



*Enlightening the Trailblazer Spirit:
A Look Into the Blazer's Bash*

TRUDEAU TIMES

Special Edition 2022



Dear Reader,

Hello and welcome to the first issue of Trudeau Times in the 2022-2023 school year! We are a team of students who want to immerse you in Trudeau culture and present stories from students and staff. Passionate writers bring fresh student voices to the table, while editors work closely with them to ensure the quality of every article you read. We would also be nothing without our dedicated design team, who work on layouts to make our newspaper look as amazing as it does!

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Our primary goal as a school newspaper is to amplify student voices and the diverse opinions they bring. By reflecting the variety of perspectives on current topics that concern our school population, we hope to encourage you to recognise the uniqueness of each student in our school. We would also love to hear from you! Whether you are a student, staff, member, club, or parent, you can help us promote Trudeau culture by participating in interviews when the opportunity presents itself.

We hope you enjoy this special edition, and we look forward to engaging with you throughout the school year!

Sincerely,
The Trudeau Times



Introduction

SOPHIA WANG

Blazer's Bash is one of the many exhilarating school events hosted at Trudeau! There are a variety of games and activities to partake in that will help you create unforgettable memories. Not to mention the delightful refreshments you can purchase from the food trucks. It is an end-of-year celebration for all grades that helps build community and allows you to show off your school spirit! Do you not believe it? Well, let us take a look at what students at Trudeau had to say about the day!

TRUDEAU VOICE



Lune Dance Club

What better way to start off the performances than with some beautifully choreographed numbers from the Lune Dance Club? Lune is a perfectly apt name for this group, as the dancers shine like stars once they hit the stage. Each member displayed energy and beautiful movement as they wowed the crowd through a series of short dances. The performance was an obvious crowd pleaser, with non-stop cheering and applause throughout the entire show! Once the crowd settled, the performers were kind enough to let us interview them.

Joey, the youngest member of the group, from Grade 9, and Christy, a Grade 12 senior as well as co-president of Lune, shared some of their insights from the Blazer's Bash. Joey remarked, "It was really fun and a good opportunity to showcase our skills", and Christy added: "I think there were a lot of fun minigames and other activities that made it really fun for everyone. I like how this year there was a ticket system, so you had to get a certain amount of tickets to claim a prize. I really liked that."

Besides their obvious involvement in this event, they were both looking forward to exploring the different activities and games. Christy mentioned that "even aside from the performances, I think I would have come to Blazers Bash regardless because it's really fun and it's my last year." Joey seconded this statement with an enthusiastic "Yes!" Getting to showcase your skills in front of the school can be pretty nerve racking, and is something not everyone gets to experience.

When asked to comment on their performance, Christy said, "we wanted to perform on the stage or inside because the pavement is really rough but aside from that the environment was really nice. Everyone was clapping which made it really enjoyable." The excitement from the crowd was contagious and kept everyone's energy up.

SOPHIA LEE

Everyone, both on and off stage, had a blast and as some advice for new students at PETHS, Joey and Christy encouraged all to join clubs and get involved in the school. "Join clubs, join this club (Lune Dance Club). I would say for the soon-to-be high schoolers, joining clubs is part of the high school experience and it's like (having) another family. Join Lune!", was Christy's closing statement to the Trudeau Times interviewers.





HOME OF THE

TRAILBLAZERS

STUDENT REVIEW

Basketball Free Throw

SOPHIA WANG

For those who love a good challenge in sports, one of the many mini events that raised the energy in the atmosphere was Blazer's Bash's Basketball Free-throw competition. With a fast moving queue, the front runner has only one minute to get as many basketballs down the hoop as possible. Quick and simple, but extremely demanding! The game was a great way to get everyone pumped up and to show some Trudeau spirit.

Out of the many who dipped their toes in the water of the basketball free-throw, Brandy, a grade 10 student, as well as Desmond in grade 11, were both seen actively engaging in the thrilling game and had nothing but positive remarks towards Blazer's Bash. "It is nice and I have a lot of games to play," expressed Brandy, while Desmond, someone who had been severely impacted by the shutdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, felt more appreciation towards the celebration. Desmond said, "Blazer's Bash is pretty good! Obviously when I was in grade 9 and 10, they didn't have it so this is my first time. I think it's nice that the school does stuff like this because it is the end of the school year." Brandy and Desmond, both grinning from ear to ear, exhibit their enthusiasm for the annual Blazer's Bash and would recommend the event to absolutely anyone. Brandy states that, "You can come play with friends, it is just a good place to be in," with Desmond emphasizing the importance of the event, saying, "You know, high school is only 4 years, and after that, it is over, you are done forever. So, I think you should make the most out of your high school years because it will never happen again."

