



November 8, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

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### Upcoming Events

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Monday, November 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Remembrance Day Assemblies
Thursday, November 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Mid-Term Report Card Distribution
Monday, November 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Report Card - Response Forms Due
Monday, November 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Guidance Series – 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. (Hosted in AMHS Cafeteria – see below)
Monday, November 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	School Council Meeting (7:30 – 8:30 p.m.)
November 18 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Grad Photos
Friday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019	IB Assessment Preparation
Saturday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2019	IB Assessment Day

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### Guidance Services

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This past week (on November 5, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.), we welcomed over 50 representatives from Post-Secondary Institutions all over Ontario. These representatives were available to all students for a brief conversation, to share advice, or to simply provide information on various post-secondary options.

All Grade 12 students are reminded that for equal consideration to universities, they need to apply to [OUAC](#) by January 15, 2020. Applications to Ontario Colleges need to be submitted through [ontariocolleges.ca](#) by February 1, 2020. AMHS submits all grades electronically three times a year: at the end of Semester 1, after Mid-term reporting in Semester 2, and with final grades at the end of June. A Lunch-n-Learn session has been scheduled to support students with their post-secondary applications on Monday, November 18, in the AMHS Library.

All students are reminded of the requirements that must be met to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). They must achieve successful completion of:

- 30 credits
- 40 hours of community service
- the literacy requirement.

We encourage students to review their progress towards graduation periodically, and to discuss their pathway options with their Guidance Counselor. The [website](#) linked here has more information about graduation, courses, and other elements.

### Upcoming Events

**Applying to Universities and Colleges:** Lunch N Learn for Grade 12 Students - November 18, 2019

**Financing your Child's Post-Secondary Education** - November 18, from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

Lana Fisher, Head of Guidance and Career Education  
Alexander Mackenzie H.S.  
[Lana.fisher@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Lana.fisher@yrdsb.ca)  
Tel: 905-884-0554 Ext. 422

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## From The Literacy Desk

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All Grade 10 classes will facilitate literacy lessons to help prepare students to write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). **The first lesson is scheduled to take place in all Grade 10 classes during Period 3 on Monday, November 11.** If possible, parents of Grade 10 students are asked to not book appointments on this day so that your child does not miss school, to participate and benefit from the lesson. All students received a preparation guide with lessons. Please remind your child to bring this to class.

If your child misses this lesson, a make-up lesson will be held on Friday, November 15 during the lunch period in Room 163. Following the lesson, you may wish to review or discuss the lesson with your child. Ask your child to share their new learning with you. You can access the site [rebrand.ly/osslt](http://rebrand.ly/osslt) with your child to review the useful information posted for families and students. Your child will need their YRDSB login credentials to access the site.

We are also offering an **After School Literacy Program**. This is open to all students writing the OSSLT this year. If you feel your child will benefit from extra support, please consider registering. The program will run for two consecutive weeks from December 2 to December 13 after school from 3:10 to 4:40 p.m. Your child can pick up a registration form from the Main Office. Completed and signed registration forms are due November 22, 2019 (by end of day) and these can be handed in to the Main Office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Ms. Romeo, AMHS's Literacy Resource Teacher, at [susan.romeo@yrdsb.ca](mailto:susan.romeo@yrdsb.ca).

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## Health and Safety Tips to Support Youth and Parents

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### Teen Use of E-Cigarettes and Vaping

E-cigarettes were developed as an alternative option for adults seeking to quit smoking, but are quickly increasing in popularity for teen users as well. This is alarming for many reasons.

Did you know:

- the “juice” compound used in vaping devices is not innocuous. It contains harmful substances such as nicotine, which is highly addictive. It also contains other chemicals and particles (such as diacetyl, tin, lead and nickel), known to damage lungs and overall health.
- Diacetyl is a chemical flavourant that allows e-juices to be “fun-flavoured”: fruit and bubble-gum flavours have become popular options made to seem “kid-friendly”. In fact, diacetyl is very harmful, as it is linked to serious lung disease.
- The way vaping devices work is that the device heats these chemicals into an aerosol, which the user inhales. (\*Even non-smokers proximate to the user would inhale this aerosol as well.)
- The developing brain of an adolescent, which continues to develop until age 25, can incur harm from exposure to nicotine and all the other dangerous additives in e-cigarettes and vaping devices.

Parents - know the facts and stay informed. The following links will provide information to help you and your child as you continue your discussion on making healthy choices: [Drug Free Canada.org](http://DrugFreeCanada.org), [Government of Canada – Health](http://GovernmentofCanada-Health), [CAMH](http://CAMH).

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## Special Education - Opportunity

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### Post-Secondary Accessibility Services - Field Trip

On Friday, November 29, Grade 12 graduating students with IEPs will be visiting Sheridan College and University of Toronto (UTM) – Mississauga Campus. They will attend seminars organized by the Financial Aid and Accessibility Services offices. They will be provided with crucial information regarding how to access services at **ANY** post-secondary institutions such as various accommodations, OSAP, scholarships and other services. They will also learn how to apply for funding to obtain a new psychological assessment required for post-secondary.

The cost for the trip is \$5.00, payable through SchoolCashOnline beginning on November 12. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis, and space is limited.

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## Final Examinations – January 2020

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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.

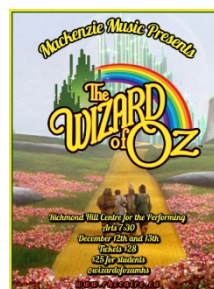
Thursday, January 23  
Friday, January 24  
Monday, January 27  
Tuesday, January 28  
Wednesday, January 29

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## Mackenzie Music: The Wizard of Oz

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The AMHS Community are invited to join Mackenzie Music for “The Wizard of Oz”, December 12 and 13 at 7:00 p.m., at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts.



Tickets can be purchased through the Richmond Hill Centre website:  
[www.rhcentre.ca](http://www.rhcentre.ca)

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## Student Insurance

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Although the Board takes every precaution to provide a safe learning environment, student accidents can and do happen. Often when they do, not all medical, dental or other related expenses may be covered by OHIP or group insurance plans.

While the Board does not provide student accident insurance, it has arranged voluntary insurance plans through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada's insuremykids® program. These plans are available to families of all students attending the York Region District School Board. It is recommended that families consider purchasing a student accident insurance plan.

Inquiries from parents/guardians may be directed to [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com).

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## School Council News

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The next AMHS School Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on:  
**Monday, November 18, from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m., in Room 122.**

### Minutes

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

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## Parking and Ticketing

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Ticketing at AMHS began on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.**

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## Dropping-Off and Picking-Up Students

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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.

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## School Notifications

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### “Girl Up” Club Initiative

The AMHS UN Foundation Girl Up Club raised \$183.41 in the month of October, from our booth which was set up on Parents' Night, as well as through Polaroid Photos sold at lunch on Halloween. All funds raised go towards the UN Foundation Girl Up Initiatives, which support girls' education, and help to eradicate violence against women. To learn more about Girl Up Initiatives, please visit their website at:

<https://www.girlup.org/impact/our-approach/#sthash.bbqwQ1GD.dpbs>



### 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/>

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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 – Yula Nouragas (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>

### 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](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.*