

ALEXANDER MACKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL

A Message from Your Principal

Administration

Otilia Olteanu, Principal Ext. 407

Jay Perri, VP Ext. 405

George Elinas, VP Ext. 406

Tel: 905-884-0554

Fax: 905-884-4694

Website:

www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs

As semester one is coming to an end, it is a great time to reflect and wish everyone new hopes, new dreams, and great success in semester two. Parents and teachers are helping students to set goals, choose post-secondary pathways, build confidence, and work hard to achieve those goals. The possibilities available to every young person are endless; convincing each student of their limitless potential is a daily mission.

At AMHS we continue to offer high quality programs and a large variety of academic and extra-curricular opportunities for students. These opportunities help students acquire a rich preparation for their post-secondary endeavours.

Last year, 91% of our Gr. 9 EQAO Math academic math students scored at level 3 or 4. On the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, 90% of our first-time writers were successful, an increase of 3% from the previous year. Our school offers three Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) in Health and Wellness, Business and Transportation Technology. We are currently awaiting approval to add another SHSM sector in Arts and Culture. To help our students with their pathways planning, Guidance Services hosted a Pathways Evening. Over 60 representatives from colleges, apprenticeships and universities participated. The turnout from students and parents/guardians in grades 10, 11 and 12 was amazing.

We were excited to send the offers of acceptance to students who were successful in their application for the Preparatory International Baccalaureate Program for the 2017-2018 academic year. This is an opportunity to embark on an exciting journey with intellectually curious peers in a program that is respected and recognized throughout the world.

Our Technology Department continues to offer courses in Hospitality, Cosmetology, Construction, Design Technology, and Auto Mechanics. Our ARTS program provides opportunities in Visual Arts, Drama, Dance, and Music (Vocal, Strings, Band and Musical Theatre).

Thank you to the many staff members that provide leadership experiences for students, including involvement in the Student Activity Council, The Presidents' Council, Arts & Culture Council, Athletic Council, Music Council, Dance Council, and Drama Council. The Ambassadors Group support a variety of school activities such as Green Acres, Grade 9 Day, Parents' Night, welcoming grade 8 students, and other events. Students have opportunities to be involved in a variety of clubs and teams including GSA, Yearbook, Technology Club, DECA, Eco-Team, World Vision, Math Club, and the Sign Language Club.

AMHS is a vibrant place full of opportunities. We are fortunate to have committed students, dedicated staff and caring and involved parents. By working together, we can ensure student success. If you are interested in getting more involved in school life, please join us for School Council meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Otilia Olteanu

Looking Ahead...

Grad Photo Retake Day	Feb 7
IB Information Night 6pm	Feb 9
Report Card Distribution	Feb 10
Course Selection Due Date	Feb 16
ARTS Grade 8 Welcome Night 7pm	Feb 22
AMAC Fights Back	Mar 7
Immunization Clinic	Mar 9
March Break	Mar 13-17
Interim Report Distribution	Mar 21
OSSLT	Mar 30
Parents' Night 6:30pm	Apr 6
PA Day	May 5
School Carnival	Jun 2
Grad Assembly	Jun 9
Math EQAO	Jun 13-14
Exams	Jun 20-27
Graduation (Terrace Banquet Centre 7pm)	Jun 27
Exam Review Day	Jun 28
PA Days	Jun 29-30

Message from our Trustee

We are now halfway through the school year. This is a good time to reflect on all that your child has learned and to look at setting goals for the rest of the school year.

Our Board believes that student well-being and achievement go hand-in-hand. One of our goals set out in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Plan](#) is to “continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning.”

The Ministry of Education has recently identified [four priorities for well-being](#): positive mental health, safe and accepting schools, healthy schools, and equity and inclusive education. As a Board of Trustees, we will continue to further work in all of these areas to support student well-being in line with these priorities.

There are many resources on the Board website to help support student well-being, including tips for [talking about mental health](#), [managing stress](#), [packing healthy lunches](#) and [addressing incidents of bullying](#).

Creating a healthy, safe and welcoming learning environment is key to helping our students reach their full potential. All of us have an important role to play in creating an environment that enables our students to thrive.

I wish you all the best for a healthy, happy and successful 2017.



Library / Resource Centre

Department Head: D. Wilson

Students have 24/7 access to quality resources! All they need is a username and password to access our online subscriptions to e-book collections, magazines, newspapers and more. Drop by the resource centre for a free bookmark with all the access information.

Tip on becoming a life-long learner:

Instead of reading everything on every topic, pick 1 - 2 topics at a time to focus on. It doesn't matter what they are. Choose something you are interested in – that you care about for some reason. At first, let yourself read slowly. You don't need to know or understand everything right away. As you digest more information, you will find that you want to learn even more. Here's why. Whenever you do some new reading on your favorite topic and recognize a name, a fact or an idea that you already know, you trigger the reward center in your brain. When that happens, you actually train your brain to crave more information. Yes, you can change your brain.





