

Mac Link

Home and School News

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Jennifer Mohr

Macdonald High Home & School is off to a great year!

Our Membership Chair, Martin Roloff convinced 46 families to sign up during our membership campaign, which has more than doubled our membership! Members are the mainstay of the Home & School, and we value your support. The more members we have, the louder our voice when we are working on issues that concern all families.

Our recent fundraising campaign has been a wonderful success! I'd like to thank to Diane Guidry, fundraising coordinator, for her efforts in organizing the campaign, and all who participated.

Monies earned will be used to help cover the costs of our commitment to buy Book Awards for Grades 7-10, as well as to celebrate our great Mac Staff during Teacher/Staff Appreciation week.

Orders will be available to be picked up on December 6, 2012, during the parent-teacher interviews.

Mac Home & School did a project to help out in the library – cleaning and re-hanging the curtains in time for the school's Open House.

Members were present to greet prospective students and their families, who seemed to appreciate the coffee and cookies provided!

The H&S meet monthly, and these meetings allow us to learn what's in store for the coming school year, and to keep up-to-date on issues that involve our children. Our meetings are most of all a forum to hear our members' ideas on where we should be spending our energy and funds to best ensure our students' success.

I hope to meet you at one of our meetings, Casey Stilwell
President, Mac H&S
machands@yahoo.ca



Our next meetings take place;

- December 12th, 2012.
- January 16th, 2013.
- February 20th, 2013.
- March 20th, 2013.
- April 17th, 2013.
- May 15th, 2013.
- June 12th, 2013.

We begin at 7 pm, and meet in the school library. Our meetings are open to all, so please feel free to join us.

Home and School Fundraisers



Mac Home & School has 2 ongoing fundraisers:

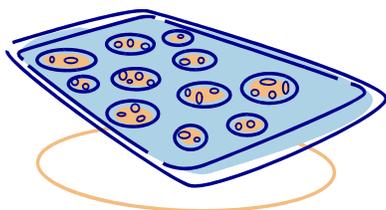
When you visit the M&M in Ile Perrot, mention you're from Macdonald High School, and M&M will donate 3% of your before tax purchase to our Home & School.

Also, we are using the FundScrip win-win fundraiser to raise funds for Home & School while at the same time helping families raise money for students' school activities.

For more information about the FundScrip fundraiser, please send an email to machands@yahoo.ca.



H&S Past and Present



Looking back in the archives, we can see that Macdonald Home & School has a long history of active involvement here.

There are records of fundraising through craft fairs, selling Regal, hosting fashion shows, Caribbean Night parties and even line dancing evenings!

We've bought books, musical instruments, computer equipment, art supplies, team

uniforms, more books, sports equipment, maps, awards, newspapers and still more books!

We've baked, gardened, cleaned, stuffed, stapled, baked, raked, washed and baked again!

We've helped send students and teachers to conferences and hosted parent workshops on a variety of topics.

It all adds up to a huge contribution by members over the years, dedicated to the improvement of Macdonald High School for the whole community.



Principal's Message

The first term is already a thing of the past. As I enjoy my second year as principal of Macdonald High School, I have had the opportunity to observe the many educational and extracurricular activities that are going on all the time at Mac. I can assure you that the staff and the students truly strive for excellence in all areas of school life. Because the Mac community is closely knit and caring, the respect that the students have for each other and for their teachers is humbling.



Being a small high school, the most rewarding part of this job are the interactions I am able to have with your children. I am honoured to have the opportunity to educate, build relationships, and at times, have fun with the wonderful students of this great school.

Throughout the remainder of this school year, I will do my utmost to continue creating a safe and caring environment for them, while ensuring that all graduating students are ready and qualified for wherever they wish to be next year.

As for the students in grades 7 through 10, we will help them remain on a successful path that will lead to the future fulfillment of their aspirations and dreams.

Thank you to the parents of Macdonald High School. It is because of the great job that you are doing, that our job as educators is easier and more enjoyable.

*Macdonald High School
has been open since
1907, and we have had a
long history of academic
excellence.*

Our motto is:

Vires Acquirit Eundo,
which in Latin means,

*"It gains strength as it
goes - We gather strength
as we go".*

Jad Deegan



MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

We have had an exceptionally easy and organized start to the school year. As you are aware there are only three terms this school year. The students will constantly be tested on all three competencies during the school year in preparation for the final exam in June.

