

# H A I G L I N E

June 2026

## Principal's Message

Steve Yee

Hey Haigstate...**We did it...we made it to the end of the school year — and it was FUNOMENAL!** This 2025-2026 school year (my first here with you all), has been one of my most memorable and proud school years as an administrator. You have shown me what a special school Haig is — full of *passion, expression, compassion, dedication, drive, diligence and hard-work, resilience, respect, gratitude, and a togetherness* that highlights your commitment to *always be there, and care for each other*.

As we reflect upon this past year, there is so much to celebrate — your achievements in the classroom, triumphs on the field and in the gym, and successes on the stage. Be proud of yourselves. Especially for your hard work and EFFORT. Remember: this is what leads to true SUCCESS. Always focus on your journey (the process) and that will lead you to the destination (the results) that you want.

To our graduating grade twelves: I encourage you to cherish the memories and moments that you've experienced at Earl Haig. Take the learning that has been forged and the relationships that have been nurtured, and build upon them. Personal growth is endless and meaningful, human connections form the fabric of a fulfilling life.

To our teachers, counsellors, coaches, and staff, thank you for your leadership, guidance, and instruction both inside and outside of classroom walls.

A big thank you to our School council led by co-chairs Susan Lee and Roxanne Richardson. Your support, leadership, and commitment to our school community is invaluable.

I can't help but share that we definitely have an incredible Haig family here and we are all so proud of our community — especially our students. Earl Haig students are kind, caring, and always full of gratitude. *Parents/Guardians: Thank you for raising such FUNomenal people and sharing them with us!!!*



EARL HAIG SECONDARY SCHOOL

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### School Council

### Co-Chairs

Susan Lee

Roxanne Richardson



## **Student Activity Council & Clubs and Councils** by Lucas Pham and Emily Cao

The 2025-2026 school year was filled with school spirit and countless moments that brought students together. Through events, initiatives, and campaigns, SAC and Clubs and Councils worked together to create a memorable experience for the Earl Haig community.

The year began with Club Fundraising Week in September, which featured merchandise sales, fundraising activities, leadership workshops, and registration support for student leaders. Clubs and Councils also hosted the annual Club Fair, introducing students to the more than 90 clubs available at Earl Haig and helping students find communities that matched their interests. To further support student leaders, SAC and Leaders Collective collaborated to host a Club Leadership Workshop and the annual SAC Leadership Retreat, equipping students with the skills and confidence to lead initiatives through the year.

Throughout the year, SAC organized numerous events that brought students together and celebrated different aspects of school life. Athletics Week in October showcased school pride through spirited competitions and activities, while Junior Week provided opportunities for younger students to become involved in the school community. Students also enjoyed events such as Coffee House, Holidays with SAC, Semi-Formal, and Creation Rush.

In November, SAC diverted its attention to put together our biggest, most engaging outreach initiative of the year: Wellness Month! Partnering with the local organization Stella's Place, the initiative aimed to support mental and physical wellness through high-energy events, education, and community donation. Throughout the month, SAC put together four main initiatives to keep everyone involved: a wellness video, a month-long calendar of events, a series of donation milestones, and our ultimate event: Carnival Day. During this time, SAC allocated a total of \$500 to support various school clubs in hosting their own wellness activities, which brought us amazing events like Arts Council's Coffee House, Junior Council's Dance Battle, and a day-long excursion to visit Stella's Place.

Our events didn't just span education, they were deeply grounded in the spirit of giving. Partnering with local business, A Corner Cafe, SAC distributed 100 bubble teas to the student body. This coupled perfectly with a massive school-wide carnival where over 60 booths spanned across the school, racing to see who could raise the most money. From intense pull-up competitions to crystal ball readings, the competition was fierce, but Mr. Carayanis' class ended up taking the crown by raising nearly \$600! These incredible student-led initiatives completely smashed our fundraising milestones, resulting in a total of \$11000 raised to support Stella's Place. This massive success meant that the rewards were unforgettable: we got to see Ms. Kwok, Ms. Lue, Ms. Fradkin, and Ms. Koutroubis rock funny costumes, got to pie Mr. Carayanis and Mr. Mantziouras right in the face, got to ice bucket Ms. Tantri and Mr. Morin, and got to see our beloved Mr. Yee close out the celebration with a fun musical performance.



### **Student Activity Council & Clubs and Councils continued.....**

SAC continued its spirit of giving into the winter, running its first EVER Holiday Hamper Challenge with LC. Partnering with local organization, NeighborLink North York, SAC challenged all classes to bring in toiletries, toys, menstrual products, baby products, clothing, food, and gift cards to support unhoused individuals. Each class particular products corresponded to a point system. The winning class was Mr. Karam's class! In total, our school pooled almost 500 various items and hundreds in donations.



SAC and its family councils continued to highlight important causes and celebrate the diversity of the school community through a variety of awareness campaigns and themed events. Initiatives such as Orange Shirt Day, Pink Shirt Day, World Autism Day, and Red Dress Day encouraged students to learn, reflect, and engage in meaningful conversations. Throughout the year, councils also hosted signature events including SAC Week, Multicultural Week, ECO Week, Junior Week, and other spirit-building activities that reflected the many interests and identities represented within the school.

Clubs and Councils remained a cornerstone of student life, supporting over 90 clubs that reflected the diverse interest, talents, and passions of the community. Through Club Fair and Showcase, students had the opportunity including: Dance Council, HITSHIFT, and American Sign Language Club. Clubs brought the school to life through a wide variety of creative initiatives, fundraisers, competitions, and social events, giving students countless opportunities to get involved beyond the classroom.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our SAC staff supervisors, Ms. Koutroubis, Ms. Fradkin, and Mr. Morin, for their guidance, encouragement, and ongoing commitment to helping student initiatives grow and succeed. We are also thankful to Principal Mr. Yee, the Vice Principals, and all support staff for their trust and collaboration, which allowed student ideas to be shaped into meaningful events that strengthened our school community.

And to every Haiger—thank you for your spirit, participation, and energy throughout the year. Your involvement is what gave life to every event, turning this year into something truly memorable.

## **Guidance Department** by S. Bhowmik

Reflecting on this past year, our department is filled with immense gratitude. From daily milestones to major events, the spirit of our students has been inspiring. It has been a privilege for the Guidance team to support and celebrate our outstanding student body.

An exceptional school year is only possible because of a dedicated community working behind the scenes. Our appreciation goes to Principal Yee, the administration, and our tireless main office staff. We extend a special thank you to our invaluable Guidance OA, Ms. Carrie Leung, whose daily dedication keeps our department running seamlessly.

Our student support network has been an anchor this year. We recognize Ms. Johnson (Child and Youth Worker) and Ms. Janjua (Social Worker) for their care. Furthermore, our incredible settlement team—Andy Shum, Aida Mortazavi, Iona Seo, and Tetiana Tymoshenko—did phenomenal work ensuring our newcomer students felt welcomed and empowered.

