

# ALEXANDER MACKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL

## A Message from Your Principal



### Administration

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As the school year wraps up, it is always exciting to see how much has been accomplished. Throughout this newsletter you will read about events, teams, activities, performances, celebrations, etc. that AMHS students have been involved in. Information about department events, curriculum, competitions, and student achievement are also noted. Read about **ARTS Mackenzie** and the opportunities experienced by the ARTS students this year.

As September approaches, many **changes will be occurring at AMHS**. Over the summer, several **construction projects** will be taking place. Room 121 is being renovated to create a multi-purpose space for Dance, Theatre Arts, and Musical Theatre. This new space will be ready for classes in September. The front lobby is also undergoing renovations as the pond is removed and the walls repaired. A lift for the stage will also be installed to provide wheelchair accessibility. Lastly, parking lot improvements will be completed, including the installation of parking arms opposite the greenhouse.

### Looking Ahead...

First Day—Gr. 9 only	Sept. 6
First Day- Gr. 10, 11 & 12	Sept. 7
Photo Day	Sept. 12
School Council meeting	Sept. 19
Gr. 9—Green Acres Day Camp	Sept. 23
P.A. Day	Sept. 26
Thanksgiving Holiday	Oct. 10
Interim Reports	Oct. 13
ARTS Mackenzie Information Night	Oct. 19
Parents Night	Oct. 27
P.A. Day	Oct. 28
Pathways Evening	Nov. 2
Take Our Kids to Work Day—Gr.	Nov. 2
Grade 8 Open House	Nov. 10
Mid-Semester report cards	Nov. 11
Remembrance Day assemblies	Nov. 11
P.A. Day	Nov. 25
Grad Photos	Nov. 21-29
School Musical— <i>Crazy for You</i>	Dec. 8-9
Christmas Break	Dec. 26 -Jan . 9
EQAO Math	Jan. 23-24
Exams	Jan. 26—Feb. 1
Exam Feedback Day	Feb. 2

In August, **registration will occur through School Cash Online**. Rather than coming into school to collect your timetable and pay fees, you can do it online from the comfort of your home. Families who complete the registration process by August 23, will be sent their timetable electronically via your student's gapps account by August 25. For additional information about registration, please check the school website.

YRDSB is expanding the number of schools offering the International Baccalaureate Program beginning in September 2017. **AMHS is one of the new sites that will be offering pre-IB** in September 2017 for students in grades 9 and 10. Watch our school website for the date of the IB Information Night.

As you have read in our recent ebulletins, I will be retiring at the end of June, and **Ms. Olteanu** will be taking over as **your new Principal**. She brings a wealth of experience to her new position including over 25 years as an educator, former Department Head of Mathematics, tremendous digital skills and an understanding of their importance in the classroom, a deep knowledge of Ontario curriculum, and an outstanding commitment to student achievement and well being. Ms. Olteanu will be joined by Mr. Perri, Vice Principal, and by the **new Vice Principal, Mr. Ellinas**.

It has been a pleasure working with the students, parent/guardians and staff at AMHS. We are truly a community school with programming that can support the goals of all of our students. Thank you to everyone for contributing to the caring and positive learning environment at AMHS. On behalf of the AMHS staff, I wish you a safe and healthy summer.

*Mrs. Conrad-Knight*

## Message from our Trustee Corrie McBain

As the school year comes to a close, I would like to thank you for all that you have done to help make this school year a successful one for our students.

We share a common goal - to give our young people every opportunity to reach their full potential, and we all have a role to play in supporting that goal. However you choose to get involved, your engagement and support make a difference. We know that good schools become better schools when they are connected with families.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of our students, families, staff members and community partners, we are creating a welcoming, caring and inclusive learning environment that fosters student achievement and well-being.

As we move into summer, I encourage you to seek out opportunities to continue and complement the learning that takes place throughout the school year. That could mean taking a nature walk, visiting a museum or reading a book. Whatever your plans are over the next few months, I hope you have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer.



## Library / Resource Centre

Department Head: D. Wilson

**The bad news:** The AMHS Resource Centre will be closed for the summer.

**The good news:** Students can still access our subscription e-books all summer long. The usernames and passwords are the same as always. Drop by the library if you have forgotten them..

Here are just a few great finds from the EBSCO e-book collection. Have a great summer!





