

February 2015

ALEXANDER MACKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL



Administration

Debra Conrad-Knight, Principal Ext. 407

Otilia Olteanu, VP Ext. 406

Jay Perri, VP Ext. 405

Tel: 905-884-0554

Fax: 905-884-4694

Website:

[www.yrdsb.ca/schools/
alexandermackenzie.hs](http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs)

Looking Ahead...

Feb. 2	PA Day
Feb. 3	Sem. 2 Begins
Feb. 5	Sem. 1 Report Card Distribution
Feb. 9	Photo Retake Day
Feb. 12	2015-2016 Crse Selection Due
Feb. 17	Parent Council Metting 7pm
Feb. 19	Lunar New year
Feb. 25	Black History Month Assemblies
Mar. 10	Interim Report Card Distribution
Mar. 13	PA Day
Mar. 16-20	March Break
Mar. 26	OSSLT (Modified School Day)
Mar. 27	Course Verifications Due
Mar. 31	Parents' Night
Apr. 20	Parent Council Meeting 7pm
Apr. 23	Report Card Distribution
May 8	PA Day
May 29	Carnival
June 10-11	EQAO—Gr. 9 Math
June 17-23	Exams
June 24	Exam Review Day
June 25	Graduation 7 pm—The Terrace
June 25-26	PA Days

A Message from Your Principal

Looking back over semester one, I am astonished and proud of the variety and depth of opportunities available to our students both academically and through extra-curricular involvement.

The **ARTS Program** continues to thrive and support the growth of our ARTS students in drama, dance, visual arts, and music (vocal, strings and band). On pages 7 to 12, you will read about guest artists, field trips, and amazing performances. In December, *Anything Goes*, our school musical, was a resounding success! Congratulations to all of the students who participated in it and to the many staff and parent volunteers who supported this outstanding production!

Numerous **sports teams, councils and clubs** have been up and running in Semester One. Thank you to the many teachers and staff members who have provided these valuable opportunities for our students. Student leadership groups include Student Activity Council, The Presidents' Council, Arts & Culture Council, Athletic Council, Music Council, Dance Council, and Drama Council. The Ambassadors Group continues to support a variety of school activities such as Green Acres, Grade 9 Day, Parents' Night, welcoming the grade 8's in November during Take Our Kids to High School Day, and the AMHS Open House evening for Grade 8 families. Other active clubs have included GSA, Yearbook, DECA, Eco-Team, Math Club, Science Olympics and new this year, our **school newspaper, The Mustang**. The Hospitality Club has been very busy supporting a daily breakfast program during semester one.

On the curriculum front, The **Advanced Placement Program (AP)** is growing at AMHS. Students who earn a level 4 or 5 on an AP exam may receive advanced placement in a first-year university course. AP exams in Psychology and Biology will be written in early May. For more information about our AP program for 2015-16, please contact Ms. Gurfinkel in Guidance Services. Our **Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)** program in Health and Wellness has been joined by SHSM programs in Transportation and Business. Students in all three SHSM have completed certifications in First Aid & CPR and WHIMS. The Health & Wellness students visited York University for training in feeding, lifting, and transferring. In semester two, the business students will complete certifications in customer service and leadership.

There is no doubt that AMHS is a vibrant place, full of opportunity. We are fortunate to have committed students, caring and involved parents, dedicated teaching and support staff, and an excellent caretaking team. Working together we can ensure student success. If you are interested in getting more involved in AMHS, please join us for School Council meetings. Our next meeting is February 17, 2015 at 7 p.m. To stay informed about our school and upcoming events, please check our website at [www.yrdsb.ca/schools/
alexandermackenzie.hs](http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs)

Debra Conrad-Knight



Library / Resource Centre

Department Head: D. Wilson

The AMHS Resource Centre wants students to have access to information and resources wherever and whenever they want. This year we have more e-collections of research resources than ever before. These are password protected, though. All students need to do is drop by the library for access information.

Check out the library pages of the AMHS website, too. Students can access our e-resources, search our online catalogue, get help with citation, access electronic newspapers and encyclopedias, explore search engines other than the big 3 and more. Our e-resources include access to over 15,000 e-books.

Is someone you know having trouble with a research project? Let us help. Drop by before school, at lunch or after school. We can help with everything from finding a good topic to citing sources properly when all is said and done.