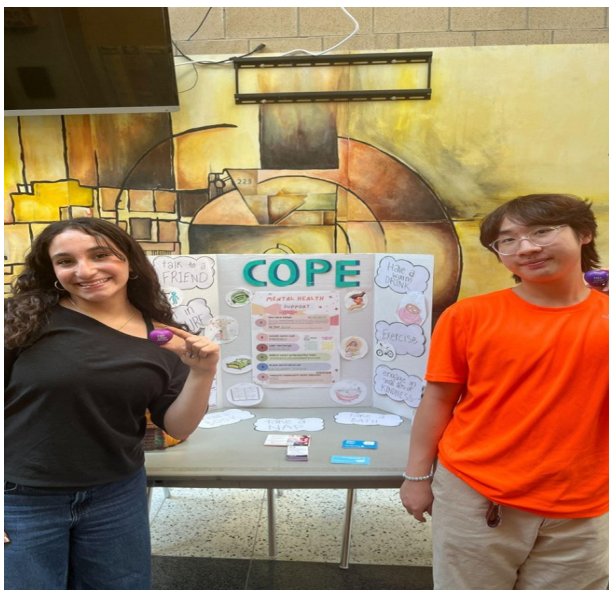
We also highlight the educators who stepped into new roles within our department. Mr. Matsumoto did a wonderful job filling in for Mr. Lawrence during his sabbatical, and we are equally appreciative of Ms. Lo Re for supporting Ms. Leo's alpha during the second semester. Both have been fantastic additions to Guidance and will be greatly missed when they return to their teaching roles in September. We know navigating staffing changes can be challenging, and we deeply thank our families for their adaptability, as well as the external guidance counsellors who stepped in to support Mr. Panagopoulos' alpha during his absence. Finally, our Peer Tutoring group deserves high praise; under the supervision of Ms. Lea Leung, Ms. Leo, and Mr. Panagakos, these students worked diligently all year to provide one-on-one academic support.

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

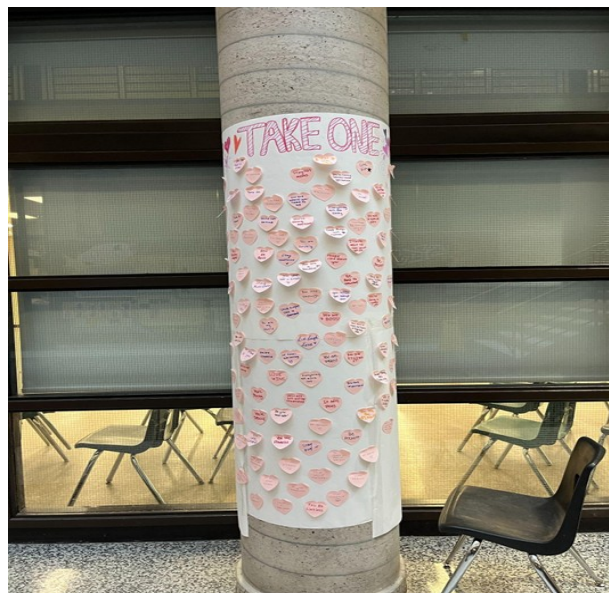
Supporting a student body as large and diverse as Earl Haig requires a thoughtful approach. We celebrate our student-led COPE team, who worked tirelessly to build community and provide stress-management opportunities. Their impact was felt through initiatives like *Haig Let's Talk Week*, *Mindful Mondays*, and our weekly *Quiet Space*, which provided a low-sensory environment for students to recharge during lunch.

COPE also created positive spaces in our hallways to foster connection. During Wellness Week, they hosted a community Photobooth and an interactive Wellness Wall with notes of encouragement written by the student body. They also brought a gentle touch to Pink Shirt Day with a kindness display, allowing students to pick up a supportive message whenever they needed a lift.

While summer brings opportunities for rest, it can also present challenges as routines change. To help families stay connected to their well-being, the [TDSB Summer Well-Being Guide](#) offers resources, mindfulness activities, and community supports. To ensure accessibility for all families, the guide is available on the TDSB website in the board's top 24 spoken languages.

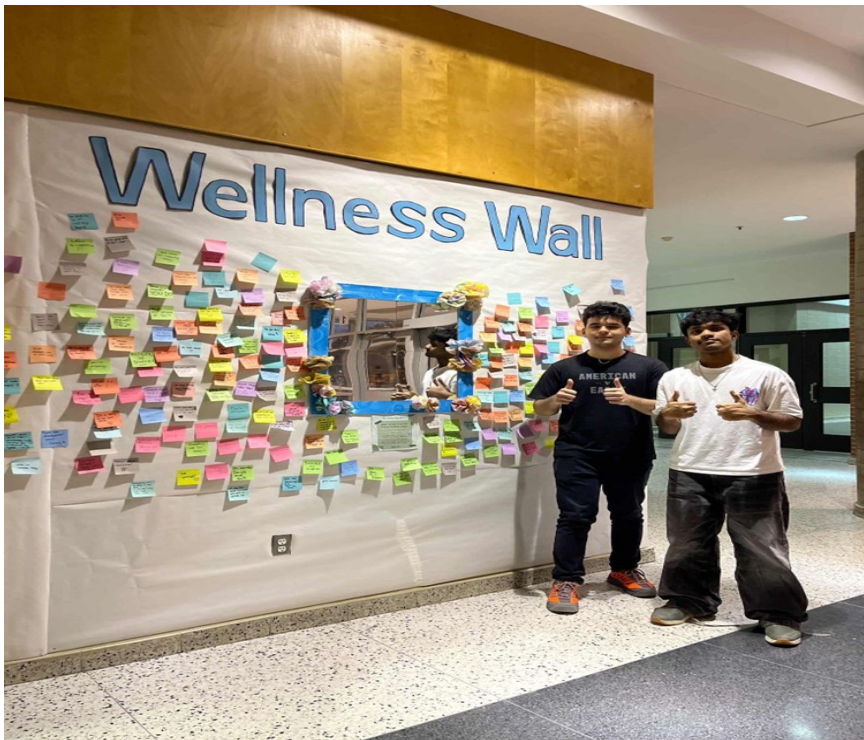


Shaina Momeni and George Yi



Pink Shirt Day's Kindness Display

## Guidance Department continued.....



Cope's Wellness Wall installation

We are so excited to watch the **Class of 2026** take their next steps. Celebrating everyone at the Graduate Awards, Prom, and upcoming Commencement has highlighted the wide range of skills and goals in this cohort. It has been a privilege to work with every student, especially those who pushed through tough challenges to reach the finish line.

We also know many students make a difference in quieter ways. Even if you aren't in the spotlight, we see your resilience and appreciate how you make our school a better place. Thank you to our families and the Parent Council—your partnership all year has been incredible. We wish our graduates nothing but happiness and success in whatever comes next!

**Have a Great Summer!** We wish all of our students and families a safe, happy, and restful break. Take plenty of time to slow down, recharge, and enjoy the sunshine!