## Business Studies Department

*Interim Department Head: M. Chinniah*

Greetings from Mrs. Chinniah, Mrs. Sarao, Mr. Belch and Mr. Gabriele of the Business Studies and Computer Studies Department. We had another exciting semester. We learned in the classrooms, we experienced business in action outside our school, we competed with our fellow students at the DECA Provincial competition and we continue to celebrate student achievement in our classrooms.

We were fortunate to have guest speakers from the Legal and Municipal Government fields. In our Grade 12 Law class, we welcomed a Corporate Lawyer, Mr. Greg McNab from Baker & McKenzie LLP firm. He presented to our Grade 12 Law students, the path to law school as well as the different areas one can practice law. Another guest speaker was Mr. Dave Wilson who is an Executive Director of Human Resources at the City of Brampton. He shared his current work experience as well as his experience working with Police Services.



We have much to celebrate. Congratulations to graduating student, Ashley Berman, who is the recipient of the Business Studies Department Award. Congratulations as well to our DECA chapter president, Kia Mozafari on receiving the DECA award. We wish both students our heartfelt best wishes as they progress on to university education. Every month we elect students for Student of the Month Award. Awards are given to 12 Senior Students and 12 Junior Students. Awards are given not just for academic achievement but employability skills as well. Following are the recipients.

Senior Students		Junior Students	
Abigail	Thompson	Radha	Sharma
Ved	Chandran	Nirvana	Singh
Willow	Barker Jones	Muhammad	Abbas
Ashley	Berman	Jillian	Wolfe
Heather	Daigle	Sharon	Zhan
Kayla	Wolanski	Jordan	Belinsky
Teodora	Kosmajac	Ashley	Addo
Farhan	Wadia	Arshia	Sabetahd
Arthur	Rabinovich	Liad	Rozenblit
Siavash	Rastgarjazi	Emily	Lazenby
Wendy Yuan	Xie	Luna	Erwin
Josh	McNab	Jesse	Basi



As the year comes to an end, we are sad to say goodbye to Mrs. Varinderjeet Sarao. She was an instrumental part of our department. We would like to wish all our students a safe and relaxing summer holiday. To our grade 12 students, we wish them all the best as they move forward to pursue their dreams.

As a department we wish to wish our principal Mrs. Debra Conrad-Knight all the best for her retirement. We thank her for her counsel, advice and help in the running of our department.

**I know the price of success: dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen.**

**— FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT**

## Community Based Education (A.K.A. Cooperative Education)

Department Head: C. Smith

This has been another amazing year for Alex Mack's co-op program!

Students have had extraordinary learning experiences in diverse work placements including: marketing, pharmacies, retail, vet clinics, elementary schools, nursing homes, fitness clubs, Mackenzie Health Hospital, Rogers Cable TV, physiotherapy clinics, animal care, dental offices, the Automotive, Construction, Welding and Electric trades and more.



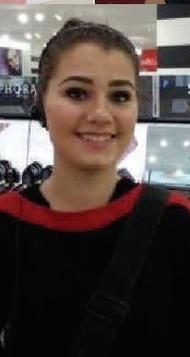
Many of our students have received letters of recommendation and references from their employers and many have been offered part-time or permanent jobs at their co-op placements!

Real-life learning and career-specific skills provide our co-op students with a significant advantage in the pursuit of competitive educational and career goals.

Have a look at some of Alex Mack's co-op students in action!

*Real success is finding your lifework  
in the work that you love.*

~~Elbert Hubbard~~



## Family Studies Department

Interim Department Head: J. Toshakovski

The Family Studies Department at AMHS has been busy introducing and further enhancing our students' knowledge in general life skills and experiences! In the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year the Family Studies Department ran Grade 9 Individual and Family Living (HIF101), Grade 12 Human Growth and Development (HHG4U) and Gr 12 Challenge and Change in Society (HSB4U). Each of these classes focused on human development from individual, family and societal perspectives. Our senior students in the Challenge and Change in Society class were challenged to develop and work through the Social Science Research Process where they investigated a topic of interest and completed secondary research using academic literature. They then developed formal questionnaires in addition to a formal data analysis. Students reported their findings in a formal paper as well as a senior seminar where they presented their findings to their peers. Congratulations to all of the students who focused and worked very hard to complete this task.



Grade 9 Individual and Family Living students analyzed gender stereotypes as depicted in the media. After watching some common advertisements which were clearly marketed to either males or females, students had the opportunity to create their own ad. The catch: In order to appeal to both males and females, stereotypes were to be nonexistent!

