



February 2008



MacDonald High School
17, rue Maple,
Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue
H9X 2E5
(T) 514-457-3770
(F) 514-457-8959

<http://macdonald.lbpsb.qc.ca>

Editor: **Christine Clarke**

Mac Link

Home & School News

Congratulations to Jim Aitken who won **Canada's Outstanding Principal Award!** Being one of two principal's from Quebec and one of 33 across Canada, it is a very proud moment for Mac High.

What makes this even more impressive is the criteria which had to be met to even be considered for this award. View www.lbpsb.qc.ca to see more information.

Always one of the first to become a Home & School member every September, it is our privilege to have Mr. Aitken's generous support to be able to do what we do and to feel at ease discussing our ideas. Not always so in some schools!

Mr. Aitken, we are proud to have you as our principal!

We would also like to take this time to **thank Don Rae, our past Commissioner** who, also a H&S member, took much interest in us for many years, reading our MacLinks to keep informed and attending meetings when his busy schedule allowed.

We wish him many more years of interesting activities wherever his endeavours take him. **Thank you, Mr. Rae.**

We now **welcome Judy Kelley** as our Commissioner and look forward to meeting her.

Cynthia Rocha, a student, will be attending the **Forum for Young Canadians in Ottawa** this April. We know that Mac will be well represented. The H&S is proud to sponsor (in part) this event every year.

AN EASY WAY TO HELP OUT AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL...

SPONSOR OUR CASINO NIGHT FEB 16TH!
(PLEASE SEE FLYER IN MACLINK)

Donate \$5.00 on behalf of your child!

A full table sponsorship:
\$150.00

Half-table:
\$75.00

All names, business cards and signs will be displayed around the tables and announced by the MC during the event.

Tickets now available....Darcy
(514) 453-5799

(ddlar@videotron.ca)



*It is with heartfelt pride that we congratulate our Principal, **Mr. Jim Aitken**, for having been named one of **Canada's Outstanding Principals**.*

This award truly reflects Mr. Aitken's distinguished and dedicated commitment to young people, and we extend congratulations to Mr. Aitken and the entire Macdonald High School Community.

MACDONALD HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD

Happy New Year to all,

The Governing Board of Macdonald High School is once again hard at work in this new year. We have resumed our regular monthly meetings and are looking forward to a very interesting couple of months until the end of our mandate. We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that **the meetings of the Governing Board are open to all** and that we include in the meeting schedule two question periods where **parents can ask questions** of general concern or interest. All of the meeting dates are posted on the Mac High web site and the **meetings are held in the Library at 7:00 pm.**

The Governing Board would also like to extend its most heartfelt and genuine **congratulations to our own principal Mr. Jim Aitken** on being named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals. Mr. Aitken is one of 33 recipients of this award from across Canada and one of only 2 recipients from Quebec. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated educator and administrator at Macdonald High. **CONGRATULATIONS.**

Robert Hamel, chair Macdonald High School Governing Board.



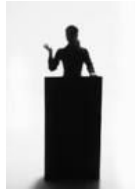
*"All, everything that I understand, I understand only because I
love."*

Leo Tolstoy

Happy Valentine's Day February 14th!

News from the English Department

Term 3 is a busy one for the department, with everyone focused on oral presentations. The juniors will be working on story-telling, while Grades 9-11 will be writing, perfecting and presenting original speeches. The public speaking final/assembly takes place on March 14. When not working on their speeches, Grade 11 students will be preparing their **thesis papers .. due February 25!**



In the Fall, Ms. Jones' **Grade 7 & 8 students participated in a poetry contest.** This January, Creative Communications sent word that almost 60% of these students had winning poems! Ms. McGovern had three winners as well! These poems will be published in the anthology, "A Celebration of Canadian Poets"

Congratulations to all the winners!

"There are certain things in which mediocrity is not to be endured, such as poetry, music, painting, public speaking"

Jean de la Bruyere (French satiric moralist, 1645-1696)

Le Département de Français

Bonjour! Eh oui, c'est le département de français qui revient dans Mac Link! Comme vous le savez, le français est très important dans la société québécoise. Bien que l'objectif du département de français soit de fournir aux élèves tous les outils nécessaires non seulement pour réussir aux examens mais également être habiles dans la vie de tous les jours en français, il est souvent

nécessaire de mettre quelques efforts supplémentaires afin de mieux réussir. C'est pourquoi nous vous présentons ici les trois livres jeunesse les plus vendus dans les librairies francophones, ainsi que deux petits trucs pour améliorer la qualité de votre français.

