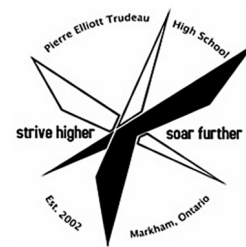




Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School

# La PIROUETTE

April 2019



Students discover African drumming with the guidance of Quammie Williams as part of our Black History Month Celebrations

## A message from our principal, Lisa Wargo...

Happy Spring! It is hard to believe but, we are in the final stages of the 2019-20 school year and our students have been enjoying great successes in academics, the arts, clubs, community service and athletics. This edition of our school newsletter "La Pirouette" will highlight some of the amazing achievements of our students.

### Professional Learning

This year our school priority has been to raise the achievement and well-being of our underserved and underperforming students, as outlined in the Director's Annual Plan. Our professional development this year has had a strong equity focus with topics that include Indigenous education, anti-oppression and understanding culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy. Our math initiative this year is focused on examining how we can provide a comprehensive math program that will reflect our students' social identities, lived experiences, needs and interests. Currently, we have 15 passionate and dedicated teachers on our school equity team who have been leading this professional learning.

Some of the topics for our professional learning have included:

- Learning about our Land Acknowledgement and how to incorporate it into lesson planning
- How to interrupt inappropriate language in the classroom and hallways
- Conducting Equity scans of course curriculum, to ensure students see themselves reflected in their learning
- Indigenous Blanket Activity – an interactive History Lesson presented by our very own Charlotte Clarke, to educate our staff and foster understanding about our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous people
- Learning about the social identities and lived experience of our students
- How to create mentally healthy classrooms

### Cultural Celebrations at PETHS

#### Black History Month

- Sean Mauricette a.k.a Subliminal presented to our student body a powerful

talk, highlighting the stories of black saints such as Saint Maurice and king Mansa Musa of Mali. He reminds us that "Black History didn't start with slavery, it interrupted it."

- African Inventors Exhibit
- Patrick Walters, spoken work
- Quammie Williams, African Drumming
- Daily announcements

#### Lunar New Year

Our Lunar New year celebration to ring in the "Year of the Pig" was planned by some of our members of our parent community. Staff and students celebrated with homemade food, music and dance.

#### Looking ahead:

May is Mental Health Awareness Month  
June is National Indigenous History Month

Our ultimate goal this year is to ensure that all of our students feel a sense of community and belonging. At Trudeau it is indeed true, that *Together We Are Better!*

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

## BUSINESS STUDIES

**Amul Gandhi, Head**

## Trudeau Business has launched!

The Business department is proud to be launching our new



brand “Trudeau Business.” At Trudeau Business we want our students to *Be a Boss*. Trudeau Business doesn’t believe being a boss is being in charge of others, but rather being in charge of one’s own success.

Through the development of leadership, cooperation and problem solving skills students will be able to tackle any challenge that comes their way.

Trudeau Business wants to provide our students with the knowledge and skills necessary for them to exude confidence and *Be a Boss*.

Concurrently, the **Trudeau Business Council** has also been created to provide students with additional opportunities to get involved in business experiences throughout the community. Students regardless of their business knowledge are free to join the events.

## What's new and exciting in the English Department!

***Diana Taylor, Head of English***

**Some Welcomes!:** We are pleased to welcome Ms. Levine to the English department this semester and a big welcome back to Ms. Sasso.

**News for Grade 9s:** The after school literacy classes for grade 9 students have begun this week if we have the student demand, and will take place on Wednesdays after school from 3:00 pm to 4:30pm. These are extra support classes that aim to help struggling students with their reading and writing skills. The English teachers at Trudeau will note students who may require additional support and gently encourage their attendance, however the literacy classes are open to any grade 9 student interested in seeking some extra support. Students will receive information and permission forms in order to attend and students may join at anytime. The English department looks forward to supporting our lovely grade 9 students!