Sincerely, *Ms. Lo Re, Ms. Leung, Mr. Low, Mr. Matsumoto, Mr. Panagopolous, and Ms. Bhowmik*

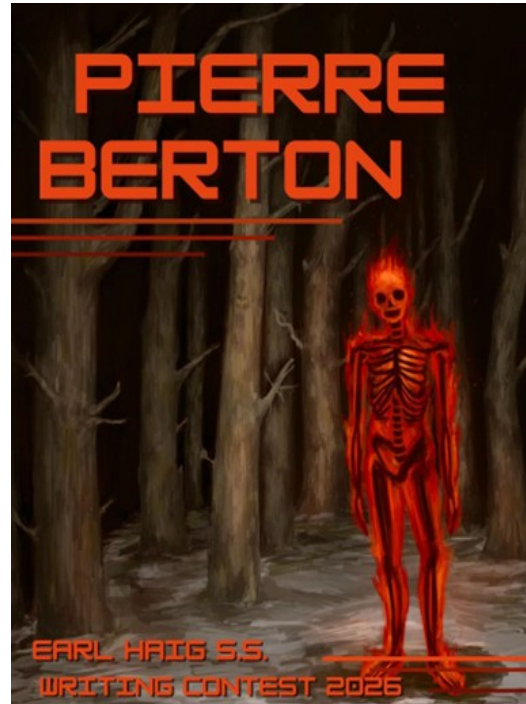


## **English Department** by E. Wry

The English department was thrilled to have the opportunity to celebrate the brilliant work of our students once more this year with our Poetry in Voice Competition and Pierre Berton Writing Contest. Our thanks to Bobby Collins for the haunting designs that graced this year's writing anthology.

Poetry in Voice saw students recite poems for the glory of being crowned this year's school champion. Keira Sutherland, Melika Shekari, Anisa Basha, Keira Chin, Claudia Jacobson, Anna Huang, Rachel Audette, George Yi, Theo Doty, and Daran Divangeigi performed their poems beautifully. Our judges were impressed by the creativity, assuredness, and spirit the students brought to their recitations. In the end, it was Keira Chin's powerful recitation of "Let's Not Get it Together" by RC Weslowski that seized the day. Congratulations to Keria and to all our competitors!

Remaining in the Poetry in Voice world, Earl Haig was able to send two teams of three students to the Toronto Poetry in Voice City Regionals. Annette Kim, Negin Nur Mohamed, Ren Ramlogan, Elena Long, Ethan Jung, and Hou Zeng all carried this responsibility brilliantly. While they didn't walk away with the top prize, they were wonderful representatives of the school and put up memorable performances. The whole department is proud of the work they put in and the recitations they gave.



Poetry in Voice School Competitors



Toronto Regional Poetry in Voice Competitors

### **English Department continued.....**

The English Department was thrilled to have the opportunity to celebrate the creativity of our students through the Pierre Berton Writing Contest once more. Students in both junior and senior years submitted writing in the categories of Dramatic Excerpt, Essay, Short Story, Informal Writing, and Poetry. Our adjudicators were impressed by the ingenuity, expressiveness, and wit on display in this years' entries—a sentiment reflected by our external adjudicator, Tyendinaga author and storyteller Pamela Devonshire. After much consideration, Pamela was excited to select Jade Zhang as Junior Writer of the Year for "Where'd All the Time Go," a moving poem with carefully crafted images that convey multitudes, and Anosha AzizaBadyfarahani as Senior Writer of the Year for "My Grandmother's Staircase," a powerful text that shows us how the spaces we might be tempted to overlook can carry the most important stories. Congratulations to Jade, Anosha, and all the other writers whose work was selected for this years' anthology.



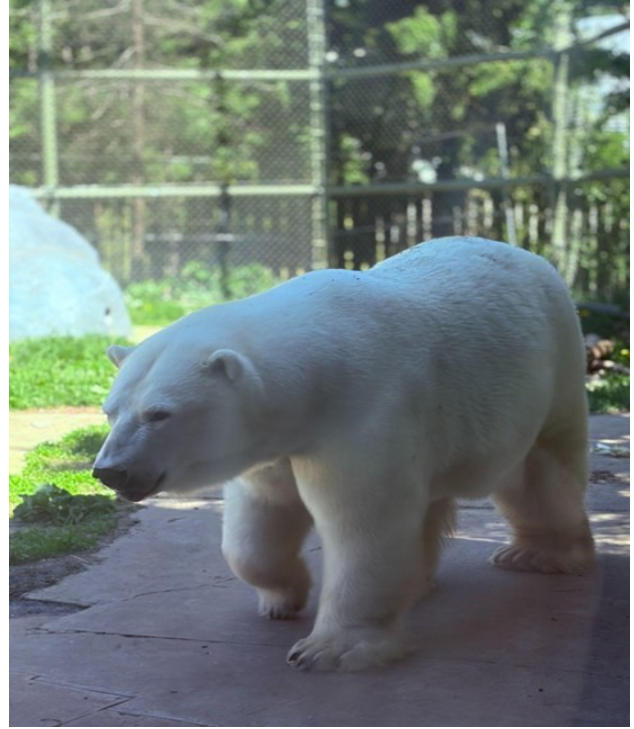
Photos from the 42nd Annual Pierre Berton Awards Ceremony

Finally, we wish all our best to the graduating class of 2026 as they bring their high school stories to a close and begin their next chapters!

## **Science Department** by J. Chew and R. Williams

It's been another busy year in our department. Here are some highlights from Science:

Grade 9 students went on a field trip to the zoo in first and second semester. The event was part of their Sustainable Ecosystems Unit of study. Students got to explore the zoo, then return and work on sustainability videos after the trip.



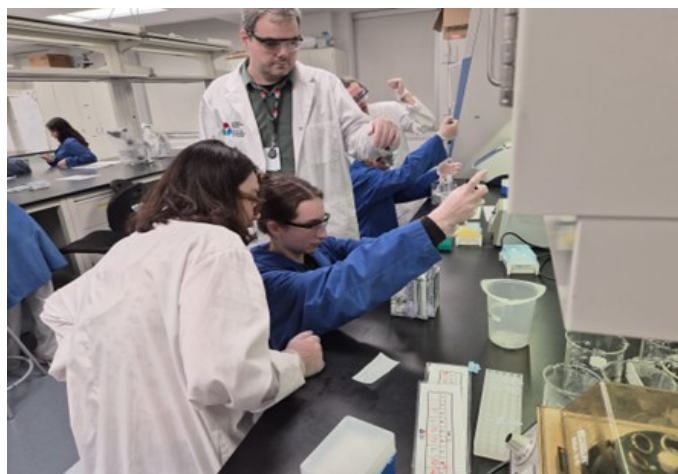
The Science department continues to conduct hands-on experiments to improve laboratory skills, from Physics and Chemistry labs to dissections in Biology.

The grade 10 students embraced their artistic sides to apply their own flair to optical devices such as periscopes, kaleidoscopes, and telescopes among others.