The Family Studies Department had an incredible year filled with growth and knowledge. These courses will continue to provide students with the opportunity to learn about some of the most critical topics that pertain to us as humans, who we are, how we got here, where we are going and who are we going with! Family Studies provide life skills at their very best!

## Guidance Department

Department Head: C. Bredin

### Grade 7 Visit:

On June 1<sup>st</sup> we welcomed over 400 elementary students to AMHS for a tour of the school, to participate in our annual carnival and a variety of outdoor activities including Tough Mudder. Lots of fun was had by all. It was a great success! We will be welcoming them back in November for Take Our Kids to High School Day..



### CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

We would like to congratulate the graduating "**Class of 2016**" and wish them all the best for the future.

**Grade 11 students** are encouraged to start researching for post-secondary options. For College and University research please visit the following links respectively:

<http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/home>

<http://www.electronicinfo.ca/en/>



**All students:** It is highly recommended for all students who have not completed their 40 hours of community service to do so over the summer. The Town of Richmond Hill offers a variety of opportunities to volunteer in the summer. For more information, visit <http://www.richmondhill.ca/volunteers>



### Thank you!

Thank you to our AMHS Ambassadors, ESP group and our Leadership class students for all of their help throughout the year.

**Have a safe and enjoyable summer!**

## ESL Department

*Department Head: S. Gonsalves*

This has been another exciting year! The ESL Department in partnership with SEPYR ran a Building Community Conference for English Language Learners. Many cultural events, such as a Festival of Lights in December and Lunar New Year in February, were also celebrated. ELL enjoyed a Field Trip to Ripleys' Aquarium and the CN Tower.

The ESL Department in partnership with SEPYR ran a Diversity Celebration on May 25 to celebrate centuries of cultural traditions, with a focus on Chinese, Pilipino, Iranian, Caribbean, and Korean heritage. This celebration included many vibrant aspects of these great cultures. Music, singing, and traditional fashion complemented cultural booths which hosted activities such as Chinese calligraphy, the chopstick challenge, a limbo contest, a Pilipino tinikling game, and a Korean wishing tree. The event allowed participants the opportunity to take a selfie using traditionally-dressed Chinese, Caribbean, and Iranian life-sized cut-outs.



Our thanks go out to the many students and staff members who volunteered their time and energy to make these events a reality. Best wishes for a wonderful summer from Ms Gonsalves, Ms. Presutto, Ms. Gross and Ms. Pantusa.

## Health & Physical Education Department

*Department Head: C. Butler*



It is the end of another amazing semester in our department. We are outside again in the phenomenal weather finishing up our year end summatives. Our students are continually experiencing an exciting program made up of games and sports, with physical fitness being the underpinning. Our goal has been to continually help students increase their "movement vocabulary" by continually changing the tasks that they need to achieve in our classes.

Our fitness courses are continuing to push the boundary into individual fitness gains using dynamic and functional means of training. The gains our students have experienced are truly amazing - great effort this semester, everyone.



Have an active and safe summer and we'll see you in the fall



### **Mustang Athletics**

Our athletics program continues to be a top experience for our students at AMHS. We offered a wide variety of sport experiences this semester. From our new table tennis intra-mural and team, to badminton, rugby, slow pitch, track and field and ultimate frisbee, our program is as big as ever. Our major awards were given out at our Athletic Banquet this June and here are some of the big winners:

Georgiana Jescu and Megan Goard were both awarded to the Wall Of Fame. They have contributed much spirit, leadership and athletic prowess to our department over their years here. We owe them much gratitude.

Joe Sherman was awarded our Mustang Spirit Award, the Bert Morbey Award. He has continually illustrated spirit and sportsmanship over a great athletic career at AMHS.

Other awards include:

Most Promising Grade Nines: Samuel Reed and Michaela Trajovski  
 Junior Athlete of the Year: Daniel Bolton and Camryn Webber  
 Senior Athlete of the Year: Stephanie Rosenbaum and Robert Sarro  
 Our Team of the Year: Track and Field



## Go AMHS Mustangs! Thank you, Coaches.

As the sports year comes to a close, the Admin Team would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the staff who have been involved in coaching our students on a wide variety of school teams. Your willingness to provide these opportunities and your commitment to the well-being of students at AMHS is sincerely appreciated. Thank you.

