



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024

Message from the Principal

As we move through another exciting school year, I invite you to explore the highlights of our classroom and co-curricular activities in this Fall Newsletter. The past few months have been filled with noteworthy events showcasing the spirit of faith, community, and academic excellence that defines St. Augustine Catholic High School.

Principal, St. Augustine CHS

Faith and Community

On September 18th, our school community gathered as one and celebrated Mass with Father Ryan Nigli from St. Justin Martyr Parish. This liturgical event set the tone for a year of faith and commitment to our shared values.

At our annual Terry Fox Walk on September 26th, we united to participate in a healthy activity and raise funds for cancer research.

Over 400 grade 9 students, 100 Titan Leaders, and 40 staff traveled to Muskoka Woods from October 9 to 11. Our new Titans enjoyed trying exciting activities like ziplining, making new friends, and bonding as a grade while helping to make the Class of 28 banner.



Student Well-Being



According to recent school climate surveys, students said their experiences at St. Augustine helped them to:

- Develop a plan for a postsecondary destination, 94%
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect, 90%
- Develop my leadership skills, 89%



St. Augustine CHS ranks among Ontario's top schools based on provincial standardized assessments:

- Grade 9 Math: 93% at or above the provincial standard
- Grade 10 Literacy: 96% success rate

These results reflect our students' dedication and our teachers' commitment to delivering an engaging and innovative curriculum.

On October 23rd, our **Annual Awards Night** celebrated student achievements in academics, character, and perseverance. Highlights included:

- Honour Roll certificates for outstanding academic performance.
- Special recognition for achievements in categories such as the Perseverance Awards, the Catholic Education Award, and outstanding achievement in the University of Waterloo math and science competitions.
- The Proficiency Awards for top overall marks:

RECOGNIZING *Excellence*

Grade 9:
Joshua Lau

Grade 10:
Hazel Cheng

Grade 11:
Rachael Chan
Chloe Wai

(Top marks for the 2023-2024 year)



Special Education

Special Education has been off to a very busy start to the school year. Semester 1 IEP's have been updated and parents should have received a copy. We are preparing for OSSLT support as well as Grade 12 IPRC Reviews. If you have any questions about your child's Special Education services please feel free to reach out to their Core Resource Teacher.

Our FLS/WEXT programs are both off and running. Our very popular Brew Crew program continues to be a big hit and our FLS students have been hard at work completing clerical and delivery tasks around the school. Our teachers are hard at work planning more exciting initiatives in the coming weeks and we look forward to what they have planned.

Our Best Buddies programming has been a huge hit so far this year with students working on everything from crafts, to sports activities, to pumpkin decorating and more. Our group meets weekly with an ever changing line up of fun, inclusive and engaging activities.

As always if you have any questions about your child's special education programming please feel free to contact the school and get in touch with us.

Religion



September 30th, our school community proudly wore orange shirts to honor our Indigenous brothers and sisters as part of our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. In doing so, we pledged to ensure that every child knows they matter and that their unique identity and story are valued and respected.

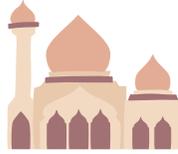
Our Grade 9 students enjoyed their time at Muskoka Woods, where they connected with new friends and began building essential skills for the school year. In addition, they completed an "All About Me: Personal Story" assignment, capturing reflections and personal stories. These will be kept safe and returned to them in Grade 12 as a meaningful keepsake, highlighting their growth throughout high school.



The Grade 10s participated in a meaningful religion retreat at St. Patrick's Church downtown, where they explored the importance of "human dignity" and reflected on how we can show compassion toward those less fortunate. Their retreat included a prayer walk through the city, stopping at significant places like the police station, city hall, the judicial court, and local outreach providers.

Religion (Continued)

In November, our Grade 11 students embarked on a Place of Worship Tour, visiting a Hindu temple, a Buddhist temple, and a mosque. This journey will give them a rich, firsthand perspective on different cultures and faiths, broadening their understanding of diversity and interfaith respect.



Finally, our Grade 12s have started a project focused on Random Acts of Kindness. They are writing letters to those who have inspired them on their path and taking steps toward becoming global citizens through dedicated volunteer work. This initiative is a beautiful way for our seniors to express gratitude and reflect on the positive influences in their lives while giving back to their communities.

These activities reflect our ongoing commitment to foster a compassionate, inclusive, and globally minded community within our school.

Grateful!

