



# WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE NEWSLETTER

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## Principal's Message

Thank you for finding the time to read this newsletter that highlights Mackenzie's events this past semester. We are all very excited that our eMotion Dancers won the top prize in the TDSB Dare to Dance competition. They performed at The Toronto Centre for the Arts, the Ricoh Centre and Roy Thompson Hall. Next week they will be honoured by the Mayor of Toronto. Many thanks to their staff advisor, Mr. Simpson for his support and encouragement.

I'd like to thank Mackenzie's teachers for the enrichment they provide our students through the many guest speakers and presentations they organize on an ongoing basis in the library, cafetorium and classes. As well, our teachers, as part of their ongoing professional development meet with guest lecturers and facilitators at our "late start" and PA days. Our students have benefitted from a Much Music assembly that focused on Character Development, from MADD, Simon Wiesenthal presenters Nicole Betel on Digital Hate and Racism, and Marina

Nemat, the author of Prisoner of Tehran. Tom Brown, CTV Weatherman talked to two groups about bullying and climate change; two recovering drug addicts from JACS spoke about the impact of drug use. Toronto People with AIDS Foundation spoke to science students, Sean Stante spoke about bullying and homophobia, a Holocaust Survivor spoke of her experiences, Eku Malcolm from the Art Institute of Vancouver spoke to art students and Sam Lazar of Canada Revenue and Dominic Rinaldi, a CGA, spoke to business students. On an ongoing basis we have representatives from the Colleges and Universities speak to our graduating students. As well, our staff has met with Dr. Bob Stein, NYGH Child Psychiatrist, Dr. Mark Fenske, Neuroscientist at Guelph University, and Gil Silberstein CEO of myBlueprint.ca and a Mackenzie graduate. All of these presentations and speakers enrich the learning environment at Mackenzie CI. and create a positive learning culture. Stay tuned for Semester 2 speakers and lecturers!

**Helene Green - Principal**

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## MaCS News

Our MaCS Program students have had a busy first semester and we welcome 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, giant swing, orienteering, mountain biking, archery, 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. Thanks to Ms. Aquino, Mr. Bottell, Ms. Elso-Ponzo, Ms. Jun, Ms. Gullons, and Mr. Leder who supervised the Grade 9 MaCS classes on this trip.

A record 900+ attended our MaCS Information Night in November. In December, over 500 applications were received from students interested in joining the MaCS Program in September 2012. 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 assessments.



Our Grade 10 MaCS students had the opportunity to hear and ask many scientific questions related to climate change from Tom Brown (CTV News Weather Anchor). Coming up soon, 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 Grade 12 MaCS trips are also underway.

**S. Leder - MaCS Coordinator**

# Science Department

In December some of our Grade 9 students visited the Ontario Science Centre (OSC) and participated in the 'Return to the Moon' Space Mission. As well, the Grade 9s used their knowledge of electricity to build their electric houses.

The Grade 10 students applied the study of optics in the dissection of a cow's eyeball. Some Grade 10 students also dissected a frog. In December, all the Grade 10s went to the Kortright Centre where they learned about climate change. They hiked through a forest trail and toured Kortright's sustainable houses.

In October, Grade 11 biology students heard speakers from the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA). They also dissected a fetal pig. In December, they went to the OSC where they inserted a "glow" gene from jellyfish into bacteria.

In November, our Grade 12 biology students went to the OSC and used leading edge technology for a DNA fingerprinting lab. Students had to 'groom' themselves to obtain DNA from their hair follicle (see picture)

which was then analyzed to determine their genotype. Some Grade 12 students also heard lectures from Nobel Prize laureates at the University of Toronto.

The Grade 11 physics classes built bridges that had to hold a minimum load of 30 lbs. The strongest bridge held a load exceeding 100 lbs. As well, some of the Grade 12 physics classes built catapults.

In October, the Mackenzie Science Club (MSC) competed in the McMaster Engineering Olympics. In the event "Twists and Turns", the team consisting of Jiezhong Chen, Kramay Patel and Tiger Liu placed third overall. As well, MSC held their annual Murder Mystery in December.



