



20 Tillplain Road,
North York,
ON M3H 5R2
Phone: 416-395-3330
Fax: 416-395-4453

Principal: Marcia Diakun
Vice-Principals: Ashraff Khan/Stephen Morris
Trustee Ward 5: Alexandra Lulka
Superintendent of Education Learning Network 12: Linda Curtis

Assistant Curriculum Leader **Student Advisory Council** **Student Council President**
Student Services: Talia Klement Chris Marinis / Beth Karstadt Alessia Scanga



STUDENT SERVICES

T. Klement – ACL of Student Services

The Student Services department had another busy semester. Grade 9 students acquainted themselves with Student Services with visits to our department.

In November, we hosted our annual Academic and Citizenship Awards Assemblies. These assemblies recognized top achievers as well as most improved in each of our courses. We also recognized outstanding contributions to the school and the community.

Our efforts to prepare graduating students for post-secondary institutions continued. Grade 12 students attended information sessions presented by over 25 University and College liaisons. In addition, we hosted University and College Panels, a University and College Application presentation and a Scholarship Information workshop for both students and parents.

Thank you to Ms. Kerr and Ms. Dash for their organization of a trip to the Ontario College Fair at the Direct Energy Centre.

We were happy to support our Settlement Worker, Marina Zybina, at our Newcomer Orientation. Participating students had a chance to get acquainted with our school and meet other new students.

Students will be submitting course selections for the 2018-2019 school year online. Students new to the school are asked to go to www.myBlueprint.ca/tdsb and select William Lyon Mackenzie C.I. from the dropdown to create an account. Guidance counsellors will be delivering Course Selection presentations in February. To further support career education development, we continue to encourage our students to complete their Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) online. This plan can also be found on the myBlueprint.ca/tdsb website.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE Marcia Diakun – Principal

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter that we publish twice yearly at the end of each semester. The newsletter brings highlights of Mackenzie's events and achievements from first semester. We continue to have a strong focus on numeracy and literacy and are proud of our EQAO results: OSSLT Literacy Test (90%) and Gr. 9 Math EQAO (93%). Throughout this newsletter you will see many highlights of extensive extra-curricular activities and academic achievements. We were fortunate to be chosen last year for a study by People for Education on school clubs. The results of this study reaffirmed that student led and initiated clubs provide an important role for student voice and leadership. The many extra-curricular activities also provide an outlet for stress and an opportunity to balance academics. Through club "Wellness at Mac" students had an opportunity to engage in stress busting activities during the lunch hour throughout first semester. "Just Fit", a non-competitive workout for girls allowed students to exercise in an all female environment during the lunch hour. Next semester, for the first time Mackenzie is offering a yoga course as part of our course offerings.

We have recently hired a Child and Youth Worker, Latoya Clarke, as part of our permanent staff and we look forward to the additional supports that can be provided to students through Latoya in the areas of mental health and well-being. We were happy to host Jennifer Kohlari this Fall who provided a workshop for staff on "Supporting Students with Anxiety". Sunjay Nath was invited by our Student Activity Council to speak to our Gr. 9 students on resilience and how to successfully navigate high school. Both guest speakers were well-received. We have moved to a live calendar in order to keep up with all the activities in the school. This calendar is updated regularly and can be found on our website www.wlmac.ca. We are in the process of redesigning our school website to allow for easier navigation and parent access to all information related to the school. You can also follow us on twitter @TDSB_WLM and for our Student Service Department @WLMacGuidance. We value your partnership and look forward to continued sharing of Mackenzie news through our redesigned website this Spring.

MaCS NEWS S. Leder – MaCS Coordinator

Our MaCS students have had a busy first semester and we welcomed all of our new students who began the program in September. In addition to all of the enrichment opportunities our students have had through curricular and extra-curricular activities, the following are some first semester highlights:

In October, our Grade 9 MaCS students spent three days and two nights at Muskoka Woods attending an orientation and leadership trip. It was a wonderful event that was packed with fun and challenging activities including low ropes courses, outdoor climbing wall, zipline, and team building initiatives. It was an excellent opportunity to develop leadership skills, meet new classmates, and build friendships that will last through high school.