Library Learning Commons



Makers Making Change Club

Our Makers Making Change Club continues to run in our LLC. The club is collaborating with the Neil Squires Organization to create accessible designs and products for everyone. Last year, our club hosted a Hackathon for Christmas Toys and produced over 25 accessible Toys for Children.

So far this semester students are learning the basics of soldering, circuitry and 3D design to develop their skills in preparation for this year's Toy Hackathon.

We have a specific set of toys we will be hacking this year and if anyone wishes to donate one of these toys, please email Ms. Chalmers - heather.chalmers@ycdsb.ca

Library Learning Commons (Continued)



This month the Library Learning Commons starts hosting our White Pine Book Club. Students in this club will be reading the White Pine Book Nominations for 2025.

We meet bi-monthly to discuss our favourite books and have creative activities like making book covers and book bags.

Athletics



The fall season this year included Senior and Junior girls basketball, Senior and Junior boys soccer, Varsity girls field hockey, Varsity girls ultimate, Varsity co-ed cross country, Varsity girls golf, Junior and Senior boys golf, Varsity co-ed swimming, Varsity girls and boys curling, and Varsity boys hockey.

Congratulations to the Senior girls basketball team for advancing into the YRAA quarter finals. The girls varsity field hockey finished 3rd in YRAA losing at semi finals with lots of growth in the team this season. The girls varsity ultimate frisbee finished 2nd (finalists) for the first ever in the 4v4 girls only season hosted by the YRDSB.

Currently, Varsity co-ed swimming, Varsity girls and boys curling and Varsity boys hockey are still completing their YRAA regular season games.

The Senior Boys soccer team finished their regular season in first place in their division, with a perfect 5-0 record. They lost a heartbreaker in the 2nd round of playoffs, but showed their resilience and ability to compete with the higher level teams.

The Junior boys soccer team did an amazing job in their first season of Tier 1 soccer, finishing the season with a record of 2-3-1. They had a great run in the playoffs, but fell short in the quarterfinals with a tough loss.

In Junior boys golf, Oscar Lin won first overall in the YRAA tournament and the Junior boys golf team finished 2nd overall in the YRAA tournament.

Thank you to all the coaches in our community who dedicate their time and effort to provide students with the chance to learn through sport. Many thanks to our student athletes for representing St. Augustine CHS with pride and hardwork on their respective courts, fields, pools, or rinks!

The winter season has started. The teams active this winter season include Junior and Senior girls volleyball, Junior and Senior boys basketball, Varsity co-ed rock climbing, Varsity co-ed ski/snowboard teams, and Varsity co-ed Badminton.



Athletics



Continued



The St. Augustine Varsity Tennis Team finished another season with great success. Many members of the team played in a Doubles Tournament at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus winning numerous medals, which allowed players to hone their

skills and prepare for the yearly YRAA tournament. Junior Girls Doubles Team Christina Zaia and Katelyn Lee and Senior Singles player Abigail Li Pi Shan advanced to the YRAA Championship Round at Mayfair East in late October. During this 2024 Tennis season it was wonderful to see both new St. Augustine Tennis Team members and returning players dedicate their time to weekly practices and building friendships and school spirit along the way. Go Titans!



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Clubs and Councils Activity Fair:
 During the week of September 23, grade 9 students discovered various co-curricular opportunities that matched their interests. Our many councils, clubs and committees have almost 1000 student members.



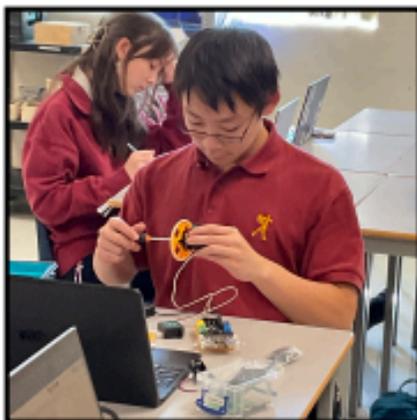
What's Happening in Canadian & World Studies



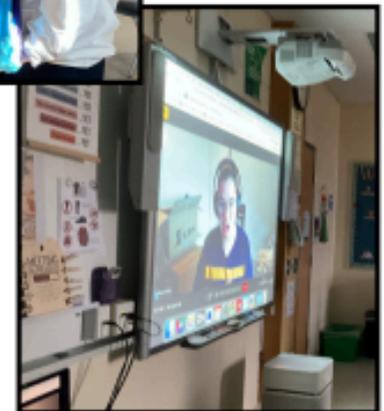
Students in STREAM History class took part in recreating the events of the Halifax Explosion by coding Sphero BOLT robots. In STREAM Geography students have begun their "Waste Not!" project, a collaboration with Science. In this project they must come up with realistic, relevant and innovative solutions to waste at St. Augustine.



