

February 2019

ALEXANDER MACKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL

A Message from Your Principal

Administration

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As semester two has just started, it is a great time to reflect on the many successes from semester one. Parents and teachers are helping students to choose post-secondary pathways, build confidence, set goals and work hard to achieve those goals. These efforts are greatly respected and support our Board's mission to advance student achievement and well-being which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community. The possibilities available to every student are endless; convincing each student of their limitless potential is a daily mission.

At Alexander Mackenzie H.S. 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 endeavors.

Our school offers Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) in Health and Wellness, Business, Transportation Technology as well as Arts and Culture. To help our students with their pathways planning, Guidance Services is planning a number of workshops for parents/guardians. The next workshop is scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome to attend.

Looking Ahead...

P.A. Day	Feb 1
Sem. 2 Begins	Feb 4
Report Card Distribution	Feb 8
New Student/Grad Retake Photo Day	Feb 12
2018-2019 Course Selection Due Date	Feb 22
March Break	Mar 11-15
School Council 7 p.m.	Mar 18
Interim Report Distribution	Mar 19
OSSLT – Grade 10	Mar 27
Parents' Night 6:30pm	Apr 4
Report Card Distribution	Apr 23
PA Day	May 3
School Carnival	Jun 7
Grad Assembly	Jun 11
Math EQAO	Jun 12-13
Exams	Jun 19-25
Exam Review Day	Jun 26
Graduation - Terrace Banquet Center 7pm	Jun 26
PA Days	Jun 27-28

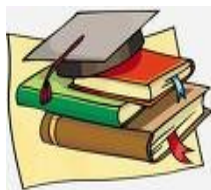
We were excited to send the offers of acceptance to students who were successful in their application for the Preparatory International Baccalaureate Programme for the 2019-2020 academic year. This is an opportunity to embark on an exciting journey with intellectually curious peers in a program that is respected and recognized throughout the world. We were also excited to send offers of acceptance to students who were successful in their auditions for the Arts Program in Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, Dance, and Music (Vocal, Strings, Band and Musical Theatre). Our Technology Department continues to offer courses in Hospitality, Cosmetology, Construction, Design Technology, and Auto Mechanics.

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 the Debate Club, DECA, Eco-Team, Film Club, GSA, Hospitality Club, Math Club, Robotics Club, Sign Language Club, Technology Club, Yearbook, and World Vision.

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 becoming more involved in school life, please join us for School Council meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our next meeting is Monday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

On behalf of the administrative team, I wish you and your families a safe and successful semester two.

Mrs. Otilia Olteanu



Library Learning Commons

Department Head: G. Raia

Over the summer months the Library Learning Commons underwent a massive renovation. The library has been transformed into a modern, bright, open and flexible space for student learning and engagement. We would like to thank all students, teachers and staff who demonstrated patience and understanding as we transitioned into the new space. We are delighted with all of the positive feedback and the number of students and staff making use of the LLC.

The LLC has incorporated a variety of physical spaces designed to encourage student learning and collaboration. We are happy to announce the inclusion of a Collaboration Lab - a group study room equipped with a smart TV and whiteboards – that students can reserve for group study and research purposes. To date, students have used the space to develop podcasts, peer tutor, hold group study sessions, rehearse presentations, produce videos, hold book club discussions and deliver seminars. There are also a number of modern work areas throughout the LLC. These areas include: café tables with charging capabilities, modular furniture that allows for flexible groupings, reading nooks with lounge furniture where students can curl up with a good book, areas for quiet study and benches where students can plug in their laptops. A charging station is also available for students wishing to charge their personal devices.



Collaboration Lab



Reading Nook



Café Tables

We continue to offer digital resources and collections that are available to students 24/7. Our virtual library can be accessed from the school website. Students are encouraged to visit the LLC web page to access digital resources that include: e-book collections (fiction & nonfiction), databases, the school's online catalog, newspapers, encyclopedias, research support, citation guides and online collaboration tools. Some of these resources are password protected, so students will need to see LLC staff or visit our "Citation Station" for usernames and passwords

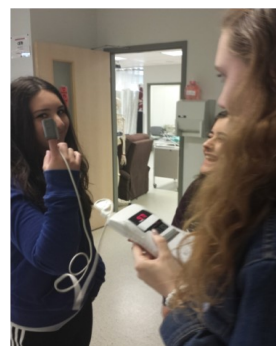


Specialist High Skills Major:

J. Petrone

We have had a great first semester thanks to all of the wonderful Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) events and learning opportunities hosted by our community partners, college and university field trips and workshops.