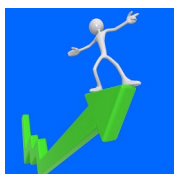
Business Studies Department

Interim Department Head: J. Petrone

Our International Business students have recently completed their research and presentation on International Trade concerning 29 different countries across the world. Student's compared their country's business competitiveness to Canada's as a way to help international investors make informed business decisions,

Our Entertainment and Fashion Marketing students, along with our Introduction to Business students, were taken on a field trip to the Eaton Centre after the Fashion Marketing Unit. Their assignment was based on shopping for a fashion item where they could get the best deal/value. They were also asked to evaluate and comment on clothing displays.

The Introduction to Business students were part of a two day workshop "It All Adds Up Free Financial Education Student Workshops" offered by Royal Bank. Session one was called "Making Cents of Savings" and session two was called "Making your spending count" These sessions were provided after our class completed in Finance Unit and it tied in well with our learning.



Students participated in the Junior Achievement Stock Market challenge. They enjoyed trading stocks within a virtual \$100,000 portfolio. They had to make decisions on what stocks to buy and sell, which stock market to trade in, keeping in mind foreign exchange impact on trades on non-Canadian stock exchanges.

On February 22, a number of our Grade 12 computer science students completed in the Waterloo Computer Competition. As well, our Grade 11 students participated in *the Beaver Computing Challenge* (Hosted by University of Waterloo) with great success. The following students received Certificate of Distinction:

Itay Ben Shabat
Eric Qichen Dai
Raelynn Hu
Alex McLain
Trong Phan
Maxim Shost
Yqui Zhai

We congratulate all of our students on a job well done in both computer competitions.

Our law students were taken on a field trip to our local Police Station. They were given a tour of the facilities and saw where an accused is booked and locked up overnight before being incarcerated or released. They got to view the evidence storage room and were briefed on the protocol used to house the evidence. They got a tour of the parade room, detectives offices and also had a Q&A with police officers with regards to career in Police Services.

We had a police officer Tony Cedrone as a guest speaker. He shared police officer duties, career in police services and personal stories from his career. We also discussed current issues surrounding policing.

The Law students were taken to the Ontario Superior Court Downtown where they were in a Q&A session with a Judge and Crown Attorney. After that, they went into different courtrooms to observe trials in different stages of trial.



Business Studies Department cont...

Interim Department Head: J. Petrone

As well, some of our Business students, under the direction of Mr. Petrone and Mr. Carter (Lawyer Coach volunteer), are involved with preparing to prosecute or defend an accused charged with dangerous driving and assault as part of the AMHS Law Club. The team will later compete at the York Region Mock Trial Tournament in April. We wish all our students the best of luck in this competition!

DECA:

Our DECA chapter participated in the York Regional Competition on November 27th, under the direction of Ms. Chinniah. Three of our students – Scott Berman, Ravital Kofman and Shawn Peari placed in the top 10 in their respective competitions. In February, our DECA chapter will be competing at the DECA Provincial competitions. We wish them the best of luck.



Specialist High Skills Major:

Here we grow again! This year our Specialist High Skills Major Program has expanded to include 40 new students for this calendar year in the three economic sectors: Business, Health & Wellness, and Transportation.

The following are some exciting events and learning opportunities that our SHSM students have participated in during the past semester:

- Laurier University: Business students participated in a Case Study simulation with a member of the Business Faculty, while the Health & Wellness students participated in neuro-science workshop exploring the challenges of learning new tasks in the human brain.
- George Brown College: our Business SHSM students conducted a campus tour and participated in a host workshops ranging from specific business courses such as Event Management to General Business management courses. Students who participated received a flavor of what first year courses would be like compared with some specialty courses offered by George Brown.
- Canadian Business Health Management provided all grade 11 SHSM students received CPR (level C) and First Aid certification on November 30th, while our Business students received Counterfeit Training provided by our business teacher Ms. Chinniah.

Looking forward to the semester, our school's SHSM Team is planning the following exciting student events at the following institutions:

- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and Toronto Rehab – Lyndhurst Center
- Ivey Business School, Western University
- Schulich Business School, York University
- Health Certifications, Georgian College
- Stress & Anxiety Management Training, Green Leaf Health & Wellness
- YMCA Cedar Glen Outdoor Education Centre

We are looking forward to having our students enjoy these and many more outstanding SHSM learning opportunities next semester!

English as a Second Language Department

Interim Department Head: A. Pantusa

Our ESL family is growing! We are proud to say that AMHS welcomed approximately 70 new ESL students in semester 1 and we are looking forward to welcoming 27 students in semester 2. New students will receive information and a welcome package during our welcome tea taking place in early February. Students will meet other ESL students, teachers and staff who are there to support them as well as gain information about how to join our many extracurricular activities and teams. We also welcome new students to join our ESL Leadership Club to help plan many cultural events and celebration.



This semester's students will take part in many activities such as Chinese New year, Nowruz, spring festivals a field trip to learn about the Canadian culture and the immigrant voice through art and our fantastic multicultural celebration in May. Stay tuned for further information and details on these initiatives and more!

Guidance Department

Department Head: C. Bredin

The guidance department has had a productive start to the new school year. The counsellors have been working hard to provide academic counselling, career counselling and personal counselling.

College / University Application Process started in November with an assembly on November 16th where shortly after PIN numbers were distributed to potential graduates. Students have completed their application process through the Ontario Colleges Application Service (OCAS) and Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC). Responses from individual universities and colleges will take place over the next few months.