Grade 9 MaCS Trip 2017 Muskoka Woods

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

A.Spiliopoulos – ACL of Mathematics
I. Gugoiu – ACL of Numeracy & AP

The contest dates for the Canadian Mathematics Competitions 2017/2018 (The Center for Education in Mathematics and Computing from the Faculty of Mathematics, University of Waterloo) are:

Thursday February 15, 2018:
AMC 10/12B

Tuesday February 27, 2018:
PASCAL CONTEST (Grade 9)
CAYLEY CONTEST (Grade 10)
FERMAT CONTEST (Grade 11)

Wednesday April 11, 2018:
EUCLID CONTEST (Grade 12)

Thursday April 12, 2018:
FRYER CONTEST (Grade 9)
GALOIS CONTEST (Grade 10)
HYPATIA CONTEST (Grade 11)

SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

J. Cade – ACL Canadian & World Studies

S. Indiran – ACL of Social Science & Humanities

It has been an exciting semester in the Canadian and World Studies, Social Science and Humanities departments. Once again, the Grade 10 History classes visited the Waterloo Region Museum and Doon Heritage Village. Students participated in a variety of activities where they learned about life in Canada in 1914. Also, the Grade 9 Geography classes visited the ROM's Rocks and Minerals exhibit, where they learned about managing Canada's resources. Finally, congratulations to Mackenzie's Mock Trial Club (Celine Kim, Beatrice Han, Gabby Chan and Mehak Shah) on an amazing Charter Challenge victory in the Ontario Justice Education Network's Charter Challenge. We are looking forward to the Spring challenge!



MaCS NEWS Continued ... S. Leder – MaCS Coordinator

A record number of parents and students attended our MaCS Information Night in November. We had approximately 700 applications from students interested in joining the MaCS Program in September 2018. We are busy processing those applications and would like to thank all of the MaCS students, teachers, support staff, and administrators who helped us with our Information Night, Testing day, and Application process.

Coming up in February, our Grade 10 MaCS students will be going to the Canadian Ecology Centre in Mattawa to participate in a high-tech Winter ecology program. The planning of the semester 2 Grade 11 and 12 MaCS trips, is also underway.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

S. Devine – ACL of Science (General Science, Biology & Chemistry)

It was another busy semester for the Science department at Mackenzie. Our classes participated in many exciting field trips including: a trip to the Kortright Centre for Conservation to study the biodiversity of a local stream, a trip to George Brown College to learn about possible career opportunities, and trips to the Ontario Science Centre to study optics and molecular genetics in bacteria and humans. The Mackenzie Science Club continued its tradition of organizing fun and engaging science-related activities for its members at multiple after school events. Some of our Grade 10 and 12 classes also began an exciting new partnership with Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. Experts from Baycrest ran workshops at Mackenzie on current areas of research in neurobiology, and students traveled to Baycrest to participate in an ideation session to brainstorm solutions to problems in two areas of focus: 1) Aging in Place – finding solutions that enable older adults with dementia to maximize their independence and 2) Cognitive Health – finding solutions that improve brain/cognitive health for aging adults. Students will continue their



Ideation workshop at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

research and submit their ideas to the Toshiba ExploraVision competition. It has been a great first semester and we are looking forward to a successful second semester.

DANCE, DRAMA, MUSIC and VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

L. Cohen – ACL of Dramatic Arts/Music/Visual Arts/Dance

The Arts staff and students have had an incredible first semester, with a wide variety of events and showcases already underway!

Remembrance Day marked the first showcase for the Performing Arts. Dance, Music, and Drama students captured the audiences' attention with poignant pieces. Dancers, musicians, and art displays wowed prospective Mackenzie students at Grade 8 Night. Drama students held lunch time performances, including an Improv Workshop and a Comedy Fundraiser. Visuals Arts has produced innovative pieces displayed throughout Mackenzie. Grade 12s piqued curiosity with text-based installations around the school. Grade 9s have explored environmentalism through recycled sculptural pieces. Grade 11s got into the Mactoberfest spirit by creating the haunted house.