### Team

### Coaches

#### FALL:

Sr Girls Basketball	Kim Coats
Sr Boys Volleyball	Jesse Hotrum
Tennis	Jason Snider
Sr Boys Rugby	Colin Butler
Varsity Girls Rugby	Colin Butler
X Country	Jenn Alexander
Sr Boys Soccer	Jim Fabrikis and Gino Gabriel

#### WINTER:

Jr Girls Volleyball	Kim Coats and Jodi Kuznik
Sr Girls Volleyball	Jesse Hotrum
Sr Boys Basketball	Mik Przeclawski
Jr Badminton	Sarit Abramovich and Tiffany Kattis

#### SPRING:

Table Tennis	Zena Karim-Bentley and Nadine Nicolaou
Girls Slo Pitch	Kim Coats and Cassandra Warne
Ultimate Frisbee	Jesse Hotrum
Boys Baseball	Art Tang and Albert Capelet
Girls Rugby	Jenn Alexander
Boys Rugby	Colin Butler
Track & Field	Stacey Sadacharan, Lynne Peck, Tudor Cacenco, Linda Kirschbaum



## Moderns Department

Department Head: S. Juma

This semester, students learned about various countries. Each student chose a country and developed a destination portfolio which contained a video recording or vlog and as well as digital destination brochure containing information not only about the country itself, but information about current environmental problems facing the country. 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!



As well, 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 technology. 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!

## Math Department

Department Head: L. Bredin

### Contests

The Math department celebrated the success of our students in the Waterloo Math Competition. Congratulations to the winners and participants. The Winners of The Certificate of Distinction for ranking in the **top twenty-five percent** of all contestants.



### Grade twelve Euclid Contest

RABINOVICH	ARTHUR (Medal)
YUANRUI	HE (Medal)
ROBBIE	MEYER
HAO	XU

Sample problems and solutions can be found at <http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca>

### Canadian Junior Mathematics Contests

CHEN ANDY	Pascal Contest (Medal)	Grade 9
YU ALEX	Pascal Contest (Medal)	Grade 9
ANNIE ZHU	Cayley Contest (Medal)	Grade 10
RUIQI YANG	Cayley Contest (Medal)	Grade 10
RUOWEI LIN	Fermat Contest (Medal)	Grade
MAXWELL ZHANG	Fermat Contest	Grade
MASON WANG	Fermat Contest	Grade

### Math Help for all students

All students in our school have a common lunch. That provides an opportunity to organize a math-help lunch program. In the continuing effort to promote students' success and help students that are at risk, the Math Department was running a lunch math-help program. Also, we would expect all the students with incomplete homework to come and complete it with teachers' help during lunch hour.

### EQAO

The provincial Grade 9 math test was written on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of June. The short answer and/or multiple choice part of the test were marked to be included as 5% of the final mark in grade 9 mathematics.

### Curriculum

Once again we would like to point out the importance and benefits of graphing calculators in math curriculum. Parents' investment would be much appreciated.

**Good News** We wish all the best to the new Math Department Head Ms. Lindsay Smith McKenna. Have a great summer and welcome back next September!



## Science Department

Department Head: S. Sadacharan

The Science Department was definitely booming last semester with Grade 9 students making Twitter pages for Biodiversity Hotspots and building human circuits. In Grade 10 Science, Grade 11 University Biology and Grade 12 Biology, our students explored various internal systems by participating in a frog dissection!



## Science Department cont...

Department Head: S. Sadacharan



Our Grade 11 College Biology students learned about plants and designed and created very creative models of a native plant garden.



Our Grade 12 Physics students designed and built a cart powered purely by elastic potential energy while our Grade 11 Physics students built parachutes. Our Grade 12 Chemistry students made fruit-smelling esters and our Grade 11 Chemistry students carried out acid-base titrations. Finally, our Grade 12 Earth and Space Science students made dioramas of various epochs in Earth's history.



May was a very busy month for the Science Department. The York Region Science Olympics was held on May 2, 2016 at York University. We had two very enthusiastic senior teams who competed in the areas of senior chemistry, biology and physics.

Also in May, two Grade 12 students (Beth Sideris and Lilly Korkontzelos) wrote the Grade 12 Biology Advanced Placement exam. We are looking forward to receiving their results in July. Also in May we had our Chemistry and Physics competitions from the University of Waterloo. Seven students wrote the Grade 11 Chemistry Avogadro Exam and did quite well. Four Grade 12 students wrote the Chem13 Exam and also did well. Five Grade 12 science students also wrote the Sir Isaac Newton exam by the University of Waterloo. We wish to congratulate Robbie Meyer on his results for the SIN exam. Robbie placed in the 95.42 percentile for the competition this year! The Sir Isaac Newton exam is a very challenging one and thus, Robbie's results not only speak to his intelligence and hard work but also to the wonderful teachers that he has had support him in the science department throughout his four years here. We wish to specifically thank Tudor Cacenco and Tom Seliotis for their guidance with the physics courses. This is a great achievement for all of us!



