphical web design. We are excited to have her bring her wealth of knowledge into her classrooms and into the lives of our students here at TCI.

As students' progress through their journey at TCI please know that there is a wide variety of Tech Education courses to meet your every workplace, apprenticeship, or college needs. Please see the list below for course names and course codes.

Automotive Technology (TTJ)

Construction Technology (TCJ)

Custom Wood Working Technology (TWJ)

Cosmetology Technology (TXJ)

Communication Technology, photography focus (TGP)

Communication Technology, video focus (TGV)

Communication Technology, graphical design focus (TGG)

Computer Technology (TEJ)

Exploring Technologies (TIJ)

Hospitality and Tourism Technology (TFJ)

Technological Design (TDJ)

Mr. Michael Makxam  
ACL – Technological Education Department

---

## NEWS FROM THE CULINARY ARTS PROG



SECOND SEMESTER FOR THE CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM AT TCI WILL BE JAM PACKED!!!!

As we close out the first semester at TCI the Culinary program had a lot to be proud of: a great showing at various culinary competitions and food festivals throughout the fall, and a lot of funds raised for March Break trip to Italy (coming up in a few short weeks). We capped off the year with our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday lunch, and through generous community and corporate support we were able to feed Holiday meals to residents of Ernestine's Women's Shelter & Youth Without Shelter. 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 and related compatible business and science careers. This program also allows students explore their options while earning an enhanced High School diploma. Here is a partial listing of Second Semester highlights and upcoming events:

- SHSM students attending an interactive evening conference with Chef Christine Cushing Feb. 8th
- TCI Euro trip students hosting a private cooking class fundraiser Feb. 9th.
- SHSM students completing their CPR & First Aid qualifications Feb.23 & 24<sup>th</sup>
- Niagara College Culinary Skills Competition – Feb. 28
- TDSB Skills Tech. Trades & Culinary Competitions- Mar. 8
- TCI ITALY TRIP –Rome, Naples, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii & the Isle of Capri- Mar. 9-18<sup>th</sup>
- SHSM Students –Toronto Marlies Tourism & Hospitality SHSM Conference –date TBA
- In April: We will be also cooking up a special meal for Gilda's Club of Toronto for those who have been affected by Cancer. We will also be

Guest Chefs at the Youth Without Shelter Cover me Urban Fundraising Event.

We are always looking to provide the optimum experiences for our Tourism & Hospitality SHSM students; 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 Thistle town's Specialist High Skills Major programming.

---

## NEWS FROM VISUAL ARTS.



This past year, TCI has been a pilot school for the new Visual Arts course **NAC10 Expressing Aboriginal, Metis and Inuit Cultures**. Since the success of this course, TCI is offering **NAC10** again next year in September. Congratulations to both semester classes who now have learned Native history and have created First Nations inspired art works. In May the new Grade Nine Visual Arts course returned for a second tour and hands on workshop at the A.G.O. They enjoyed a TDSB sponsored Art Gallery of Ontario tour of artworks and attended a First Nations themed studio workshop.

The exceptionally talented Grade 10 art class this semester traveled to see a guided tour of the Canadian paintings and prints at the McMichael Art Gallery. Their culminating paintings and reports inspired by Canadian art are on display in the art hallway.

The 11 and 12 University/College Visual arts class were intensely busy this semester with their print-making and painting assignments, but now we are proud to say that we now have three new exceptional murals to our credit. Please come into the school and enjoy one of these murals "Knowledge is Power," in the English hallway created by **Jasmeen Nijjar** and **Roopkamal Heer**. Two other murals are outside on the shed beside the TCI Vegetable garden: "The Humber River" by **Cynthia Brijmohan**

**(S.H.S.M.)** and **Afsana Hossain** . The larger mural on the shed is based on an M.C Escher print and was created by **Chantel Campbell, Mohammed Mujahid and Darshan Patel**. In addition, congratulations to **Callie Bramble (S.H.S.M.)** who created the sets for the Senior Drama class performance in the May performing arts show.

Our department **STUDIO 150** SPRING ART SHOW AND SALE was very successful again with displays of Aboriginal handicrafts, ceramics, hand-printed cards and paintings in water colour and acrylic. Parents visited and teachers brought in their classes to walk around and observe the art show. Money raised from the sale was distributed to **YOUTH WITHOUT SHELTER**, our neighborhood charity.

