

# ALEXANDER MACKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL

## A Message from Your Principal

### Administration

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As we approach the end of a busy semester, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given both to your child and to the school. It is wonderful to end the first semester knowing that new opportunities will open up in semester two. It is a time of the year in which students need to reflect back to their learning in semester one and consider their accomplishments. It is essential for students to be reflective about themselves as learners, in order to be successful. During this process, students need to ask themselves how to further develop their skills, how to increase their participation in learning and how to determine best strategies that they can apply to new learning in semester two.

I am delighted with the way our students represented the school on so many occasions including their dynamic participation in athletics, powerful performances in the theatre, dance, visual arts and music, responsible experiential learning in the community, as well as creative problem solving in the mathematics and computer competitions.

I have received many positive comments from students and community about the opportunities provided for students to become well-rounded and balanced members of our society, whether it was the critical thinking activities during the class time or the intramurals offered at lunch. I hope that these opportunities have encouraged our students and have given them a greater sense of pride.

Parents and guardians can be involved in their child's learning by engaging in conversations about learning. We encourage you to listen to your child's reflections, discuss the challenges, and to join us in the celebration of the accomplishments. On behalf of all staff at AMHS, I would like to thank our students for their curiosity, participating and ongoing commitment to achieve success.

There is no doubt that AMHS is a vibrant place, full of diverse opportunities. If you are interested in getting more involved, please join us for our next School Council meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 7 p.m. To stay informed about our school and upcoming events, please check our website at

[www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs](http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs) .

*Otilia Olteanu*

### Looking Ahead...

P.A. Day	Feb 2
Sem. 2 Begins	Feb 5
New Student/Grad Retake Photo Day	Feb 6
Report Card Distribution	Feb 9
School Council 7 p.m.	Feb 20
2018-2019 Course Selection Due Date	Feb 23
March Break	Mar 12-16
School Council 7 p.m.	Mar 19
Interim Report Distribution	Mar 20
Parents' Night 6:30pm	Apr 5
School Council 7 p.m.	Apr 16
Report Card Distribution	Apr 24
PA Day	May 4
School Carnival	May 31
Grad Assembly	Jun 8
Math EQAO	Jun 13-14
Exams	Jun 20-26
Exam Review Day	Jun 27
Graduation - Terrace Banquet Center 7pm	Jun 28
PA Days	Jun 28-29

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### ***Message From Our Trustee***

With report cards coming home, this is a good time of year to review your child's progress and to set goals for the rest of the school year.

As trustees, our goals are set out in the Board [Multi-Year Plan](#). In the coming months, trustees will be reviewing and updating this plan. This process will include opportunities for public input, and trustees will be out in the communities talking about this. More information will be shared about this in the spring.

Developing and reviewing the Multi-Year Plan is just one of our responsibilities as publicly elected officials. Trustee responsibilities also include hiring the Director of Education, setting [Board policies](#) and the [annual budget](#), and communicating with the public.

This is a good time to learn more about the [role of trustees](#) with the next [municipal election](#) taking place later this year on October 22, 2018. York Region District School Board has [12 trustees](#), elected by ratepayers. As a trustee, listening and communicating with families is an important part of my role. Students, families and members of the public are welcome to attend and observe any public Board, Advisory or Board Committee meetings and to share their views with us on policy and Board governance.

As we move into the second half of the year, I hope that you are seeing evidence of your child's learning and progress, and finding opportunities to get involved in their learning and the life of the school.

I wish you all the best for a successful second term.

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### **School Cash Online**

All YRDSB schools are now using School Cash Online as an online payment system. School Cash Online is an easy, safe and convenient way for families to pay online for extracurricular items or events, including yearbooks and field trips. It helps to reduce paper and the amount of cash/cheques handled by parents and students.

Families may make payments using School Cash Online, or by cash or cheque.

You can [register for School Cash Online](#) at any time. There is also a button on our school website. Once you are registered, you will be notified of any new items available for your child.

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### **Important Information for Students Turning 18**

Under the Education Act, parents/guardians have a right to access their child's Ontario Student Record if the child is under 18.