Students in Grades 9 ~ 11 explored their future Pathways options through Career Cruising completing their IPP (Individual Pathways Plan). Students are reminded that this plan is fluid and are encouraged to revisit their plan on a regular basis to change or update their plans through Career Cruising.

Course selection process for next year has already begun and Career Cruising is now open for submission as of February 1st, 2017. On Friday, January 20th, Grades 9 to 12 students attended assemblies on the course selection process and Grade 10 students in particular have been provided information about the three SHSM programs available as of Grade 11. The three sectors are Business, Health & Wellness and Transportation.



Course selection submission deadline is **Wednesday, February 15th, 2017** through Career Cruising and the printed form will be due to homeroom teachers on **Friday, February 17th, 2017**. If there are any questions regarding course selections please have your child see their Guidance Counsellor.



Students are reminded that 40 hours of community involvement is a requirement of attaining a graduation diploma. Students are encouraged to complete their hours before the start of Grade 12. Any graduating students who have not completed their hours are reminded of the importance of completing these as soon as possible. Volunteer opportunities are posted outside Guidance Services or students should speak to a counsellor for more information.

Congratulations to all our semester one graduates!



Health & Physical Education Department

Department Head: C. Butler



It has been an amazing semester in our department. We are right in the middle of our summative examinations - our "must do's", exit interviews and movement practicals are all wrapping up, with much success. Our goal of increasing your son/daughter's experience in our classes is going extremely well. We are trying our best to create an increase in students' fitness through participation in sport and games. Also, we hope by the end of our courses that we help increase students' understanding of nutrition, safety and mental health on the way to a healthier way of living. Our "exit interviews" allow students to give us their perceived feedback on their participation and experience in the course. We are extremely happy with the outcomes that students seem to be experiencing in our courses.



Our Kinesiology group just completed a co-authored paper on the effects of exercise on the brain. Our fitness course just wrapped up an incredible season ending fitness competition. Our senior level courses closed with an incredible "challenge cup"

"Challenge Cup" winners, Semester 1



Athletics @ MAC

Our Athletic Council has been at work re-doing our newly named "MAC PRO SHOP" in the front foyer. Our newly renovated store offers new and exciting "spirit wear", recovery food, retro wear and soon - SPARK equipment ready to sign out during lunches. Also, the council have organized some home basketball games that have been a real exiting experience - music, announcing, pop corn, cow bells and much, much more. Many more to come, including our first girls volleyball home games.

Our athletes represented our school in a spirited manner. From cross-country, boys soccer, 7's rugby, girls basketball, boys basketball, boys volleyball and girls volleyball. We are so proud of our student athletes, their efforts and successes.

Lastly, our intra-murals have been a resounding success! Our new crop of grade 9's leading the way, get to experience sports and games at lunch. Basketball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Badminton, Capture the flag, Pylon Dodge Ball and Hockey, are all happening at lunch in both gyms, so come on out and join us!

Literacy at AMHS

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is a requirement for all students who wish to graduate with a secondary school diploma. The test is written by all grade 10 students across the province. The test will take place on Thursday March 30th, 2017. The school day on March 30th will be modified as per past practice in support of student success.

As a school, we are taking many steps to assist our students in completing the test successfully. Beginning the week of February 13th, all students writing the test will attend an information assembly where they will receive a workbook containing information, a series of tasks and skills and practice tests from EQAO. Students will bring the workbook to class where they will begin an intensive application and review of these skills through a series of lessons as well as two practice sessions before the actual test day. A copy of the scheduled lessons included in the workbook.

The workbook also contains information for both parents and students about what the test is, why students must take it and gives an overview of the types of reading and writing tasks students will encounter on the test. We encourage you to review this workbook with your child and discuss the strategies in the workbook together.

Further details about the test and the schedule for the test day will be sent to parents and students in the weeks ahead. For more information please contact Adele Pantusa, (Literacy and ESL Student Success Teacher) by email to adele.pantusa@yrdsb.ca.

After School Literacy

We are offering another session of the After School Literacy Program to further support our students in writing the OSSLT. The After School Literacy program consists of fifteen 1 hour sessions. Students will attend twice a week for 8 weeks. There is no cost for this program unless your child is an international student. A commitment from 12 students is needed for this program to be offered.

- [Letter to Parents/Guardians RE :After School Literacy Program](#)
- [Letter to ELL Parents/Guardians RE: After School Literacy Program](#)
- [After School Literacy/Numeracy program—Student Registration Form](#)

Please return the completed form to your child's homeroom teacher or Mrs. Pantusa in the English office no later than Thursday February 16th.



Math Department

Department Head: L. Smith

We have finished another successful semester. In the last week of the semester, our students were working hard on their reviews, writing inquiry exams and studying for final exams. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Baghdassarians who is the newest teacher to join the Math department at Alex Mac and wish good luck to Ms. Wheatstone and Ms. Upathilake who were with us this semester but will be leaving our school at the end of January. Also, congratulations to Ms. Nicolaou on the birth of her baby girl and Mr. Snider on the birth of his baby boy, both in October.