Library - Home

<p>Welcome to the Alexander Mackenzie High School Virtual Library/Resource Centre</p>	
<p>Books & eBooks</p>	<p>MLA & APA citation</p>
<p>Databases</p>	<p>Moodle</p>
<p>Search engines</p>	<p>ESL & ELL</p>
<p>Online news & encyclopedias</p>	<p>Contact us</p>

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

Department Head: C. Smith

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

Students have had extraordinary learning experiences in diverse work placements including: marketing, pharmacies, Town of Richmond Hill Finance, veterinary clinics, elementary schools, daycare, nursing homes, fitness clubs, Mackenzie Health Hospital, physiotherapy clinics, animal care, dental offices, the Automotive, Construction and Electric trades and more. Many of our students have been offered part-time or permanent jobs by 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.



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



Special Education Department

Department Head: T. Brake

As the semester comes to an end, IPRC's are underway. Please ensure you sign the IPRC paperwork and return it to the school as soon as possible. Course selections have also started. If you have any questions about course selection for 2015-16, please speak to your son/daughter's SERT. If your son/daughter has been identified Withdrawal Assistance please ensure that GLE201 - Grade 10, GLE301 - Grade 11 and GLE401 - Grade 12 has been selected for next year.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test will take place on March 26th, 2015. Students in GLE201 will be preparing for the OSSLT exam in March as part of their course.

Wishing you all a successful second semester.



Guidance Department

Department Head: C. Bredin

In November we had a College / University Application Assembly for our potential graduates followed by an introduction to IPP (Individual Pathways Planning) for grades 9 and 10 in December. We also had another opportunity to see our grade 8 students in January during the feeder school visits.



Senior students have completed their application process through the Ontario Colleges Application Service (OCAS) and Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC). Responses from individual universities and colleges will take place over the next few months.

The course selection process for next year has already begun and Career Cruising is now open for submission as of February 2nd, 2015. We visited grade 10 classes and



they have been given information about the three new SHSM programs now available to them for Grade 11 and 12. The three sectors are Business, Health & Wellness and Transportation. On Friday, January 16th, grades 9, 11 and 12 had an assembly on the course selection process. Course selections will be due to homeroom teachers on Thursday, February 12th, 2015. If there are any questions regarding course selection please have your child see their Guidance Counsellor.

deadlines,
deadlines,
DEADLINES!

Our AP students in Psychology and Biology are preparing to write the AP exam in May. These students will be attending regular tutorials and/or labs throughout second semester. Good luck to all our grade 12 AP students.

All students are reminded to complete their forty hours of community service. Volunteer opportunities are posted outside Guidance Services.

Congratulations to all our semester one graduates!



AMHS is part of the RESILIENCE PROJECT

Are there days when you feel overwhelmed? Anxious? Unsure of what to do? Everyone has days like this, but over time, we develop strategies to help us deal with those feelings, to “bounce back” and carry on. That is the definition of resilience: the ability to bounce back and be adaptable to new situations and challenges. Research has shown that resilience is a positive attribute to possess, that it varies from person-to-person, and that resilience can be developed with focused teaching.

With this research in mind, I am pleased to announce that AMHS is participating in a pilot project aimed at promoting resilience in every child from Grade 7 – 9. The project, proposed by the York Region District School Board and funded by the Ministry of Education, involves key partners such as York University, The Learning Disabilities Association of York Region (LDYAR), The Character Community, York Regional Police, Mackenzie Health, Southlake Regional Health Centre and Markham Stouffville Hospital. Four high schools and seven elementary schools are participating in the pilot project. Pleasantville P.S. and Crosby Heights P.S. have partnered with AMHS for this pilot project which will continue through 2015 and 2016.

Together, our goal is to build resilient students, families, schools and communities. Participation in this pilot project involves ongoing learning opportunities for students, teachers, and parent/guardians. Regular updates on the Resilience Pilot Project will be posted on our school website and in the school e-bulletin.

History Department

Department Head: W. Shaw

The Alexander Mackenzie High School History Department is off to a flying start for the 2014/2015 academic year. An array of speakers, activities, and field trips have enhanced the learning experience of our students and made history come alive!

The grade 10 Canadian History students were deeply moved by a field trip to the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, in which a Holocaust survivor provided a sobering account of her experiences during that dreadful period of time.



Mr. Shaw's World Religions has experienced the rituals and teachings of Buddhism and Hinduism in the respective examples provided by the Cham Shan Temple and the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir. In addition, a Taoist Tai Chi workshop demonstrated to students the spiritual and physical benefits of this practice.