With their optimistic perspectives on Blazer's



Bash and the school year coming to an end, both students gave sentimentals about their journey throughout high school and felt the need to say a few inspiring words. Desmond wanted to touch on a serious concern with many newcomers. He stresses that, "[Students] should definitely join clubs and be more involved, because I was not really in any and I am kind of regretting it because not only is it good for university applications, it is also good to be more involved and to feel like you are a part of something. So, definitely 100% join clubs." On the other hand, Brandy ended off with a sweet and short quote: "Play hard, work hard!"

Volleyball

SOPHIA WANG




From individual games to team competitions, Trudeau's Blazer's Bash has it all! To enjoy a cheerful time at the Blazer's Bash, gathering strength with numbers through a stimulating game of volleyball might just be the right move to socialize, win prize tickets and, most importantly, enjoy your time! Both with joyous spirits, Ryan and Jayleen were found engrossed in the volleyball event, having fun and interacting with various students.

Ryan, a grade 10 student, and Jayleen, this year's grade 10 student representative, have been anticipating the event and were eager to share some of their final impressions on the annual gathering. Ryan commented on the various different additions to Blazer's Bash, saying, "It is really fun, and they have

free freezies which is always a bonus". On the other hand, Jayleen believed it was exciting to finally host a big event and allow students to express school spirit, leaving the pandemic as a relic of days more unforgiving than ever. With thrill, Jayleen exclaimed, "Blazer's Bash is our biggest event of the year, so it is very exciting, especially since we have been in lock down for a couple of months. Honestly, it is just a great way to show school spirit since it really allows everyone to be proud of the work they have put in throughout the year." Jayleen continued by promoting the huge variety of stations that drew her in, proudly stating, "look at all these mini games and all the prizes we have! Plus, we have volleyball, my favourite sport." When asked if they believed that new students should participate in Blazer's Bash, Ryan and Jayleen both agreed that the event was able to allow students to rest their worries after a difficult year. As a result, they both hope for the event to continue its traditions for more students to experience. "Yeah, I recommend Blazer's Bash because there is plenty of free food and in general, it is pretty fun," Ryan explained, and Jayleen followed up with, "Yeah, for sure! You get to socialize with people from all different grades and meet people who like ring toss and volleyball."

Both Jayleen and Ryan made note of how COVID-19 impacted their academic and social life, feeling displeased by how the pandemic had ruthlessly taken a portion of their youth away. However, due to the many restrictions that have been lifted, PETHS has been able to conduct many more opportunities for students. Jayleen and Ryan suggest all new trailblazers to diligently engage with Trudeau spirit days such as Blazer's Bash as they end off with simple, but informative guidance. "You got this!" said Ryan, who shares a positive mindset despite how challenging school can be. Jayleen simply provided a straightforward, but important message, saying, "manage your time properly".



STUDENT OPINION

Teacher Pie

SOPHIA LEE

One of the most anticipated events at Blazers Bash was pieing the teachers! Students could not contain their excitement as it is not everyday that you get to watch TSAC (Trudeau Student Activities Council) throw "pies" in peoples faces. Teacher pieing is one of the many riveting events at Blazers Bash where everyone gathers around the main stage at the back of the school and cheers to decide who they want to pie first. The unlucky teacher selected has to make their way to the center of the event and gets a plate full of whipped cream to the face. After every teacher, shouts for encours and roars of approval erupted from the crowd, the excitement was practically tangible. Odette and Haley were some of the fortunate students who got to witness it first hand.

Odette, who is in grade 11, and Haley, who is in grade 10, shared some of their thoughts and feelings about the day's events. "It's been pretty fun so far. There's lots of activities and I love the food trucks," said Odette. Haley followed up by adding, "I think it's a fun end of school carnival where every one just gets together to enjoy and play games." Both had experienced many different spirit days held by PETHS and agreed that this was certainly something they were eager to participate in. It being the first Blazers Bash hosted in a couple of years, expectations were high and the student body was not disappointed.



Odette expressed her amusement over this event by saying: "Oh my gosh, it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to watch. It was really fun and really entertaining." Haley had a similar opinion as she thought it was "just a really fun day. Everyone cheered together." They themselves anticipated this event and when asked if others should do the same, Odette said, "Yes definitely. I think it's really interactive and really fun and there's lots of different activities you can do. There's even different categories like face paint and bean bag tossing." The plethora of activities and variety of people made this day even more special for the students and staff. Haley added on saying, "Yeah for sure. I think getting to play the activities and socializing with others allows you to meet new people. In general, it's just a fun way to end off the year."