Students in our grade 10 History courses were able to see artifacts from the First World War up close thanks to the Canadian War Museum's Supply Line.

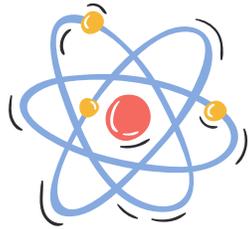


Robotics has a home in our History classes! Students in our STREAM History have been hard at work preparing their historical escape games for their feedback session with our friends at the local elementary school, St. Monica.



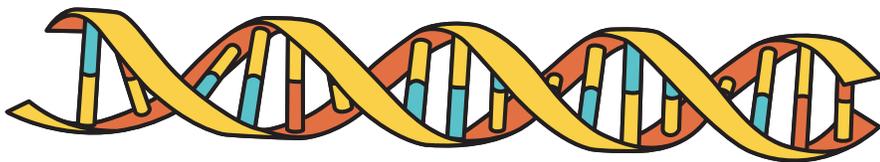
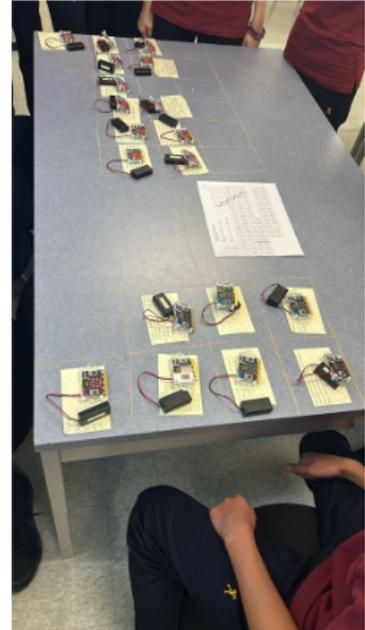
In Introduction to Anthropology, Sociology & Psychology, students were able to connect with Dr. Maura Griffith who is a biological anthropologist. Dr. Griffith studies the dental remains of bones from the Tudor era to make conclusions about the ways in which people lived at the time.

Science



STREAM activities are on the move! Gr. 9 students make use of Micro Bits to create the “Microbit - iodic Table”. Micro Bits are used to code for essential facts about the 20 main elements reviewed in the Gr. 9 science curriculum. Our Gr. 11 STREAM Science fair is set for January 9 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Any parents/guardians who are professionally involved in STEM related fields, and are interested in joining the panel of judges, please contact Ms. Lee, the Department Head of Science @ pauline.lee@ycdsb.ca



Mathematics



In October, all of the Gr.11 STREAM math students traveled to University of Waterloo to explore the campus and, specifically, the array of programs and opportunities that the Faculty of Mathematics has to offer.

The STREAM math course in Gr.11 focuses on “pathways”.

The presentation included a lecture by a gentleman that is involved in the organization of the math contests sponsored by UofW and he speaks about healthy habits in problem-solving that benefits all students. Students also took a campus tour.

Our students enjoyed the experience. This is the second year of offering our students this experience to help them consider different pathways in STREAM.

Student Mental Health Ambassadors



NEW WELLNESS SPACE IN THE LIBRARY!

Thanks to the successful grant application in the previous school year, funds were used to create a wellness space in our school library. Motivational posters, colouring pages, plants and informative resources are readily available to the whole school.

Thank you to Athisha Sures for submitting the proposal, and for winning the grant money for our school. The 2024/2025 Mental Health Ambassadors worked together to make this dream into a reality, creating one more safe and welcoming space for all.

UPDATED BULLETIN BOARD

The Mental Health Ambassadors have been hard at work! They have updated their bulletin board to include more takeaway resources, wellness strategies and general information.



THERAPY DOGS

Student Mental Health Ambassadors helped out with the arrival of therapy dogs. The next session is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12th.

MORE OF WHAT'S NEW

OUR GRATITUDE WALL

As a way to introduce themselves and share gratitude with the school community, the Mental Health Ambassadors hosted a morning Meet and Greet with students as they entered the building. Students participated in the Wall of Gratitude, and were able to collect motivational stickers, colouring sheets and learn about maintaining good mental health.