Voici les trois livres les plus vendus dans les librairies francophones :

- Harry Potter et les reliques de la mort (J. K. Rowling)
- La croisée des mondes (Philip Pullman)
- Le secret du courage (Geronimo Stilton)

Et pour ceux qui veulent améliorer un peu leurs habiletés, voici deux stratégies intéressantes :

- Si vous voulez améliorer votre *compréhension de l'oral*, regarder la télévision sur une base quotidienne est toujours une bonne idée, même si l'émission est une traduction. N'oubliez pas que 30 minutes par jour est mieux qu'un film de trois heures une fois dans le mois... Visitez les sites de Radio-Canada et RDI (www.radio-canada.ca) et de Télé-Québec (www.telequebec.tv) pour quelques suggestions.
- Pour améliorer votre *lecture*, achetez des magazines sur un sujet qui vous intéresse. Si le sport est votre passion, procurez-vous une revue qui parle de sport. Si c'est plutôt la mode, faites de même. De courts textes sont mieux que rien! Si vous êtes en immersion, ils devraient par contre être un peu plus long.

Voilà pour cette étape! Vous aurez droit à d'autres stratégies à la fin de l'étape 3. Bonne chance.

Mme Bourdeau

(Please see English translation on page 16)

Dance Department

Open house was absolutely flawless !! All one hundred and twenty students were present including our **Mac dance team**. We performed all kinds of pieces which included lyrical, jazz and contemporary funk styles.

The students gave their heart and soul to this endeavour!

We are presently getting ready to perform in Mac's talent show, fashion show and the LBPSB talent show **TOPS**. Our own Macdonald dance show is scheduled for **May** and will be an exciting event! We'll keep you posted!

In the new year we will be holding a dance workshop in lyrical contemporary, Broadway jazz, hip hop and break dance. **This workshop will be open to all students.**

We are looking forward to an exciting rest of the year in dance.

Sonia Huggins

The Esteem Team

On September 21, 2007 our **PSI (Peaceful Schools International)** membership application was officially accepted after we had completed a number of projects and raised considerable money for charity. This event had been in the making for a couple of years and we were very excited and thankful that we were recognized as a peaceful school!

November then rolled around with our **flag raising ceremony** on the 28th highlighting the month. The **guests of honour** at the ceremony were our **Principals Jim Aitken, Doug Collins, and Patricia Higgins, as well as Susan Bartlett-Lewis (commissioner Ward 19), and Judy Grant**, former principal at Mac and Regional Co-ordinator for PSI at the LBPSB who honoured us by presenting our PSI flag to the school. Upon the presentation, the flag was dramatically lowered down upon our basketball net to cheers from the appreciative crowd of staff and students. Judy then proceeded to tell us of the history of PSI and its importance for our school and the many schools around the world that we had joined in peaceful unity.

Kim Noble & Cynthia Rocha (student Esteem Team members) then stepped up to the mic and addressed the assembly. They spoke of what it took to earn the flag and reminded us all of how we were a part of it and needed to remain focused on being a peaceful school. A video montage was then shown of all the activities that students had participated in during the past year that had led to their acceptance of our membership application.

The ceremony came to a close with **Mr. Crete** and the **Grade 10-11** concert band's excellent rendition of "**Celebration**" which was then followed by a raucous pep-rally. **A great day for all!**

Randal Howarth



"Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt. Dance like nobody is watching."

Mark Twain

GRAD NEWS

It has been an exciting first half of the year for the grad class.



The **Class of 2008** has enjoyed a night in the wilderness at the annual **Grad**

Camping trip, an elegant evening of Holiday Cheer at the **Annual Snowflake Ball** and 45 students enjoyed an action packed and fun filled **trip to Florida**.

Our "Grad Heads", **Zach Bruman, Aronne Clarke** and **Kim Noble** continue to work hard to organize activities for the grad class. Grads can look forward to our **Annual Sugaring-off Party** and to an evening of **Bowling**.

