



March 22, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians;

Welcome to this week's parent bulletin full of great information and upcoming events.

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## Upcoming Events

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Tuesday, March 19, 2019	Interim Report Card Distribution
Wednesday, March 27, 2019	OSSLT Literacy Test Day
Thursday, April 4, 2019	Parents Night

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## Guidance Services

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Students received their course verification sheets this past Wednesday, March 20th, in their homeroom classes. These sheets list all the course options students have selected for the next school year. Some important information:

1. We ask students to review their course selection carefully.
  - Current Grade 9 and 10 students must choose eight courses for next year.
  - Current Grade 11 and 12 students must have completed 24 credits before they are eligible for a spare on their timetable.
  - Grade 12 students must have a minimum of three courses per semester.
2. It is very important that students have chosen the correct courses for their post-secondary destination. Use the following websites to help your child in their research:
  - [www.Electronicinfo.ca](http://www.Electronicinfo.ca) – University Programs
  - [www.Ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.Ontariocolleges.ca) – College Programs
  - [www.Apprenticesearch.com](http://www.Apprenticesearch.com) – Apprenticeships
3. If all course selections are correct, then students do not need to do anything. We ask them to keep this paper for their records.
4. If students wish to make a change, they should cross out the wrong code and print the correct course code, along with the course name, beside the course they do not want. Course descriptions are listed on our website:  
<https://app.myblueprint.ca/public/courses/yrdsb/mackenzie1>
5. Parents/guardians should sign the form if there are changes, and have it returned to the Guidance office no later than Friday, March 29, 2019.

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## School Council News

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### Minutes

School Council minutes can be accessed through the school website by clicking the attached link:

[School Council Minutes](#)

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## School Notifications

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### Literacy

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has scheduled **Wednesday, March 27, 2019** as the day for students across the province to complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). To assist in creating the best possible environment for students writing the test, and as a result of changes to EQAO policy, the Board will implement a modified school day. **On March 27, secondary schools will follow an exam-style day in which:**

- **only Grade 10 and Previously Eligible students who are writing the test are required to be at school** (no regular classes for students in Grades 9, 11, and 12 will occur);
- students will be dismissed upon completion of the test;
- school bus and taxi service will run on their normal schedules; and
- self-contained special education classes [e.g., Intensive Resource Support – MID program], will follow their regular schedule. Programming will be provided to those students on March 27, 2019.

### For Students Writing the OSSLT

Students writing the test will come to school on March 27 at their normal start time, 8:40a.m., to write the OSSLT. Based on EQAO timelines for the test, we anticipate that many students will finish writing in about 3 hours. Students requiring extra time will continue to write their test during an extended test-taking period. Students will be dismissed upon their completion of the test at approximately 12:00p.m.; however, space will be made available in the school for those who need to remain until regular dismissal time. Modifying the school day in this way allows schools to maximize teacher supervision and support, availability of classroom space and, access to technology.

### For Students Not Writing the OSSLT

Although schools will be open, regular classes will not be running. Students are encouraged to use the time on this day to review or complete coursework, prepare for upcoming assessments, engage in Individual Pathways Planning, or complete community involvement hours. We wish every student success on the OSSLT, and appreciate your ongoing support for student achievement and well-being.

If you have any questions, please contact the school's administrative team.

Sincerely,

Otilia Olteanu  
Principal

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## A Message for Parents and Guardians Regarding Student Activity Fee

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The York Region District School Board supports the generation and administration of funds and student/school activity fees for educational, cultural, charitable, curriculum-based or recreational activities that are in the best interests of students. The Board endorses a collaborative approach to fundraising initiatives by schools, students, parent groups, student councils and school councils that is consistent with the Board's mission, vision and values and with individual school improvement plans.

AMHS offers a vast array of extracurricular activities that respond to the diverse interests of our students. Participation in these activities help build school spirit, foster a sense of community, and supports positive mental health and well-being for our students.

The Student Activity Fee helps to fund engaging opportunities that occur before school, at lunch and afterschool. Monies collected cover or subsidize costs of events and activities – including those run by Student Council (StuCo). AMHS administration, in collaboration with staff advisers and StuCo, manage the allocation of the Student Activity Fees collected at registration. Here are some examples of how Student Activity Fees are allocated at AMHS:

#### **Clubs & Committees:**

- To provide start up operational funds for clubs and committees;
- To defray costs of organizing or participating in special events (such as student conferences, competitions, celebrations) related to the club or committee; and
- To support special initiatives that clubs have requested funding for via a written proposal.

#### **Teams:**

- To pay the cost of one tournament per team (students on teams are required to pay the SAF);
- To provide awards/trophies for athletic excellence and sportsmanship at the annual Athletic Banquet; and
- To provide funding support for teams that qualify for OFSAA.

This year we collected \$26 000.00. So far \$20,761.82 has been allocated. The amount of \$3558.01 was allocated for the following events: Black History Month, Boynton House Art Show, Grade 9 Day, Halloween, Honor roll, Winter Fest, Semi-formal, Mustang Day, Valentine's Day, Nickels for Saint Nick, Locker decoration for the holidays, Remembrance Day, Study Break-Mental Health and Well-being Day, Yellow Brick House Mental Health workshop. The amount of \$7730,00 was allocated to the following clubs and councils: Arts Council, Athletic Council, Badminton Club, DECA, Debate Club, Hospitality Club, Law Club, Presidents' Council, Robotics Club, Science Club, Spoken Word, Student Council and The National Theatre Club. We also purchased one Chromebook cart in the amount of \$9473.81 to increase student access to technology. To further increase technology for students, we are taking advantage of the cost sharing opportunity offered by the School Board this year.



Since September 2015 our school has been accepting online payments through School Cash Online. School related expenses such as field trips, fundraisers, sports teams, yearbook, graduation, prom, Student Activity Fee, etc. payments are made online with a credit or debit card. Please use the following link to register for this convenient payment method.

<https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

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## More Events and Information

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### School Contact/Website Information

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

**Trustee-**Corrie McBain  
(416) 219-7426  
[corrie.mcbain@yrdsb.ca](mailto:corrie.mcbain@yrdsb.ca)

**Alexander Mackenzie High School**  
Principal – Otilia Olteanu  
Vice-Principal – Jay Perri (A-L)  
Vice-Principal – George Ellinas (M-Z)  
Telephone: 905–884–0554  
Fax: 905–884-4694

**Special Education**  
Twitter: [@AlexMackSpecEd](https://twitter.com/AlexMackSpecEd)

**Arts Mackenzie**  
<http://bit.ly/ARTSMackenzie>

**Music Department**  
[www.amhsmusic.ca](http://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.*