LEARNING AND COLLABORATION

The Ambassadors engaged in a meaningful leadership opportunity at Copperwood Trial Farm, where they were also able to collaborate and solidify their vision for initiatives intended for the current school year.



WELLNESS KITS FOR EACH HOMEROOM: MADE FOR STAFF, BY STAFF





Mental Health

School Mental Health Ontario has released a series of new/updated resources designed for parents and caregivers. This work is a collaborative project with the Coalition for Child and Youth Mental Health and Children's Mental Health Ontario's Family Care Centre, designed to enhance parent/caregiver mental health literacy.

These are the first of many resources in development, which will be released as a Parent/Caregiver Mental Health Literacy Toolkit in the new year. These resources were developed to assist parents/caregivers in navigating and supporting their child's mental health and well-being.

They include:

- [Helping Your Child Manage Digital Technology](#)
(available in multiple languages)
- [Noticing Mental Health Concerns for Your Child](#)
(available in multiple languages)
- [Noticing mental health concerns for your child-worksheet](#)
(available in multiple languages)
- [Prepare, Prevent Respond - A suicide prevention guide for parents and caregivers](#)
(available in multiple languages)



Health & Phys Ed

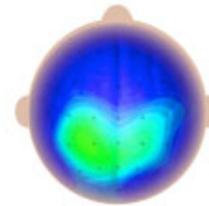
Why Take HPE?

In a time when academic performance often takes center stage, our Health and Physical Education (HPE) program strives to emphasize the importance of holistic well-being and balanced living.

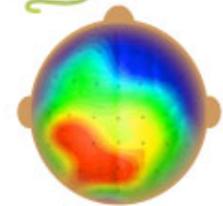
active kids learn better

BRAIN SCANS OF STUDENTS TAKING A TEST:

Red areas are very active; blue areas are least active.



after 20 minutes of sitting quietly



after 20 minutes of walking

We are dedicated to providing students with a wide range of opportunities to engage in physical activities that not only enhance their movement skills but also promote social connection and mental health. To nurture well-rounded individuals, it is essential that we encourage students to recognize the value of HPE and adopt a physically active lifestyle. Health is not limited to physical fitness; it encompasses mental, social, and spiritual well-being as well. This comprehensive approach to health is the cornerstone of our curriculum. Through a dynamic and diverse HPE program, we aim to inspire students to discover activities they will continue to enjoy and benefit from long after high school.



As our school continues to embrace STREAM programming (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts & Math), it is more vital than ever to encourage students to recognize the value of our HPE courses and to embrace a physically active lifestyle. MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), one of the most prestigious technology-focused universities in the United States, require all students to take physical education courses as they believe that students learn essential skills such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving much better in a physical education setting, not to mention the mental and physical health benefits of being active. MIT's Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation states that a core component of its mission to students is to promote "wellness by fostering an environment that values and practices healthy lifestyles, and encourages personal growth and enjoyment, through physical and social activities."

Business



DECA

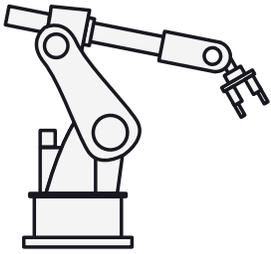
Welcome 104 members to our DECA team this year. The goal of DECA is to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Through a combination of competitive events, leadership development programs, and experiential learning, DECA aims to enhance students' skills and knowledge in business-related fields. It helps them build confidence, foster innovation, and develop ethical decision-making abilities that are essential for future success in their careers and communities. DECA's mission is to prepare students to be college and career ready while promoting leadership, civic consciousness, and personal growth. The regional competition will be occurring on Saturday Nov 9 in Whitby. We are still looking for judges to assist in the event.

Classroom BEP - new Gr. 10 Course

Launching and Leading a Business course, 2024 (BEP20) is a project-based and experiential learning course that provides students with opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills needed to be an entrepreneur who knows how to respond to local and global market opportunities. In our STREAM classes, our final CPT will be based on the Pitch your Vision program, where students will address one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals through their innovative business idea. They will formulate how their product or service meets the SDGs. Finally, the top 6 finalist teams will get the opportunity to present their business idea during the Pitch Competition. Pitch Your Vision complements this curriculum by guiding students through a six-week exploration of idea generation, market research, prototyping, and pitching. Together, the course and program empower students to learn the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, including innovation, teamwork, and sustainable product development, while gaining hands-on experience in launching a venture.