**C. Law – ACL Science Curriculum**  
**D. Bouttell – ACL Science Facilities Management**

## Student Services

The Student Services department had another busy semester. Grade 9 students had an opportunity to acquaint themselves with Student Services with visits to our department. The *Boys to Men* and *Young Women on the Move* (Grade 9 and 10 students) began meeting and new members are always welcome.

We were happy to support a Career Studies field trip to Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. Students were given a wonderful opportunity to learn about various career opportunities at the Centre.

Our efforts to help prepare graduating students for post-secondary pathways continued. Grade 12 students attended lunch time and after school

information sessions presented by over 25 university and college liaisons. We also hosted a College Degree Panel, a University and College Application Presentation and several scholarship information sessions and workshops.

Student Services is also very proud of our growing Peer Tutor Program. With over 100 volunteers, the program has been instrumental in helping all Mackenzie students to reach their full potential.

We wish all students a successful second semester. Look out for Course Selection Presentations and Course Selection Week during the month of February.

## NEW THIS YEAR



As part of a TDSB initiative, we are excited to announce on-line course selection for the 2012-2013 school year.

Already available, myBlueprint lets our students create an engaging and interactive education plan to help them plan their future. Students build a high school course plan that visually tracks their progress towards graduation and instantly identifies the post-secondary opportunities available to them.

### Sample High School Plan

LEGEND: <span style="color: green;">○</span> = Course Completed <span style="color: blue;">○</span> = Course Planned <span style="color: red;">○</span> = Missing Requirement				
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
85 ENG1D	ENG2D X	ENG3U X	ENG4U X	Add Course
81 MPM1D	MPM2D X	MCR3U X	MHF4U X	Add Course
74 SNC1D	SNC2D X	SBI3U X	BAT4M X	Add Course
82 FSF1D	CHC2D X	BAF3M X	SBI4U X	Add Course
+ Add Row				
78 CGC1D	GLC20/CHV20 X	BBB4M X	MDM4U X	Add Course
88 PPL10	BBI20 X	HZB30 X	MCV4U X	Add Course
85 TTI10	CIE3M X	TGJ3M X	Add Course	Add Course
76 AMU10	ATC20 X	CPC30 X	Add Course	Add Course

**Graduation Indicator**

Ontario Secondary School Dipl. ▾

**8 22**

**30/30**  
(30 Total Credits)

[View Detailed Progress](#)

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**Program Eligibility**

All Provinces ▾

Apprenticeships	157 <a href="#">View</a>
College Programs	4330 <a href="#">View</a>
University Programs	2463 <a href="#">View</a>
Workplace Sectors	195 <a href="#">View</a>

**Starting in February, we will also be using myBlueprint for course selection.**

This leading edge technology will save our school paper, resources and provides the opportunity for immediate parent engagement. Students will require their Ontario Education Number (OEN), found on their current report card, in order to complete online course selection.

In the meantime, as a parent you can visit [www.myblueprint.ca/tdsb](http://www.myblueprint.ca/tdsb) by selecting your child's secondary school from the dropdown on the left and following the instructions for parents.

T. Klement - ACL Student Services

# International Languages & ESL

This semester Mme. Martin-Jordache's Grade 9 MaCS students enjoyed a delicious meal at our neighbourhood French restaurant—Le Montmartre. This was an opportunity to practise French vocabulary and to spend some quality time with friends and colleagues. Merci á Mme. Scocchia.

Also, Grade 11 & 10 French students visited the Glendon College campus. Glendon College is the only Francophone College in Toronto. Previ-

ous Mackenzie students who are now enrolled at Glendon waited for us and showed us around. The visit was very productive, especially since a few more of our current senior French students have expressed their interest in pursuing a future career linked to French.

The French club led by Mme. Capozzi has been very active this first semester participating in Club Crawl, Mactober Fest and other school initiatives.

Mme. Martin-Jordache



**ESL** Our first semester at Mackenzie has been active and successful for our English Language Learners (ELLs). At the beginning of the semester, Mr. O'Brien's ESL A/B class made our second annual trek to Forest Valley to participate in a leadership workshop. In October, Mr. O'Brien's ESL D class went to see



Romeo and Juliet presented by the Classical Theatre Project at St. Michael's Theatre. In November, Ms. Soto-Gordon's ESL C class and Mr. O'Brien's ESL A/B class spent a colourful fall day at the Black Creek Pioneer Village. Later in November, Ms. Soto-Gordon's ESL Drama class and Mr. O'Brien's ESL E class attended an improv theatre presentation and participated in an improv workshop.