Ms. Hatzifortis' West and the World class explored cultures from around the world with presentations and student driven 'documentaries' reflecting course objectives. Also, the class enjoyed the Michelangelo collection at the Art Gallery of Ontario. The Canadian and World Politics course finished the year with lively debates in which important and critical issues were examined. Philosophy ended the year with each student providing a reflection of course content and personal ideas by creating T shirts demonstrating their understanding of self and the world. The creativity and quality of ideas was impressive.



The History Department looks forward to a successful academic year based upon the quality and commitment made by our students to the understanding of our world and by the support of their parents.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test is coming!

On **Thursday, March 26, 2015**, grade 10 students across the province will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). The test is based on reading and writing expectations to the end of grade 9. Successful completion of the OSSLT is a mandatory graduation requirement. Starting on February 9, all grade 10 students will be participating in the **LIT BLITZ**, a series of lessons explicitly designed to practice the tasks on the OSSLT. Please ask to see the **LIT BLITZ Workbook**. Additional resources to support your student can also be found on the EQAO website.

AMHS is aiming for 100% success on the OSSLT. Please ensure that your grade 10 student will be present on **March 26**. Missing the test would be recorded as "unsuccessful" your child's school transcript. Since the OSSLT is written only once a year, the next opportunity to write the test would be in 2016. If you have any questions about the OSSLT, please contact Ms. Maselli, Literacy Teacher at x 413.

Math Department

Department Head: L. Banjevic

EQAO

The provincial Grade 9 math EQAO test, was written in math classes on January 20th and 21st, 2015. Preparation for the EQAO test started a week earlier and also prepared our students for the math exams in January. Part of EQAO was marked and counted as 5% toward the final mark in the grade 9 math applied and academic courses.



Contests

University of Waterloo contests- Pascal contest (grade 9), Cayley contest (10) and Fermat contest (11) will be written this year on Thursday, February 24th, 2015. The Euclid Math grade 12 contest will be written on Wednesday, April 16th, 2015. Sample problems and solutions can be found at <http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca>

Extra Help

Just a reminder to all our students that extra help is available through your classroom teacher during the lunch hour. Please speak to your teacher ahead of time to arrange a time and classroom location and then come with prepared questions.



Moderns Department

Department Head: S. Juma

VIVE LE FRANÇAIS!



This semester, the Modern Languages Department welcomed Glendon College of York University to present their programmes as well as encourage the students to continue to pursue studies in French either as a major or as a minor. This was an excellent opportunity for the students to communicate in French as well as explore career possibilities that would include using French language skills.

In addition, the department welcomed ISE (International Student Exchange). A representative presented to the students the advantages of participating in such a programme during their school year or in the summer to earn credits in French and become more fluent in the language. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact the Moderns Department.



Also this semester, the grade 9 students organized a field trip fair where they highlighted various field trips in Toronto and the GTA that offer French as a possibility. The students created displays and presented them in fair style format. Then, the students interacted with other students in French. The various field trip exhibits were judged by members of the French Club.



The judges enjoyed interacting with the students and chose the McMichael gallery as the best possible field trip.



McMichael Gallery was chosen because it offered for students the chance to participate in creating an artistic production as well as a tour of First Nations and Quebec works of art. The field trip to McMichael gallery took place on January 6th.



Science Department

Department Head: S. Sadacharan



The Science department was definitely booming last semester with Grade 9 students wiring model homes for their Unit on Electricity and Grade 10 students making smores in their solar ovens! Our senior Physics students made musical instruments while students debated the use of bottled water versus tap water in Chemistry. Finally, our senior Biology students had guest speakers, one of them visiting from the Toronto Zoo. We also offered Grade 12 Advanced Placement Biology last semester. This was a very lab intensive course which included a variety of labs such as gel electrophoresis, PCR, bacterial transformation and bioinformatics. The students also got an opportunity to analyze their own chromosomes and study the process of cellular respiration in plants! It was a great first semester and we are looking forward to another busy second half of the school year.

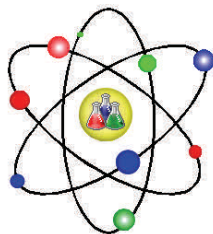
Preparation for the annual academic competitions will begin later in February. Students in Physics will have an opportunity to test their skills in the University of Toronto Leonardo da Vinci and the University of Waterloo Sir Isaac Newton contests at the Grade 12 level and the Physics Teachers Association of Ontario competition at the Grade 11 level. Senior biology students will compete in the University of Toronto National Biology contest. The chemistry challenges are offered by the University of Waterloo's Avagadro 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.



