



## February 2016

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that February is already upon us and I have spent my first semester at TCI. It has been an amazing introduction to this truly exceptional school. I have met so many wonderful groups of students and staff involved in the many school classes and programs; SAC, TAC, school sports teams, and the large variety of clubs offered here. Some of these opportunities are featured in this edition of *ThistleTalk*. I'd like to thank and congratulate all staff and students who have made these opportunities possible and I am very proud to be the Principal of this school that cares so much about our students and community.

As you read your copy of *ThistleTalk* you should also be looking at your son/daughter's final Semester One report card. The last page of the report card indicates the number of credits earned to date. Please check it carefully and do not hesitate to call the school if you have any questions.

As always, student success continues to be our main focus at TCI. Please be aware that there are many academic supports available to students. Teachers are very willing to provide help outside of class time. Our partnership in education with the Braeburn Neighbourhood Place community group continues to allow us to provide daily homework help opportunities in Rooms 277 and 279 both at lunch and after school. A hot meal, created by our food preparation class, is free to students prior to starting their homework. Tutoring is done by more senior ThistleTown students under the guidance of the Braeburn staff members. Recreational activities take place in the after school program once homework is complete. Students can access forms outside Room 277 or see Mrs. Pleavin in Guidance to sign up.

During the past month students have also been engaged in conversations with their teachers and guidance counselors around their course paths

and choices for next year. Setting goals and devising a plan for achieving post-secondary goals is an important part of enabling students to be successful. I encourage parents/guardians to be involved in the program choices of their student. If you have questions about course offerings or about your student's academic pathway please feel free to call our guidance department at (416) 394-7727, Ext. 20040.

Please be aware that TCI offers a wide variety of subjects which support all pathways: Workplace, Apprenticeship, College and University. We also offer students the chance to participate in a Specialized High Skills Major (SHSM) in **Hospitality and Tourism** or in the area of **Arts and Culture** (Dance, Drama, Music or Visual Arts). A SHSM is a program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students leave high school with an industry recognized certificate of their special achievements in these programs.

We look forward to seeing you and speaking with you about your child's progress and possible career pathways at our upcoming Parent Interview Night scheduled on Tuesday, March 8 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

On January 19 and 20 our Grade 9s wrote the EQAO Math test and we wish all the participants all the best in their efforts.

On March 31 our Grade 10 students will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Students have written a practice test and other supports will be available to students as they prepare to write in March. Students are encouraged to embrace the supports offered.

And finally I wish to congratulate our Culinary Arts teacher Mr. Hoare and his two students Yohannes Asres and Justice Chea for coming in second and third in the recent *Chopped Canada* Youth competition final after winning first in

their respective heats. We are all very proud of their accomplishments and our very strong Foods program at TCI.

I look forward to continuing to work together to enhance student achievement. Please feel free to contact members of the teaching staff or administrative team at any time. I also encourage you to get involved in our Parent School Council. If you are interested in being part of the council please contact Ms. May at 416 394-7727, Ext. 20004.

Kindest Regards,  
Alison MacLachlan  
Principal

KEY DATES	
<b>February 11</b>	Semi-Formal
<b>February 12</b>	P.A. Day
<b>February 15</b>	Family Day – No School
<b>February 26</b>	School Photo Day
<b>March 8</b>	Interim Reports Cards Available
<b>March 8</b>	Parent-Teacher Interviews
<b>March 14 – 18</b>	March Break
<b>March 25</b>	Good Friday – No School
<b>March 28</b>	Easter Monday – No School
<b>March 31</b>	EQAO Literacy Test
<b>April 15</b>	New P.A. Day
<b>April 25</b>	Mid Term Marks Sent Home

## 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 2016-2017 school year will begin on Monday, February 8. Students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 will receive 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 will be provided with a variety of material, primarily online, including course descriptions for all courses offered at TCI.

This will be the second year that students will be using 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.

The deadline to submit course choices is February 26, 2016.

### 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.

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 in 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, 2016.
- The deadline for applying to university was January 13, 2016.
- We encourage students to have alternative post-secondary plans in the event that their 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 p.m. Good food is provided. See Guidance for details.

Mr. R. Straatsma  
 ACL - Student Services

## **PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION**

### **Athletics**

#### **The Fall Season**

**WEST REGION CHAMPIONS!!!**  
**BACK TO BACK CHAMPIONS!!!**

**Varsity Football** – coached by Mr. Simnor, Mr. Smith and Mr. Karam. The football team had another unbelievable season and won on a cold day against Silverthorn C.I. Enthusiastic Thistleton fans supported the team as they became West Region Champions again.

Congratulations to players, managers, linesmen, community and TCI coaches.

**Senior Boys' Volleyball** – coached by Ms. Susnik. The team had an exciting season of volleyball.

#### **The Winter Season**

**Junior Boys' Basketball** – coached by Mr. Donovan Williams and Ms. Susnik. The team had their final home game of the regular season on January 11 against Martingrove C.I. before the playoffs.

**Senior Boys' Basketball** – coached by Ms. Susnik. The team had their final home game of the regular season on January 11 against Martingrove C.I. before the playoffs.

**Junior Girls' Volleyball** – coached by Mrs. Peterkin. The team had their final home game in the regular season against Richview C.I. on January 12 before playoffs begin.

#### **Upcoming 2016 Spring Season**

- Senior Girls' Soccer – coached by Mr. Hoare
- Junior Boys' Soccer – TBA
- Senior Boys' Soccer – TBA
- Co-ed Volleyball – coached by Ms. Susnik
- Ultimate - coached by Ms. Susnik
- Boys' Baseball – coached by Mr. Smith and Mr. Simnor
- Track and Field - TBA

### **TAC – Thistleton Athletic Council** **Staff Advisor – Ms. Susnik**

TAC run intramurals every Tuesday and Thursday at lunch.