M. O'Brien - ACL Languages

# Mathematics Department

The Mathematics Department is continuing to offer many opportunities for students to enrich their mathematical knowledge through mathematics competitions.

The Contest Dates for the Canadian Mathematics competitions 2011/2012 (The Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing from the Faculty of Mathematics, University of Waterloo) are:

**Thursday, February 23, 2012: PASCAL CONTEST (Grade 9)  
CAYLEY CONTEST (Grade 10)  
FERMAT CONTEST (Grade 11)**

**Wednesday, April 11, 2012: EUCLID CONTEST (Grade 12)  
Thursday, April 12, 2012: FRYER CONTEST (Grade 9)  
GALOIS CONTEST (Grade 10)  
HYPATIA CONTEST (Grade 11)**

The American Mathematics Competitions (AMC) will take place on Wednesday February 22, 2012.

As always we are continuing to offer the Canadian National Mathematics League (CNML) and American Scholastic Mathematics Association (ASMA) series.

A. Karageorgiou & I. Gugoiu ACL - Mathematics

# Drama, Music & Visual Arts

One of the highlights of the semester's field trips allowed the Grade 12 Visual Art students to engage with art and artists of Toronto. The 2011 Gallery Hop included talks and a tour of Queen West galleries. The grade 10 Media Arts, grade 11 Film and Media Studies classes participated in Mackenzie's first Film Festival at Empress Walk Cinema. Student made films, documentaries and animations were shown. Grade 11 Graphics students attended the 2011 Applied Arts Winners Exhibit + Creative Schools Expo. They viewed work from various fields created by senior students and professionals, met with college and university representatives and spoke to industry professionals. The careers included interactive design, photography, advertising and gaming.

Java After Dark took place in December and was, yet again, an entertaining evening of music, poetry, film and spoken word. Sounds of the

Season, Mackenzie's Annual Holiday Concert, was a big success and the Holiday assembly provided yet another opportunity for Mackenzie's musical talent. The Grade 10 and 11 guitar classes enjoyed a Music Industry Conference and Grade 9 students went to York University to see a showcase concert.

At the start of the second semester a mixed media artist will be working with a number of Visual Art classes. After this semester's trip to Second City, the famous comedy/theatre venue and school of improvisation, plans are underway for Drama trips to Soul Pepper and other theatres in the spring. Rehearsals have also started for this year's play *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13¾*; a comedy about a teenager who believes himself to be an intellectual. The show opens in the spring. Hope to see you in the audience!

# Dare to Dance

Students from Mackenzie won the TDSB Dare to Dance Challenge in December, after reaching the final for the second year in a row. It took place at the Toronto Centre for the Arts and their student-choreographed performance expressed a social justice issue. They received the Overall Achievement Award for Outstanding Choreography, Thematic Expression and Performance. The students had the opportunity to work with a number of professional dance artists that included Tre Armstrong; a choreographer, dancer and judge on CTV's So You Think You Can Dance Canada.

In addition to a number of prizes, the team has been invited to perform at numerous events and have danced for over 12000 people in only three performances! They were involved in an Anti Bullying event at Ricoh Coliseum (December 14<sup>th</sup>) and the eighth annual *Keeping the Dream Alive* (KTDA) concert at Roy Thomson Hall (January 16<sup>th</sup>).

M. Simpson - ACL Arts Department



Photo Credit - Mark Wilson

# Business Department

## DECA – Mackenzie’s Business Club

Sixty-seven of Mac students are busily preparing for the Deca Provincial competition on February 14-15 at the Sheraton Hotel, Toronto. Under Ms. Cuttle’s guidance, the Deca executives meet weekly to plan. Students are also meeting regularly to practise case studies and review their marketing knowledge for the big competition. The competition involves

an oral response to a case (10 minutes to prepare) and a written 100 question multiple choice exam with marketing related questions. This year, the Internationals will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah and we hope some of our students will be able to attend.