Science Department *cont...*

Department Head: S. Sadacharan

The York Region Science Olympics will be held in the second semester as well. In 2013, we won first prize for the school having the most team spirit and we are looking forward to giving some fierce competition again this year! Any students who wish to join a junior or senior team should contact their science teacher or any member of the science department.



There are many opportunities for students to get involved in the Science Department. We have a Lab Assistants Club that meets every Friday 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. 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.

Finally, the Advanced Placement exam writing dates are fast approaching. If you are interested in writing an Advanced Placement exam for a first year University Chemistry, Biology and/or Physics course, please speak to a member of the science department as soon as possible. We wish you much success as you begin a new semester!

Technological Studies Department

Department Head: J. Fabrikis

It has been a very busy and rewarding first semester for the staff and students in the Technological Studies Department at Alexander Mackenzie.

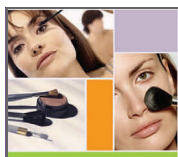
The Grade 11 **Architectural Design** students have designed and drawn by Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) a full set of blueprints for a dream waterfront residence. The Grade 12 **Architectural Design** students have built a model of a geodesic dome residence and have drawn a full set of drawings for a commercial bank.

The students in the Grade 11 **Construction Technology** classes have been very busy designing and building full scale wall sections and a storage shed and have learned more about the demand for the skilled trades. The Grade 12 students have improved their fine woodworking skills by building a front hallway entrance table for their homes.



The **Grade 9 Exploring Technologies** classes have been very busy researching, brainstorming, designing and building projects such as a CO₂ Powered Dragster and a gravity powered marble Roller Coaster.

In **Hospitality & Baking** the Grade 11 classes provided the staff with eleven themed lunches that were served in The Mackenzie Room every Thursday. In addition they also created delicious treats for the staff to purchase for the holidays. The Grade 10 classes prepared a variety of breakfast items for our Breakfast Club Program that runs daily throughout the semester. They also had the opportunity to create a variety of cupcakes for our Halloween Bake Sale. Fun times!



The **Hair Styling and Aesthetics** course is looking forward and preparing for our fifth annual "Manicure for Cure for Cancer" at our school! An amazing event with a whole school collaboration in the foyer of our school. At AMAC fights back we will once again be providing cosmetology services as well as ribbons, baked goods and so much more! All for an amazing cause!!

The **Transportation Technology** students have been very busy once again servicing and repairing student's and teachers cars all semester and learning more about the skill set needed to be successful in this trade.

Our motto in the Technological Studies Department is that students always learn best by learning how to do the work themselves.



Department Head: C. Clarke

Performing Arts Department (Theatre ARTS, Drama and Dance)

Notes from the Studios



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 an opportunity to work with many different artists and classes to hone their performance skills over the semester.

The semester was full of performance opportunities for the Performing Arts students. In Theatre ARTS and Dance ARTS, the performance season started in October with outstanding short performances for *ARTS Night*. The students continued their performance season for Remembrance Day. Dance Council, Grade 9 Drama and Grade 9 Theatre ARTS created original pieces for the Remembrance Day assembly. The graduates ended the semester with an outstanding *Graduate Showcase* in January.

Semester two will bring multiple performance opportunities for the Performing Arts Students, including *Dance Expressions*, *Sears Drama Festival*, performances from Theatre ARTS 9 and

A Midsummer Night's Dream, and spring Theatre ARTS 12.





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:

- ◆ Backstage tour of the Canon Theatre and performance of *Wicked*
- ◆ Workshops with TOES for Dance
- ◆ Movement Workshops with Theatre ARTS Alumni Zac Levitt
- ◆ African Dance Workshops with Sharon Harvey
- ◆ Canadian Stage Acting Workshop and Performance of *Opus*
- ◆ Mask making workshop with Melanie Siegel
- ◆ Stratford Festival field trip to see *Crazy for You*
- ◆ Physical theatre workshop with *Theatre Gargantua*



Some Additional Notes from Drama Studios

Grade 10 Drama for English as a Second Language Learners

We used elements of drama in creating and communicating through dramatic works. We have learned how to gain confidence in ourselves, and how to better succeed in anything we choose to do. We had a lot of fun every day, and a good smile was our exit-ticket at the end of each class.