There are many opportunities for students to get involved in the Science Department. We have a Lab Assistants Club that meets on Fridays 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, please speak to Mrs. Sadacharan in September. 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.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mr. Cacenco, Ms. Joseph and Ms. Giberson as they will be teaching at various different schools next year. Mr. Cacenco has taught Grade 11 and 12 University Physics and Grade 9 Academic Science. Mr. Cacenco has assisted with numerous activities and competitions during his year at AMHS. Ms. Joseph has taught our Grade 11 College Biology class and Ms. Giberson has taught our Grade 9 Academic Science and Grade 10 Academic (ESL) Science students this year. We will miss all of them dearly and wish them all the very best at their new schools.

The science department would like to wish all of the students a safe and fun-filled summer holiday. We look forward to seeing many of you back next year. To the graduating students, good luck in your future.



## Special Education Department

*Department Head: S Abramovich*

The Special Education Department had an interesting and productive year.

Our Community Classes participated in the annual 'AMAC Fights Back' by entering a healthy turkey chili in the chili cook-off. Our students worked hard each week at various job placements taking the YRT. They enjoyed several trips throughout the year including Ripley's Aquarium, the ROM, Rainbow Cinemas, shopping at Hillcrest Mall and the annual SNAP track and field meet at Bill Crothers Secondary School. Students particularly enjoyed attending the Best Buddies Prom held at the Le Parc Banquet Hall, where our graduating students were awarded Certificates of Excellence! Our grade 9 Learning Strategies students turned their love for technology into educational tools by learning about various apps for education. Students learned about the development of their IEP and how to self-advocate for support and accommodations. The grade 9 classes also learned valuable organization and study skills that would support their learning through their high school educational years.

In our grade 10 Learning Strategies students worked hard in preparation for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. They also learned about Cyberbullying with a visit from Officer Chris, a York Region Police Officer. Also, they learned about Stress Management and enjoyed a yoga class with a certified yoga teacher. They also learned some breathing and meditation techniques. Lastly, they learned many strategies on how to prepare for their final exams.



Our grade 11 Learning Strategies classes received support on a variety of workplace skills required by employers. They received help and guidance regarding their post-secondary destinations.

In November, our grade 12 Learning Strategies class participated in the College Fair at the Energy Centre in Toronto, and visited Seneca @York. Our students learned valuable information about their post-secondary destinations.

Many students accessed "The Room". This resource room located in room150, provides students with support to study, finish projects, and receive extra time to write tests. It is staffed by Child and Youth Workers and special education teachers. It is a quiet environment where students can focus and receive academic support.

## The Breakfast Club

Each day, over 80 students take advantage of the Breakfast Club that runs from 8:05 to 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. Ms. Bolinger, our Hospitality teacher, has volunteered her time for a number of years to run the Breakfast Club. Most mornings she arrives by 7:15 a.m. to start the food preparation. She is joined daily by students in her Hospitality Club and staff volunteers who help to finish the food preparation, start serving at 8:05 a.m., and clean up the kitchen.

The Breakfast Club initiative is a tremendous commitment to support student well being. Funding for the Breakfast Club comes from the school budget, School Council fundraising, grant applications, and a portion of the Student Engagement Fee collected at registration. Thank you to Ms. Bolinger and the many student and staff volunteers for ensuring that the Breakfast Club is available each morning.

## EQAO Update

Our semester two, grade 9 math students wrote EQAO in June. Results for both the January and June writing of EQAO Math will be available at the end of September.

Results for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test have been mailed home. Guidance and Student Success have contacted all unsuccessful students to discuss plans for completing this graduation requirement. Options include taking the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course in September or enrolling in the OSSLC during summer school. If you have any questions about the test, please contact Guidance Services. Overall results for AMHS and YRDSB will be available at the end of September.