Special thanks to all the students and parents that helped in making this year's Florida Trip a huge success. The GRADS had the opportunity to enjoy sun, beach and of course **Disney World** and **Islands of Adventure**. This trip was really made special by the exceptional group of young people that attended. **THANK YOU GRADS FOR AN AMAZING TRIP!!!!**

This year's **Graduation Ball** is scheduled for the last week of June. There will be more information in the coming weeks about this special evening.

Should you require any additional information regarding graduation activities, please do not hesitate to contact me (**Mr. Joseph**) via email,

djoseph@lbpearson.ca or at (514) 457 3770.

Remember that our primary focus is on having your child meet all requirements for graduation. **Should your child require any extra tutorials do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Tuff in the community office.**

\$\$ FUNDRAISING \$\$

Macdonald High School continues to offer fundraising opportunities to all students. We have completed several activities over the past few months and will have several more in the next few weeks.

These funds can be used towards any school activity. Sports teams, school fees, trip club, school trips and ski trips are examples of activities that fundraised funds can be used towards.

All fundraising activities will be announced during the morning announcements.

We are presently in the midst of the **Dinners Deck** campaign and **Chocolate La Montagne (fine Belgium Chocolates)** campaign. Have your child see me at for fundraising products.

If you have any questions regarding fundraising please do not hesitate to contact me (Mr. Joseph) via email djoseph@lbpearson.ca or at Macdonald between 9:00am and 3:30pm (514) 457-3770.

MACDONALD HIGH SCHOOL TRIP CLUB

Macdonald High School is proud to offer a cultural trip to students at all grade levels. All of the trips are scheduled for spring 2008.

Grade seven students can look forward to three days and two nights in Canada's largest city, Toronto. While there they will visit the CN tower, hockey hall of fame, Niagara Falls and of course, Canada's Wonderland.

June 18, 2008 to June 20, 2008
\$375.00

Grade eight students will be off to Boston for three days and two nights. There, they will participate in a city tour, visit the Fleet center, Quincy Market, Six Flags and Harvard University.

June 13, 2008 to June 15, 2008
\$355.00

Grade nine students will be visiting the Big Apple, New York City for three days and two nights. They will visit NBC studios, the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, and Times Square.

May 1, 2008 to May 4, 2008
\$375.00

Grade ten students will also be visiting the New York City for three days and two nights. They will experience a sunset cruise of Manhattan, visit the Metropolitan Museum, a Broadway musical, tour of the Bronx and Harlem, visit the Top of the Rock, Mme Tassaud famous wax museum, Soho, NBC Studio tour and much, much more.

March 28, 2008 to March 30, 2008
\$415.00

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact **Mr. Joseph** between 9:00am and 3:45pm (514) 457-3770 or via email at djoseph@lbpearson.ca. Students will be able to fundraise towards any of these trips.

SCIENCE DEPT.

by

Ellen Gauthier

Welcome back to the wonderful world of science. While some Sec. I are getting their forces together, the Sec. II's are doing waves and designing their **Bots** and seeing if they can do their assigned tasks.

The Sec. III's are learning about the ins and outs of the **excretory system** and will be moving on to other system.

Our Sec. IV's have learned to have a magnetic personality while roaming their domains, with their compasses in hand. Now they are finding out about **charges in electricity**, and will learn how to pay their Hydro bills.

Watch out for the Advance Biology teaching science in Elementary Schools.

Our Sec. V's are watching their pendulums go back and forth as they gain momentum in **Physics. Chemistry** is working on the ups and downs of their energy roller coasters. They will also be able to determine whether hell is endothermic - or exothermic, energetically speaking!



We would like to take this opportunity to **thanks all of our judges** in making our **Senior Science Fair** a huge success. **Sec I and Sec II will be judged on February 7th**. Viewing of the winners of the junior Science Fair is on that evening during the parent interview night. **You are welcome to stop by on the 3rd floor.**

The following is the list of winners for Sec III, Sec IV and Sec V.