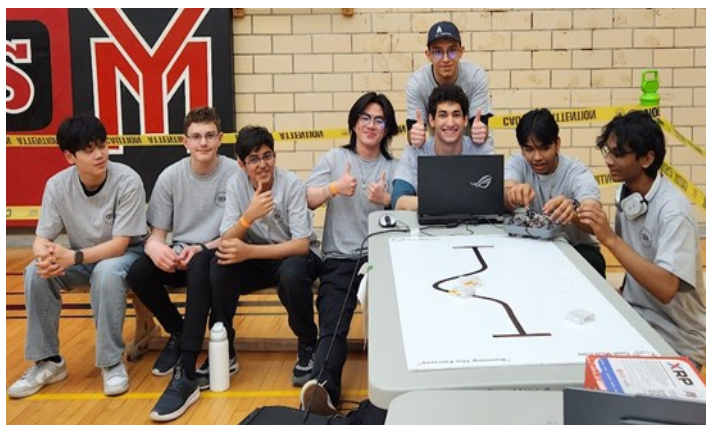


## **Science Department continued....**

The grade 12 biology students took a trip to TMU to truly discover how unique they are by extracting and examining their own DNA.



Interdisciplinary activities are pursued by our science students. Our Robotics Club team (Shayan, Zohaib, Sean, Amir, Aleksandar, Akshit, Shubhang, Sejeon) won 4th place on the Bucket challenge at the CETA competition.



About 50 students wrote the UW Chemistry contest in May. The results are impressive

### ***Avogadro Contest - Grade 11***

Michael He placed first at Earl Haig and 8th in Canada

Jiale Zhao placed 2nd at Earl Haig

Kevin Xia and Doria Yao tied for 3rd place at Earl Haig

### ***Chem 13 - Grade 12***

Michael He placed 48th in the world out of 1511 participants and first at Earl Haig.

The following are subject award winners and were presented with certificates at the Grade 12 awards assembly.

| Course                                                                  | Grade 12    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Biology (University)                                                    | Grace Fan   |
| Chemistry (University)                                                  | Mathew Tang |
| Physics (University)                                                    | Angus Chen  |
| Earth and Space Science (University)                                    | Andy Luo    |
| Overall Science Proficiency (University Biology, Chemistry and Physics) | Hardy Chen  |

Congratulations to all winners! We look forward to another exciting year. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

## **ESL Department** by P. Vlahos and A. Christofilopoulos

### **Celebrating Student Voice Through Writing, Art, and Culture**

This year, the ESL Department provided students with numerous opportunities to develop their English language skills while exploring their identities, cultures, and connections to the wider community.

One of our most exciting initiatives was our **16th annual partnership with the Newcomer Program**, where students created original poems exploring themes such as identity, belonging, family, culture, hopes, and dreams. To accompany their writing, students designed original artwork and calligrams—visual poems in which words are arranged to create meaningful shapes and images. Their poems and artwork were published in a collection that celebrated the voices, experiences, and creativity of our multilingual learners.

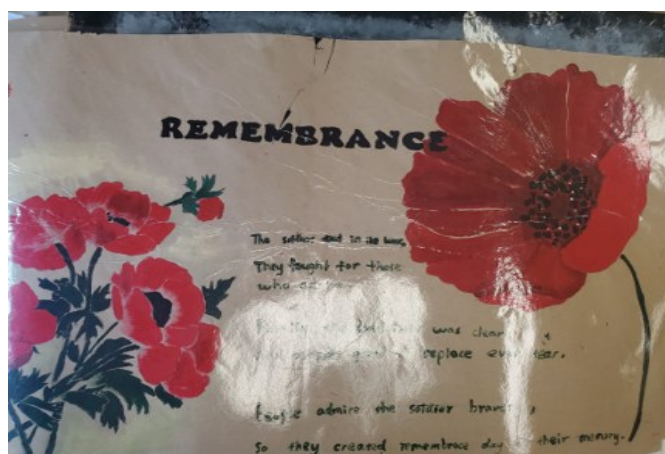


Throughout the year, students also participated in a variety of cross-curricular literacy and arts-based projects. In recognition of Remembrance Day, students wrote reflective poems and created artwork to honour the sacrifices of veterans and learn about an important Canadian tradition. Students further developed their writing and creative expression through the creation of Blue Jay cards and Valentine's Day cards, combining poetry, personal messages, and visual design.



These projects supported students in developing their reading, writing, media literacy, and communication skills while connecting to the Social-Cultural Competence and Media Literacy strands of the ESL curriculum. Through these activities, students learned to communicate with different audiences, explore cultural traditions, and express their ideas through a variety of media forms.

## **ESL Department continued.....**



### **Persian Club**

The ESL Department also proudly supported the Persian Club. As many of our students come from Iran, the club provided a welcoming space for students to celebrate Persian culture, traditions, language, and heritage while building meaningful connections within the school community.

Throughout the year, students participated in cultural activities, discussions, and celebrations that promoted cultural awareness and appreciation. The club welcomed students from all backgrounds and helped foster a greater understanding of the rich diversity that exists within our school community.



### **Building Language and Leadership Skills**

Throughout the year, ESL students strengthened their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through novel studies, literary analyses, persuasive writing, research projects, presentations, and media productions. Students also created Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos that addressed important social issues, allowing them to develop critical thinking, digital literacy, and communication skills while sharing messages that matter.

The ESL Department is incredibly proud of our students' growth, resilience, and accomplishments. Their willingness to share their stories, embrace new challenges, and contribute to our school community continues to inspire us. We thank our students, families, staff, and community partners for their ongoing support and look forward to another successful year of learning and achievement.

## **Math Department** by E. Gobubovici and M. Sharifi

This year, our math classrooms experienced an exciting shift as teachers and students embraced high-impact pedagogical practices. By adopting Peter Liljedahl's ***Building Thinking Classrooms framework***, students worked collaboratively on vertical non-permanent surfaces (VNPS), or "Wipebooks", placed along the walls of every math classroom. This approach has visibly enhanced student engagement as well as encouraged deeper critical thinking and inquiry-based problem-solving skills.

Every year, the Math Department proudly hosts six prestigious University of Waterloo math contests: **Pascal, Cayley, Fermat, Euclid and the Canadian Senior and Intermediate Math Contests (CSMC/CIMC)**. The highest-ranked contest participants at Earl Haig were: Zac Lee (*Pascal*), Rachel Liu (*Pascal*), Eason Yang (*Cayley*), Kelly Zhan (*Cayley/CIMC*), Tianle Shi (*Fermat*), Jeffrey Zhang (*Euclid*), Doria Yao (*CSMC*), Jiale Zhao (*CSMC*). Furthermore, Earl Haig was recognized as the **Zone Team Champion** for both the **Fermat and the Canadian Senior Math Contests**, achieving the highest cumulative score in our geographic region.

Two of our outstanding students, Doria Yao and Jiale Zhao, were invited to participate in the **Lloyd Auckland Invitational Mathematics Workshop** based on their CSMC performance. This week-long immersive math workshop provided these students with the opportunity to build professional connections and foster their passion for mathematics.