The 2017 musical Cabaret featured singers, dancers, and actors teamed up with a live band to put on an amazing celebration of Broadway hits. The production was supported by an incredible Tech/Stage Crew, and the Arts Council worked hard to bring it all together and transform the cafeteria into a true Cabaret theatre.

Keep your eyes and ears open for more incredible work from the Arts in Semester 2!



Remembrance Day Assembly

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT F. Tebbutt – Acting ACL of English



December was a busy month for everyone in the school, and the English department was no exception. Firstly, I would like to thank Mr. Kissoon who brought in journalist Sandra Martin to speak to Grade 11 and 12 classes to help them prepare for their culminating activities. Sandra has a lot of experience in the media industry and currently works for WE (formerly Free the Children). She spoke to our Grade 12s about how to create successful campaigns. Sandra showed students successful campaigns and led some thoughtful

discussion. She spoke to the Grade 11 students about interviewing skills. In Grade 11, students create a podcast with an interview segment. Sandra led students through examples of both good and bad interviews and discussed with students how they could fix the poor interview. All in all, students took away valuable lessons from an expert in media. We were very lucky to have Sandra visit us.

The next day we had the speech contest in the library. This is one of our most favourite days of the year as a department. We are proud and excited to have students share their feelings and ideas. This year we were very lucky to have Rafael Dev host. He is a previous winner and Student Council representative. He kept the audience entertained with his humour and insightful responses. Our Grade 9 winners were Sara Goldkind, who spoke about Aboriginal history and discrimination, and Owen Okhamafe, who spoke about the harmful stereotypes African Canadian women face. Our Grade 10 winners were Gerta Belotserkovsky, who spoke about how creepy Santa is, and Aaron Kizel, who ironically informed the audience on how to seem intelligent. Our Grade 11 group was the largest. We had thirteen speakers, so we chose three winners. They were: Riya Agrawal, who spoke about a near-death experience, Andrew Baglione, who told students how to cope when teaching old-timers about new technology, and Diego Preza Guevara, who spoke about the corruption in his home country of El Salvador. We are continually impressed by students' depth, charisma, and maturity. It is always a wonderful way to end the year. Our speakers always leave us thinking more deeply about our lives and the world. Thank you to all who shared their stories with us.

COMPUTER DEPARTMENT

V. Krasteva – ACL of Computer Studies & Technological Education



Computer Studies and Computer Engineering students have had many opportunities for enrichment through participation in the Computer Programming Team as well as the VEX and LEGO robotics teams in the school.

The Computer Programming Team (CPT) organized and managed the first external online competition – MOOSE 2017 in December. The competition was open for students from other schools in Ontario and intended as preparation for the upcoming CCC and ECOO

competitions.

The VEX robotics team conducted an internal competition in January in preparation for the upcoming VEX challenge. Our last year champion robot team is working on the new LEGO challenge from Western University.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT and SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

S. Rupke – ACL of Business Studies, Partnerships & Entrepreneurship

CBC Business Commentator Michael Hlinka visits Mr. Stoffman's Finance Class



Our Grade 12 Finance Class had the privilege of welcoming Michael Hlinka who used his engaging personality to discuss numerous topics relating to money, finance, the economy and business careers. His experience as a CBC business commentator and as an instructor to CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) candidates allowed him to help our class understand investments in far greater depth. The students showed a keen interest in Mr. Hlinka and we would like to thank him for visiting us. Keep investing!

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES AND ESL DEPARTMENT

M. O'Brien – ACL of ESL & International Languages

Our first semester of 2017-2018 has been full of hard work, fun and activities. The ESL Ambassadors' Club led by Le Nguyen, welcomed Mackenzie students new to Canada this September. In addition, the club hosted a newcomer orientation session in conjunction with Marina Zybina our Settlement Worker. We will continue to host events throughout the school year and look forward to our participation in Culturama in the Spring. In addition, our GLS course and our ESL E class have received weekly visits from Amy Forristal during which she leads our students on cross-cultural communication and leadership activities. Our leadership course for ESL students will be running in semester two and we have planned our yearly student-led equity workshop. This Spring, we are planning to take all ESL D classes to The Classical Theatre Project to see Romeo and Juliet. Additionally, we are hoping to take ESL students to the Toronto Zoo in May. The ESL department wishes everyone a great second semester.