On November 1st, our Grade 11 and 12 Health and Wellness, Business, Arts & Culture students took a tour of the faculty of Nursing and Physical Fitness Facilities, the new Performing Arts Center, and a Business Case study simulation at Brock University as the first Reach-Ahead component of the year for our SHSM Program.



Students had an opportunity to monitor heart rate and oxygen levels during the course of periods of rest and exercise, and analyze how they are connected. In addition, they also had an opportunity to investigate taking these on "patients" in the simulation Nursing Laboratory. Our Business SHSM students listened to a mini lecture from an accounting professor while the Arts & Culture went to downtown St. Catharines to visit Brock's new ultra-modern performing arts complex!

On November 7th and 8th students in the Health & Wellness SHSM program successfully received their CPR and First Aid (Level C) certification at school. Students managed to complete the training over 2 day using hands-on training and information provided by a qualified instructor. The Arts and Culture, Transportation and Business SHSM students will have their training in February.



Students across all sectors visited Sunnybrook Hospital on November 27th to take part in their Prevent Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth Program. Students got to see first-hand what could be some of the unintended consequence of drug or alcohol use by talking to Hospital Staff, a Police Officer, visiting an ICU, and meeting patients who have recovered from severe brain injuries.

Lastly, this past December, students from all sectors participated in Stress Management and Leadership workshop. Students participated in yoga and relaxation techniques as well as hearing an inspirational Leadership Training workshop!



In the second semester, we anticipate a fun filled set of learning opportunities for all of our SHSM students, ranging from certifications for CPR / First Aid, Customer Service to visiting MLSE for a Career Forum and going to Laurier for a Reach-Ahead Activity.

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 students. During these Lunch N' Learns, Grade 12 students discovered how to create their "ideal post-secondary selection list", learned about applying to colleges and universities and steps to writing a successful supplementary application.

Also in semester one, we were privileged to host many post-secondary institutions for an afternoon Pathways Fair. This fair was an opportunity for students to meet and interact with representatives from the various colleges and universities, as well as, attend workshops to hear individual post-secondary institutions discuss their requirements and program highlights.

In addition to the Pathways Fair, Guidance organized the annual Grade 8 Open House. Parents and students from various elementary schools toured, 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 and the critical steps required to making informed decisions about post-secondary. 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 well-being through the Physical Education Department. Through carefully tailored activities and lessons, the Guidance and the Physical Education Departments have relayed important messages about mental health and well-being to the students. Student well-being continues to be an area of focus.

In addition our Course Selection process this year will take place through a new engaging and interactive online education and career/life planning platform called myBlueprint. Choosing the right courses is very important – especially because students are prompted to think about their career aspirations and acquire new skills and knowledge through a variety of elective courses that we offer at AMHS. Course selection may also be the time to have a discussion with your child on where they are most engaged in their learning and where they see themselves in a year from now. Guidance recognizes that choosing courses may be stressful for you and your child and is available to answer questions and help in this process. Guidance will also be running an evening presentation for all parents **"Course Selection - Questions & Answers" on Monday January, 21 at 6:30 pm** in the cafeteria.

Our course calendar is now available on our website, <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>

We encourage all parents to review courses and our offerings; this can be a great point of conversation with your child. Students will be able to being locking their courses on February 11th and all course selection must be completed by Friday, February 22nd.

As a reminder for students applying to university, application online should be completed by January 16th. This is an equal consideration date. Students applying to college should apply before February 1st.

Math Department

Department Head: B. Wong

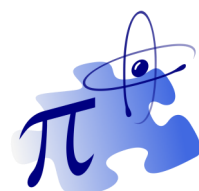
Our Grade 9 students have just completed their mathematics curriculum and wrote the EQAO mathematics assessment on January 16 and 17, 2019. Assessment results will be available in October, 2019.