If the student is 18 or over, the Board/school must follow the privacy provisions of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act regarding the disclosure of personal information about the student to their parents/guardians.

Students 18 or over must provide written permission by signing the [Consent for Information Sharing](#) form to allow parents/guardians to continue to access school-related information about the student. This includes academic progress, attendance and behaviour.



## Business Studies Department

Interim Department Head: J. Petrone

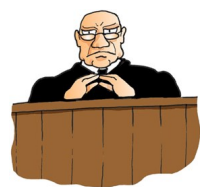
*Small opportunities are often the beginning of great achievements.*

~ Author Unknown

This semester, students had the opportunity to attend the Provincial DECA conference. This conference is an annual conference where students have the opportunity to engage in dialogue current and emerging topics within business realm. The format for this conference is a multi-faceted competition where students compete at different levels of competency in marketing, accounting and in general business. Students were provided with case studies and scenarios in order to prepare for this prestigious competition. Congratulations business students on your outstanding achievements!



As well this semester, students were involved with the Law Club where they are currently in the process of preparing for a regional competition. This competition is held annually and involves a specific set of skills and competencies associated with prosecuting and/or defending a criminal law case. Students will partner with a lawyer coach from our school community to assist them preparation for the Judges Cup competition. This is an excellent opportunity for students to develop public speaking skills and self-confidences. Keep up the excellent work!!



Also, this semester, students were fortunate to attend a law field trip to the Superior Court of Ontario. During this field trip, students had the opportunity to observe law in action. They engaged in conversation with a judge and a crown prosecutor about the judicial process and career pathways. They observed a courtroom setting and this provided students with an opportunity to prepare for their in-class mock trial competition. What a splendid opportunity for the law students!



Our Introduction to Business classes this semester visited the Redpath Sugar Processing Plant and Museum in Toronto. Students were thrilled to hear about the story of adventure and entrepreneurship of John Redpath, the founder of the Sugar Processing facility started in 1854. It was fascinating to hear about the various types of sugars and how they are processed in the sugar refinery. Also, the connection of how the sugar industry is an international business today was explored in a seminar format at the facility!



## English as a Second Language Department

Interim Department Head: A. Pantusa

Semester one we welcomed approximately 61 English language Learners to AMHS and we are expecting approximately 35 new ELLs for Semester 2! Many new initiatives began this year, including peer tutoring and an after school ELL homework club that meets every Wednesday in room 160. We also have an ELL student representative on student council to share the ELL student voice. In the year ahead, the ELL Leadership club is planning the Chinese New Year, Nowruz and "Diversity Day"; our biggest celebration taking place in May which showcases the cultures and talents at AMHS! We look forward to an exciting year ahead. Keep updated by joining our ESL Google Classroom ( **code: hsj3z**) for more information, resources and exciting events.



## Guidance Department

Department Head: L. Fisher

*Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.*

~Author Unknown



This semester, the Guidance Department planned and delivered a series of Lunch N' Learns to grade 12 and grade 9 students. In these Lunch N' Learns, grade 12 students discovered more about applying to colleges and universities and the supplementary application process. In the grade 9 series, students were presented with tangible tools to help manage stress during the school year.

Also in Semester One, we were privileged to host AMHS annual Pathways Night. The Pathways Night, in conjunction with Westmount Collegiate Institute, Bayview Secondary School, Maple High School and Stephen Lewis Secondary School, was an opportunity for students to meet and interact with representatives from the various colleges and universities.



In addition to the Pathways Night, Guidance organized the annual Grade 8 Open House. Parents and students from various elementary schools toured our school, met with teachers and administrators and participated in activities to get them better acquainted with the school and transitioning to grade 9.

The Guidance Department also hosted two parent evening sessions. The first session informed the parent community about post-secondary options and the application process as well as the critical steps required to making informed decisions about post-secondary opportunities. In the second session, parents were provided with detailed informed about funding their child's post-secondary education.