# Notes from the Studios

Department Head: C. Clarke

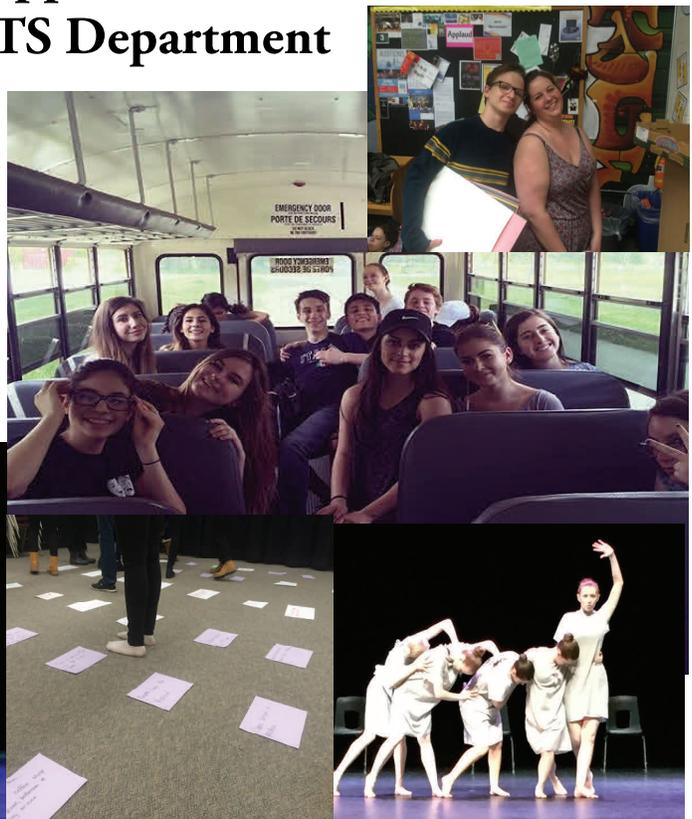


## Performing Arts Department (Theatre ARTS, Drama and Dance)



### A Semester Full of Inspiration! Performances, professional workshops, and field trips support a semester of creative activity in the Performing ARTS Department

The Performing ARTS students had a busy, successful semester working in various studio spaces. High-lights include: developing new Canadian work in all grades, performing at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts and other venues around York Region, Sears Drama Festival, field trips, 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 two....





# Notes from the Studios

Department Head: C. Clarke

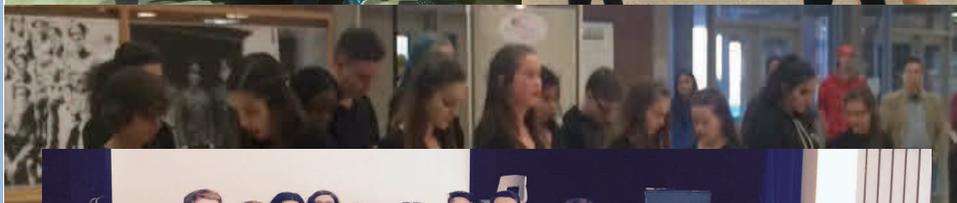


## Performing Arts Department (Theatre ARTS, Drama and Dance) cont...

### Fun From the Yellow School Bus

We love field trips and workshops! Highlights include:

- ◆ *Kinky Boots* with Tour of the Royal Alexandra Theatre
- ◆ Town of Richmond Hill Cultural Summit
- ◆ Acting Workshops by Theatre ARTS alumni Alicia Bender and Stephanie Smith
- ◆ RHCPA Performances: *Zero to Three*, April 12th (Grade 9 and 10) and *Nothing Is The End of the World (Except the End of the World)* May 17th
- ◆ Rogers Television Interview: <http://bit.ly/May17Production>
- ◆ World War I Inquiry Project
- ◆ York Regional Police/Empowered Students Partnership Social Media Awareness Performance
- ◆ Shakespeare in Action Workshops



**New Studio Space for September 2016!**

Theatre Arts, Dance Arts and Music Arts will enjoy classes and performance events in Studio 121, ARTS Mackenzie's brand new, multi-purpose studio!



## Notes from the Studios

Department Head: C. Clarke



### Performing Arts Department (Theatre ARTS, Drama and Dance) *cont...*

#### Grade 9 and 10 Dramatic Arts

One of the biggest joys of an Open-level Drama class is that each and every semester is unique! This semester, the interest in student writing and storytelling was unprecedented, with so many creative ideas coming from a wide variety of students. We always begin with the foundations of live dramatic performance (stage image, movement, voice, and text), and what we build from there depends on the interests, passions, and personalities of each new group of students. Students already familiar with dramatic conventions had an opportunity to lead and support their peers, while those whose passions are not in stage performance had the opportunity to pursue design, sound, and other technical elements. Students also participated in a highly engaging workshop by Toronto company Shakespeare In Action, where they learned to approach challenging text playfully and to connect the mind, body, and heart to deliver compelling performances and to make themselves truly heard. Beyond the foundational skills and concepts of creating visually, emotionally, and intellectually engaging work from primarily human resources, this semester's Drama students also learned a variety of valuable work habits and learning skills. With so many ideas and always working within specific timelines ("the show must go on!") students learn how to turn an empty stage and few basic props into a version of reality that their audience can believe. Ingenuity, resourcefulness, time-management, resilience, compassion, collaboration, and inclusivity are just a few of the skills developed and demonstrated by this semester's grade 9 and 10 Drama students--skills that will serve them well in the years to come, both inside and outside of the Drama studio!