The development of student leadership and love of learning Mathematics have always been the priorities of the Mathematics Department. As a result, students are always encouraged to take part in activities outside the classroom, such as Math Club and national Mathematics contests. Tom Iagovet, Grade 11 student and Vice President of Math Club, shares the achievements of the club when he says, "Throughout the first semester of 2018-2019 school year, the Math Club has conducted various activities that have contributed to the success of AMHS's students in Mathematics competitions, as reflected in their outstanding results. We prepared ourselves for the contests by analysing questions from previous years and exploring new mathematical concepts. In fact, many junior students discovered new concepts that they did not know previously, such as binomial expansion and Pascal's Triangle, and subsequently achieved a better score in the competitions. For next semester, we will continue to enhance contest preparation in order to further advance our scores, especially the contests that are new to AHMS. I look forward to the AMC 12 contest (American Mathematics Contest) in Feb 2019."



Furthermore, students in the first semester also have the opportunity to apply their mathematics and problem solving skills through the QUEST Conference in November. Owen Li, one of the Grade 11 students participating in the QUEST Conference recalled, "On the day of QUEST, I went to Sheraton Hotel with a group of my friends. We took part in a challenge to design and present a school that is interconnected with the surrounding community. In this challenge, I had the opportunity to use some technologies that I would never had imagined, such as the 3D printers, new HP design tablets, 3D scanners and much much more. However this wasn't the entire QUEST experience. Approximately 3 weeks before the actual event, HP brought these products to Alexander Mackenzie for the participating students to become familiar with them. Each day after school my friends and I experimented with the technologies, in which we encountered a fair share of accidents, including a deformed 3D printed frog. However by the time when QUEST was here, we got the situation under control and were excited to put our skills to the test. On the day of QUEST, due to the practice we had with the HP technology products, we were able to integrate the 3D printed figures into building a school connected to its surrounding community. We also managed to share our ideas and experiences with the guests at the event. All in all, QUEST was a fantastic opportunity to learn and experiment new technologies. I am so happy that I was part of it."



Last but not the least, the Mathematics Department is also preparing IB students for their IB Mathematics exams, which will take place in May 2019. This is AMHS first cohort to write the IB Mathematics SL exam. We would like to wish them all the best!

**MATH
ROCKS**



Moderns Department

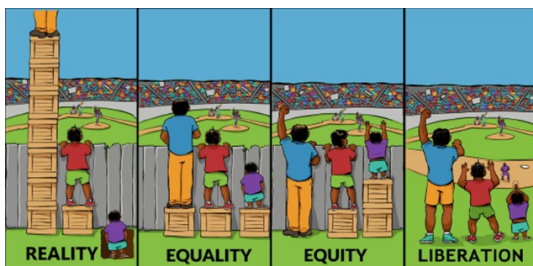
Department Head: S. Juma

VIVE LE FRANÇAIS!



This semester, students had the opportunity to put together an information fair on First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities. Students explored a First Nations community within Ontario and presented a cultural exposé on that community to their peers. This event took place 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 the First Nations communities in our province. This was an opportunity to communicate in French as well as further develop their understanding of indigenous communities and their ways of living, the reconciliation process, and obstacles that these communities continue to face within society. Une expérience vraiment inoubliable! Très bien!

Earlier this semester, two groups of Grade 10 Pre-AMHS IB students were chosen to present a workshop at The Quest, an annual educators' conference. This conference, hosted by York Region District School Board, regularly welcomes leaders in education worldwide. The bilingual workshop, developed and presented by the students, analyzed data collected by the students on a variety of equity issues. This resulted in students developing key initiatives at the school level such as the Debate Club and a Lunch N' Learn event, to further inform and provide strategies to their peers on developing an inclusive and welcoming school community. The students demonstrated expertise in the area and ease communicating in both English and French. Congratulations on your exemplary work. Continue vos 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 engaged in lots of fun laboratory experiments throughout the course. The Grade 9 Science students also took a field trip to the Ontario Science Centre to explore Space and Space Technologies. They got to see the IMAX film entitled, "Journey to Space." And, our Grade 10 Science students got creative by creating board games as their culminating activity to help review for their final exams.