Throughout this semester, the Guidance Department has been working to promote mental well-being in collaboration with the Physical Education Department. Through carefully tailored activities and lessons, Guidance and the Physical Education Departments have relayed important messages about mental health and well-being to the students. This will be an ongoing initiative throughout the year.



Over the past few weeks, students were reintroduced to their IPP or Individual Pathways Plan. This planning website is for all students to use as a means of planning for postsecondary career options. Students were provided with mini-tutorials to learn about navigating their plans and were provided with opportunities to explore the site in order to discover the variety of activities and exploration tools. This will be followed by course selection presentations in January 2018 and the course selection process from February 12<sup>th</sup> to February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Guidance is committed to helping students choose courses that align with their abilities, interests and future career goals.

## Health & Physical Education Department

Department Head: C. Butler



What an amazing first semester! So much to talk about. We are just finishing up our final summative "exit interviews", "must do's", fitness portfolios and are preparing for the final movement practicals. We are fitter and moving way more than ever before. Every class is really amazing, walking into a gymnasium during the day finds our students having fun, competing, pushing their limits and developing deep relationships with their peers.

Our fitness room is changing into more cutting edge improvements. Monkey bars racks are being installed as we speak and our students are striving for personal challenge gains, personal bests. Our students are really gaining confidence in themselves, moving more and experiencing some of the best training tools available. Come check us out next time you are in the building.



In the gyms, we are innovating in high organized games, fitness and fun. Playing games and sports is a great way to obtain fitness via the vehicle of fun. We have a great staff and great students, which makes this department so much fun to be a part of.

We have completed a total transition of our health room into a "modern learning" / "spark" room. Opening the door presents: wobble chairs, bean bag chairs, wall to wall white boards, a nutrition lab, a cardio respiratory lab (bikes), SPARK, coffee tables, exercise ball seats, a rock climbing skeleton, an athletic injury clinic, and a podcast centre. This is a terrific construct which provides a physically demanding modern learning space. In a nutshell, it is an absolutely fun, comfortable, and challenging way to learn. We are very excited to start utilizing the room during semester 2. Thanks to all the students that helped co-create this cutting edge space - your legacy here is special.

## Athletics @ MAC



Our fall season illustrated how awesome things are in our department. Our athletic council is filled with tireless, talented and dedicated student-athletes. Our intra-murals are second to none, as our gyms are packed every day during lunches. The "Pro Shop" is selling spirit wear, signing out equipment, and setting up table tennis tables during lunch in the foyer. Our student leaders are leading a "home game" experience - come check out one of the Jr. Boys Basketball Playoff games in February. The highlight of the fall, among many, was the Sr. Girls Basketball team who won a number of very close games - our gym was electric, like never before, illustrating the unbelievable spirit in our building. Weather it is basketball, volleyball, rugby, soccer, cross country or tennis, we are really offering an amazing experience.

The winter season has both boys basketball teams in the thick of things in the YRAA. The juniors are undefeated in tier two action and could be favourites to go deep in the playoffs. Girls volleyball are fantastic to watch and our first boys hockey team in 8 years are exciting to watch and a real promising group moving forward.

Would you like to know more? Follow us on twitter @mustangsmove and @macpheathletics on instagram. Don't miss out!





## Moderns Department

Department Head: S. Juma

### VIVE LE FRANÇAIS!

This semester, students had the opportunity to organize a festival. Students explored a francophone country and presented their country to the school community in the Festival Francophone which took place on December 15<sup>th</sup> in the front foyer. Students encouraged their peers to speak in French as well as designed digital presentations, interactive activities and visual representations, all in an effort to make their peers more aware of the presence of French in the world. This was a wonderful opportunity to communicate in French as well as further develop their understanding of different cultures. Une expérience vraiment inoubliable! Très bien!



Earlier this semester, a group of grade 9 Pre-AMHS IB students presented a bilingual slam poem titled "Who Am I" to a captivating audience at *The Quest*, an annual educators' conference. This conference, hosted by York Region District School Board, regularly welcomes leaders in education worldwide. The poem, written and dramatized by the students, touches upon the teenage experience of developing one's identity, the challenges and the triumphs, dealing with bullying, and finally coming to terms with oneself. The poem's aim is to promote emotional well being, and encourages youth to be accepting of both themselves and their peers in hopes of developing a stronger sense of self and a healthy perspective on life. The students received a standing ovation for their exemplary work. Continue tes efforts!! Bravo!!