Our Sec V Math students did very well on their Sec IV June Exams. Our students rank above average across the Lester B Pearson School Board.

The Math Department and MHS Administration is addressing the needs of all our students. Besides the Regular and Enriched streams in Math, we also have a grade 9 Bridge Math Class of 9 periods per cycle. Miss Jaime Guy, the teacher of these 2 classes gives the students more of a hands on approach to Math and tries to get them ready for the next level in regular Math. We also have a Sec IV Technical Vocational Math Class taught by Mr. Boyd.

At Meet the Teacher, all parents were informed that written homework and study are important elements for success in Math. The Mathematics

Department strongly recommends that a minimum of 30 minutes daily be allocated to homework and study of Math for Cycle I students and a minimum of 40 minutes daily for Cycle II students.

If written homework isn't assigned one evening, students should use the time to review concepts and problems that they had difficulties with in class.

Success in Math will be guaranteed if this homework policy is observed every evening. In general, if a student's mark is below the class average, that student isn't working to potential.

At Open House, the Math Department featured a Pyramid of Pennies Power Point presentation given by our youngest member in the Math Dept., Daniel Maag. Parents and Grade 6 students left very excited about Math.

They were also very impressed by our Textbook and Workbook display. We are the only High School in the LBPS Board that has the most recent textbooks from Grade 7 through Grade 11.

Traditionally, in February, many of our students in Grades 9, 10 & 11 will be competing at their level in the Sun Life Financial Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge of the University of Waterloo.

On Thursday, February 21, 2013 Grade 9 students will be writing the Pascal Contest, Grade 10 students will be writing the Cayley Contest and Grade 11 students will be writing the Fermat Contest.

The Gauss Contests will be written by Grades 7 and 8 students on Wednesday, May 15, 2013.

The Math Department is very proud of the exceptional standing that some of our students achieve across Canada.

All the Math teachers are looking forward to meeting with parents on December 6th, 2012 – Parent/Teacher Interviews. Please ensure your child's scholastic success by attending this evening and meeting with all the teachers.

*M A Iammatteo
Math Department*



"Mathematics is the language with which God has written the Universe."

Galileo Galilei.

Science Department



Welcome back to the wonderful world of science!

All Mac Science students, from Grade 7 to Grade 11, required to prepare a project for the Mac Science Fair. Join us for the parent /teacher interviews on Dec. 6th in the evening to see the projects.

There are many books in the Science Dept. and library to help students with their topics. Their teacher must approve the topics.

****Important Reminders****

There is a maximum of 3 people per group and they must be in the same class. Students must have a display board,

(students can ask their teachers about where to get them), written report, and something visual such as a model or part of their experiment. Reminder: no hazardous materials or live animals are allowed!

The Grade 7's have finished learning about lab safety and how to use lab equipment such as the microscope and triple beam balance. Next will be a look at the Technological World.

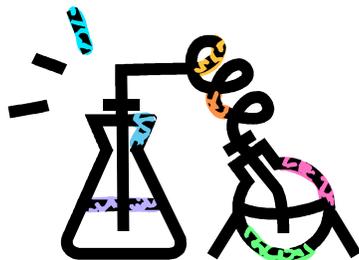
The Grade 8 classes are trying to understand what simple machines are while others are learning about isometric drawings; technical drawings in 3 dimensions The Grade 9's have been studying matter, seeing

how concentration works and learning about energy. Next they will be delving into technology.

Grade 10s are getting wired while studying electricity, and are almost finished making recycling bins for the cafeteria.

Last but not least, our 11's are bending light in Physics and are getting ready to learn about gases in Chemistry. These students celebrated Mole Day and made visits to McGill and John Abbott College.

Mac Science Fair scheduled to take place:



Grade 9-11's ⇒ December 5 & 6th, 2012.

Set -up date Tuesday, Dec. 4th (Projects are due this date)

Grade 7 and 8's ⇒ Feb 6th, 2013.

Set -up date Tuesday, Feb. 5th (Projects are due this date)

Dance News



The dance program is off to great start this year! A new dance team was chosen right away in September....congrats to Michael Padilla, Jacob Kasa Lewis, Kierstyn Rajewski, Danielle Pautet, Nikki Langlois, Rachelle Molle, Vanessa Levia, Ramona Senior, Tiffany Leclair, Emily Macgregor, Chloe Cyr, Zoe Gaumont, Monica Lynn, Joanna Janas and Samantha Nucci!