Grade 9 Drama and Theatre ARTS

Period one was always an exciting and active start to the day. The grade 9 Drama and Theatre ARTS 9 students engaged in many dramatic activities, including improvisation, movement, elements of comedy, Greek Theatre, camera angles and film making, technical theatre and playwriting. From Halloween make-up activities to creating short original works based on family stories, creativity thrived all semester in studio 112.





Department Head: C. Clarke

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

Some Additional Notes from Dance Studio



As we complete the first semester of the 2014-2015 school year, it is evident that the dance department has been quite busy! The students in the department have put on some outstanding performances with their own original pieces of choreography, participated in workshops with major contributors to the world of Canadian dance and continue to put dance on the map as a legitimate art form within the Alexander Mackenzie school community.

In the first few months of the school year all grades worked on solidifying their technique in both ballet and modern dance. Students were challenged with both practical and theoretical assignments and consistently went above and beyond expectations. In October, the students in the grade 10, 11 and 12 classes represented the dance department during our annual ARTS Information Night. These three classes also did an outstanding job performing at the ARTS Information Night for potential grade 8 students at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. The dance students demonstrated outstanding levels of organization and professionalism and for that the teachers of the dance program are so very proud of them.

In November, students had the opportunity to complete a workshop with the artists of TOES for Dance. The contemporary workshops were lead by Toronto-based dancer Kate Holder, as well as the two founders of New York City's MADBoots Dance, Austin Diaz and Jonathan Campbell. Later on in the month, students went on a fieldtrip to see TOES for Dance at the YCDSB Centre for the Arts. This performance was filled with contemporary dance from young up and coming choreographers and dancers from Toronto and New York City. This performance showcased the power of dance education and provided a peek into our students' future. 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. 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. The piece entitled *Heaven* was choreographed by the Dance Council co-presidents and grade 12 students; Zayn Molu, Olivia Petroff, Meagan Shallow and Natalie Shallow.

Most recently, our graduating grade 12 class just completed with a final culminating project known as The Graduate Showcase 2015. 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 Vaughan City Playhouse. 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.

The first semester of the school year had its challenges and triumphs! 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 5th annual **Dance Expressions on Monday May 25, 2015 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts**. Students will also be participating in other inter-disciplinary workshops as well as going to see a professional ballet performance by the National Ballet of Canada in downtown Toronto.

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 2015 will bring the same successes!



Department Head: C. Clarke

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

Some Additional Notes from Theatre Studio

Congratulations to our Theatre ARTS and Drama students for another semester of in-depth exploration and creation! Over the last several months, students have engaged in a number of enriched performance units, gaining first-hand experience with a variety of cultural and historical performance traditions. Here are some highlights from the semester.

The Grade 12 Theatre ARTS students explored avant-garde theatre movements from the 20th and 21st centuries, culminating in a professional performance of a student-written piece highlighting the limitations of language in contemporary society. Students entered into the complex and talented minds of two of theatre's legendary rebels, Bertolt Brecht and Samuel Beckett, exploring not only the ground-breaking technical and performance developments pioneered by these two dramatists, but also their philosophies, time periods, and approaches. Through a number of practical exploration activities, students worked on their feet through many universal dilemmas about personal responsibility, social order, and the nature of human existence. By using performance as an access point, students were able to critically engage with some of the biggest questions faced by every generation of artists, and learned how to do so in an engaging, theatrical, and entertaining manner. This year's Graduate Showcase performance, held at the Vaughan City Playhouse, highlighted the technical, performative, and conceptual skills that students have developed over three-and-a-half years of enriched, year-long Theatre ARTS courses. The show was a huge success, garnering positive feedback from parents, staff, and community members, who enjoyed having their assumptions challenged while also being thoroughly entertained by the well-crafted stories and characters.

Theatre ARTS students in grades 10 and 11 continued their journey through various cultural and historical movements, experimenting with forms as diverse as Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed and the works of the Elizabethans, including Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Students delved into the social-issues based exploration of Theatre of the Oppressed by experimenting with forms such as Invisible Theatre, catching spectators off-guard and engaging them directly with the actors and the stories in order to help turn their existing perceptions of our world upside down. Students also had a chance to gain first-hand experience with the Shakespearean approach to writing, taking reconfiguring existing characters from a range of stories and putting them into a new situation and context together. The student-generated works that were produced this semester demonstrated new levels of creativity and authenticity, applied to some classical and foundational aspects of stage performance and drama-in-society work. Students discovered practical, relevant applications for traditional performance training and for dramatic exploration, both important streams of theatre work that can be pursued not just in high school, but in the world beyond, from higher education to community-based work and the professional stage.