## Science Department

Department Head: S. Sadacharan

The Science Department was definitely booming last semester as we welcomed our incoming Grade 9 and 10 Pre-IB students in September! Our Grade 9 Science students were busy building electrical circuits and conducting a household chemical lab to observe physical and chemical changes, among other things. And, our Grade 10 Science students displayed their creativity by creating board games as their culminating activity to help review for their final exams.





## Science Department cont...

Department Head: S. Sadacharan

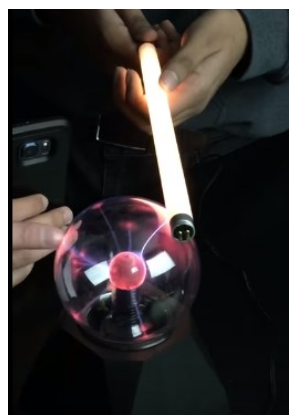
In Grade 11 Physics, music and physics were fused together in a few activities where students needed to install apps on their phone to turn it into a decibel meter and sound frequency finder. Many of our music students really enjoyed this activity! And in Grade 12 Physics, students enjoyed throwing raw eggs in class! The key is to throw and catch the eggs without breaking it. To do this, they have to apply their knowledge of momentum that they learned in class. Many students were excited as they went in front of a rocket to be launched to show projectile motion! See the pictures below to get a glimpse of some of the exciting labs and demos conducted in our Physics classes this semester.



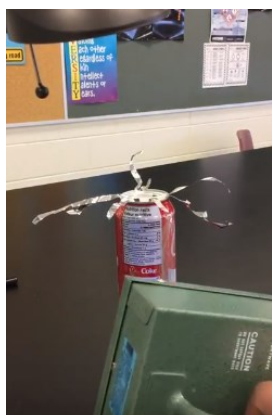
Inertia demonstrations – can you pull away the table cloth, while keeping everything in place?!



The “rocket” in motion.



A visualization of an electric field!



Showing the photoelectric effect learned in class.



Isolating iron metal from cereal – Wow!

We also offered Grade 12 Advanced Placement Biology this semester in addition to our regular Grade 12 Biology classes. Here, the students conducted a variety of labs including extracting DNA. Our Grade 12 Chemistry students were also quite busy in the lab with their titrations and calorimetry experiments. The highlight of the Chemistry course for many students was when they made fruit-smelling esters in their organic chemistry unit.

And finally, our Grade 10 Science and Grade 11 Biology students participated in a frog and pig dissection, respectively.



## Science Department *cont...*

Department Head: S. Sadacharan

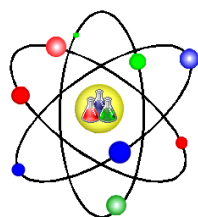
Preparation for the annual academic competitions will begin later in February. Students in Physics will have an opportunity to test their skills in the University of Toronto Leonardo da Vinci and the University of Waterloo Sir Isaac Newton contests at the Grade 12 level and the Physics Teachers Association 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 May 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.

We are excited to have our first HOSA Club at AMHS this year! Each year HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Canada organizes Canada's largest health science competition, featuring over forty competitive events. Some events are focused on developing profession-specific technical skills while others on important soft skills like teamwork, leadership and communication. For the 2018 Spring Conference, HOSA Canada is expecting a turnout of 3,000 students over two days at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on March 27-28<sup>th</sup>. Our students are busy preparing for this exciting event!

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, conduct chemistry experiments and so much more!



Also, we have a Lab Assistants 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 2018. 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!