Science Fair Winners 2007/2008

Secondary V

1st Place:

Quiet or not so Quiet by: Erika Williston
The Big Cheese by: Jennifer Ashfield and Sarah Staples

2nd Place:

Effect of Heat on Coagulation by: Tchad Delisle-Rind and Cynthia Rocha
Burning Calories by: Meighen Auger and Laura Buchanan

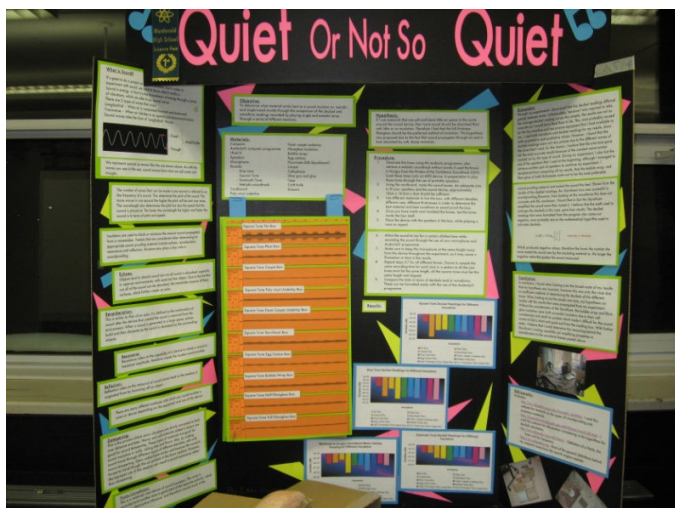
3rd Place:

Wake Up Potatohead by: Frances Doria
The Sound of Light by: Ryan Perrin and Jonathan De Belle

Honourable Mention:

Drag by: Kevin Charlebois
Do Re Me Fa So La Ti Do by: Amrit Kaur





Secondary IV

1st Place:

Carnation Preservation by: Martha Evans-Hanna and Emily Spence

Pop, Pop, Fizz, Fizz, See What the Reaction Is by: Kevan Mulvaney

2nd Place:

Which of the Following Liquids has the Highest and Lowest Surface Tension? by: Jennifer Dixon, Elizabeth Hamaoui and Marie-Eve Quimper

3rd Place:

Which Household Fabrics Burn the Quickest? by: Marc-Olivier Hamel

Shake-A-Light by: Phillip St-Amour and Gregory Rocha

Honourable Mention:

Can We Extract DNA from an Onion? by: Samantha Craig and Alex Rozon

Do Fabric Softeners Effect Flammability of Clothing? by: Jessica Phillips and Candice Burns

Which Brand of Battery is Ideal? by: Nicolas Buonvino and Lauren Alarie

Does All Wood Burn at the same Speed? by: Shanelle Boyer and Joshua Madden



Secondary III

1st Place:

Red Blood Cells by: Andrew Fogarty, Mathew Pryde and Sundeep Baidwan

Auk ! C'est tellement sale? by: Emily Macpherson

2nd Place:

Does the water temperature affect the growth of plants? by: Karry Dinh and Lisa Lam

Difficile a satisfaire by: Joshua Miszczork

3rd Place:

L'homme contre la Mouche by: David LaFontaine, Alexandra Hamel and Nik Ottinger

Lumiere ou l'eau by: Manbir Johal

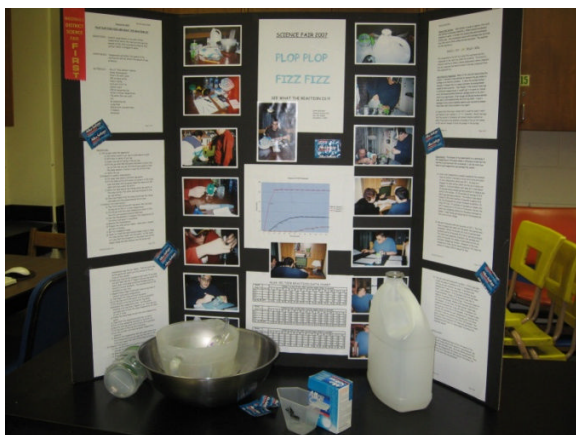
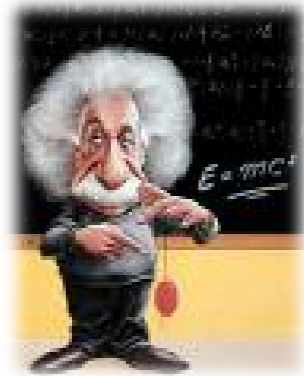
Honourable Mention:

Diffusion and Osmosis in animal cells by: Jesse Eaton and Brandin Dow

Where are most pressure Sensors Found in the Human Body by: Bryan Steszyn and Josh Hamaoui