SHSM

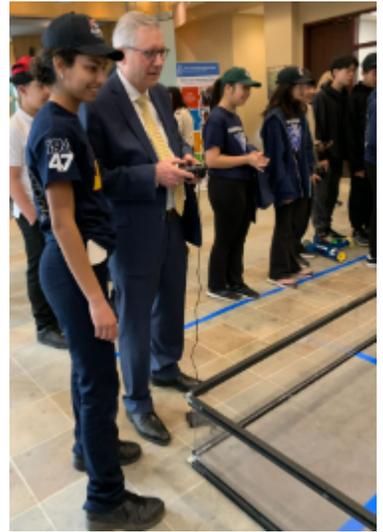
The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a specialized, ministry-approved program that allows students in Grades 11 and 12 to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). This year, 64 grade 11 and 12 students will be participating in our Business SHSM, which is the largest number since the inception of the program 7 years ago. Over the next few weeks, students will be participating in a variety of experiential learning and certification programs including a networking event with the Brew Network, where students will be earning their leadership certification.



Robotics

Team Titans Robotics had the opportunity to visit the York Catholic District School Board headquarters.

We were thrilled to be able to mentor students from St. Katharine Drexel Catholic High School, St. Justin Martyr Catholic Elementary School, and more. Utilizing this opportunity, we shared insights on STREAM education, hoping to inspire a new generation of thinkers, creators, and innovators. We are lucky to have a second opportunity to share more of our knowledge this coming November!



Team Titans Robotics also showcased their team at the Markham Mayor's Youth Council's annual Youth Expo event. During this event, Team Titans Robotics had the opportunity to inspire over 10,000 participants about STREAM values and promote their many achievements.



THE MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

VIVE LE FRANÇAIS!

MADAME BULJAN, MADAME ALI, MADAME MULHOLLAND. & MADAME RAMCHARRAN



Madame Buljan's grade 11 French classes have been exploring the design thinking process. In the current unit of study, students designed a recipe that would accommodate their intended audience. Some students chose to create a gluten free recipe to help those with gluten allergies or others chose to create a recipe that was vegan or sugar free. Students started the project by brainstorming and researching. They then applied the grammatical elements from the course to create a script for their cooking show video. The students defined the problem, challenged assumptions, created prototypes and communicated their findings. The final product was a video. After creating the video, the students reflected on how their recipe or video could have been improved and what worked very well. All of this was done using the French language! A job well done by these talented students!

FRENCH CLUB:

Our French Club runs every Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in room 130. Join us for exciting activities to learn more about French language and culture!

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!



@STA.FRENCHCLUB

CLUB FRANÇAIS

ATTENTION TITANS!

ALL TITANS ARE WELCOME!

THURSDAYS - ROOM 130

JOIN US IN ENJOYING FRENCH CULTURE AND LANGUAGE THROUGH IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES!

LIST OF POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES:

- Movie Nights
- KAHOOTTS
- Game Nights
- Team-Building Activities
- French Themed BINGO

JOIN OUR GOOGLE CLASSROOM

wtn7mnq



*"A different language is a different vision of life."
Federico Fellini*



Guidance & Careers

The Guidance Dept hosted our annual Post-Secondary Info night here at St. Augustine CHS - October 2 and 16 - it was well attended.



Mr. Tucci installing new desks in guidance for student study and test writing.

October 25 - presented to all grade 12's - Ontario Universities application process and timelines.

November 2024 - will present Ontario College application to ENG4C class, plus any grade 12's that are interested in applying to Ontario Colleges.

Late November and December - guidance will have drop-in sessions for students with Ontario post-secondary application questions (all 3 lunches - dates TBA).

Technology



Tech Class building roller coasters!



Woman in Stream!
Our new Robotics Course!

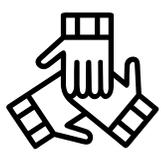
Special Learning Opportunities

STREAM

STREAM Launch Day: On September 13th, senior students and STREAM teachers hosted an engaging event to introduce new students to the design-thinking process through hands-on activities.



On September 9th, we hosted a group of Taiwanese principals who were in Ontario to visit schools and learn about our education system.



Co-op Education

The Cooperative Education program at St. Augustine is well on its way for this semester. We are providing our students with a wide range of rigorous learning opportunities connected to communities outside of the school.