**Congratulations:** Grade 12 student Christina Flores-Chan in Ms. Strauss' Writer's Craft class, whose personal essay was published in The Huffington Post Canada. It is called, *"When Cancer Hit Us Like A Tidal Wave, We Learned To Breathe Underwater."* Find it online.

## French Speech Wins 2nd at Skills Challenge

***Kendra Stevenson, Head of Modern Languages***



*Subeka Mathanokan delivering her award-winning speech*

On February 28th, many PETHS students competed in the York Region Skills Challenge. Subeka Mathanokan, a grade 10 student in the Core French program, competed in the Prepared Speech competition. With only three weeks' time to prepare her speech following the decision to participate, Subeka wrote an inspirational speech on the importance of mental health for today's youth. Competing against French *and* English language submissions alike, Subeka took home second place! What an impressive display of how dedication and initiative can reap outstanding results. Did I mention French is Subeka's *second* language...?! Felicitations Subeka!

## Traveling History Museum comes to Trudeau

### ***Students experience hands-on history with WW1 artifacts***





## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### SHSM (Specialist High Schools Major)

**Margit Muller**

The **York Region Skills Challenge (YRSC)** for secondary schools took place at Seneca College (February 28) and at the College of Carpenters (March 7). Have a look at the pictures and comments from some of the 29 PETHS students who participated.

#### Fashion Challenge:

"It was absolutely fantastic! If I had the chance to participate again, I sure would! The entire experience was a lot of fun and I got to meet many talented individuals."

"As for SHSM, I would like to use it as an elective certification, please!"

#### Robotics Challenge:

"Being a veteran of robotic competitions for two years now and a current executive member of Trudeau Robotics (Trubotics), I will work with Ms. Petkovic to ensure that a team can be sent to Skills next year along with a functional and prepared robot. There may be plans in the future to keep it that way so that PETHS can have a consistent role to play in the Skills Robotics competition."

#### Graphic Design Challenge:

"...and this event is highly competitive and if you are not great in the subject you're competing, you don't have a great chance of winning. However it's worth trying just to see what it is like in the workplace. Sure, I'd be happy to use this as an elective certification."



## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Cooperative Education Students Explore Their Futures Today

*Leah Butler, Interim Head of Community Based Education*

Can you guess what employers value the most in prospective employees? It's WORK EXPERIENCE and EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS! Our Co-op students are already paving their way to success by immersing themselves in the world of work as they develop essential employability skills, network with professionals and gain industry-specific skills and experience.

This semester we have Co-op students with interests that span across many different industries and sectors. Each student is test driving a career that they are considering pursuing in the future.

We have placements in music and theatre production, urban planning, health care, accounting, education, law, cooking, marketing and information technology. Having this vast array of work experiences in one classroom makes for enriching peer discussions when students return from work during our in-school days.

We look forward to seeing our students grow and shine in their element out in the real world!

Three of our Co-op students are participating in the Accelerated Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) as an automotive service technician, carpenter and electrician. This semester they will work as registered apprentices in these trades full time, attend a skilled trades college for theoretical and practical training and earn hours toward their apprenticeships as they work toward becoming



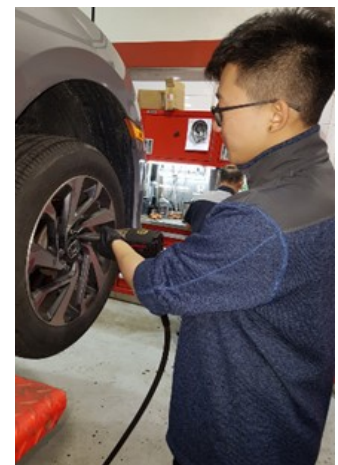
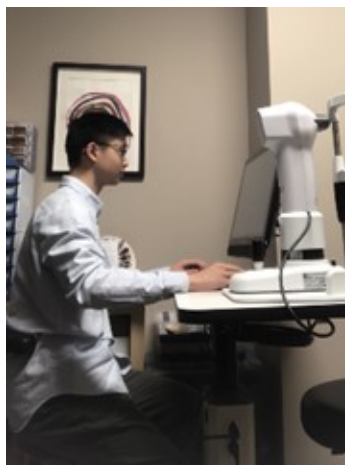
*Henry trains to become an electrician at Pro-Tek Electric Inc.*

certified journeypersons. These students are well on their way to in-demand successful careers!