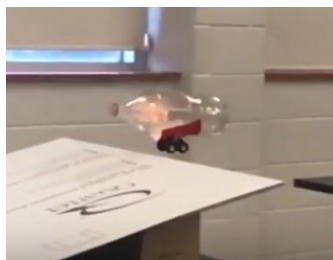




Science Department *cont...*

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 our IB Physics (SL) course, 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! They also did some sophisticated sound analysis. See the pictures below to get a glimpse of some of the exciting labs and demos conducted in our Physics classes this semester.



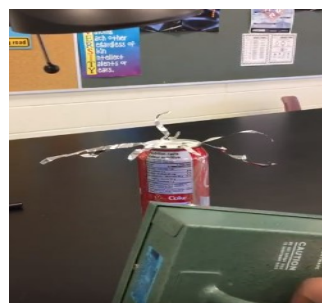
The “rocket” in motion.



A visualization of an electric field!



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



Showing the photoelectric effect learned in class



Isolating iron metal from cereal – Wow!

In our Grade 12 Biology classes, students conducted a variety of labs including extracting DNA from strawberries. They also designed a lab on transport mechanisms and explored issues related to dialysis. Our Grade 11 and 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. In our IB Chemistry (HL) course, students conducted explosive combustion reactions of gummy bears in high oxygen environments!



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. Chemistry contests 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.

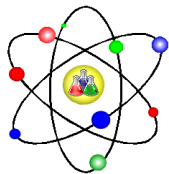
The York Region Science Olympics will be held in May at York University. We are looking forward to giving some fierce competition again this year! We will have 2 very enthusiastic junior and 2 senior teams who will be competing in the areas of Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Please listen to the announcements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

Science Department cont...



Department Head: S. Sadacharan

We are excited to have our HOSA Club again this year at AMHS! 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 Spring Conference, HOSA Canada is expecting a turnout of 3,000 students over two days at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on March 25-26th. Our students are busy preparing for this exciting event! We thank Ms. Anjum for supervising the HOSA Club. The team meets every Wednesday after school in Room 284.



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 261. We thank Mr. Martin for supervising this club. 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 a science teacher. 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. We thank Ms. Elias for supervising the Science Peer Tutors.



We wish you much success as you begin a new semester.



Special Education Department

Department Head: S Abramovich

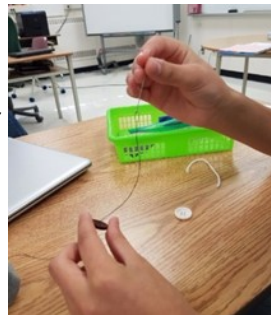
The Special Education Department has had another busy and dynamic year.



Special Education staff and students have been working together to design and create a mental health room in our Special Education office, room 148. This room will provide students with a safe, welcoming and inclusive space. This work is ongoing as our furniture is coming soon!



Intensive class learned about shopping responsibly. They traveled to Hillcrest mall by transit, visited clothing stores, tried on clothes and were engaged in budgeting activities. They also participated in a sewing workshop and learned about the importance of sewing. Students were also fully engaged in our newly created cooking course. Their goals were safety in the kitchen, social etiquette, correct culinary techniques in preparing and cooking a variety of dishes. Delicious!





Special Education Department cont...