Department Head: C. Clarke

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

Some Additional Notes from Theatre Studio

This year's Sears Drama Festival entry will tackle the issue of the competitive theatre world head-on with an entirely student-written and produced piece entitled "We Can't All Be Famous." The piece is contemporary, a bit edgy, and draws on established traditions such as Commedia dell'Arte in its use of stock characters from the theatre world to satirize our culture's obsession with competition, control, and perfection. The show features a large cast and crew which have been hard at work in rehearsals for several months, and will premier in school on February 12th with a buy-in performance before heading to Pierre Elliott Trudeau S.S. for the first round of competition on February 23rd.

The Dramatic Arts Council has been hard at work promoting departmental activities and performance. The Council will continue to celebrate theatre, drama and creativity at Alexander Mackenzie with the First Annual Film Festival on April 1st and the Excellence in Student Theatre Achievement Awards in June.



Music Department

Department Head: E. Hudspith

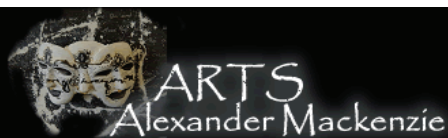


The AMHS Music Department would like to congratulate all of the music students who have worked so hard this semester and taken part in many different concerts and events.

We started off the semester with "A Trip Around the World", a dinner and concert organized by our Grade 11/12 Arts students. Next, was the winter concert, "Showcase", which featured 250 music students performing in concert bands, choirs, orchestras, and small ensembles. The Music Department's musical, "Anything Goes" was a huge success (with more details on a separate page). Finally, our Music Council hosted some very successful events for the music students, including a grade nine barbeque, a Halloween-themed movie night, and the always popular Holiday Party.

In second semester, we are looking forward to another busy schedule, including concerts, festival performances, and our annual extended trip, this year to the Atlantic Music Festival in Halifax, Nova Scotia. On Thursday, February 26th, we will hold our annual Coffee House and Silent Auction. Please contact the music department if you are interested in donating items for the auction.





Visual Art Department

Department Head: A. Bhatia

Thank you to all of the art students this semester who put forth such a great effort with their creativity and skills in creating a fantastic array of artworks. Many of these works can be seen on the walls around the school as well as in the foyer display cases. In September, Melanie Siegel came in to our grade 9 art classes to work with our students on creating felt pieces inspired by the Group of Seven. These pieces were then put together by Ms. Siegel to create 2 beautiful panels which will be further worked on in semester two by our arts students. In November, several works of art from Alexander Mackenzie students were on show at the International Quest Educational Conference at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel in Markham, where they received much praise. Our school also had a team of four artists at Quest that participated in 'Artonomy', a collaborative painting experience, along with teams from other York Region schools. This event was streamed live into the school foyer for the student body to observe our students in action. Another busy group of students has been the Yearbook class. The Yearbook is more than halfway complete and after having seen a proof of the cover we are certain that it will be one of the best ever!

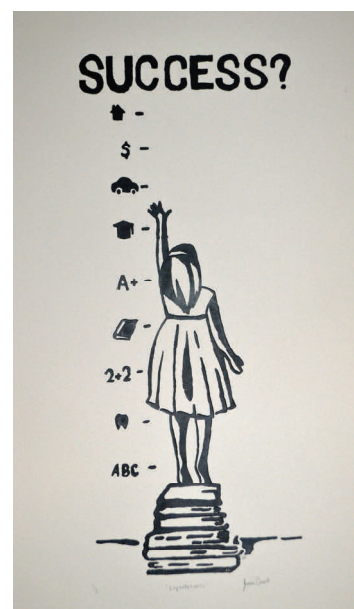
Out and about.... our students went on a number of excursions this year including a trip to the Aga Khan Museum and the Art Gallery of Ontario as well as on a few walks up to Mill Pond to do some *plein air* sketching in the fall. Next semester we will be heading off to the McMichael gallery. On May 13th, our Arts and Culture Council will be hosting our annual Java Night, which entails a variety of multi-discipline performances. Also In May, our senior art students will be curating our annual art show at Boynton House (in Richmond Green) as part of Doors Open Richmond Hill (May 7 -10), where we will once again showcase the talents of our excellent students. Here's looking forward to an exciting semester!



Emotions by: Harremie Park



Self Portrait by: Taia MacEachern



Expectations by: Jenna Caswell

Self Portrait by: Conan Chan

Alexander Mackenzie High School
300 Major Mackenzie Drive West
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4C 3S3