Earl Haig's math department also achieved recognition at this year's **Canadian Team Mathematics Contest (CTMC)** organized by the **University of Waterloo**. Accompanied by Curriculum Leader Eleny Golubovici, the students who participated were Jialie Zhao, Tianle Shi, Doria Yao, Olivia Guo, Jeffery Zhang, and Jason Gao. They represented the school very well throughout the rigorous, day-long competition. The Earl Haig team showcased exceptional collaborative problem-solving skills and earned first place amongst the Toronto East schools.

We are also proud to share that one of our top Grade 9 students, Keira Chin, was selected to be one of the participants of a week-long, in-person workshop called **SPARCS (Seeing Possibilities and Rewards in Computer Science)**, with the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing at the University of Waterloo. Keira engaged in lectures, labs and hands-on activities on cryptography, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing. She also engaged with university faculty and like-minded students from across Canada, which fostered new friendships and an enthusiasm for computer science.

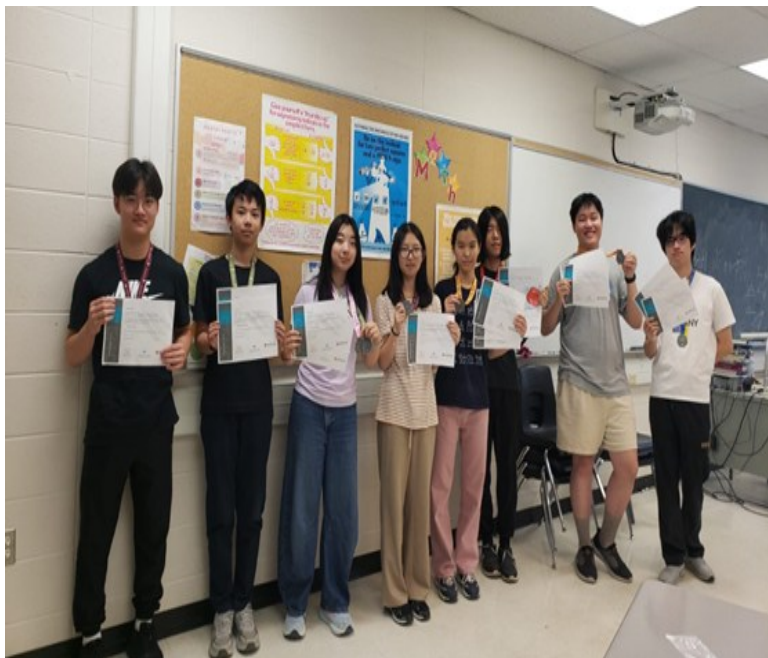
Lastly, the **Grade 12 Data Management** students had a lot of fun using their creativity and their knowledge of how probability works in real life to design their own probability games.

Once again, Earl Haig math students continue to impress us! They consistently represent their school with exceptional competitive success and an inspiring openness to innovative classroom practices!



Canadian Team Mathematics Contest (CTMC) at the University of Waterloo (left to right): Jialie Zhao, Tianle Shi, Doria Yao, Olivia Guo, Jeffery Zhang, Jason Gao

## **Math Department** continued...



Implementation of Vertical Non-Permanent Surfaces

The highest ranked math contest participants at Earl Haig were (*left to right*):

Zac Lee (*Pascal*), Eason Yang (*Cayley*), Kelly Zhan (*Cayley/CIMC*), Rachel Liu (*Pascal*), Doria Yao (*CSMC*), Tianle Shi (*Fermat*), Jiale Zhao (*CSMC*), Jeffrey Zhang (*Euclid*).



Grade 12 Data Management Class



Keira Chin (right) at the University of Waterloo SPARCS

## **Moderns** by P. Vlahos and S. Georgiou

### **Concours d'art oratoire (Canada's French Public Speaking Contest)**

This year, students from grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 competed in the *Concours d'art Oratoire*, Canada's largest French-public speaking competition. They demonstrated confidence, creativity and skill as they delivered engaging speeches in French! The following 6 Earl Haig students competed in the Concours d'art oratoire: Xinyi Wu, Karina Mofrad, Kamila Mofrad, Amirhossein Hekmatpanah, Daniel (Yul) Kwon & Irina Poenaru.

The following 5 students won in their category and competed at the provincial competition at Glendon College (York University): Xinyi Wu, Kamila Mofrad, Amirhossein Hekmatpanah, Daniel (Yul) Kwon & Irina Poenaru.



Xinyi Wu, Kamila Mofrad & Karina Mofrad



Irina Poenaru, Daniel (Yul) Kwon & Amirhossein

### **FSF4U1**

In April 2026, the grade 12 French students visited the University of Toronto to experience live French theatre. They enjoyed La Troupe des Anciens' wonderful production of Molière's *L'Avare*. The Moderns Department would also like to congratulate Isabella Di Cola and Irina Poenaru for earning the Andres Raudsepp Award for French! Félicitations!

### **DELFL (Diplôme d'études en langue française)**

This year, four grade 12 students took the DELF International Exam - a diploma that is awarded by the French Ministry of National Education. Brandon Woo and Owen Yuen took the B1 certificate and Isabella Di Cola and Irina Poenaru elected to take the B2 exam. This official, internationally recognized French-language diploma, would certify their language proficiency in 4 areas: reading, writing, listening and speaking. This is a diploma that is recognized worldwide and it is valid for life. Bonne chance!

## **Moderns continued.....**

### **French Club**

This year, the French Club met weekly to explore the French language, culture, and history through fun and engaging activities and informative meetings. Members learned about French-speaking countries and discussed various cultural traditions and historical events. The club also engaged in organizing fundraisers where French treats were sold to support various charitable donations. The club helped promote French programs and summer exchange opportunities to help students expand their learning beyond the classroom. French Club was a great way for students to connect with others, celebrate Francophone cultures, and strengthen their appreciation for the French language.



## **Social Science Department** by S. Papoutsis

The Earl Haig Social Science Department had a very busy 2025-2026!

This year we began a new initiative in our Grade 11 and 12 law classes to help students discover a variety of career opportunities in the field of law. We were fortunate to bring in two groups of speakers, featuring paralegals, law clerks, lawyers, and former police officers. Our students highly benefited from the opportunity to explore a variety of career options in the law and gained valuable insight into where this field could take them.

All Grade 10 students had the privilege of meeting Keira Loughran, a former Earl Haig alumni, York University Professor and documentary filmmaker to discuss and view her feature documentary *Exclusion: Beyond the Silence*. Students not only had the opportunity to hear from the director, they also had the opportunity to ask her questions about the film, her time at Earl Haig, and the filmmaking process. The film identified the impact of the 1924 Chinese Exclusion Act on Canadians in the past and present. It is a story about the feeling of belonging in Canada, the social, economic and political contexts of the 1920s, and explores themes of identity, citizenship and heritage.