Does Music affect you heartbeat by: Brandon Roach

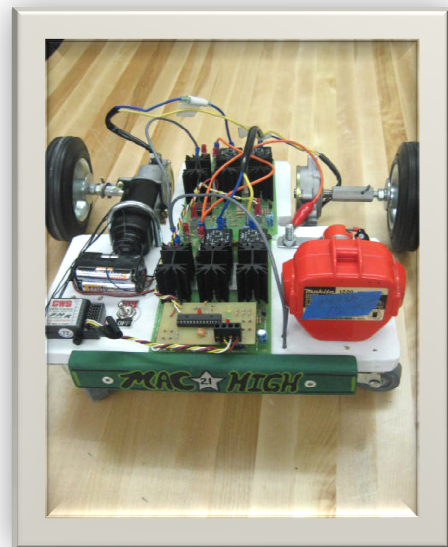
SCIENCE DEPT. Cont'd



Mac Robotics Update

Macdonald high school is participating this year in the **CRC Robotics** competition between various High Schools and Cegeps in the Montreal area. The purpose of the competition is to promote interest and skills in science and technology and to develop a sense of responsibility, communication, achievement and school spirit amongst students. A truly cross-curricular project, our involvement includes instruction on various aspects of working with technology, as well as the planning and construction of a robot designed to complete a given challenge. It also involves the creation of a Journal, Video, Website and display kiosk, each with the aim of promoting the school, describing its involvement in the competition and the robot itself in a bilingual format.

The twenty participating students have put their new skills in using tools, welding, electronics planning, design, construction and working together as a team to good use. They have finished the construction of their display Kiosk which was proudly put on display at the school open house in December. They have finished their design prototypes for the competition robot and are currently in production mode to finalize construction and work out any kinks before the competition on February 21-23. They already have good reason to be proud of their accomplishments, working on their project from 8-20 hours a week and will have even more reason to do so in the weeks to come.



There is a significant cost for this activity (likely \$7000-\$9000). Some of this has been provided by the school and other means, but **they need your help** and sponsorship by means of money, equipment, or any other assistance you can offer them in order to be successful. Any assistance, no matter how small is very much appreciated and will help the students to complete their goal of learning new professional skills and increasing the confidence and motivation not only of the robotics team but the school as a whole.

Wish them luck at the competition and feel free to contact us in case of questions:

Ted Duckworth: Coordinating Teacher
educkworth@lbpsb.qc.ca
(514) 457-3770

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! It has been a great term for the Physical Education Department of Macdonald High School. Grades seven through eleven have worked on a variety of activities.

Our grade seven and eight classes have completed units in badminton, co-operative games and cosom hockey. They are now focusing on volleyball and basketball.

Our grade nine groups are now getting into units in volleyball and basketball.

Finally our grade ten and eleven groups are starting units in volleyball, basketball, yoga and weight training.



CONGRATULATIONS to our interscholastic sports teams. Macdonald fielded six basketball teams and a swim team this winter. It has been an incredible season for our teams. We have several teams in line to go to playoffs. **WAY TO GO BULLDOGS!!!** Our tradition of excellence in sports continues with badminton, cross country running, rugby, outdoor track and girls touch football. Try-outs for these sports will be in the coming weeks. We look forward to your support during the spring season.

Students can look forward to volleyball lunch time intramurals. They are scheduled to

start early in February. We will also continue to plan evening ski trips for all students. We are planning on one trip in February, one in March and if the weather cooperates, we will have a final trip early in April.

The second term mark is an evaluation of competency one and two for students in grade seven, eight and nine.

The Physical Education Department of Macdonald High School continues to focus on development of your child. Our program focuses on exposing your child to a variety of activities to foster a life long love of physical activity. **Should you wish discuss our program, please do not hesitate to contact us at Macdonald between 9:00 and 4:00 at (514) 457 3770.**

Listen for the following upcoming activities:

BADMINTON TRY-OUTS

RUGBY TRY-OUTS

FOOTBALL TRY-OUTS

SCHOOL CLOTHES ORDERS



Note from the Editor: Please take a moment to remember the teacher and the seven members of the Bathurst High School boys' varsity basketball team killed in the crash on January 12th. Remember, too, those they left behind.



Happy New Year to everyone from Mac Student Life.

