



November 29, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,
Welcome to this week's Parent Bulletin, full of useful information and upcoming events.

Upcoming Events

Monday, December 9 th , 2019	Lunch and Learn – for Grade 12 Students
Thursday, December 12 th , 2019	"The Wizard of Oz" Musical
Friday, December 13 th , 2019	Showtime at 7:30 p.m., at the RHCPA
Tuesday, December 17 th , 2019	Grad Photo AMHS Foyer, during Period 2
Friday, December 20 th , 2019	Winter Assembly *Last school day before the Holiday Break

Message From Our Trustee

One of our top priorities as a school board is creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and be successful. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

Championing Equity and Inclusivity

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.

- Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.
- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.
- Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

This is in addition to the ongoing work taking place in our schools. It is also important that our families know and feel that they are a valued, respected and important part of our school community. We recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region to learn and share together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and more. It was wonderful to see so many family members there. The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Antisemitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

Winter Months

With the winter weather already upon us, I also want to remind families that school transportation may be cancelled on [extreme cold or inclement weather days](#), and there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions result in school closures. To ensure families are aware, last month, we tested a new system to send text messages to families in emergency situations only. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will also be available on Board and school websites, Board social media channels and local media.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Corrie McBain
Trustee, Richmond Hill, Wards 1, 2 and 4

Final Examinations – January 2020

Please be aware of these important dates, indicated below. Parents and students are reminded to not schedule appointments, trips, interviews, etc. that would conflict with scheduled examination dates.

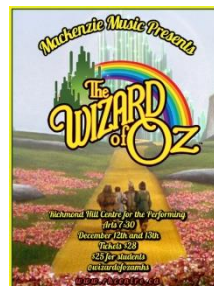
Thursday, January 23
Friday, January 24
Monday, January 27
Tuesday, January 28
Wednesday, January 29

Mackenzie Music: The Wizard of Oz

The AMHS Community is invited to join Mackenzie Music for the musical performance of "The Wizard of Oz", December 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m., at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts.

Tickets can be purchased through the Richmond Hill Centre website:

www.rhcentre.ca



Math Contests

The American Mathematics Contests (AMC-10B and AMC12-B) for Grade 9 to Grade 12 students are scheduled to take place on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

The University of Waterloo Mathematics Contests (Pascal – Grade 9, Cayley – Grade 10 and Fermat – Grade 11) are scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Registration for the contests will be available on School Cash Online from Monday, December 2 to Wednesday December 18, 2019. The registration deadline is Wednesday, December 18, 2019. For more information, please contact Mr. Wong by emailing benny.wong@yrdsb.ca.

Eco Team Tip

Donate and shop at thrift stores. You'll be recycling perfectly usable items, you'll be supporting your local economy, and you'll be saving money.

Guidance Services

Studies have shown that students who are involved in extra-curricular activities are happier, more engaged in their learning, and they report lower incidences of mental health issues. They also show a marked improvement in their grades, which can be attributed to skills they learn such as better time management to accommodate their hobbies and class activities and better organizational skills. Many clubs and councils at AMHS have rolling entry – which means students can show up to meetings and join. Please encourage your child to listen to announcements and check with the Guidance Office for group meeting schedules, to get connected. For a comprehensive clubs and teams list, visit:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>



YSP programs are two programs hosted by the University of Toronto over the summer months; it brings together curious, motivated, well-rounded teens who want to have a great summer learning about health / science related subjects. If you are either interested in going to Med School or Law School after an undergraduate degree, then this program may be for you. For more complete information please visit: <http://ysp.utoronto.ca/med/> or <http://ysp.utoronto.ca/law/>

[Parenting your teen](http://teenmentalhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/parentyourteen_October-29th-2019.pdf) can at times be challenging. Check out the attached PDF provided for by the Teen Mental Health Organization: http://teenmentalhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/parentyourteen_October-29th-2019.pdf. For more resources, check out their [website](#).

Upcoming Events

Lunch-n-Learn for Grade 12 Students

Monday December 9, Library

Supplementary applications

Equal consideration University Application deadline (OUAC) – January, 15th, 2020

Equal consideration College Application deadline (OCAS) – February 1st, 2020

Book an appointment with a Guidance Counsellor if you require assistance with your application.

A presentation for all parents “Course Selection - Questions and Answers”

Monday, January 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the AMHS Cafeteria

SHSM Update

The **Specialist High Skills Major Program** has seen continued growth in Grade 11 students applying to the Program in Health & Wellness, Business and Arts & Culture. These Programs allow students to further focus their learning in areas of interest to them. We anticipate having another year full of exciting learning opportunities and experiences across all of our SHSM Sectors.

At Alexander Mackenzie High School, we have four (4) SHSM Programs on which students can focus during the last two years of their high school experience. The four SHSM Programs are: **Arts & Culture, Business, Health & Wellness, and Transportation**. Each SHSM Program provides an academic and an experiential learning component. If all of the elements of the SHSM Program are completed by a student in their Grade 12 graduating year, they will then receive a distinctive “red seal” Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Last month, we had our opening SHSM Orientation session for all SHSM new (and graduating) students to gather and meet their peers in the program, and to get more information about the key elements of the program, including information on upcoming events. Our **SHSM Student Council** organized and presented this information to our new students.

A recent list of SHSM-related opportunities that have taken place at our school are listed below:

Day in a Life of Business Student (Business SHSM):

George Brown College Reach-Ahead: Friday, October 26th

Students had opportunity to experience mini lectures, and ask questions of Business Professors.

Theatre and Art Reach-Ahead at Brock University (Arts & Culture SHSM)

Brock University Campus Tour of their Fine Arts Facilities: November 19th

Students had a chance to hear about the experiences of industry professionals and students enrolled at Brock University.