Participation in cooperative education has provided our students engaging opportunities in unique experiences that they will remember throughout their educational journey. We continue to provide personalized experiences to meet students' particular learning and motivational needs.



Cooperative Education is made possible through the support of placement employers and supervisors. The placement employer and supervisor play an important role in guiding and supporting students in their learning by providing a safe working and learning environment, timely feedback, and challenging learning experiences. In doing so, the employer and supervisor enable students to pursue their interests, and they provide inspiration to students as they develop their education and career/life goals. Thank you to all our community partners for supporting our program.

THANK YOU!

Chaplaincy

“Work hard towards something you love. Pray to God for his plans for you. He wants you to be happy, joyful and to serve” Fr. Ryan at our opening mass.



This upcoming year the Catholic Church will be celebrating a jubilee year themed, “Pilgrims of Hope”. This underscores our values at St. Augustine in our journey of faith, as we profess our motto that, “No Titan Walks Alone”. Some of the highlights Chaplaincy this year so far include:

- Chapel visits for the grade 9 students introducing them to the chaplains, the chapel space, and mass protocols
- The School Opening Mass in September, celebrated by Father Ryan of St. Justin Martyr Parish attended by the entire school community.
- Faith Day P.A. Day for staff at Willow Grove Farms. We had team building activities, followed by mass, and the stories of saints as “Beacons of Hope”



- Retreats: Grade 9 Muskoka Woods, Grade 10’s visited the chapel to make milk mats for the homeless for their social justice retreat St. Patrick’s Parish
- Rosary in the chapel with the Legion of Mary from St. Justin Martyr Parish, with dedication to the Blessed Mother for the month of October.
- Remembrance Day Service.

Chaplaincy (Continued)

Muskoka Retreat - A 22 year old tradition, Gr.9 students and leaders participated in various team building activities and ice breakers hosted by MW. The Chaplaincy team and the arts work to make the experience personal to our community by building special traditions like a letter writing activity to their self that poses questions about where they are now as individual, their faith, their social circle and what some of their goals are over the next 4 years. They reopen these letters in 4 years time at our gr.12 retreat. The Arts facilitate a banner creation that everyone contributes to and is unveiled at our mass. We also hosted a campfire full of spirit and memory making. We were joined by Fr. Ryan and his youth ministers Abraham and Hilton this year! So Blessed!!



On November 11th the Arts department together with Chaplaincy organized a service to honour those who sacrificed for our freedom and peace. Chaplaincy organized a prayers and activities for peace in the homerooms.



Chaplaincy Council consists of 60+students. They are eager to live the faith and be role models in our school. They have helped with many of our initiatives this semester so far. Our most recent is a Catholic Education Graduate Expectations display board and Grade 8 Night.





Some highlights of our works from this semester:

- YCDSB Boardroom Canvas Collective Creation
- Markham Fair Art entries including multiple winners in a variety of categories
- Terry Fox Day Art Display
- Orange Shirt Day Shirts and Creations
- Opening Mass Band and Choir Performances
- Muskoka Woods Banner Creation, Campfire Music and Evening of Drama

- Field Trip to see the Toronto Symphony Orchestra
- Downtown Photography Tour and Printmaking workshop
- Hallowe'en Performances and Creations
- Remembrance Day Service featuring Drama (Grade 9 Tableaux) Music Performances (Guitar, Choir and Band) and Art Display showcasing Design class collective creation and Grade 9 watercolor paintings



The Arts (Continued)

Upcoming Events:

Christmas Actually:

An Evening of Christmas One-Acts
Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Concert: An Evening of Music

Thursday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Art Showcase @ 6:00 p.m.

High School Musical: Senior Year @7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 8th and Friday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m.



Find your passion, find your purpose! Use your God given talents!

Reminders...

January & June Exams for secondary students in YCDSB:

Semester 1: January 24 – 30

Semester 2: June 16 – 24



The Ministry of Education mandates culminating performance tasks, such as exams. Students who cannot attend an exam because of illness (or another serious reason) must be reported absent before 8:30 a.m. on the morning of their exam, and documentation must be presented to the attendance secretary within 24 hours. Students who miss an exam without a legitimate reason will receive a mark of zero. Vacations or appointments are not a legitimate reason for an exam absence.



As we look ahead to the remainder of the school year, we are excited to continue fostering faith, learning, and growth within our amazing school community. Thank you for your continued support.

Thank
you