This year's team captain is Michael Padilla!

Once again all dance students participated in Mac High's open house.....almost a 100 students danced for 2 hours! Our flash mob was a huge success....we danced to the the new hit from Korea GANGNAM STYLE!! Each grade had its own choreography. Dance team performed together after only 2 weeks as a group!

All dancers will be going to the Nutcracker ballet this year on November 30th it is a Mac High tradition to go to the ballet every year. This year we have one of our grade 8 dance students in the NutcrackerTiffany Leclair!!

The dance team performed at Riverdale High School in a community event with David Hodges and the Sonia Balazovjeh Dance Company on November 24!

And....to cap off the year the dance team will perform at the Mac High Talent Show on December 14th!

Our dance year is off to a great start!

Yours in dance,

Sonia Huggins

Guidance News

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Aubrey Gibson to the Mac Guidance office. Aubrey is completing her Master's degree at McGill and is doing her clinical internship with us. She is available to meet with students Monday through Wednesday for the entire school year.

This fall we have been partnering with John Abbott College to offer monthly lunch-hour "micro-tours" of a variety of the technology programs.

So far we have visited:

- Police Tech,
- Pre-Hospital Emergency Care
- Computer Science

Next up for December will be:

- Dental Hygiene.

Sign-up sheet for the tours is on my door.



All of the grads and a number of students from other programs at Mac attended the annual LBPSB Career & Education Fair on November 20th at PCHS.

Once again this year, students had the opportunity to get a real sense of all the career possibilities available to them as they toured the more than 65 booths representing business partners, colleges & trade schools and universities!

Please make note of the upcoming

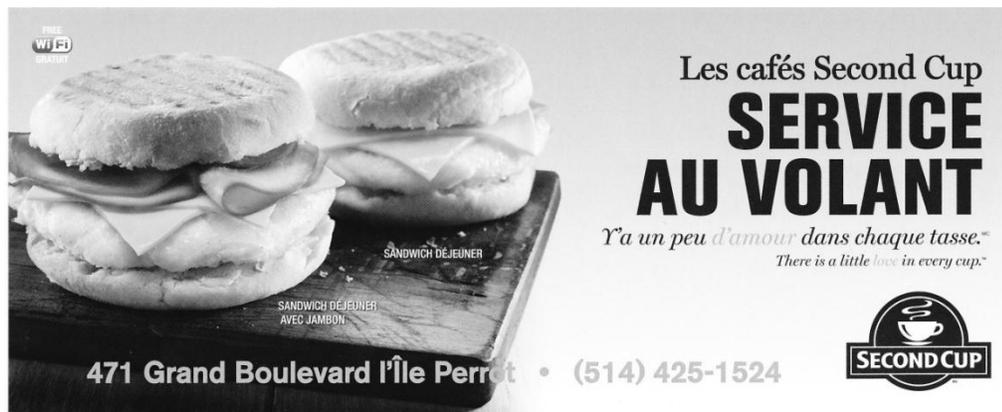
Mac Post-Secondary Information Meeting for parents which will take place on Wednesday, January 9th 2013 at 7:30pm in the Little Theatre.

You will be offered information about the range of post-secondary options available to your young people & will go over the different application procedures involved with each option.

Please feel free to contact me either by phone or email with any questions or concerns you may have for your child.

Andrea Fraser, c.o.
Guidance Counsellor
afraser@lbsb.qc.ca
514-457-3770

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Library News

The Library Mentors group has re-grouped:

- duty at recess and lunch hour at the circulation desk
- make suggestions for new book purchases
- decorated the library for Hallowe'en

Four adult volunteers:

- come in once a week
- circulation and re-shelve books
- back office work - prepare and cover new books
- Mrs. Davis mentors the Book Club once a month

National School Library Day activities, week of October 22nd:

- a giant crossword puzzle
- a story-writing activity with a kick-off line
"It was a Dark and Stormy Night..."

Author visit:

Mariko Tamaki, an author from Toronto, made a visit to Macdonald High on Monday, October 29th. She talked about writing books, and read from her latest book; *(You) Set Me On Fire*.

Her books and presentation were well received by the Grade 10 and 11 English classes of Ms. Simon and Ms. Bush.

Submitted by:
Mrs. Meg Sinclair
Librarian

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Robotics News



The robotics team has started the year with a bang!!