For more information about OYAP, visit <https://oyap.com/splash/> or contact the Co-op office.

The Co-op department is always looking for new community partners to act as hosts for our students. Some Trudeau parents continue to offer work experience opportunities at their local businesses. If you are interested in learning more about how you can share your expertise and ignite the interest of one of our students, we would be happy to talk.

Please feel free to contact us at (905) 887 - 2216 ext. 371 or send us an email at [leah.butler@yrdsb.ca](mailto:leah.butler@yrdsb.ca) or [reena.bhagani@yrdsb.ca](mailto:reena.bhagani@yrdsb.ca). We look forward to hearing from you!



*From left to right: Daniella works as a French Immersion teaching assistant at Fred Varley Public School; Brian works as an optometry assistant at Markham Eye and Vision Care; Zachary trains to become a carpenter at Upton Construction; Ethan is apprenticing to become an auto service technician at Markham Honda.*



# DEPARTMENT NEWS

## Library

**Bella Nay, Library and Information Technician**



**Grade 9 students work collaboratively on their electricity project.**

The library welcomes all students throughout the day to work individually and in small collaborative groups.


We work with classroom teachers to support student learning, teach research skills and promote information literacy.




**ELL teachers partner with the teacher-librarian to support students in their research and preparation for a speech competition.**

We offer fun activities and stimulating displays that encourage creativity and good mental health.

Many research tools such as databases, eBooks, subject specific support and recommended resources are easily accessible through our website.

 [Main Page](#)



 [Catalogue](#)



The online catalogue page connects students to all online tools available from YRDSB.

Drop by the library today! We're here to help.



### It's Maple Syrup Time!

The maple leaf is an iconic Canadian symbol and maple syrup is the quintessential Canadian product. If you take part in a maple syrup festival this spring, you may hear one of many legends told about the discovery of the sugar sap by the Indigenous peoples. To honor the First Nations who share this land with us, let's learn their stories. Here is one of my favorites:

The Haudenosaunee speak of their ancestor Chief Woksis, who once lodged his tomahawk deep into a living tree trunk and left it there overnight. The next day, his wife Moqua, while absorbed in her quillwork, inadvertently let her cooking pot of meat boil dry. To save herself a trip to the river to fetch fresh water, she used the watery tree sap that had run down the handle of the tomahawk and dripped into a bowl at the base of the wounded tree. Both Chief Woksis and Moqua were amazed at the sweetness of the meat. News of the maple tree's hidden bounty spread far and wide.

Herd, Tim. *Maple Sugar: From Sap to Syrup, the History, Lore, and How-to behind This Sweet Treat*. Storey Pub, 2010.

PETHS library is celebrating maple syrup season with a display and some tastings. Thanks to Mr. Dance for providing us with artifacts for our display and samples that he harvested!





## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### ESL Hosts Lunar New Year Celebrations for Students and Community Members





## BLACK HISTORY MONTH



"Black History did not start with slavery — it was interrupted by it!"

A powerful reminder delivered by keynote speaker Subliminal.

The month of February was infused with celebration of the rich culture of the African/Caribbean–Canadian community. Students and staff had several opportunities to learn about and interact with the art, music, food and ingenuity of this diverse community.

We began the experience with spoken word artist Patrick Walters who held a writing and mental health workshop in the library. Subliminal transfixed our students with his whole-school presentation, encouraging us all to seek out information about Black History that is so underrepresented the mainstream. He asked us to look far back even to the Pharos's of Egypt, to "....know your history" and be proud of it.