#### Grade 11 and 12 Dramatic Arts

In Mr. Eason and Ms. Coleman's Grade 11/12 Open Drama class this year, students were challenged to investigate language and character looking at the Elizabethan period and Realism with Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The students also refined their skills by delving into the absurdist play, *The American Dream* by Edward Albee where they explored gender hierarchies and the use of repetition as a recurring motif. The culminating project called upon the students to devise a docudrama based on a topic of their choice. Issues such as sexism, bullying and conspiracy theories were pulled apart and explored dramatically. Students were asked to combine dramatic devices together and many integrated devices such as improvisation, tableau, reporting, film, poetry and dance into their final performances. The dedication of the students this year has allowed for some really wonderful work to come forward. Congratulations to all! the years to come, both inside and outside of the Drama studio!

#### Sears Drama Festival

Congratulations to the 2016 Sears Ontario Drama Festival Company for an outstanding student-produced staging of Tad Mosel's one-act play "Impromptu." The entire company received accolades from our adjudicator, Kelly Straughan, Executive Director of the Toronto Fringe Festival, with special mention of their careful script work and performance technique, and for tackling a challenging and thoughtful piece that satirizes life in the limelight. Awards of Merit for this year's production will go to Victoria Watson-Sepejak for directing, Joshua Kilimnick for performance, and the lighting team, Natasha Strezov and Roy Zvifel, for design and operation. The Performing Arts Department would also like to acknowledge the excellent work of Sears alumni and past award winners, Annalee Dimpfel, Jacob Lin, and Kiana Hagher. Special thanks to Kai Halligan for her instrumental stage management work and to Jenni Hearn for helping with sets and supporting her fellow company members.



## Dance ARTS Mackenzie

Department Head: C. Clarke



### Performing Arts Department (Theatre ARTS, Drama and Dance) cont...



## Dance ARTS Mackenzie

It has been yet another fantastic semester for the Alexander Mackenzie High School Dance Department. The past few months have flown by with many great achievements! While working diligently on their daily assignments, students had the opportunity to participate in workshops, field trips as well as developing their own choreography and performances. In March the students participated in a National Ballet of Canada field trip and saw absolutely outstanding performance of *La Sylphide*.

On May 10, 2016 the Dance Department put on it's annual gala entitled Dance Expressions at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. The show consisted of faculty and student choreography that varied from classical ballet, to tap and all the way to hip-hop. Student began to prepare for the show in March and worked with choreographers Kiera Punnett, Jordana Deveau and ARTS Mackenzie Dance alumni Lindsay Fell. The show culminated in a beautiful finale with all four grades participating. Dance Expressions is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of the dance students! As always, a great success!

Next September already looks to be an exciting start to the school year as we will have a full program of dance classes being offered from grade 9 through to grade 12. The Dance Department is looking forward to welcoming the new grade 9 students to the program as well as possibly participating in workshops with local Toronto and New York based choreographers and dance companies. The Dance Department is also incredibly excited to be moving into a new space at the start of the 2016-2017 school year. The ARTS Mackenzie Dance classes will now be taking place in a brand new state-of-the-art SPACIOUS studio! We are all incredibly excited for this next chapter!

It has been yet another outstanding year for the dance program. Thank you to all of the students, parents and community members for their continued support. AMHS Dance faculty would like to send a huge congratulations to the dance students who truly commit themselves to the program and make the department what it is! The department would also like to wish the very best to the Graduating Class of 2016! We wish you the very best as you embark on a new chapter in your lives. Thank you for contributing and helping to build the family that we know as the Dance Department. Have a safe, healthy and happy summer.



# Music

Department Head: E. Hudspith



## Music Department

What a fantastic year we have had in the Music Department! From performances in festivals and concerts to our annual trip to performing in the community to our annual Music Banquet, we have made amazing memories!