With forty-two new members, the team was in for three nights per week from September until November. On top of the older students working on projects towards this year's theme of 'Mac to the Future', courses were given to new students on basic electronics, wiring, tool safety and usage, fabrication techniques and above all, how to work as a team.

Robotics News – con't



We've been to the kickoff night for this year's edition of the CRC Robotics Competition which is called 'Velic 2013' and are working hard preparing for it.

Stay tuned for more updates on how the competition goes!

We're about to spend the weekend bagging groceries to raise money for the team, and are hoping to top last year's results of \$5000! We're very proud of all our hard work, and about four of our members being asked to participate in a TEDx Youth talk at The Study this past weekend.



Eight practice robots were on display at the school open house in November and we inaugurated our new display case near the main entrance.

Memories of London , Paris, the Alps and Venice 2012



The Europe trip was both entertaining and educational; I would suggest taking the trip to any who want to. I had a great time; we met new people from a school in Ontario. In each city we went there were different activities to be done but I most enjoyed the trip to the Eiffel Tower it was an amazing experience and the whole trip was a once in a life time experience and I would do it again any time.

~Joshua Murnaghan

I had the time of my life spending my Spring break in Europe this year. I got to see things (landmarks, buildings, artwork, oh my!) that some people can only dream of. Seeing the world with my "Ohana" was one of the most fun experiences of my graduating year. The jokes that happened over those past twelve days are still mentioned today, and the laughs and smiles are just as bright and loud as they were the first time around. The memories I made with Mac and 'Darcy students will stay with me forever, as well as every minute of my trip. Waking up in a different city every second day was unbelievable, and I cannot wait to return when I get the chance.

~Amber Layne



The Europe trip was a great experience that many people never get the chance to do in their life. Traveling with friends was one of many favorite parts of the trip because we get to discover our true selves.

Having the opportunity to travel around Europe and see many landmarks and learn the history of each city. I was happy that we ended up going with another school because I made some good friends. I will treasure these memories, it was an unbelievable trip. I would like to travel there again in the near future.

~Kristina Stark

Travelling to Europe was the best experience ever and it was amazing how much we got to see in only 12 days. It was so surreal to visit such major cities and we had such fun memories. It was my first time going on a plane and before this trip. I've never been anywhere further than Toronto. I loved everything about Europe and I will never forget it, especially going to the very top of the Eiffel Tower...that was awesome!

~Janna Katsouros

Memories of London - con't



Europe was an amazing experience. It opened my eyes and has educated me in many ways. I love the feeling of going somewhere new. This trip has tamed that feeling, for now. My next trip I hope to go for longer and learn new things. I positively want to go again, next time as an archaeologist! Thank you So much Mrs.

D.

~Shelby~ ^^

Europe was such an amazing experience. Looking back, it just feels so surreal. I learned so many things, met the most amazing people and bonded with others who I wasn't very close with at the beginning, but became good friends with them even after the first day. I made so many memories that I'll never forget and I'm forever grateful that I was given the opportunity to go!

~Sam Deeley

The Europe trip for me was definitely my favorite trip that I have ever been on. It feels like such a long time ago, but it was only less than three months ago. My favorite part was definitely Switzerland because the mountains were beautiful and the city was small yet nice. The other reason why I enjoyed this city so much is because we had so much free time. Looking back, I would definitely do this trip again because it was a great experience.

~Ryan Quinn

Europe was the most amazing experience I've ever had. Seeing all the different places and cultures was a great learning experience. I grew closer with my friends and made new ones. Sometimes I think back at all the things we experienced and I can't believe it actually happened. I am so grateful for the opportunity to go and I had such an amazing time. I will never forget the memories created on this trip and I plan to go back again in the future.

~Rachel Shannahan ☺



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Educational Tours for Students



November is the month of the first report card. I am strongly encouraging all students to pursue their effort in their studies, therefore improving their chance of success for a better future.

It is also important for me to congratulate both parents and teachers for their constant involvement in motivating our youth to aspire to high standards of academic and personal achievements.



C'est déjà le moment des premiers bulletins scolaires et j'encourage tous les élèves à poursuivre leurs efforts afin d'accroître leurs chances de réussite qui leur permettra d'accéder à un plus haut niveau d'instruction.

Il est également important pour moi de souligner l'implication constante des enseignantes, des enseignants et des parents à soutenir et motiver notre jeunesse à se bâtir un meilleur avenir.

Yvon Marcoux
MNA for Vaudreuil