I am back, after a few months away (8 to be exact), working with the student leadership group of Mac High. I rejoin the dynamic team of **Mr. Joseph, Mrs. Tuff, Ms. Garner, Mrs. J, Mr. Jarvis, Ms. McDowell and Mr. Taylor** (I probably missed someone) who directly work with and encourage students in leadership activities all around the school. I also want to give recognition to all the other staff that support Mac Student Life in chaperoning and advising activities throughout the year. **A special thank you to the staff council** who allows students to present requests at each meeting and encourages a well rounded, co-curricular program. Finally, to **Ms. Allen (and Mr. Potter)**, who did an amazing job balancing high energy students, high energy staff, concerned administration and a busy program of events and activities while I was away. **Well done.**

Included in the report card envelope this term is an information page of upcoming student life events and activities. Please take time to read them and to support them.

The philosophy behind student leadership is that **students learn by doing**. All events, activities and programs under the student life banner are planned and organized by student leaders. At Mac, students make a difference. The evidence of this comes as I return from 8 months away and the **Student Life Machine** keeps rolling and

seems to be even stronger than when I left. Student life is student driven and does not depend on any one individual teacher. This is the way it should be and **I am very proud of our student leaders**. Teachers give advice (hence the term ADVISOR), administration gives permission but students are the head and driving force behind the activity. Well done to our Co-Presidents and their vice-presidents and the other leadership students.

In student leadership, unlike a regular academic subject, students learn in a public forum and thus, unlike Science, Math or English (where any correction is usually done privately between the student and the teacher), everyone knows if student leaders make a mistake on their assignment. **I want to thank our entire Mac High population** for being patient and letting our students learn and grow in public. Our standards are high and our students are encouraged to a level of excellence but "oops" does happen now and then.

It is nice to be back – I certainly did miss the entire Mac Community and being away makes you appreciate how special Mac High really is.

Leadershiply yours.

Mr. J. Roberts

"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



February is Black History Month

Resource Department

The Resource Room is in full-swing, servicing over 60 students on a daily basis! We are proud to offer our students an environment that is conducive to learning and a support system that aims to keep students on track academically.

Important note to parents of students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP):

If you have not yet signed your son/daughter's IEP from first term, could you please do so and return it to us as soon as possible? We need to have a signed copy in Resource as it is a working document that helps ensure the academic success of your child.

If you have any questions regarding its content, or would like to make any changes to it, please do not hesitate to contact us in **the Resource Room at 514-457-3770, extension 7397 or 7412.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

Ms. M.A. Arsenault, Ms. L. MacDonald and Ms. M. Ingram

Community Office

Well, by the time this edition of our Mac Link is received we'll be well in to the second half of the year! I really can't believe how time passes so quickly! Mac staff and students are a

busy bunch; here is a brief outline of what we have been up to:

As mentioned in our last Link, Mac was planning the "**shoebox**" campaign, a **Remembrance Day Ceremony** and meeting with **Driver's Ed**. We have completed all that and so much more. We delivered 197 shoe boxes with the prize for bringing in the most boxes going to **Ms. Guy's home room**. Great Job 136!

We had, once again, an amazing Remembrance Day with our **cadet flag party** (led by the always impressive **Nicholas Buonvino**) at the front of our parade formation, leading the entire student body. **Thank you to all Grade 11's...arriving with blankets to keep our 100+ Veterans warm.** Still makes me smile with pride!

Driver's Ed had 26 students attend the info meeting with many signing on to work towards their spring licenses. Twenty young ladies volunteered to **wrap Christmas gifts** at Fairview and fifteen students visited the **Veteran's Liaison Center** for a morning visit with a group of interesting Veterans. **Mac's Scholarship Club** was well attended by twenty one of our finest...Good Luck to all of them! **Cynthia Rocha** is this year's **Forum For Young Canadians** candidate, Cynthia will be visiting the nation's capital for a week in April, well done Cynthia! A team of grade 10 students (**Nicole Hulse,**



Natasha Gaudet, Naomi Desjarlais, Kevin Smith and Marie-Eve Quimper) collected and delivered 100 teddy bears to the **Shriner's Hospital**...Bravo Team! Mac High students, staff and parents delivered 26 **Christmas Baskets**...always such a proud time for our school...pat yourselves on the back! The **Santa Claus Parade** was a success; we were all freezing but in true Mac fashion, we followed through on a commitment even though people thought we were crazy!! **Open house** was a blur of activity, our student leaders were unmistakable in their black t-shirts (personalized with their names of the back!!). **Great representatives for our school!**

Our **tutoring program** is in full swing with close to 140 contracts filled. Once again, please contact me if tutoring is needed by your child. **(514-457-3770, Mrs. Tuff)**

Wow, I guess that's it...I wasn't kidding when I said we're a busy bunch! **A huge Thank You goes out to parents, staff and most importantly students! Together we're a great team!**

"Community is made of the gentle concern that people show each other every day. It is made of small gestures, of services and sacrifices which say "I love you" and "I'm happy to be with you.""