Department Head: S Abramovich

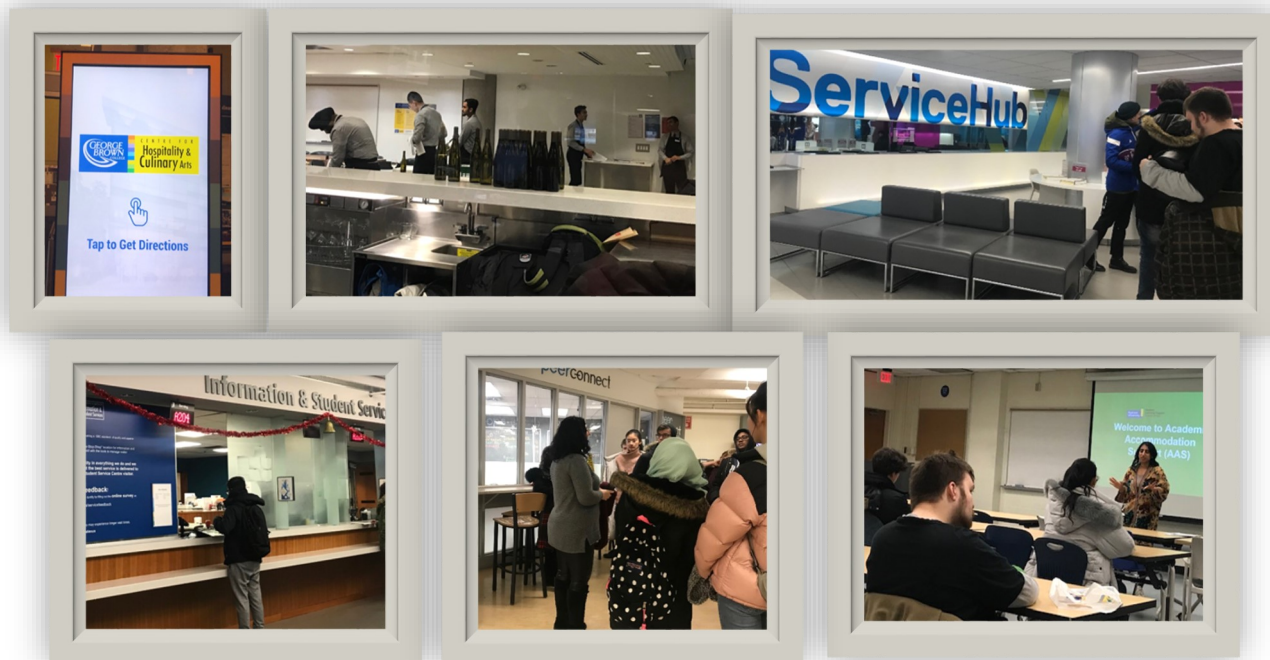
Students also listened to Bryan Ashby and Cory Randell's presentation about Pathway to Employment & Applied Knowledge Program. The YRP and other healthcare professionals were also among the class' other guest speakers.

Students continue their work of organizing and maintaining our school's Greenhouse. They are actively engaged in growing herbs, vegetables/ flowers and then selling them to staff and students for fund-raising.



On September 4th, 2018 we welcomed incoming Grade 9 students and over the course of the semester they have truly become Alexander Mackenzie Mustangs. Those enrolled in the GLE10 course have strengthened their general learning skills, explored their intrapersonal and personal identity, examined their IEP and learned strategies to resolve conflicts. We were fortunate to have Mr. Baici and Mrs. Gill in our department helping our Grade 9 students through this transition from elementary to secondary. Some highlights include: the Grade 9 retreat to camp Green Acres, making slime, and a special presentation by guest speaker Megan Scott on assistive technology.

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. Graduating Grade 12 students also visited the Centre for Hospitality & Culinary Arts @ George Brown College and Ryerson University. They were provided with valuable information about post-secondary programs, life on campus and how to access disability offices for program accommodations and supports.



This is a reminder that our resource room, Room 150 is open from 8:00am - 8:30am, lunch and 3:00 - 3:30. Students are encouraged to come in for extra help, complete work and/or print as needed.

Health & Physical Education Department

Department Head: C. Butler



Things are great in our department! Ms. Kattis, Mr. Przecławski, Mr. Nixon, Ms. Hotrum and Mr. Butler are extremely enthused regarding the classes this past semester. We are all wrapping up our "Must Do's, Exit Interviews and Movement Practicals for our culminating activities. Our Fitness Room and Gyms are filled with students working hard and having an awesome time! Our movement approach to teaching health and physical education has created a very inviting place to play games and sports with others. Our world class modern learning health room is also an incredible way to inquire about students question about their health. Our classes are putting together some amazing projects. Our Kinesiology class again, are producing some incredible podcasts, movie trailers, documentary movies and websites all designed to answer their inquiry questions in a meaningful way. Great semester everyone!



Athletics @ MAC



We have had an incredible year so far in our athletic department. Our fall season saw our junior boys soccer team go all the way to the tier 2 finals. Our girls basketball teams, girls and boys rugby teams, cross-country and boys volleyball all had spectacular seasons. Our winter season is just wrapping up after exams. Boys basketball, girls basketball and boys Hockey are headed for the playoffs.