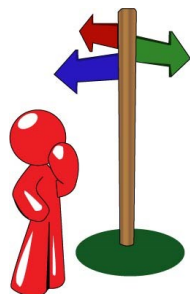
## Special Education Department

Department Head: S Abramovich

The Special Education Department has had a busy semester. Students in the Community Classes participated in the "Reach for the Rim" Basketball Tournament on December 11, 2017 held at Vaughan Secondary School. Everyone enjoyed the day as they competed against 6 other York Region schools. The day ended with a fun filled dance party. Ms. Clarke's Community Class participated in a Cultural Day activity, where students as well as staff enjoyed sharing many aspects of their culture. Ms. Clarke and her students also took on the Green House project. This is an ongoing project where students are actively engaged in planting and growing herbs. Our field trips have included a movie day provided by the Angels From Heaven Foundation and a holiday shopping trip to Vaughan Mills Shopping Centre. We also enjoyed a Thanksgiving celebration which included two turkeys and winter holiday activities. Our Community Classes have also been enjoying our new addition to room 147, a 29 gallon aquarium. Students have enjoyed putting together the aquarium stand, setting up, learning about and taking care of the aquarium.



The grade 9 Learning Strategies classes had one guest speaker from the York Region Police, who delivered an interactive presentation on Online Safety and tips to becoming more vigilant about their digital footprint. Students found this to be helpful and informative as they navigate through these topics on a daily basis. In supporting well-being, the grade 9 class also practiced Meditation and Yoga, as well as participated in other well-ness activities.



This fall, students in our grade 12 Learning Strategies class travelled 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 travelled to York University 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.



## CREATIVITY THRIVES HERE

The Dance and Theatre Arts Mackenzie students had a busy, successful semester working in various studio spaces. Highlights include: developing new Canadian work in all grades, performing at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, field trips to Stratford and Canadian Stage, performances at Quest, Remembrance Day, Black History Month event at Flato Markham Theatre, student leadership with Dramatic Arts Council and Dance Council, guest artists and workshops! Check out what the Performing Arts students have been up to in semester one....







# Studio Living

Staging/directing/choreography techniques, characterization studies, inquiry based work and healthy performance habits weaved through our curriculum this semester. Working with dance artists Lindsay Fell, Jen Mote, Kyle Kass, theatre artists Eli Hamm, Coco LaRain, and Ash Knight, the students applied their skills to their performances at Culture Days, Arts Information Night, Quest, One Act Play Kick Off Festival, and The Future Is Now. With critical thinking at the heart of the curriculum, students will continue to learn about historical performance practices and apply their learning to make art and connect with our community at large.



# 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 all of your awesome work with Grade 9 Day, Green Acres, Halloween and AMac Gives Back!

## PERFORMANCES! PERFORMANCES!

Spring time = performance time! Stay tuned to @AMHSPA for exciting information about National Theatre School Ontario Drama Festival, Spring Theatre Arts performances and Dance Expressions!

## IB THEATRE ARTS

The Performing Arts faculty continues to prepare for AMHS' first International Baccalaureate (IB) Group 6 Theatre Course in 2019. Presentation and critical thinking skills will be the focus for grade 9 and 10 drama 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.**

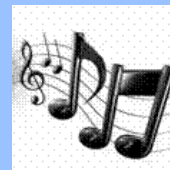
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, DROP BY STUDIO 112 OR 121**





## 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 off the semester in October with multiple performances at the Arts Information Night. In November, the Chamber Choir performed for Remembrance Day. Later the same month "Showcase 2017" featured 250 music students performing in concert bands, choirs, orchestras, and jazz ensembles at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts.





## Music cont...

Department Head: E. Hudspith







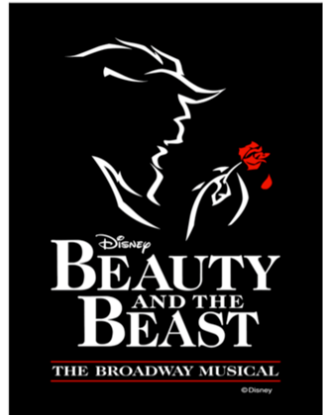
## Musical

### Music Department

The Music Department's annual musical, "Beauty and the Beast" was a huge success in December. The musical ran for five critically acclaimed, sold-out performances at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts – three for elementary schools and two public evening performances. This show featured two complete casts, a 30 piece orchestra, fantastic sets, wonderful costumes, and all the lighting and effects that one would expect in a spectacular Disney show.