Jean Vanier

Christmas Break in Florida



News from your Parent Participation Organization

Happy New Year Mac community! All the best in 2008! We hope we were able to keep the grad parents informed over the Christmas holidays as the grads spent **the Christmas break in Florida**. Thank you for visiting our website and keeping up to date on their activities. **A special thank you to Mr. Joseph and the staff members** that took our grads on this 10 day trip, in not the warmest of weather.

April 16th will mark our next Family Matters workshop. We are still working on final details. More news to follow!



We have been busy working on a special project over the past year and a half, and you should all be hearing about this soon. **Keep watch for a letter coming your way.** Remember, you can always check the website for more information.

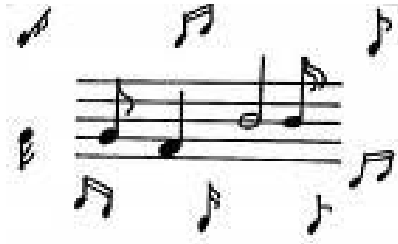
If there is information you would like to see posted on our website, please feel free to contact us. We are always open to your comments and suggestions.

Cathy Hart-Noble
PPO Chair

www.macppo@gmail.com
www.macdonald.qc.ca ,

"Groups & Committees".





NOTES (🎵) FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT!

The MAC Senior Band is on tour!

Well, not *exactly*... But we did pack a bus with about **three tons of instruments and twenty amazing musicians** last Monday, January 28th! Granted, it wasn't a *real* tour bus with our band logo painted on it and comfortable couches, but it was still lots of fun! (*Come to think of it, we don't have a band logo yet... I guess we'll have to work on that!*) We had the privilege of **playing for the students and staff of Edgewater Elementary and St. Patrick's elementary schools in Pincourt**. We saw lots of smiling faces. Definitely a great experience!

Back inside school walls, students of all three Music classes will be composing short pieces this term. They will be learning about the three basic phrase types and arranging them into an AABA thirty-two measure piece. Of course, at this point many students have serious doubts regarding their own personal potential for creativity... But, having done this before, I am absolutely certain that each and every one of them will succeed and be proud of his/her accomplishments! And *that* is what it's really about, isn't it?

Our new **Grade Seven Lunchtime Band** has started its rehearsals! Unfortunately, grade seven students did not have the option of taking Music this year. As of the beginning of 2008, grade seven students who wish to learn how to play a band instrument meet in the Music room once or twice a week. With the help of senior band members, they are learning the fundamentals and having a great time doing it! **A special**

'thanks' to all the students who help out with this activity!

The Music department is still involved with the **Drama Department's** production of this year's Musical, Irving Berlin's ***Annie Get You're Gun***, set to be performed on **April 24th, 25th and 26th**. Hope you can make it!

Although it hadn't been planned that way, our **music concert** has been moved back a few weeks. The official date will be confirmed shortly, but the concert will **probably be held in May**. This should give students the opportunity to perform some of their *own* compositions and even give our new Grade Seven Lunchtime Band a few minutes in the spotlight!

Have a great 2008!

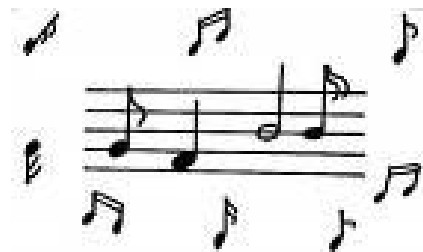
S. Crête



"The music field was the first to break down racial barriers, because in order to play together, you have to love the people you are playing with, and if you have any racial inhibitions, you wouldn't be able to do that."



Oscar Peterson 1925 - 2007



“ANNIE GET YOUR GUN”



Is coming to Macdonald High School!!