After the event, they were asked to give new high school students some words of wisdom. They had a lot of thoughtful things to say and encouraging input. Haley connected it to her personal experience saying, "I think it's just don't be scared, don't be nervous. Just try things out of your comfort zone because that's what I did and I feel like that's what helped me thrive the most in high school." Odette closed the conversation on a positive and truthful note, adding, "Have fun and talk to lots of people because PETHS is a great school".

Teacher Reviews

SOPHIA LEE

Blazer's Bash is held as a way of celebrating the end of the school year. It's a day where both students and teachers can relax and have a lot of fun.

Ms. Caraghin, or Mme. Caraghin, teaches French and English at Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Having seen many years of Blazer's Bash pre- and post-pandemic, here is some of her input on the event. When asked how she felt about BB she said,

"I feel really great about it, I feel like it's the first time that all the students are together doing an event in person and it makes me feel so happy. I hope that there will be more events like this next year."

This was perfectly said as the students at PETHS hope so as well. The games are a blast to take part in, and everyone should definitely participate in them. Mme. C was onboard with this idea as well and said,

"Oh yeah, absolutely. I look forward to Blazer's Bash. I love seeing everyone together celebrating their year, being happy, having snacks and treats, and fun games all around."

She strongly urged new students to join in on the festivities. In response to being asked if new students should anticipate these events, she replied, "Absolutely, I think that especially grade 9s who are new to the school, this will be one of their favourite days. They can get together with people in their classes and cement their bonds with each other because they're having fun together. So absolutely they should take part in all school activities but especially Blazer's Bash."



Mme. Caraghin provides her view from a teacher's perspective on events such as Blazers Bash and how they affect the student body. Due to this, The Trudeau Times was interested to know what she thought Blazers Bash meant to the students at PETHS.

"Honestly, I think this event makes students reflect on the year and be happy that they're done with all their courses, exams, and big projects. I know it's all very stressful for them so this is a well earned day where they can celebrate, be happy, and have fun."



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Jack.org & GSA

JOEY CAO

With the global pandemic finally settling into the background, it leaves room for some old spotlights to come back into the show. Namely, our school clubs. As clubs are finally back and running, TSAC had organised a week of displays in the crossroads which had come to an end on October 14th. If you missed the displays, do not fret! You still have plenty of opportunities to join any you are interested in. Below are only two of the various clubs that are available at our school. Be sure to check them all out!

Jack.org is a community of students who wish to learn more about mental health and how to provide a more positive outlook on it. Through various lessons hosted during Jack.org sessions, students will come to understand how to properly care for their mental health. Quizzes are also composed from the information of the lesson to further enhance and apply students' knowledge with participation incentives.

This year, Jack.org's main plans are to create inclusive posts on their Instagram page for students to view online. As well, they aim to remove the general stigmatisation of mental health. Lastly, they wish to provide a safe space for members to allow their voices to be heard as well as allow students to feel more welcomed both at school and in their community.

Jack.org is the only club at school that circulates around mental health and stems from an external organisation. All of their lessons come from Jack.org, each backed by proper research and science. Their executive members are also required to watch lessons, allowing them to properly provide a space and sense of belonging for those in need.

jack.org

So why should you join Jack.org? Become aware, and get involved! Not only will you learn about mental health, but you will also have the knowledge needed to be able to help others who are struggling with their own mental health. By default, you will get to meet new people, form friendships with other members, and take on new responsibilities as well as see improvement in your leadership skills.



Two execs at a Jack.org meeting,
Raya Adibi (left), Myka Jeyarajah (right)