This year our Visual Arts students assisted with props and sets for the Black History Play "Mandella" written by Ms. Carter and performed by a musical and dramatically talented group of extra-curricular students - first for the school and then *taken on tour* to **Nelson Mandella Elementary** school in downtown Toronto. The actors captivated an audience of over 300 elementary students!

CONGRATULATIONS to **Yashleen Jaura, Avtar Sabharwal** and **Sumaitah Shahid** on their successful exhibition of acrylic paintings at the TDSB-wide juried art show **DARE TO CREATE**. The May opening at Artscape Youngplace displayed works from schools across Toronto based on the theme: "My Toronto." TCI will be continuing to contribute submissions to this show and also to the Delisle Youth Art Show and Sale next year. Have a great summer!

TCI Visual Arts had a successful ARTS SHOW and SALE in December raising money for our neighbourhood Youth Without Shelter and for the Mohawk Residential School and Museum!

Our grade nine Visual Arts course **NAC10 Expressing Aboriginal, Metis and Inuit Culture** created stunning works of art this year for the show. Some of their Culminating paintings can be seen around the school as in the main office and guidance offices. This semester, the nines enjoyed the Indigenous Beaded Bracelet workshop with guest artist Rebecca Baird and a

singing circle with Indigenous performer, AQUA. They also enjoyed a TDSB sponsored Art Gallery of Ontario tour of artworks and attended there, a First Nations themed studio workshop.

The exceptionally talented Grade 11/12 visual arts classes this semester were pleased to welcome Denise Dale and her Sheridan Co-op student, Carrie, to teach a Part 2 SHSM Certification Workshop in Interior Design. In addition, professional printer, Janine Lindgren, held an advanced level printmaking workshop that involved double-sided registration. Many of these handmade prints were sold at the art show. The senior art class also traveled to see a showcase at the post-secondary Arts Colleges Fair.

Congratulations go out to Andrea Caesar, Anjali Durbadji, and Daniela Rengifo for placing District Finalists in the OSSFTF Marion Drysdale Awards Contest.

All are welcome to enjoy the two Indigenous murals created by our NAC10 students last year and this semester. The murals are in acknowledgment of the presence of the Indigenous First Peoples of Canada and their Ancestors on this land. The murals are located in the main office and in the cafeteria.

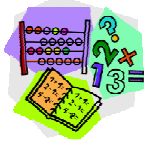
It has been a pleasure teaching Visual Arts at Thistleton CI since 2009. Now that I am retiring from 29 years of teaching, I can most heartedly say that I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our students here at TCI. I will have many fond memories of the arts shows in school and the gallery shows outside (EDGE, TDSB CREATES, THE ART HOP, DELISLE YOUTH GALLERY), the fun lunch club members every day and all the creative ideas generated by students in Studio 150. All you students will remain in my memory and in my heart.

Please welcome TCI's new Visual Arts teacher and drop in to Room 150 to introduce yourself!

Pepper out....

---

## NEWS FROM NUMERACY



Greetings from the Math Department!

On January 19 and 20, all students enrolled in the Grade 9 Academic and Applied Math courses successfully completed the Math EQAO assessment. A special thanks to **Mr. Lam, Ms. Ayala and Ms. Campbell** for all their hard work in ensuring our amazing students were well prepared for the assessment.

A kindly reminder that students in the second semester enrolled in the **Grade 9 Academic or Applied** math programs will be writing the **Math EQAO assessment on June 14 and 15**. 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.

**After School Math Program** – The After School Program for Grade 9 and 10 students with Mr. Smith will be starting up second semester. All students are welcome!! Permission forms will be handed out by your Math Teacher. Stay tuned.

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.

---

## Cooperative Education Successes at Thistleton C.I.!



Students in the cooperative education programs have just successfully completed their placements walking away with valuable workplace skills, having built excellent relationships with employers and having developed priceless associations with a new network of people.

Thank you to the following community partners who have offered our students the opportunity to learn and grow in a workplace environment:

- Beaumonde Heights JMS
- The Elms JMS
- Canadian Tire Albion Mall
- City Heart Dental
- Madd Art Tattoo
- Pet Value
- Raceway Chrysler Automotive Service Department
- Rivercrest Junior School
- Shoppers Drug Mart Kipling and Rexdale
- Swiss Chalet
- Trendsetters Hair and Tattoo Lounge
- West Humber JMS

Congrats to Kyle Newton for his acceptance to the CitiMotive Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program at Centennial College for Semester 2! All the best!

Bhavini Patel  
Cooperative Education Teacher