The African Inventors Exhibit came for a day long visit. A muse-



um installation was set up in the library, and students walked through an exhibit designed to showcase the stories and ingenuity of lesser known Black Canadian and American inventors. Many of these inventors were responsible for so many of the products we use in our everyday lives. Often, because the inventors couldn't afford the cost of patenting their ideas and creations, the credit was taken by those who could.

Furthermore, Quammie Williams energized us with African drumming lessons in the cafeteria. Students from the African Caribbean Association sold Jamaican Patties in the crossroads; a staple snack in the GTA to everyone's delight. The month was anchored by FlightUnit Radio who provided daily motivational broadcast and interesting, "Did you know?!" facts about Black Americans and Canadians.

We will continue to commemorate Black History as we welcome storyteller Itah Sadu, who will entertain us with stories of the lives of African Canadians from 1604 to 2019 this spring. She promises us a telling of the infamous *Beef Patty Wars* of 1985.

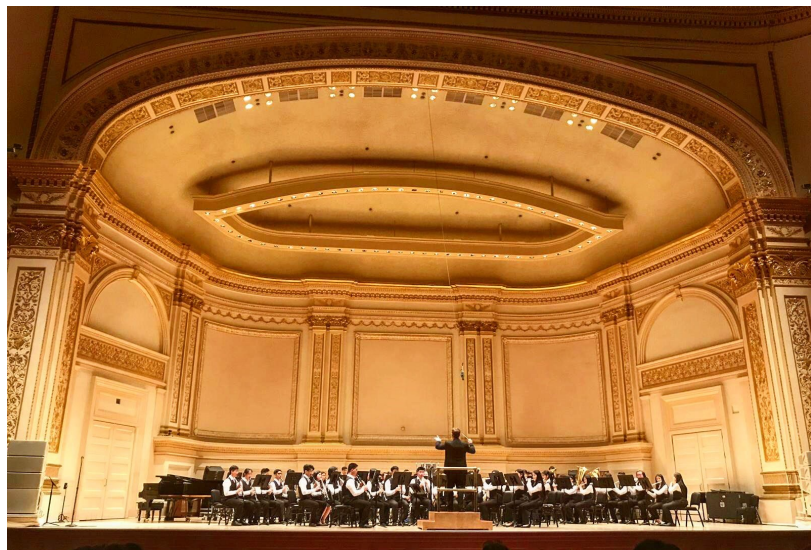
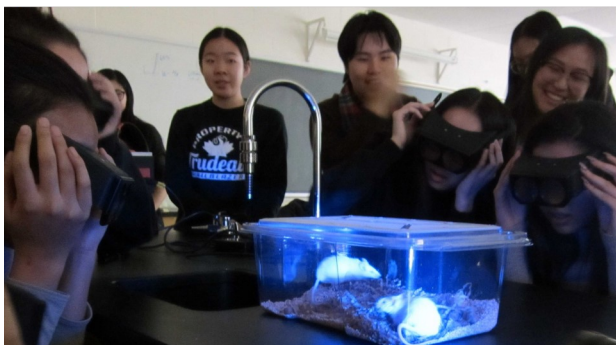