- Dodgeball Tournament – September
- Co-ed Volleyball – October
- Floor Hockey – November
- 5 on 5 Basketball – January

Ms. C. Susnik  
 ACL – Physical and Health Education

## NEWS FROM THE VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT



TCI is in its third year of the Grade Nine visual arts pilot course: **NAC10 *Expressing Aboriginal, Métis and Inuit Cultures***. Students have enjoyed three Aboriginal related field trips and are busy learning about Aboriginal oral traditions, including The Seven Grandfather Teachings, the Eighth Fire Generation, the Medicine Wheel, Treaties and Wampum belts. Phil Côté held an in-class workshop with the class and lately with Rebecca Baird, taught bracelet beading. The class also completed birch bark porcupine quill paintings and a large scale acrylic painting that will be on display in the school.

The **Grade 10's** went the J.M.W. Turner exhibit at the A.G.O. and participated in an artist led workshop in the Weston Learning Centre. Their own water colour landscape paintings are on display in the hallway outside the art room.

This year we have three students applying for the city wide art show in the **TDSB Creates Festival** on Friday, April 15, 2016 at Artscape Youngplace, 180 Shaw Street.

### **Visual Arts Lunch Club.**

This group of twenty students successfully assisted making Holiday and Christmas Decorations to sell at the Annual Visual Arts Studio 150 Art Show and Sale in December with proceeds going to Youth Without Shelter.

Thanks to the members of the art club who helped decorate the room and host the art show. Accompanying the student art works this year were our student entrepreneurs who successfully sold hand-made crafts at the show.

### **Do you identify with *ABORIGINAL, MÉTIS AND INUIT Culture*?**

How do you identify yourself? Check out your own ancestry! Ask your family members and grandparents what cultures are in your background. Are you, or is any member of your family of **ABORIGINAL, MÉTIS OR INUIT DESCENT**?

If you answered “YES!” to this, take advantage of the following opportunities available to you from the TCI Visual Arts Department in Room 150:

- **Free Cultural Events**
- **Educational Opportunities**
- **Scholarships for Post-secondary Education**
- **Websites and Contacts for Community Building**
- **NAC10 - The Grade 9 Visual Arts Credit course offered at TCI**

Ms. N. Pepper  
Visual Arts Teacher

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE TCI KNITTING CLUB

The TCI Knitting Club is back in action. We have been helping our members new to knitting master the skill of knitting or crocheting and are now working on making hats and scarves that we will be donating to Toronto shelters in an effort to add a little warmth to someone's day during this cold winter season. Just before the holiday break members spent time decorating knitted and crocheted ornaments to brighten our homes.

The club members will be planning out an individual, personal project that they will complete after an outing to select yarn and other materials required for the task. As always, new members are welcome to our Friday lunch-time meetings.

Ms. K. Link  
Science Teacher

## NEWS FROM TCI'S MULTI-CULTURAL COUNCIL

TCI Multi-Cultural Council has been playing an active role in raising funds for helping the community. Our successful 2015-16 Multi-Cultural dinner highlighted how TCI's diverse population has co-existed in an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation and raised money to support student success. Money raised from this event will go towards the organization “Toronto Foundation of Student Success”.

Congratulations to all students who organized and participated. Stay tuned for more exciting events!

Mrs. A. Kharotia  
Science Teacher

### **NEWS FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

Some of the activities that took place in the Science department during Semester 1 are described below.

Mrs. Mangat's Grade 12 University Biology class had a field trip to Ontario Science Centre on November 3, 2015 where students carried out a DNA Fingerprinting lab. Through this lab students first learned to extract DNA by using their cheek cells as source of DNA. After, they learned to make multiple copies of their cheek cell DNA through the molecular biology technique known as Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). Finally they carried out Gel Electrophoresis by loading their cheek cell DNA into electrophoresis gels. Students also had the opportunity to analyze the results from Gel Electrophoresis. The real-world applications of these molecular biology techniques were also discussed.

Mrs. Kharotia's Grade 11 University Physics students are working on the Model Bridge Project for their culminating project. Each model bridge will be tested for strength by loading the bridge with steel weights, and weights will continue to be added until the bridge breaks. Aesthetics and design will also be considered for assessing the bridge.

Students from Grades 11 and 12 participated in the intra-school Crystal Growing competition. The results of this competition will be announced by the end of this semester.

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

- Sick Kids Nursing Workshop
- York University Biophysics Contest
- National Eco-Journalism Competition for Youth – Information

Mrs. B. Mangat  
ACL – Science

### **NEWS FROM THE THISTLETOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL**

A number of initiative, activities and events were organized and implemented by the TCI Environmental Council during Semester 1, 2015-16. A brief description of these initiatives, activities and events is given below.

A small group of students from the TCI Environmental Council participated in the Eco-Schools Kickoff Workshop on October 21, 2015. The participating students learned about and participated in many activities such as tree planting, bee keeping, invasive species, green house planting, etc. 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 2015-16.

Earth Hour was observed for the months of November and December, 2015 and January 2016 with an objective to reduce energy consumption.

Eco Energy Walk outs were held for selected classrooms with an objective to monitor current energy conservation practices and suggest improvements.

Staff members were provided with a hard copy of the template to record information on curricular lessons surrounding Eco Literacy and requested to contribute these lessons for TCI's Environmental Council's portfolio to be presented for Eco School audit.

The Eco Wall project, another initiative of the Environmental Council is in progress.

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

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