Our Athletic Council has put on an incredible home game experience. Meet our new mascot "Marvin"(above). We also have a new "cheer" team that will join him at our events coming up. The Terry Fox Run in the fall was another highlight, as are our intra-murals at lunch. Our new 2019 "saying" has been released: "Be true to the shoe"(photo attached) - What a great year 2019 will be.

Please follow us on Instagram @macpheathletics, or on Twitter @mustangsmove. We will also keep you posted on the release date of our new podcast called, you got it: "Be True To the Shoe Podcast."



Notes from the Studios

Department Head: C. Clarke



It has been an exciting semester for our dance, drama and theatre students. Please check out our social media pages for pictures and further activity summaries:

Twitter: @amhsa

Instagram: @theatreartsmackenzie

From workshops to field trips to performance opportunities, the students in the dance, drama and theatre classes have been actively engaged in authentic, arts based, critical thinking activities. Here are some highlights of our semester:



Grade 9 Open Drama

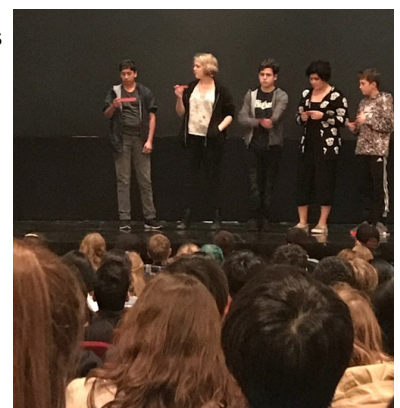
This semester has been a high-energy, hands on learning experience. Students, many absolute beginners to Drama, learned the fundamentals of performance and built the confidence that will carry on with them for their high school careers. From frozen pictures, to improvised comedy, to in depth scene work, to a final, full-blown student-created play, the students tackled and overcame creative challenges and learned to collaborate effectively. A lot of laughs and a lot of creative learning has led to a truly wonderful semester

Grade 10 Open Drama

This semester the students of ADA20 part took in learning the basics of dramatic arts, where they learned tableaux, movement techniques, and scripting. Throughout the semester, they demonstrated their learning through presentations, script making, filming and editing. Their final project consisted of the students displaying their knowledge and creativity of fables through script creating, 3D mask making, and presenting their assigned morals.

Theatre Arts Mackenzie

The theatre students have been busy working on a variety of theatrical activities from playwriting to performance techniques throughout the semester. From Stanislavski to satire, the students combined critical thinking with creativity by researching topics that mattered to themselves as artists and devising a pieces of theatre that represents their research





Dance Arts Mackenzie



We were fortunate to have many guest artists this semester. The junior dancer students participated in a Kyle Kass hip hop storytelling workshop and Modern technique workshop lead by Megan Nadain. The senior dance students also participated in a jazz dance workshop with Lindsay Fell and the Grade 11 dance class also completed an African dance unit that culminated in a three-day workshop with African dance specialist Sharon Harvey.

The AMHS Dance Council has also been working very hard and has contributed to the dance program in many ways. This council has been a part of many school initiatives encouraging school spirit as well as giving back to the local community. The students have held weekly meetings and social gatherings to continue and solidify the bond between the students within the program. The Dance Council's mission is to increase the presence of dance within the hall of AMHS and this was definitely the case when they choreographed and presented a piece for the school's Remembrance Day assembly. Dance Council members have contributed to AMHS' Spirit Days such as the Halloween Festivities that included line dancing in the front foyer. More significantly, the Dance Council continued the initiative and raised over \$450.00 that will be donated to Dancers for Cancer which is an organization that contributes to an Arts Therapy Room at Toronto's Sick Kids Hospital. When the dancers reached their fundraising goal, they choreographed a holiday dance for staff members that was then performed at AMHS' Winterfest Assembly. It was a performance many will soon not forget!

Most recently, our graduating Grade 12 class just completed with a final culminating project known as The Graduate Showcase 2019. The senior students were each responsible to choreograph a piece of modern contemporary dance using student volunteers from the Grade 9, 10 and 11 classes. All of the students' hard work culminated in a truly successful evening at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Congratulations to the Grade 12 students on all of your hard work. Your choreography was absolutely beautiful and was a true testament to all of the hard work that you have completed over the last few years. A special thank you and congratulations goes out to all of the student performers who volunteered their time to make the performance what it was. In addition, the Grade 10 choreographed pieces based on themes they were passionate about and this was presented at a family show and share evening. What a beautiful night that was as the students shared their love of dance with an audience.