# DEPARTMENT NEWS AND CLUB NEWS

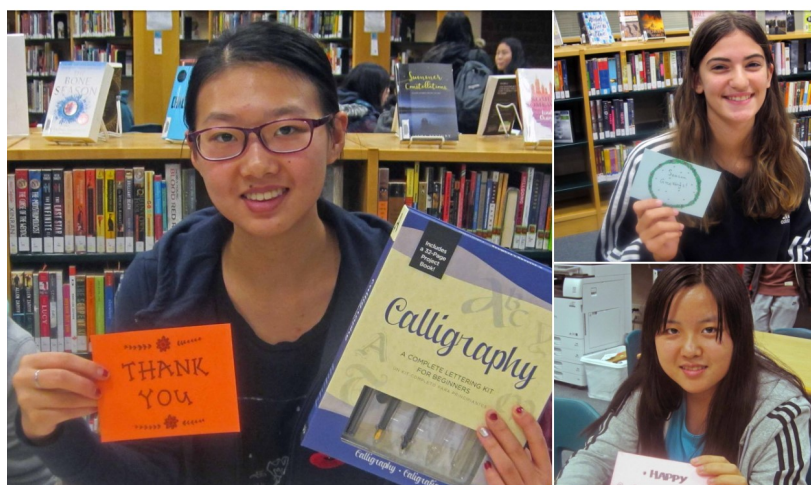
## SCIENCE

Trudeau's senior Biology students gained hands-on experience as they learned about animal models and examined planaria, wildtype and mutated temperature-sensitive fruitflies and glow-in-the dark mice in a SciHigh workshop. The senior Chemistry students visited the University of Waterloo where they attended a mini-lecture and synthesized Tylenol in the lab. Meanwhile, the Grade 10 students got creative as they built human body theme park rides.



## MUSIC

Trudeau's Music students traveled to New York City to play at Carnegie Hall. This amazing opportunity was earned through years of dedication, practice and perseverance. Congrats!



## OCTAGON CLUB

The Octagon Club weaved 9000 milk bags into 18 mats to be sent to developing countries. Special thanks to guest facilitator Ms. Gusz who taught us about the milk bag mats and Octagon executive Juliana who built a wooden loom for us. Octagon Club members led by executive Kerri organized and facilitated a calligraphy workshop in the library.



# CLUB NEWS

## Trudeau Student Activities Council

*Dylan Kang, Student, TSAC Communications Chairperson*

This year's winter was long and frigid, with multiple snow and ice storms, keeping people's jackets zipped up tight. However, with the onslaught of snow came an avalanche of spirit weeks and events which showed that our Trailblazers' spirit burns bright all year round. Here is a recap of some of the events we hosted.

### Winter Spirit Week: December 17 - December 21



Trudeau's annual winter spirit week consisted of five jam-packed days of fun activities and themes that set the tone for the holidays. Early Monday morning, pajamas-clad

students gathered in the crossroads to start their day with pancakes and hot cocoa prepared by student council. Tuesday, students matched clothing with their "twin", while Wednesday, students dressed up as their favourite internet memes. On Thursday, students sported their favourite "ugly holiday sweater", while participating in a homeroom gingerbread house design contest. Every delicious entry was displayed in the crossroads for students and teachers alike to vote on. Finally, the spirit week culminated in Trudeau's first "Winter Carnival". Classes ended early and students participated in a variety of activities such as holiday movie screening, open mic cafe, cookie decorating, paint room and more!

### Love Week: February 11 - February 15

Love was definitely in the air during Trudeau's third annual Love Week - a spirit week meant to highlight different equity themes. This year, our five themes were "Love is Louder" for bullying prevention, "Love is Colourful" for cultural and racial diversity, "Love is Capable" for ableism awareness, "Love is Love" for LGBTQ+ pride, and lastly "Love is Equal" for gender equality. Each day, student council sold wristbands that corresponded to the day's theme. The proceeds from these sales were donated at the end of the week to five different charities, each one supporting one of the aforementioned causes. A station was also set up in the crossroads where anyone was allowed to stop by and write a "love letter" to or about anyone they ap-



preciated. Additionally, students prepared various equity-based art pieces and performances that were presented throughout the week, adding a loving touch to a lovely week.

### Semi-Formal

On March 7, students strutted down to Scarborough Convention Centre in their best suits and dresses to attend Semi-Formal - one of Trudeau's biggest events of the year! The theme for this year was 'red carpet', and students had the opportunity to walk down a real red carpet into the main ballroom while being welcomed by our student council paparazzi. The evening consisted of a live jazz trio, a buffet-style dinner, candy bowls set up at every dining table, three photo-booths with unlimited prints, and of course an exciting dance with a professional DJ.



### Upcoming Events

Moving forward, students can look forward to our Outdoor Movie Night in May, and Blazer's Bash, our biggest event of the year. Even more exciting are the upcoming TSAC elections, which will be held mid-April! If you are interested in playing a part in planning any of the events listed above, make sure to keep an eye out for applications!