**PLAYBILL®**

Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts  
Mackenzie Music and Alexander Mackenzie High School  
Present



# ARTS

## MACKENZIE

### Music *cont...*

Department Head: E. Hudspith



In January the senior Arts class presented their small ensembles to an intimate crowd in our cafeteria, and members of the vocal program performed at the January School Board meeting.

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







## Music cont...

Department Head: E. Hudspith



We are looking forward to another busy performance schedule including concerts, music festivals, and two extended trips this year. Below are some upcoming dates:

March 22-25, 2018 – Extended trip to Quebec City and Montreal

April 25-29, 2018 – Extended trip to Calgary and Banff

May 10, 2018 – *Fanfare 2018* at Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts (Band, Jazz, small ensembles)

May 16, 2018 – *Spring Celebration 2018* at Richmond Hill United Church (Strings, Vocal, small ensembles)

May 31, 2018 – Music Banquet

June 7, 2018 – Arts Recital

June 11, 2018 – Pops Concert featuring the Symphonic Band at AMHS



## Visual Arts

Department Head: A. Bhaitia



### Visual Arts Department

Once again, it's been an eventful first semester in the visual arts department. Many new works can be seen on the walls around the school as well as in the foyer display cases. One of the most notable of the semester one projects was the grade 11 class' sets for our school's production of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Our team of artists did a fantastic job of helping to create the magical atmosphere of the musical. Another very memorable occasion this fall was our school's competing in the OCADU *Markt'd* sneaker design competition where 2 of our students made it into the finals. It was a day of challenge and excitement! As always, a highlight of the semester was our annual AGO field trip. This year we took all grades of visual arts to see the Guillermo del Toro exhibit: *At Home with Monsters*. Students were awed by his works and enjoyed seeing insights into his creative process. While the weather was warm, several art classes went on walks up to Mill Pond to do some *plein air* sketching. A tradition that is enjoyed every year when the weather permits. We often forget how lucky we are to have such a great source of inspiration so close to home!

Currently our film students are in the process of creating films for the *Vaughan International Film Festival* and several media arts, photography and traditional arts students are gearing up for the *York Region Skills Challenge* which takes place at Seneca College in March. We look forward to what is sure to be a fantastic and creative second semester!



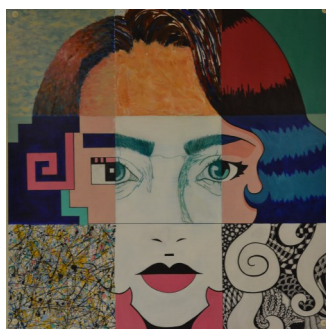
Please follow us on Twitter for updates and upcoming events @amhsvisa



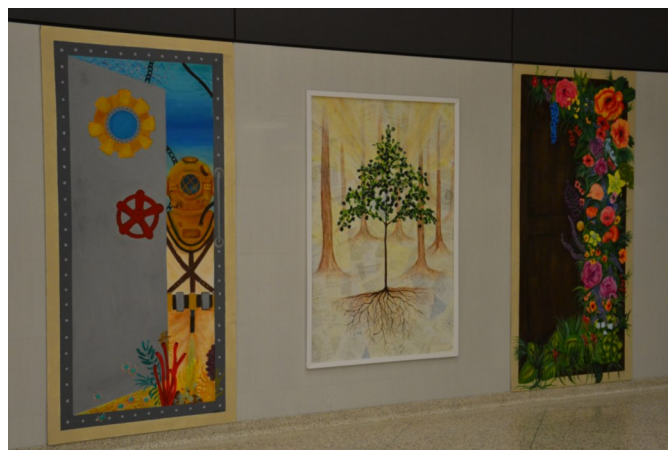
Shoe designs by Jenna Zaitchik and Imara Belch at the OCADU Markt'd sneaker design



Castle set from AMHS's production of *Beauty and the Beast*



New artwork on the school walls....



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