CPR & First Aid Training

CPR - Level C: November 7th & 8th

Expert instructors facilitated student use of the latest equipment

WHMIS Training

November 27th

Allowed all SHMS students to be aware of workplace hazardous materials and situations, and how to deal with them in a safe manner.

Infection Control Training

For Health & Wellness Students, on November 27th

The purpose of this training was to introduce participants to practices related to Infection Prevention and Control, and to increase participants' knowledge and skills for managing the prevention and control of infections and disease:

We are still recruiting student volunteers who may be interested in assisting the SHSM Program with the management, promotion and communication elements of the program, as part of the SHSM Student Council.

Many other events will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. Please stay tuned!

Lana Fisher
Head of Guidance and Career Education
Alexander Mackenzie H.S.
Lana.fisher@yrdsb.ca
Tel: 905 884 0554 ext. 422

From The Literacy Desk

OSSLT Lesson 2 took place this past week on Monday, November 25, in all Grade 10 Period 2 classes. Those students that missed the lesson were expected to attend the make-up class during the lunch period on Friday, November 29. Please ask your child to share their learning with you. If possible, please review the lesson with your child at home using their OSSLT booklet.

Lesson 3 will take place on Monday, December 16. Please follow our Instagram page @AMHSLiteracy for updates. You are also welcome to download a copy of the schedule which is posted on our site rebrand.ly/osslt. Note that you will need to access the site using your child's board login credentials.

This is another reminder that our After School Literacy Program (ASLP) will take place for two consecutive weeks, starting Monday, December 2. We are happy to continue accepting registration forms. They can be picked up in the Main Office. Please complete the forms and return them to the office as soon as possible. If your child would benefit from the extra support, it is strongly suggested that you submit a completed ASLP Registration Form to facilitate enrolment in the course.

You are always welcome to email our Literacy Resource Teacher at susan.romeo@yrdsb.ca. Please also follow us on Instagram @AMHSLiteracy.

Upcoming EQAO Math Assessments

In January 2020, Grade 9 students across Ontario will write the provincial Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics. This assessment is conducted by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario. It will be administered to all students enrolled in a Grade 9 Applied or Academic Mathematics course in Semester One, and the results of this assessment will comprise 5% of each student's final mark in their Math course.

At Alexander Mackenzie High School, this assessment will be written by students on Wednesday, January 15 and Thursday, January 16, 2020. The assessment will consist of two test booklets, and students will be given 60 minutes to complete each booklet over the course of two days, during regularly scheduled Math periods.

In September 2020, EQAO will send our school a report on your child's achievement on the assessment, and we will send it home at that time.

For more information about EQAO and to view a sample of its assessments, you are encouraged to visit www.eqao.com.

School Council News

Minutes

School Council minutes can be accessed through the AMHS school website by clicking on the link below:
[School Council Minutes](#)

Parking and Ticketing

Ticketing at AMHS began on Tuesday, September 3rd. All students and visitors are required to display a valid parking permit in their vehicle at all times in order to park on school property. Any vehicle parked on AMHS property without a valid parking permit will be subject to ticketing. It is your responsibility to ensure that a valid parking permit is clearly visible to our parking enforcement officers. Be sure to request a parking pass when you sign in at the Main Office - all visitors to the school must begin their visit there.

Parking is on a first-come, first-served basis, and availability cannot be guaranteed.

Dropping-Off and Picking-Up Students

If you are in the habit of dropping-off or picking-up your child at school, you have probably noticed the high volume of traffic that builds up in the parking lot / driveway loop at the front of the school, facing Major Mackenzie Drive.

In an effort to alleviate the traffic congestion and keep traffic flowing smoothly, we ask that drivers **only turn right** when exiting from the school driveway onto Major Mackenzie Drive, both in the mornings and the afternoons. Thank you.

School Notifications



School Cash Online

Since September 2015, our school has been accepting online payments through School Cash Online. Payments for school-related expenses such as the Student Activity Fee, field trips, fundraisers, sports teams, yearbook, Graduation, Prom, etc. can be made online with a credit or debit card. Please use the following link to register for this convenient payment method: <https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

More Events and Information

School Contact/Website Information

Superintendent- Michael Cohen
Phone: (905) 884-4477
cec.central@yrdsb.ca

Trustee- Corrie McBain
(416) 219-7426
corrie.mcbain@yrdsb.ca

Alexander Mackenzie High School

Principal – Otilia Olteanu
Vice-Principal – Yula Nouragas (A-L)
Vice-Principal – George Ellinas (M-Z)
Telephone: 905-884-0554
Fax: 905-884-4694

Special Education

Twitter: [@AlexMackSpecEd](#)

Arts Mackenzie

<http://bit.ly/ARTSMackenzie>

Arts & Culture:

Instagram: [#amhsartscouncil](https://www.instagram.com/amhsartscouncil)

Visual Arts Department

Twitter: [@amhsvisa](https://twitter.com/amhsvisa)

Instagram: [#amhs.studio](https://www.instagram.com/amhs.studio)

Music Department

www.amhsmusic.ca

MAC Health, Physical Education & Athletics

For information about our programs, please follow us:

Twitter: [@Mustangsmove](https://twitter.com/Mustangsmove)

Instagram: [macpheathletics](https://www.instagram.com/macpheathletics)

Moderns Department

French resources for parents and students

Twitter: [@AlexModerns](https://twitter.com/AlexModerns)

Alexander Mackenzie H.S. On Twitter

Follow us on twitter [@AlexMackHS](https://twitter.com/AlexMackHS)

If you do not wish to receive this Newsletter please notify Alexander Mackenzie High School by email.