As we look towards the upcoming second semester, we are sure that it will also be filled with excitement. Students can expect to work on original pieces of choreography with their teachers as well as working with guest choreographers for the 9th annual Dance Expressions on Tuesday May 7, 2019 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Congratulations and thank you to all of the dance students as well as their parents for all of their hard work and support. It has been a wonderful semester and we are sure that 2019 will bring the same success!





Musical Production



Mackenzie Music proudly presented Les Misérables: The School Edition on December 6th and 7th at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. The students of the musical theatre classes performed four performances to sold-out audiences. The audiences were blown away by the musical proficiency, staging and professionalism demonstrated by all members of the production company.

The Mackenzie Music production of Les Misérables is a collaboration between the musical theatre classes and Arts Mackenzie departments, including a live student orchestra, sets designed by the visual arts students, a technical assistance from the theatre arts students.

This year, the students in the company presented workshops to our elementary school feeder schools before and after the show to make further connections to the musical work.

We thank the AMHS community for joining us for the performance and sharing the magic of Les Misérables.

Join us next year for our musical theatre production on December 12th and 13th, 2019.



Music

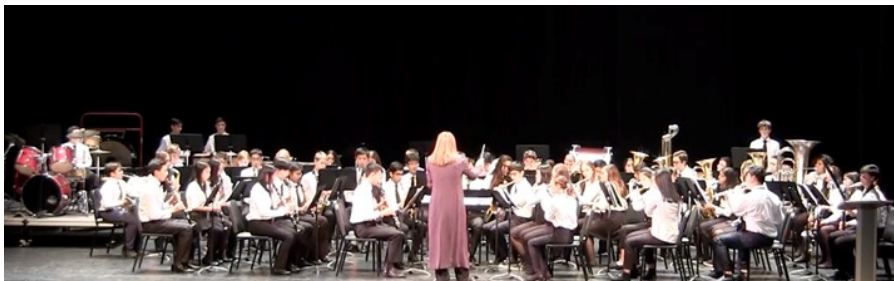
Department Head: E. Hudspith



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 would also like to welcome Ms. Furois as a member of the music and theatre departments.



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 2018" featured 300 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, "Les Miserables" 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 the musical "Music Man. 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. The Grade 11/12 Arts class studied world music and participated in clinics on everything from the music of India to Drum Circles. In January that class hosted a dinner and performance showcasing their work.



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

Upcoming Dates:

- April 30-May 5, 2019 – Extended trip to Halifax and PEI (there are still a few spots left!)
- May 8, 2019 – *Fanfare 2019* at Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts
- May 16, 2019 – *Spring Celebration 2019* at Richmond Hill United Church
- May 28, 2019 – Strings and Concerto Recital
- May 30, 2019 – Music Banquet
- June 10, 2019 – Pops Concert at AMHS on the lawn

In second semester, we are looking forward to a busy performance schedule including concerts, music festivals, and our annual extended trip (this year to Halifax and PEI).





Visual Arts

Department Head: A. Bhaitia



Once again, it's been an eventful first semester in the visual arts department. One of the most outstanding semester one projects was the Grade 11 class' sets for our school's production of *Les Miserables* at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Our team of artists did a fantastic job of helping to create the atmosphere of the 1830's Paris slums. Perhaps the most notable newest addition within the school walls is the Horse of Cards, the life size Mackenzie Mustang made of playing cards which graces our foyer. Max and Anthony worked for weeks in creating this fantastic sculpture for our school. Another very memorable occasion this fall was our school's competing in the OCADU Mark'd sneaker design competition where one of our students, Kellyann, made it into the finals in Ottawa. 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 Anthropocene exhibit. It was a definite eye-opener to humankind's interaction with our planet and inspired many social statement artworks. 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.

Currently our film students are in the process of submitting 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 February. We look forward to what is sure to be a fantastic and creative second semester!



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Horse of Cards, the Mackenzie Mustang, with creators Trutneva and Maiorano



Kellyann, Imara, Isabella and Sophia at the Mark'd Shoe competition at OCADU



Set from AMHS's production of *Les Miserables*

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