### Contact Us

If you have any questions about TSAC or any of these events, feel free to contact us through any of our social media accounts listed below:

Email: [trudeaustudentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:trudeaustudentcouncil@gmail.com)

Instagram: @trudeausac

Snapchat: @trudeausac

Twitter: @trudeausac

Hope to see you all soon and on behalf of TSAC, we wish everyone an amazing final term of school!



## CLUB NEWS



### DECA Trudeau Headed to Orlando!

**Catriona Chan, Student**

On February 7-9, over 110 passionate and motivated business students travelled to the Sheraton Centre Toronto to compete in DECA Ontario's 40th Provincial Competition. DECA is a business organization that provides students with the opportunity to learn and develop their business skills through case competitions at regional, provincial, and international levels. Students competed in various written and case study events in areas of business such as Marketing, Finance, Hospitality and Tourism, Entrepreneurship and Business Management.

DECA Trudeau members have been preparing for this competition since November, meeting once a week to train with their cluster executives. Throughout the training sessions, members developed public skills and practical business knowledge. The mentoring allowed members to practice role-play scenarios and gain valuable feedback for the provincial competition.

The provincial competition was demanding, each member competing in case studies or written events throughout the course of the weekend. After two full days of competition, DECA Trudeau came out on top. All their hard work and dedication had paid off! The chapter came home with 81 awards: 30 top role plays, 19 top test

scores, 18 overall winners and 14 Provincial Champions. In total, 23 members, with 5 members attending the Leadership Academy, qualified and will be heading down south to Orlando, Florida this April to compete at the International Career Development Conference. This conference is an opportunity to showcase the students' hard work and network with global competitors.

The chapter advisors and executives are very proud of everyone's commitment, passion, dedication and perseverance. No matter the outcome, each member proudly represented Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School at the provincial competition.

Good luck in Florida, DECA Trudeau competitors!





## CLUB NEWS



### Acoustic Music Club (AMC) and the Trudeau Arts Council collaborate to create Musical Mocha Café

*A night of wondrous entertainment,  
melodious music and delicious  
treats...*





# ATHLETICS



## ***Sr. Boys Basketball 2018/2019 Team Roster:***

***Beckford, Joshua ; Brown, Trae Xavier; Chan, Lincoln ; Chung, Owen; Fehintola, Raphael; Fong, Jaden; Giang, Timothy; Hum, Henley; Kabatakaka, Maxim; Schumacher, Jeffrey; Uy, Lance; Varma, Kush; Community Coaches: Nathan Hamilton and Janko Lam; Teacher-Coach: D. Kroetsch***

## **Great Season for Sr. Boys Basketball**

***David Kroestch, Physical Education and Health Teacher, Basketball Coach***

### **Sr. Boys Basketball YRAA Tier 2:**

As a team, we had 53 events over the season - 35 practices and 18 games. The playing season was spread over two exhibition games, two tournaments, the YRAA Tier 2 regular season and the YRAA AAA playoffs.

The unique thing with this team was the ability to win close games. A humble team that respected all opponents, this team was grounded. When games were tight, team character and team culture (that our veteran players helped to create and reinforce) was often the difference-maker. Preparation for end-of-game scenarios and support of one another often meant that they demonstrated their best decision making when the game was on the line.

In the two playoff games, the team definitely met expectations and played the team game that had been discussed, practiced, and reinforced all season. Improved shot selection, effective ball movement, and most importantly, driving with intent to score resulted in better offensive performances to accompany our

consistent defense. Our season came to end against Middlefield S.S. in the YRAA AAA round of 16.

A big thanks goes to our graduating seniors and returning player (Trae Brown, Lincoln Chan, Raphael Fehintola, Maxim Kabatakaka, Lance Uy, Kush Varma, and Josh Beckford) for their commitment to the team, their character, their holding teammates accountable, and most importantly for the class with which they have represented Trudeau Basketball over the last few years.