Contests

In November, 33 students participated in the Canadian Math Contest conducted by the University of Waterloo. We had 6 students achieve a level of distinction as they placed in the top 25% of the world. Congratulations to Olivia Jia,



Math Department cont...

Department Head: L. Bredin

Raymond Gao, Arvis Luo, Carey Yang and Yiteng Wang and a very special congratulations to Roy Lin who placed 1st in the school. There will be several more math contests coming up in second semester so students should listen for the announcements for details. The Pascal contest (grade 9), Cayley contest (grade 10) and Fermat contest (grade 11) will be written in February and the Euclid contest (grade 12) will be written in April. There will also be additional problem solving contests for all grades in April. Sample problems and solutions can be found at <http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca>.

EQAO

The provincial Grade 9 math test was written in math classes on January 23rd and 24th. Preparation for the EQAO test started a week earlier and also prepared our students for the Math exams in January. Part of this test was marked and counted towards students' final mark in the Grade 9 Math Applied and Academic courses. Official results for this test will be available in September. Our results for the EQAO test written in the 2015-2016 year were great, as 91% of our academic students were at provincial standard or higher.



We wish success to all our students in the next semester.

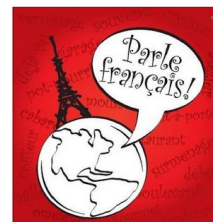


Moderns Department

Department Head: S. Juma

VIVE LE FRANÇAIS!

This semester, students learned about the lives of students in other francophone countries. Students compared their lives with those of other students living in various French speaking regions. Within each group, students presented their understanding using technology. Students presented a filmed musical performance, an interview or dramatic presentation. This was followed by a student-led interactive component. This was a wonderful opportunity to communicate in French as well as further develop their understanding of different cultures. Une expérience vraiment inoubliable!



Also this semester, students had the opportunity to investigate important and current pressing issues. Students did this by exploring various media works which they then presented to their peers in an interactive format.

Students have been regularly engaging in dialogue on important issues through the use of Google docs. Many of these conversations have been student led giving them an opportunity to engage in high level discussions with their peers. Bravo. Continue vos efforts!



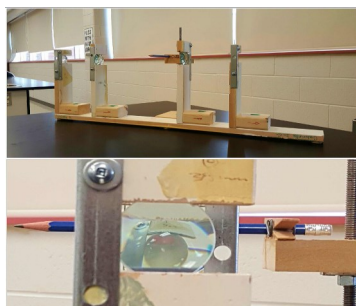
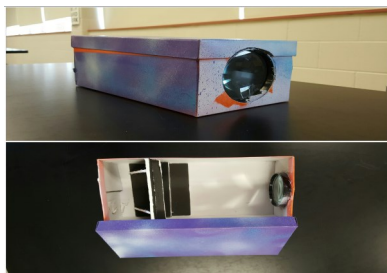
In addition, students explored how to carry out a survey on their peers. They chose topics of interest, created pertinent survey questions, and then graphed their results. Students engaged each other through discussion of the various graphs and survey results. This was an excellent way to explore specific math terms in French. Très bien!



Science Department

Department Head: S. Sadacharan

The Science Department was definitely booming last semester with our Grade 9 Science and Grade 12 University Chemistry students taking a field trip to SilverCity Richmond Hill. Here, they saw the movie "Deepwater Horizon" about the BP Oil Spill of 2010. Our Grade 10 Science students got creative by making various optical devices such as periscopes and overhead projectors! And, they also created board games as their culminating activity to help review for their final exams.



Our Grade 11 Physics students conducted sound experiments including looking at echoes in musical theatres and noise pollution at various locations in Richmond Hill. Our Grade 12 Physics students learned about young Nobel Prize winners in Physics through their presentations about various scientists who contributed to the Theory of Relativity and Quantum Mechanics. And, our Grade 12 Chemistry students made fruit-smelling esters!



We also offered Grade 12 Advanced Placement Biology last semester. This was a very lab intensive course which included a variety of labs. Some examples of these labs included DNA extraction, protein purification and denaturation (breaking down proteins), identifying various macromolecules via exposing them to different reagents, simulations of bacterial transformations, simulations of PCR and gel electrophoresis, yeast fermentation and simulations of cell transport through a semi-permeable membrane. And finally, our Grade 10 Science and Grade 11 Biology students participated in a frog and pig dissection, respectively.

Preparation for the annual academic competitions will begin later in February. Students in Physics will have an opportunity to test their skills in the University of Toronto Leonardo da Vinci and the University of Waterloo Sir Isaac Newton contests at the Grade 12 level and the Physics Teachers Association of Ontario competition at the Grade 11 level. Senior Biology students will compete in the University of Toronto National Biology contest. The chemistry challenges are offered by the University of Waterloo's Avogadro competition in Grade 11 and Chem 13 News contest in Grade 12. Please see your subject teacher if you would like to find out more about these competitions.



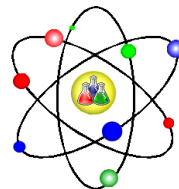
The York Region Science Olympics will be held in March at York University. We are looking forward to giving some fierce competition again this year! We will have 2 very enthusiastic junior and 2 senior teams who will be competing in the areas of Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Please listen to the announcements or speak to Mrs. Sadacharan if you are interested in being on the AMHS Science Olympics Team.