## School Partnerships - Yorkdale

Our partnership with Yorkdale continues to give our students unique educational experiences outside the classroom. In January, Kostya Golovan had the opportunity of job shadowing General Manager, Anthony Casalinguida, for an afternoon. Kostya had the privilege of sitting in on three meetings with Anthony (topics included their new renovation project and negotiations with a retailer) and accompanying him on one of his three daily walks

in the shopping centre. It was exciting to observe Anthony’s job from the inside and to see his meticulous work ethic.

Six teams of our Deca students will be solving a Yorkdale Case Study and presenting it to Yorkdale managers on Monday, February 6. This opportunity will help them prepare for the provincial Deca competition, coming up soon on Feb. 13-14, 2012.

**M.G. Graham - ACL Business & School Partnerships**



## School Partnerships - Baycrest

This semester Mackenzie hosted an in-house Baycrest orientation session that was attended by 70 students. This event was a success facilitating our students' volunteering at Baycrest. Many thanks to Ms. J. Sternhill, coordinator of Baycrest volunteers, for her presentation and to Alexander Kumachev, the Baycrest Student Executive, and especially Nawid and Dimitri for helping us organize it.

**Mme. C. Martin-Jordache Business & School Partnerships**



Also, Ms. H. Jun's Careers class attended a presentation at Baycrest. The students met with Dr. Aleong and the Director of Environmental Science who spoke about their career paths and current jobs. The students were also given a tour of the Brain Health Centre Clinics and observed a demonstration with the MEG and Eye Tracker equipment. Many thanks to Ms. T. Klement for helping us organize this event and for accompanying our students.

# Social Science Department

The Social Science Department has had a busy but productive first semester. Exciting and new was the first Geography Challenge competition hosted by our Geography department. Over 130 Grade 9 and 10 students participated in the challenge and several have moved on to the next level in what will eventually become a national competition! We are wishing our contestants the best of luck. Geography is on all

our minds as we look forward to the second semester also. We have arranged a day long excursion to the Niagara Region and all grade nine students will be touring the Welland Canal, the Niagara Escarpment and the wine growing regions. This trip will take place in early May and is the largest trip the department has ever undertaken. Not to be outdone, our Remembrance Day Assembly was, once again, a solemn and moving ceremony. We were

honoured to have with us Warrant Office Morin to speak to our students about the experiences of serving in our armed forces. For the upcoming semester we have planned an internationally-recognized archaeologist to speak to our Sociology, Anthropology and Psychology classes and our United Nations club will be getting under way. It has been a great start to the year and we look forward to the second semester with great anticipation.

**W. Knebel - ACL Social Science**

# English Department

The English Department was thrilled to host The Lyon’s Roar, Mackenzie’s bi-annual speech contest. Students in Grades 9, 10 and 11 all presented speeches to their English classes and top students in each class had the opportunity to compete in Grade finals adjudicated by various teachers across the curriculum.

This semester, six Grade 9 students competed in the finals and top honour was awarded to **Gil Posluns** for his charming and quirky speech about his pet lizard and to **Sabrina Lee** for her whimsical take on traditional fairytales. Eleven Grade 10 students competed and top honour was awarded to **Eric Tu** who delivered an amusingly

irreverent speech about free will and fate. Seven Grade 11 students competed and top honour went to **Ieta Shams** for her empathic promotion of vegetarianism. The English Department congratulates all speech finalists and winners and all students for their in-class speeches. Special thanks to staff adjudicators and to Ms. Mancini for emceeding the event.

**D. Berenstein - ACL English**

# Health & Physical Education

The Mackenzie Health and Physical Education Department is committed to offering a highly motivational program designed to meet the needs of our students. With a team of dedicated staff, we educate our students to be self-reliant life-long learners that model healthy behaviours both personally and professionally

through the effective and innovative teaching that focus on health and physical education. Our student population has the opportunity to participate in a variety of team and individual activities before, during and afterschool under the supervision of our teaching and coaching staff. Our staff implements a strong balance of

work ethic, team building and interpersonal skills such as positive communication, commitment and teamwork. We remain committed to our students to provide the opportunity for them to succeed inside and outside of the classroom.

**T. Agelothanansis - ACL Athletics, Health & Physical Education**