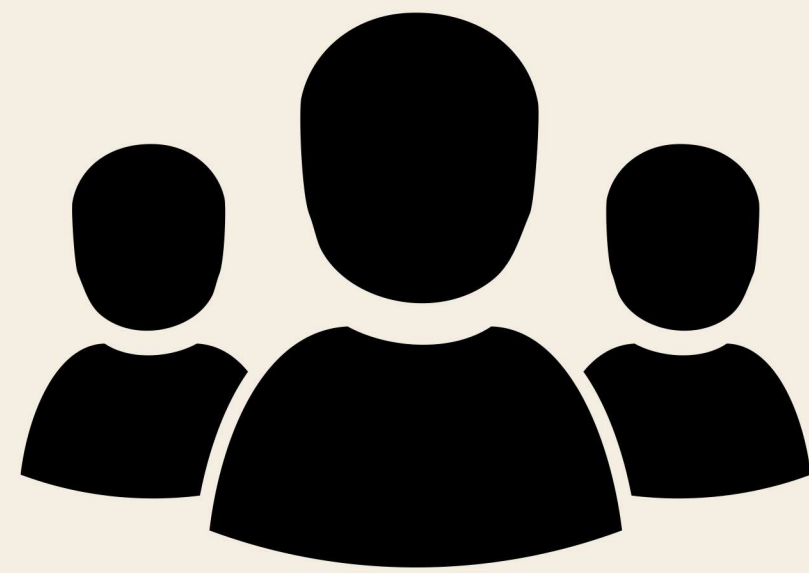
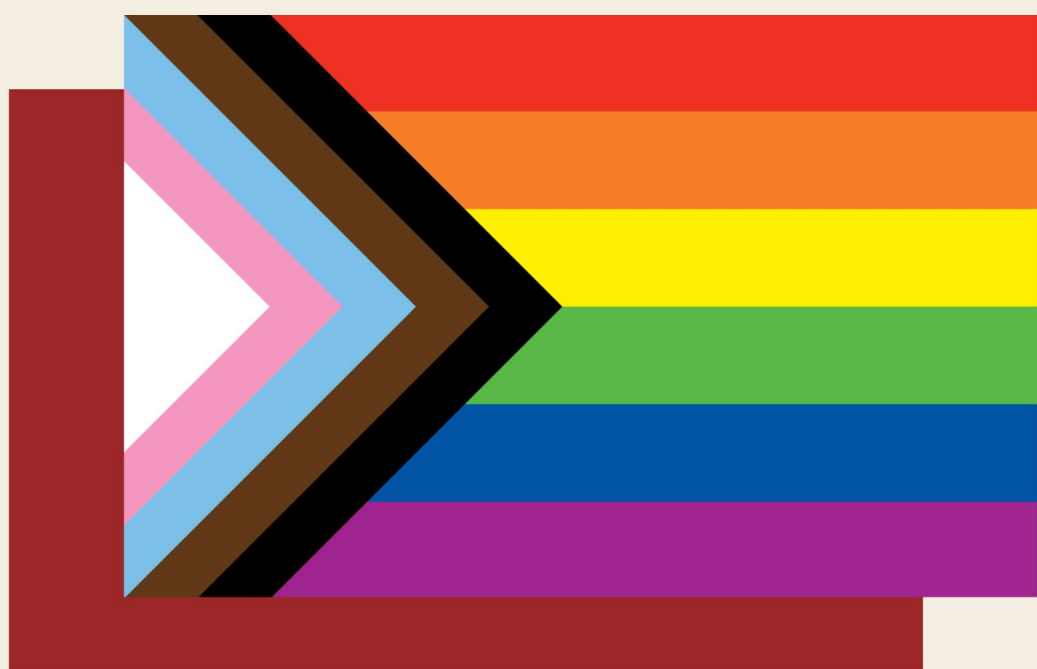
Jack.org & GSA

JOEY CAO

Last year, GSA was successful in holding a speak-out conference with their members. Their plans for the current school year are to run a fundraising campaign in June for the Trevor Project. However, this ambition is still a work in progress and is currently still being debated by their members.

Sticking true to a pseudo-democracy, GSA is completely student-run. Everyone has a say in what happens or will happen throughout the year and they brainstorm activities and events together. They are completely open to suggestions from all members and wish to incorporate everyone in their decision-making.

So why should you join GSA? Join a community! It doesn't hurt to put yourself out there and get engaged with others like you. In addition to getting involved, GSA allows students to be happy with who they are and be comfortable with their identity.



In conclusion, it never hurts to put yourself out there and join a new club. By doing so, you are exposing yourself to new experiences, new faces, and new skills. So get out there and try something new—decompress, relax and have fun. Join a club, even if you're unsure about it. Because you never know how the impact of getting involved will help you.



Conclusion

SOPHIA WANG

There you have it! The numerous participants we interviewed all had promising reviews of Blazer's Bash. It is evident that Blazer's Bash is not only a spirit day filled with compelling activities, performances, and inviting food, but also an end-of-year celebration where students can disconnect from their studies, come together, and get a taste of what summer at Trudeau is like. Still not convinced? Perhaps the only way to truly understand the excitement of Blazer's Bash is to experience it for yourself.