Social Science students also participated in our "We Remember" campaign, where students and teachers wrote leaf notes of remembrance to those we have lost, those that have served, and people that we would never forget. This was showcased in a Tree of Remembrance that was created and designed by Social Science students located in a hallway on the first floor.



Grade 12 Politics Field Trip



Tree of Remembrance

Social Science students benefited from many opportunities outside of the classroom:

**CHC 2D** History reflected at the Toronto Holocaust Museum

**CLU 3M** and **CLN 4U** Law observed courts in action at the Ontario Court of Justice

**CHW 3M** visited the Royal Ontario Museum for an interactive tour and workshop of many global historical artifacts

**CPW 4U** Politics visited the Ontario Legislative Assembly and Toronto City Hall

**HRT 3M** World Religions explored various religious buildings around Toronto

**CHG 381** Genocide reflected at the Woodland Cultural Centre and toured the Mohawk Institute, a former residential school

**CHY 4U** travelled to the Aga Khan Museum for a guided tour and Silk Road Simulation

A big congratulations also goes out to our Grade 12 Department award winners:

Social Science Department Award Winner - **Brandon Woo**

Frank E. Watson Award for History Nominee - **Isabella Di Cola**

We wish everyone a great summer, a huge congratulations to all our graduates, and we look forward to the 2026-2027 school year!

## **Business Department** by S. Karam

At Earl Haig Secondary School, the Business Department has established itself as a dynamic hub of experiential learning and competitive excellence, fostering an inclusive environment where every student can thrive. Driven by a commitment to real-world engagement, the department recently shattered the boundaries of the traditional classroom by leading students on nearly 20 diverse field trips in a single academic year.

These excursions were meticulously designed to engage students from all academic pathways, whether preparing for immediate entry into the work force, or pursuing college and university destinations. By bridging the gap between theory and practice, students from all backgrounds gained firsthand exposure to modern industry practices, networking with professionals, and exploring diverse career trajectories. From corporate boardrooms to local enterprise hubs, these trips provided invaluable context, proving that business literacy is a universal tool for future success.

Beyond experiential learning, Earl Haig's Business Clubs and competitive teams have solidified the school's reputation as a powerhouse on both the provincial and international stages. Representing the "Haig" banner with pride, students rigorously prepared for prestigious business competitions, showcasing their acumen in finance, marketing, entrepreneurship, and hospitality. We have participated and placed very high with events from our community partners, such as 1st Place in CPA Ontario Financial Literacy by Wenny Zeng and Venus Luo Video Competition, and placing in Skillz Ontario Public Speaking; Cheryl Lee won 1st at OBEA Jr. Website Design Competitions. Our classes were able to execute a venture to raise funds for SickKids Hospital. We had two teams place Top 6 in the province with Junior Achievement's "Pitch Your Vision" Competitions. We engaged in real-world practical entrepreneurship with a grant from the Experiential Learning Department of the TDSB to start an enterprise that focused on Bridging Digital Literacy for incoming elementary students that was spearheaded by Ms. Yoon, Mr. Allan, and Mr. Cho with Haig's own student leader Ms. Dhyaana Shroff.

The results speak for themselves: Haig students consistently secured top-tier rankings, bringing home accolades from intense provincial showdowns and global arenas alike. This dual focus on broad pathway inclusivity and elite competitive success defines the Earl Haig Business Department, a community dedicated to empowering the next generation of global business leaders. We will continue to lead the way in Business education and blazing a path that will also lead us to Japan in 2027! See you next year Haig State Business!!!



**Library Commons** by M. Kopyto and Ms. T. Antoniou

The Earl Haig Library Learning Commons continues to be a hub of activity. Over the past academic year, students from every grade level and subject area have had an opportunity to work with teacher-librarians on a variety of reading, research, and digital literacy programs. We partner with classroom teachers to develop meaningful assignments and activities that help students think critically, problem-solve creatively, evaluate information objectively, and communicate effectively. With an added focus on information literacy, we support students in understanding the appropriate use of information, particularly the ethical use of AI. Furthermore, to support our diverse student body, the library remains committed to curating a broad selection of current fiction and non-fiction books that accommodate all reading levels and interests. Finally, the teacher-librarians would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the student library volunteers for their dedication and hard work in maintaining the library as a positive space for everyone.



## **Student Nutrition Program** by S. Hantzakos

Many thanks to the **Toronto Foundation for Student Success and President's Choice Children's Charity** for their generous financial support. The Nutrition program provided a daily grab and go breakfast which was available to our entire school population, continuously offering diverse food as well as preparation from our Culinary Students.



Culinary Students Preparing Breakfast

## **Dance Department** by T. Lee Blight

Greetings from the Dance Department,

As we reflect on another exciting year in the Dance Department, we are proud of the creativity, dedication, and growth demonstrated by our students both in and out of the studio.

Throughout the year, students had numerous opportunities to develop their technical skills, explore choreography, and share their artistry with the school community. One of the highlights of the year was our **Music and Dance Revue**, a collaborative event that brought together the talents of our Music and Dance Departments. The evening showcased original student choreography from our Grade 9 Dance Elective, Grade 10 Performance Dance Elective, Ballet Elective, and Senior Dance Elective classes. It was a wonderful celebration of creative energy, music, and movement.

Another major milestone was **Dance Night 2026**, where students presented an eclectic and engaging program featuring a fusion of classical and contemporary Chinese dance, ballet, jazz, old-school hip hop, and modern dance. The performances reflected months of hard work, artistic exploration, and collaboration. We are grateful to our dance teachers and guest artists for inspiring our students to create works that were entertaining, meaningful, and emotionally impactful.

We would also like to recognize student leaders **Katarina Dreosto** and Grade 11 student **Isabel Stanley-Linkewich**, who produced the outstanding **Dance Collective 2026** production, *Life in Motion*. This student-driven show featured original works by student choreographers alongside performances by our Grade 10 and Grade 12 Dance Elective classes. The production captivated audiences from start to finish and demonstrated the remarkable leadership, creativity, and commitment of our students.

Congratulations to all of our dancers, choreographers, student leaders, teachers, and guest artists for a successful and inspiring year. We thank families for their ongoing support and look forward to another exciting year of dance ahead.

Grade 12 Dance Major Award - **Natalia Montesano and Caitlin Wang**  
 Grade 12 Dance Elective Award - **Lucas Pham and George Yi**  
 Grade 11 Dance Award - Helena **Wrobel Pabst**  
 Grade 10 Dance Award - **Polina Potapenko**  
 Grade 9 Dance Award - **Yula Kuge**



Grade 12's



Grade 11's

**Dance Department continued....**



Grade 9's



Grade 10's

## **Drama Department** by L. Kurtz

### **Grade Nine**

It has been a busy year for the new crop of grade nine drama majors. Their journey began at Camp Manitou getting to know each other and mixing with all of the other Claude Watson grade nines - many friendships were forged. First semester was all about foundations and beginning their journey into their focused study of drama. Second semester was all about *The Burial At Thebes!* Greek theatre is NOT easy, but these students worked hard and it showed in their exceptional presentation. The year continued with a full workshop with Scott Moyle doing unarmed combat. They wrote a scene and choreographed a fight to go with it, developing their spatial awareness and partner work. The year wrapped up with their Integrated Arts Project. Eight groups comprised of members from drama, dance, visual arts and music came together and presented five minute performances exploring a central theme. Here they got the opportunity to find ways to seamlessly integrate with the other arts disciplines, preparing them for their Sera Bianca experience coming in grade 11.