There are many opportunities for students to get involved in the Science Department. We have a Science Club that meets every other Tuesday after school in Room 260. Here, students have had the opportunity to do a variety of dissections, discuss designing hovercrafts and so much more! We look forward to incorporating more Chemistry and Physics related topics in the new semester with our Science Club members. Also, we have a Lab Assistants

Science Department cont...

Department Head: S. Sadacharan

Club that meets on Thursdays after school. Lab assistants have the opportunity to set-up labs, organize and clean science equipment, make solutions and carry out various chemical reactions. It is an excellent way to learn some chemistry and have fun at the same time! All students will receive volunteer hours for their time. If you are interested in either of these clubs, please speak to Mrs. Sadacharan. We also offer peer tutoring or extra-help sessions every Tuesday and Thursday at lunch from 11:45 – 12:15 p.m. in Room 260.



Finally, the Advanced Placement exam writing dates are fast approaching. Our AP Biology students will prepare to write their exam in May 2017. If you are interested in writing an Advanced Placement exam for a first year University Chemistry, Biology and/or Physics course, please speak to a member of the science department as soon as possible. We wish you much success as you begin a new semester!



Special Education Department

Department Head: S Abramovich

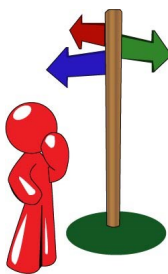
The Special Education Department has had a busy and productive semester.

Our Community Classes have had a very busy semester 1. Both Community Classes have enjoyed monthly excursions to the Richmond Hill Library to attend the Teen Friendship Circle. Field trips have included a movie day provided by the Angels from Heaven Foundation and a holiday shopping trip to Vaughn Mills Shopping Centre. We also enjoyed a Thanksgiving celebration which included winter holiday activities. Our student Athletic Council hosted the regional SNAP basketball tournament which welcomed community classes from 5 York Region schools for some friendly and spirited fun.



The Grade 9 Learning Strategies classes welcomed two guest speakers from the YAE Youth program at ETA Vaughan who delivered an interactive presentation on Exam Study Skills and tips on how to cope with stress and anxiety. Students found this to be helpful and informative as they prepare to write for their first round of exams this semester.

The Grade 11 Learning Strategies classes welcomed representatives from Seneca College who delivered presentations about life on campus, student services, support services and general programs. Students also participated in formal interviews with their teacher which will support them when they start looking for part-time jobs.



This fall, students in our Grade 12 Learning Strategies class traveled to the Ontario College Fair where they had the opportunity to meet college representatives from across Ontario and learn about a variety of post-secondary programs. In addition, former Alexander Mackenzie students spoke to our students about their unique pathways and post-secondary experience. The Grade 12 students also traveled to Seneca @ York where they received a guided tour of the campus. Our students received valuable information about financial support, accessibility services, student support services, programs and life on campus.

Technology Department

Department Head: J. Fabrikis

Technological Education = Experiential Learning

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn. Teach me to do it and I learn best.

It has been a very busy and rewarding first semester for the staff and students in the Technological Studies Department at Alexander Mackenzie.

The Grade 11 and Grade 12 Technological Design students have been busy designing and drawing by using AUTO CAD (a Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) program) to create custom designed furniture and to prepare a full redesign of our school cafeteria to make the space more student friendly. The proposed designs included lounge areas, large screen television viewing areas, personal device charging stations and an overall more appealing setting.



The students in the Grade 11 **Construction Technology** classes have been very busy designing and building full scale wall sections that includes the pouring of a concrete footing, the floor, wall and roof framing, the installation of the plumbing and electrical systems and the interior and exterior finishing and have learned more about the high demand for the skilled trades. The Grade 10 students have improved their knowledge of the skilled trades and their ability to use machinery by designing and building a scale model of a cottage.

The **Grade 9 Exploring Technologies** classes have been very busy researching, brainstorming, designing and building projects such as a CO₂ Powered Dragster and a Robotic Arm powered by hydraulics.

Our **Hospitality & Baking** classes were very busy this past semester. The Grade 11 classes provided the staff with eleven themed lunches that were served in The Mackenzie Room every Thursday. In addition they also created delicious treats for the staff to purchase for the holidays. The Grade 10 classes prepared a variety of breakfast items for our Breakfast Club Program that runs daily throughout the semester. They also had the opportunity to create a variety of cupcakes for our Halloween Baking Sale. Fun times!



The **Hair Styling and Aesthetics** course is looking forward and preparing for our seventh annual "Manicure for Cure for Cancer" at our school! An amazing event with a whole school collaboration in the foyer of our school. During AMAC Fights Back we will provide cosmetology services, to go along with ribbons of support, baked goods and so much more! All for an amazing cause!! The Hair Styling and Aesthetics students also helped out in the school musical.