The Modern Languages Department has had a busy year thus far. The French Club has been meeting regularly to practice speaking French and to learn about various aspects of Francophone culture. Additionally, there will be a trip to Montreal in the month of May 2018. Interest has been strong and the trip is almost full. The Spanish program continues to flourish under the guidance of Ms. Blejman-Kantor. We look forward to the Spanish Contest in the Spring of this school year.



C. Martin-Jordache's French Club

ATHLETICS, HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

C. Hua – ACL of Athletics

K. Whitfield – ACL of Health & Physical Education

Athletics at MAC this year has been quite exciting to say the least! In both the Fall and Winter sport seasons combined, a total of 16 teams have competed across the TDSB in a variety of sports and competitions. Most notably, the Varsity Girls Basketball Team were Regional Championship silver medalists AND City Championship semi-finalists.



For the first time in a long time, Mackenzie has also fielded a junior boys hockey and baseball team. Mackenzie's Athletic Council and school community successfully raised over \$1500 for this year's Terry Fox Foundation.



We had another successful Inside Ride Charity Event and were able to raise over \$9000 to support children affected by cancer. Our Top Student Fundraiser was Carly Gordon who single-handedly raised \$1300 and our Top Team Fundraiser was Pop To The Top who collectively raised \$2300. The Most Spirited Team was Bike, Sweat and Tears!



The Athletic Council will continue to organize intramurals, sell school spirit wear, promote athletics and physical activity within the student body, and begin planning for this year's athletic banquet in June. Lots to look forward to in 2018! Go Lyons Go!

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT and SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS Continued ...

S. Rupke – ACL of Business Studies, Partnerships & Entrepreneurship

Riya Agrawal,, Kimberly Cruz and Kathy Zhang had the wonderful opportunity of attending “The Economics of Equality” luncheon with inspiring guest speakers Michelle Obama and Sophie Grégoire Trudeau. “They reminded us that the way to make a change is to start from the bottom-up, and the best tool to break the cycle of poverty and inequality is education. This event took it a step further incorporating an equal ratio of business professionals to youth. We were glad to see equal representation in the room, giving both adults and youth a chance to have their perspective shared. As young women soon entering the workforce, we feel it is important to encourage other girls to explore the field of STEM and this event helped enforce that belief. The biggest lesson we were able to take away from this event is that anyone can be the driving force for change, no matter if you are young or old. It is never impossible to fight for equal representation, whether it is around the world, or simply in the room you are standing in.”



Grade 10 Business Students Get Acquainted with Bay Street



On December 8th, Mr. Rupke’s and Ms. Scocchia’s Grade 10 Intro to Business classes spent the morning discovering more about the financial world as the Business Department hosted the “*Bay Street Deconstructed*” Program. The main objective of the program is to raise Financial Literacy and career awareness

about the variety of Financial Service Areas available to students. The students were engaged in a 2.5 hour session that consisted of several interactive team activities, short videos, question sessions, survey, and a post-event take away of financial information.



DECA Excels with Medal Haul at Regional Competition

On November 17th, 2017, 63 of Mackenzie’s brightest business students travelled to Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute for the DECA Regionals competition. After completing a 100-question multiple choice exam testing business knowledge and critical thinking skills a week prior, competitors participated in oral case competitions.

At the end of the day, DECA Mackenzie saw overwhelming success, and set a schoolwide record of 70 Top 10 finishes, 19 Top 3 Medals and 8 First Place finishes. Mackenzie’s DECA Chapter hopes to repeat their success in February, when they compete at the Provincial level in downtown Toronto for a chance to qualify for the week-long International Competition in Atlanta this April. Congratulations, and best of luck DECA Mackenzie!