We started semester two with our annual performance at the Richmond Hill Winter Carnival. A.M. Stages (our jazz band) and add9 (our jazz choir, led by Lilly Korkontzelos) entertained those in attendance and the performers were very happy with the 'spring-like' temperature – much easier to perform! Also, the Symphonic Band competed in the Kiwanis festival with the top bands from the GTA. We came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 'A' Class and tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Challenge Class, the two highest competitive classes there are. In York Region's own festival, Music Alive, our Women's Choir, Chamber Choir, Concert Band and String Orchestra all received Platinum awards. Our Symphonic Band and add9 received Gold+ and Intermediate Band received Gold. All outstanding results and we are so proud of all our students.



Our annual trip this year was to Chicago. We took 81 very enthusiastic students who, as always, represented our school, town and country very well. Thanks to Mr. Perri and Mrs. Carageorgopoulos for helping our music staff to supervise all of our students. We participated in workshops at Northwestern and Vandercooke Universities with amazing professors who taught and inspired us all. Our students took in the sights of the windy city, including "The Bean", Chicago 360, Andy's Jazz Club and the incredible aquarium, to name a few. We had a fantastic time and we're looking forward to next year's trip – destination: Walt Disney World!

Our busy spring performance schedule began with *Fanfare* and *Spring Celebration* in May. We entertained large audiences at all of our concerts and we were so amazed as to our students' improvement over the year. We are extremely excited to see what next year will bring! Our performance calendar continued into June with our Coffee House and Silent Auction, where soloists, small ensembles, jazz choir and jazz band delighted our audience.



Thank you to everyone who supported us by participating in our Silent Auction. Also, our Symphonic Band performed a wonderful "Pops concert" where we were all treated to a trip down memory lane, listening to the favourites from the past four years. Finally, A.M. Stages and add9 performed at the Oak Ridges Fair, where the new Lake Wilcox Park was officially opened. We were very honoured to be included in such an event and our groups performed amazingly!

Thank you to our amazing students who have worked so hard this year and amazed us with their talent, perseverance and dedication. The music staff feels very fortunate to have such amazing students to work with everyday and we look forward to another fantastic year! A special thank you also goes to all of the members of the Music Council. You are amazing ambassadors and you bring a special life to our musical 'family'.



## Visual Arts Department

As another school year comes to a close, we would like to thank all of our art students for their enthusiasm and the wonderful artwork they produced. '

Over the course of the second semester we were fortunate to have two guest artists work with our students. In May, Steve Schulman joined us for a week of graphic novel drawing. Steve shared his wealth of knowledge and creativity with our students in helping them create their own one page 'short' graphic novel. In June, glass artist Bonnie Thomson worked with four of our art classes in helping them create fused glass tiles representing the four seasons. These tiles were glued to glass panels which will be framed and hung in our school library.

In March, we held our second annual Arts & Crafts Sale. All of our Arts Mack visual arts classes participated in the creation and selling of their art and craft items during our school's annual "Manicure For Cure" cancer fundraiser. The sale was a huge success and we are pleased to now call this our annual Arts fundraiser for cancer.

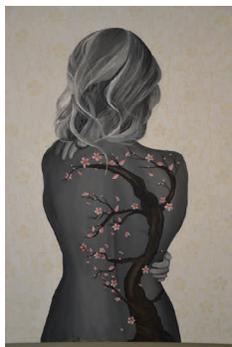
In the extracurricular department, the Arts & Culture Council (ACC) held our annual *Lava Night* in April; an opportunity for students to show off their musical, dramatic, dance skills and comedic timing. We always appreciate the amazing effort put forward by the council. It was a fantastic night of performances, including the fabulous Mac Rockers, our school's very own caretaking band who rocked the walls of our cafetorium! We even had an appearance from some alumni!

In early May, we had our fourth annual off-site student-run art show at Richmond Green's Boynton House. Positive comments came from the community as it was also part of 'Doors Open' Richmond Hill. The show featured painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, film and mixed media works. A selection of works from the Boynton House show was then displayed at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts throughout June. Student works were also displayed and toured as part of the Richmond Hill Youth Art Festival this spring.

We would like to wish our graduating students all the best in their future endeavours. You have all contributed so much to the school and to the community over the past four years. You will all be greatly missed. Also, a thank you goes out to all the parents and guardians of our students for being so supportive. Have a great summer!



*Entelechy* Art Show at Boynton



blabitty bla  
by Taia



*Umbrella Revolution*  
by Conan Chan



Arts Mack grads at Boynton House

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