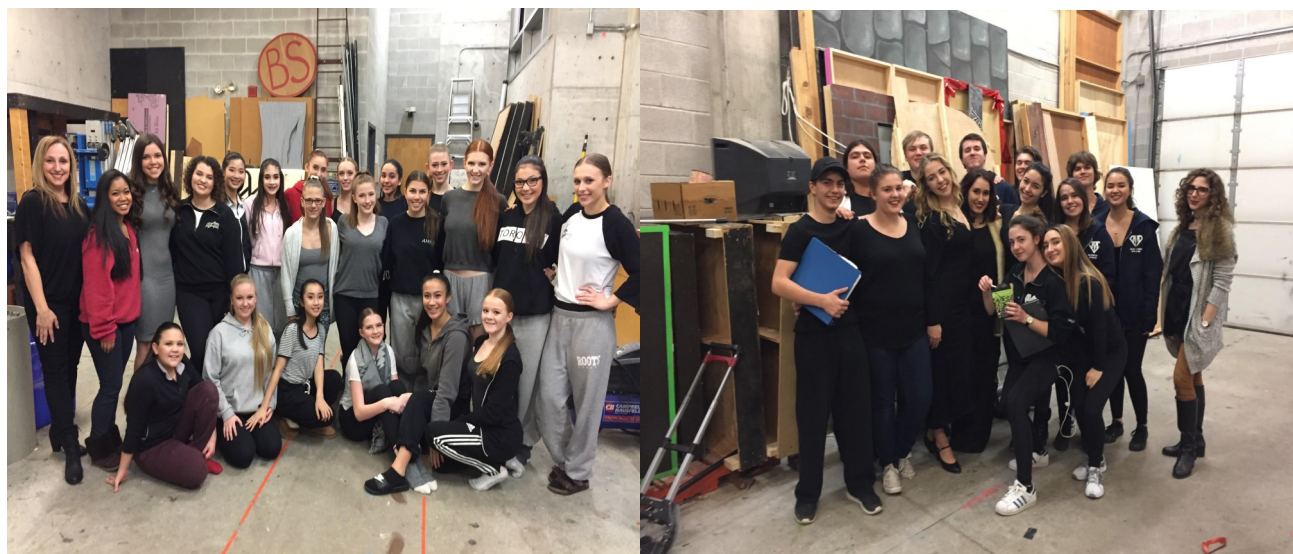
The **Transportation Technology** students have been very busy once again servicing and repairing student's and teachers cars all semester and learning more about the skill set needed to be successful in this trade.

The **Woodworking Technology** students learned about the fine craft and personal fulfillment of creating and building using the machines in the technology lab small woodworking projects, such as a keepsake box, a salt and pepper holder and a coat and mitten rack.

REAL KNOWLEDGE, REAL SKILLS,
REAL WORLD, REAL JOBS



A Semester Full of Inspiration and Innovation!



The Performing Arts students had a busy, successful semester working in various studio spaces, including our new multipurpose studio space! Here are some highlights of our semester one studio work, workshops, field trips and performances. #CreativityThrivesHere





Notes from the Studios

Department Head: C. Clarke

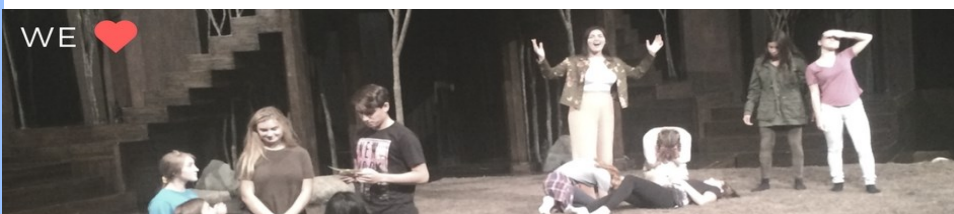


Performing Arts Department (Theatre Arts, Drama and Dance)

It All Starts In The Studio

Our studio work is always enhanced by real life curriculum extensions. Some (but not all) of the highlights this semester include:

- ◆ Our trips to the Stratford Festival, National Ballet of Canada, Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, Vaughan City Playhouse and Studio 180
- ◆ Our workshops with Shakespeare in Action, Melanie Siegel, Allan Kinsella, Clara McBride, Ash Knight, Aaron Wills, Sharon Harvey, Lindsay Fell
- ◆ Our collaboration with the Resource Centre for Non-Verbal Inquiry Project (Grade 10 to explore communication barriers) and Production Proposals (Grade 12 to sharpen critical thinking skills and script selection skills for public production)
- ◆ Our collaboration with Visual Arts Mackenzie to learn about the Creative Process through costume design (Grade 9) and participate in YRDSB Artonomy (Dance Arts Mackenzie)
- ◆ Our collaboration with Ovation! Performing Arts for reach ahead audition/interview skills and post-secondary preparation (Grade 11)
- ◆ Our performances at Culture Days, Arts Night, Remembrance Day, Winterfest, Crazy for You, The Future is Now and Graduate Showcase