Camp Manitou



"The Burial at Thebes" Grade 9's

### **Grade Ten**

Our Grade 10 Drama Majors focused on building character externally to make bold physical and vocal choices, an approach well suited for more outlandish forms of comedy. Students worked on a character mask unit where they developed a character inspired by a mask, and wrote and presented a performance beat in which the audience was given an opportunity to watch the character in action. This approach to character was taken further in the Improvisation class where students worked with guest artist Leo Dragoneri on commedia dell'arte. The year culminated in a production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, an outlandish comedy, where students had the opportunity to present their work developing larger-than-life comic characters to a live audience. Currently, students are completing the year with a Stage Combat unit, where they have been working with certified fight choreographer, Scott Emerson-Moyle.

### **Grade Eleven**

Grade 11 drama majors spent the year exploring different theatrical styles.

They performed in the intimate space of 273 using minimal sets and costumes so they could focus on script analysis, character creation and blocking for the theatre. They explored melodrama, the works of Anton Chekhov, challenging scenes from Tennessee Williams and wrapped the year up with *Waiting For Godot*. They were further challenged in their exploration of Theatre of the Absurd with a lengthy, in depth workshop with Fight Choreographer Scott Moyle. With his help, they were able to explore the scenes from *Godot* in an exciting new way to give them even more appreciation of the Beckett work. Midway through November, they were partnered with students in other arts disciplines to create the spectacular event - Sera Bianca. This gave them the opportunity to explore concepts at the heart of the arts - collective creation and collective collaboration.

## **Drama Department continued...**

### **Grade Twelve**

This academic year, our Grade 12 Drama Majors worked diligently throughout the school year to create meaningful work. Feature highlights included our senior production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, a Shakespeare Monologue Workshop with Wayne Davis, and the collaboratively driven Grade 12 Artifact project, which explores The Artist's Process.

For *Our Town*, students masterfully defined, illustrated, and illuminated Wilder's text. By marrying minimalism with physical theatre, they remained deeply anchored to the truth of every moment. Furthermore, students deepened their comprehension of the actor-audience dynamic, expertly navigating the nuances of Direct Address and Self-Referentiality.

The Drama department extends our deepest gratitude to the industry professionals who provided expert mentorship and invaluable guidance this year:

**Saccha Dennis (Monologue Work), Wayne Davis (Shakespeare), Leo Dragonieri (Mask), Ryan Kelly (Physical Theatre), Sid Kroach (Movement), Noam Markus (Mask), Scott Emerson Moyle (Unarmed Stage Combat)**

### **The Program**

I am immensely proud of our Drama Majors, who consistently embraced artistic risk to refine their theatrical craft. Equally inspiring was the growth of our Grades 9–12 Drama Elective students, who met both the creative process and final performance with remarkable courage and tenacity.

It has been an absolute privilege collaborating with you all. Congratulations to our entire School Show Cast and Crew, the One Acts Team, the Drama Council, and our wonderfully supportive parents, guardians, and friends. Thank you for a spectacular year of artistic growth, innovation, and discovery.



"Our Town" Grade 12's



## **Music Department** by D. Pady

The music department experienced a fantastic year of student performances, community connections and guest support.

Our concert season was a huge success, with sold out performances throughout the year. In January, we featured our semester one classes in our annual Music & Dance Revue alongside the semester one Dance classes. This show featured some wonderful collaborations between our musicians and dancers. In March, the Music Council hosted Café Carpe, which included multiple stages with various styles of music and delicious café offerings courtesy of the culinary department. This event was in support of Sistema Toronto, a charitable organization dedicated to supporting music education for students with financial barriers. Our spring concert, Music Showcase, featured two nights of music from our semester two classes and extra-curricular ensembles. It was a thrill to perform to two sold out crowds! Earlier this year, several of our ensembles also participated in competitions. Earl Haig Singers and Concert Choir experienced wonderful success at the Ontario Vocal Festival, while the Concert Strings and Gr. 11/12 Claude Watson Strings enjoyed the Ontario Strings Association Festival with invitations to attend the National festival for all ensembles.

Workshops and guest opportunities throughout the year included opportunities for both our elective music classes and the Claude Watson music students. In the first semester, our Claude Watson students began the year with a trip to watch a performance of Gounod's Romeo & Juliet by the [Canadian Opera Company](#). Following that, we enjoyed working with a series of guests from the COC, including conductor Johannes Debus, who supported our students in their preparations to perform the first ten minutes of the opera at Music Showcase. Claude Watson students and Elective Music students enjoyed working with guests throughout the year on performance technique, solo and ensemble music preparation, and composition. Our Gr. 11 and 12 Claude Watson classes continued with the opportunity to write music for professional and community ensembles, which included [The Bedford Trio](#), [Chroma Vocal Ensemble](#) and [Thin Edge New Music Collective](#). Second semester kicked off with a unit on Makam Music for our Exploring Performance Genres classes supported by [Labyrinth Ontario](#), followed by workshops on Cuban and Brazilian drumming supported by guest [Joaquin Nuñez](#). As you can see, it has been a packed year with lots of enrichment and musical joy.



COC Conductor Johannes Debus with the Symphony Orchestra and Earl Haig Singers

## Music Department continued....



Joaquin Nuñez working with the Exploring Performance Genres Class



Jazz Band Showcase

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our graduating class and our award winners for their extreme dedication and contribution to Earl Haig Music during their four years at our school. We will miss you, graduates!!

Elective Musician of the Year: **Andy Luo**

Claude Watson Musicians of the Year: **Isabella Di Cola**

Leadership Award Winner: **Ivy Li**

Congratulations to all of our music students for your hard work and so much beautiful music-making. Your teachers are so very proud of you.

## **Visual Arts Department** by N. Sakhavarz



Lola Wang and Helena Gu- Graduate Exhibit



Grade 12 Self Portraits- Graduate Exhibit



Grades 10 & 11- Epilogue Exhibit

## Visual Arts Department....continued



Grade 9 Self - Portraits Epilogue Exhibit



Grade 11- Round Food Paintings Epilogue Exhibit



Grade 11 - The Body in the Wave Gallery

## **Film Arts Department** by M. Parisella

### Framing the Narrative: A Stellar Year in Film Arts

Our Film Arts students continuously push boundaries, using their craft to explore bold ideas and redefine visual storytelling. This dedication to creative risk-taking has earned them well-deserved accolades both within our school hallways and across the wider community. With every project, these young directors and digital creators prove they possess a unique, commanding voice capable of truly moving an audience.