The **Macdonald players** are pleased to announce that we will be presenting “Annie Get Your Gun” as this year’s school musical. This is a full scale musical about the life and times of sharpshooters Annie Oakley and Frank Butler. This warm and funny play features a number of wonderful songs, including, “**Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better**” and “**They Say That Falling in Love**”. The students are already hard at work – and have been since the very first weeks of school. Rehearsals are progressing wonderfully and we are looking forward to a great show. Our show dates are **April 24, 25 and 26** and tickets will be **\$10.00** in advance and **\$12.00 at the door**. Stay tuned to the Mac Link for information on times of ticket sales.

Volunteers and additional help are always greatly appreciated. **Mr Crete, the Musical Director and myself, Melanie Everitt-Mak, the Director**, are looking for some volunteers to help us in the area of Publicity. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help us in this endeavour, or for more information on the show, please contact me by email at: meveritt@lbpearson.ca.

See you at the show!!

The French Department

Here we go! The French Department is back in the Mac Link! As we all know, French is extremely important in Quebec’s society. Our goal as a French Department is to provide students with all the skills needed in order to graduate high school and be functional in society. However, study is best supported by some home work.

For those students who feel like taking on a challenge, **here are three best-selling books in French book stores:**

- Harry Potter et les reliques de la mort (J. K. Rowling)
- La croisée des mondes (Philip Pullman)
- Le secret du courage (Geronimo Stilton)

For those who need more practice, **here are two strategies :**

- If you want to improve your *listening skills*, watching French TV on a regular basis is always a good idea. Remember: one 30-minute show a day is better than one 3-hour movie once a month. Translated shows are a good idea, as the story is already known. Check out Radio-Canada and RDI (www.radio-canada.ca) or Télé-Québec (www.telequebec.tv) for a few ideas.
- To improve *reading skills*, choose magazines that interest you. If you like sports, buy a sports magazine. Same for fashion. Readers benefit from reading, even if the texts are short. If you are in immersion, make sure the articles are a bit longer (at least one page).

So, that’s it for this term. **New books will be in April’s Mac Link with new strategies! Have a good term.**

Mme Bourdeau

CASINO NIGHT

(ADULTS ONLY)



Hosted by:

**MACDONALD HIGH SCHOOL'S
HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
STE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE**

FEATURING: "NUITS MAGIQUES"

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 2008

7:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

**OMNI CENTER: 375 CARDINAL LEGER,
PINCOURT**

TICKETS: \$20.00 PER PERSON

POKER !

ROULETTE !

CRAPS !

RED DOG !

BACCARAT !

BLACKJACK !

CASH BAR!

Ticket Info: DARCY (514)453-5799

Home & School Registration Form

As your *Home & School Association*, we are proud to be celebrating our 60th anniversary at Mac and we will continue to raise funds to help support all of the departments (i.e. Math, Literacy Prog., Music, etc.) for their classroom needs, for student assistance and end-of-year Book Awards and Grad pins. This year, we hope to be able to realise our "Hall of Pride" which would restore the original 100 year old portion of the school to its original glory.

We also have been active participants in QFHSA workshops and have aided in the formation of various Resolutions so, whether or not you have been active in a Home & School in the past, we need you to join us in our efforts. ***This is a great way to be an informed parent!!!***

It's easy to become a member...just fill out the form, include your cheque (preferably) in the amount of \$16.00 made payable to the Macdonald High Home and School Association and return it to the school office.

Two dollars (\$2.00) of the amount will provide Liability Insurance for the family at any Home and School Activity. You will also receive a Newsletter four times per year focusing on education, parental concerns, and school events (locally and provincially).

Please note: This fee does not go directly to your Local H&S but to the Quebec Federation which enables parents to be involved.

Home and School meetings will be held every month at 7:00pm in the Library from September to June. Everyone is welcome and all members are entitled to a vote. Please check our website at Macdonald High "Groups and Committees" or the monthly school calendar for the dates.

For any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at betlin@videotron.ca or 514-453-3407. Looking forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Linda Gibson
Membership Chairperson

YES, I wish to join the **Macdonald High Home and School Association**

I have included my membership fee of \$16.00. Cash____ Cheque____
New___ Renew___ Associate___

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

NAME AND HOMEROOM OF CHILD: _____

EMAIL: _____