Notes from the Studios

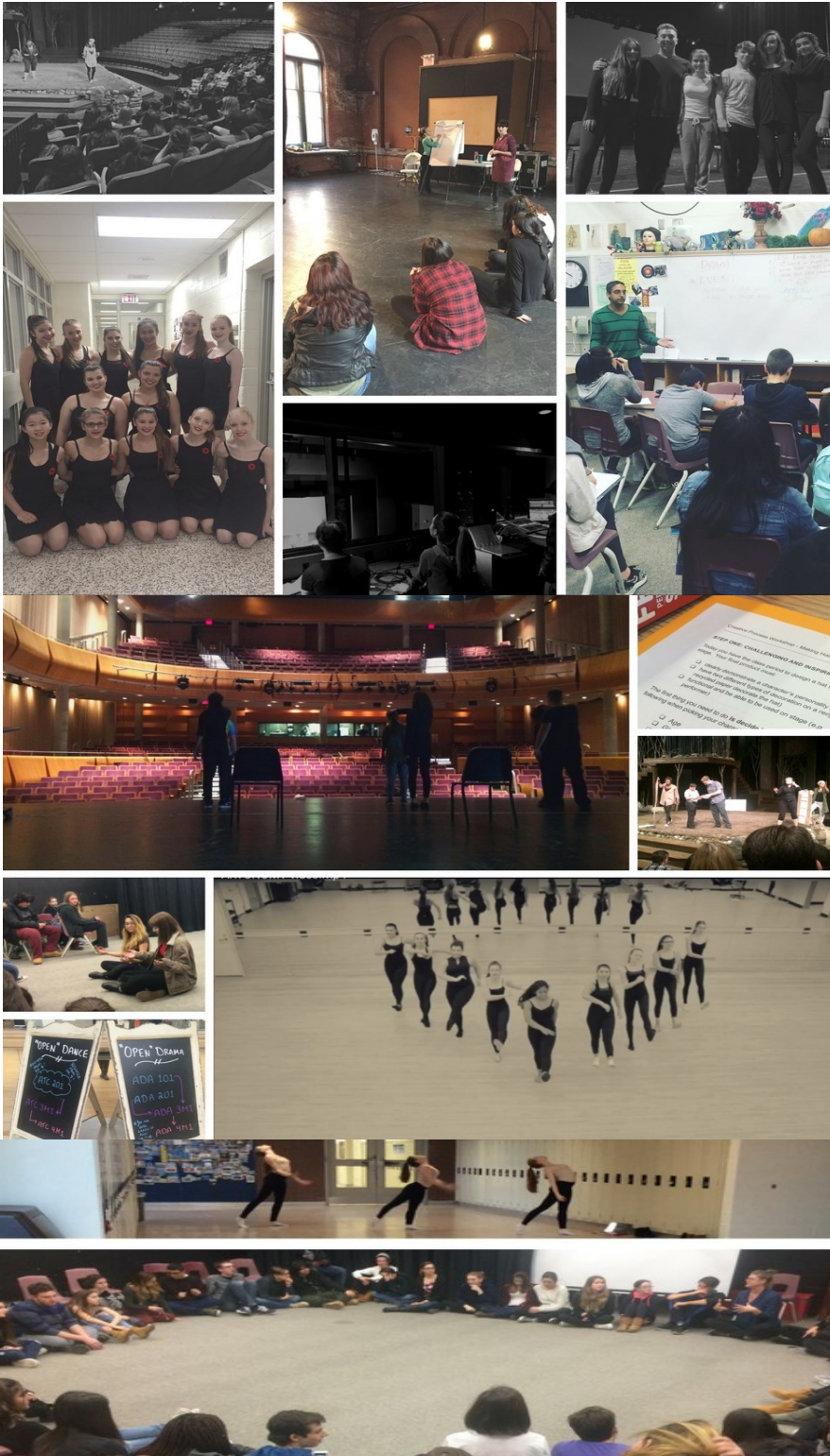
Department Head: C. Clarke



Performing Arts Department

Highlights of Learning Through The Arts:

- ◆ Bringing together all of the skills, knowledge and experience gained through grade 9 and 11 to develop productions/choreographic work for the Grade Twelve Graduate Showcase
- ◆ Refining understandings of various artistic conventions and historical movements
- ◆ Developing confidence in a variety of effective communication skills while connecting with students from different backgrounds, communities, and cultures.
- ◆ Engaging in the creative process to design/write/choreograph, rehearse, refine and perform creative and meaningful new Canadian work
- ◆ Creating a personal movement vocabulary based on a variety of sources of inspiration, including mental health topics, social justice issues, poetry and inspirational people
- ◆ Taking creative risks in everyday studio work and supporting that creative work with forward thinking descriptive feedback
- ◆ The confidence, creativity, presentation skills, and sense of community to inspire each student's unique journey



NEXT

IT ALL STARTS IN THE STUDIO | #CREATIVITYTHRIVESHHERE

LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

Dramatic Arts Council and Dance Council will continue to organize events that impact the whole school community. Thank you councils for the AMAC Gives Back and Winterfest Charity Drive in December!

PERFORMANCES! PERFORMANCES!

Spring time = performance time! Stay tuned to @AMHSPA for exciting information about Sears Drama Festival, AMHS Film Festival, Spring Theatre Arts Performances and Dance Expressions!

IB THEATRE ARTS

The Performing Arts faculty continue to prepare for AMHS' first International Baccalaureate (IB) Theatre Course in 2019. Presentation and critical thinking skills will be the focus for pre-IB Grade 9 ADA 10 students.

IT ALL **STARTS** IN THE STUDIO

Join Us!!!

OPEN AND ARTS MACKENZIE COURSES OFFERED IN DANCE, THEATRE AND DRAMATIC ARTS.

LEARN **COMMUNICATION, PRESENTATION, CRITICAL THINKING, AND PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS** THROUGH PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES.

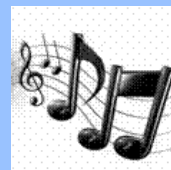
FOR MORE INFORMATION, DROP BY STUDIO 112 OR 121





Music

Department Head: E. Hudspith



Music Department

The AMHS Music Department would like to congratulate all of the music students who have worked so hard this semester and taken part in many different concerts and events.

We started the semester with multiple performances at the Arts Information Night in October. In November, Mackenzie Singers performed on Remembrance Day and the Grade 11/12 Arts class put on "An Evening Around the World". Later the same month "Showcase 2016" featured 250 music students performing in concert bands, choirs, orchestras, and jazz ensembles at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. The Music Department's annual musical, "Crazy for You" was a huge success in December (with more details on a separate page).

Music students have had many extra opportunities both outside of the classroom and through interaction with guest artists. In October we joined the other



Arts departments for a trip to Stratford to see "A Chorus Line" and in the same month grade nine and ten vocalists attended a workshop and performance put on by Opera Atelier. Over the semester, Arts students in vocal, band, and strings all received multiple private lessons specific to their instruments in addition to participating in advanced workshops on performance skills and different genres. The grade 11/12 Arts class enjoyed performances and clinics on the music of India, world wind instruments, and had an opportunity to make their own African hand drum.

Finally, our Music Council hosted successful events for the music students, including a grade nine barbeque, a movie night, and the Holiday Party.

In second semester, we are looking forward to another busy performance schedule including concerts, music festivals, and our annual extended trip (this year to Disney World, Florida).



Holiday Party



Upcoming Dates:

March 1, 2017– Coffee House and Silent Auction
(Please contact the music department if you are interested in donating items for the auction)

April 25-30, 2017 – Extended trip to Disney World, Florida

May 10, 2017 – Fanfare 2017 at Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts

May 18, 2017 – Spring Celebration 2017 at Richmond Hill United Church

June 1, 2017 – Music Banquet

June 12, 2017 – Pops Concert at AMHS on the lawn



Who Could Ask For Anything More?

On December 8th and 9th, *Mackenzie Music's Musical Theatre class* presented *Crazy for You* at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. *Crazy for You* blew audiences away with the calibre of talent, passion and commitment displayed in every aspect of the show. It truly had something for everyone with a stellar cast, outstanding live orchestra, and an incredible set design.

As audience member Dan Celetti (Teacher at Pleasantville P.S.) stated: "The singing and dancing and comedy was awesome to watch. The audience really enjoyed the show and [we] were taken by the fact that these are high school students doing an amazing job all the while studying and writing tests and getting up early and practicing day and night."

The production included *over a hundred students* from across multiple AMHS departments and was *supported by a variety of parent, community, staff and student volunteers*.

Musical theatre students appreciate the opportunity to have a professional production experience within their high school curriculum. Sydney Nicholson, Grade 12 Musical Theatre student, "definitely wouldn't be the person that [she is] today without [the] course." Sydney adds: "you learn something about yourself and that's not really something you can get anywhere else. It's something so specific to this school and this course that has just changed all of us for the better"

Students interested in studying musical theatre in grades 10, 11 and 12 can sign up for *AMT courses, located under Music in Career Cruising*. We look forward to seeing you at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on *December 7th and 8th 2017* for our next musical.

CRAZY FOR YOU | 2016





Visual Arts

Department Head: A. Bhaitia



Visual Arts Department

Thank you to all of the art students this semester who put forth such a great effort with their creativity and skills in creating a fantastic array of artworks. In September, local Richmond Hill textile artist, Melanie Siegel, came in to our Grade 9 art classes to work with our students on creating masks. In November, several works of art from Alexander Mackenzie students were on show at the International Quest Educational Conference at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel in Markham, where they received much praise. Our school also had a team of four artists at Quest that participated in 'Artonomy', a collaborative multimedia experience, along with teams from other York Region schools. In December our Grade 11 class had the pleasure of seeing their sets come to life on stage during our school's production of 'Crazy for You'. The Grade 11 Art class both designed and painted the sets and gave up many hours outside of class time...but it was worth it as they were spectacular!

Out and about.... our students went to the Art Gallery of Ontario to view the Mystic Landscapes exhibit, as well as on a few walks up to Mill Pond to do some *plein air* sketching in the fall. On April 27th, our Arts and Culture Council will be hosting our annual Java Night, which entails a variety of multi-discipline performances. In May (12-14th), we will once again showcase the talents of our excellent students in our annual Boynton House art show which will be held at Boynton House (Richmond green grounds). Here's looking forward to an exciting semester!



Rose by Jenna Zaitchik



Crazy For You, set design & painting, gr. 11 art students



Bird by Alana Doberstein



Crazy For You, set design & painting, gr. 11 art students

Alexander Mackenzie High School
300 Major Mackenzie Drive West
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4C 3S3