The ultimate celebration of this hard work took place at the Film Arts Gala on June 4, 2026. Serving as the grand finale to our academic year, the showcase spotlighted exceptional projects from every grade level. The evening was anchored by three phenomenal final featurettes from our graduating Grade 12 students - a beautiful reflection of the talent, technique, and artistic maturity nurtured throughout the program.

Have an Inspiring Summer! A massive congratulations to all of our filmmakers! On behalf of Mr. Harkness and myself, Mr. Parisella, we wish you a safe, rejuvenating and deeply inspiring summer break.



Co-Presidents—The Film Arts Council introduce the Gala



Grade 10's introducing the Grade 10 work



Grade 11's introducing the Grade 11 work



Grade 12's Final Bow

## **Tech Studies Department** by M. Parisella

Celebrating a Year of Hands-On Success!

The Technological Studies department has been a hub of creativity and growth this year. Our students didn't just learn, they *did*. They built, they barked, they designed, they styled and they animated. By diving into practical experiences, the students developed vital, transferable skills that lay a strong foundation for both post-secondary education and the workforce.

See You in September! An incredible year like this wouldn't be possible without our dedicated team.

On behalf of Mr. Beleggrinis, Mr. Carayanis, Ms. Coughlan, Mr. Davis, Mr. Hossain, Mr. Pesa, Ms. Salvatore and myself, Mr. Parisella, we want to wish the entire school community a restful, safe, and happy summer. Rest up, get inspired and we'll see you in the fall!



Grade 12's Culinary Arts Holiday Cake

## **Athletics Department** by J. Brown

### **Celebrating a Year of Excellence in Haig State Athletics**

As the largest public high school in Ontario, managing an athletic department of our scale is a monumental task, but it is a challenge our community met with immense passion and excellence this year. Our sports program saw over 500 unique student-athletes step up to compete. Because so many of our students are versatile multi-sport athletes, those individuals filled over 800 total roster spots throughout the year. Together, they fielded almost 60 teams across various age categories and genders, keeping the school calendar packed with 8 Fall, 9 Winter, and 10 Spring sports.

Looking back at the competitions that defined this past year, our teams and individual competitors displayed an incredible range of grit. In some sports, we were an undisputed powerhouse. The Senior Girls Ultimate Frisbee team went completely undefeated with a 22-0 record, capturing three tournament championships alongside both the North Region and City Championship titles. The Senior Boys Volleyball team also had an undefeated run through their season, playoffs and onto the City Championships, earning their third consecutive trip to the OFSAA Provincial Championships. In other moments, our athletes embraced the underdog tag. Our brand-new wrestling team overcame steep odds, injuries, and adversity to dig deep, win medals, and send athletes to city and provincial championships.

This dominance extended well beyond team sports. In massive individual-combined sports—including Cross Country, Swimming, Ski and Snowboard, Wrestling, and Track—our student-athletes absolutely ruled the podium, capturing a staggering number of individual gold, silver, and bronze medals at both the Regional and City levels. In total, our athletes brought home serious championship hardware, securing 10 North Region Titles and 5 City Championships.

Because of that collective heart, our presence was felt right across Ontario. We proudly qualified elite student-athletes to compete against the absolute best at the provincial level, reaching OFSAA in Tennis, Golf, Volleyball, Cross Country, Wrestling, Alpine Skiing, Swimming, Track and Field, and Table Tennis. Proving that we house some of the finest elite talent in the province, our student-athletes captured 5 OFSAA Provincial Championship Medals, all won through incredible individual and pairs performances.

Whether walking away with an individual medal, a team trophy, or simply the memories of a hard-fought season, every single athlete contributed to an elite legacy this year.

Congratulations to all of our athletes on an unforgettable year of athletic triumph!



Senior Boys Volleyball City Champions



Co-ed Volleyball North Regional Champions

## **Athletics Department continued...**



North Regionals Girl's Swim Team Championship



Table Tennis City Champions



Senior Girls Ultimate City Champions



Varsity Boys Golf City Champions



Earl Haig Wrestling Team

## Upcoming March Break 2027 —France by P. Koutroubis

### ✈ Next Stop: France! March Break 2027



Are you ready for the adventure of a lifetime?

It is not too late to secure your spot for the **France March Break 2027 Trip!** Whether you want to stroll past the Eiffel Tower, practice your French, or walk in the footsteps of heroes at Vimy Ridge and Juno Beach, experiencing a deeply moving and profound piece of Canadian history firsthand—this trip is designed to be an unforgettable educational journey.

We are opening spots for students who want to join us on this incredible journey.

### ✿ Why Join Us?

- **For Students:** Immerse yourself in French culture, try amazing food, see iconic landmarks in person, and make lifelong memories with your friends.

**For Parents/Guardians:** Give your child the gift of global perspective, independence, and experiential learning in a safe, fully supervised, and structured environment.

### 📄 How to Lock in Your Spot (Act Fast!)

Getting on the travel roster is simple. Please complete these two steps as soon as possible:

#### 1. Join the Trip Google Classroom: Code: **b5xpw2w4**

○ *This is where the online brochure is and where we post all itinerary updates, meeting dates, and important announcements.*

#### ○ Once you are in the Google Classroom:

Find the school registration form in pdf (available in Google Classroom under Application). Print it out or get a copy outside of the Science or French offices. Complete it and bring it to Ms. Koutroubis in the Science Office.

Ask any teacher to complete the teacher reference google form (also available from the Google Classroom under Teacher Reference Form)

Visit the online brochure from from GHardy Tours via <https://wetu.com/Itinerary/Landing/337a8650-59cf-41d3-baf6-32878ec80466> , and click on REGISTER

### ? Have Questions?

All trip details—including the day-by-day itinerary, safety protocols, and payment plans—are in the Google Classroom. For any specific questions, please contact **Ms. Koutroubis** [patty.koutroubis@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:patty.koutroubis@tdsb.on.ca)

*Pack your bags—your French adventure awaits!*



Notre Dame Cathedral

## **March Break—France/Italy....continued**



Arc de Triomphe, Paris France



Palace of Versailles, Parris France

**Holidays**

|                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Sept. 8/26      | First Day of School        |
| Oct. 12/26      | Thanksgiving Day           |
| Nov. 20/26      | PA Day                     |
| Dec. 21- Jan. 4 | Holiday Break              |
| Feb. 3/27       | Semester 2 Courses Begin   |
| Feb. 12/27      | PA Day                     |
| Feb. 15/27      | Family Day                 |
| Mar. 15-19/27   | March Break                |
| Mar. 26/27      | Good Friday                |
| Mar. 29/27      | Easter Monday              |
| May 24/27       | Victoria Day               |
| June 25/27      | End of Academic Year       |
| June 28/27      | Professional Activity Days |
| June 29/27      | Professional Activity Days |

**Exam Dates:**

Jan. 25-29, 2027  
June 21-25, 2027

**Report Card Distribution Week:**

Nov. 16/26  
Feb. 08/27  
Apr. 26/27  
June 30/27

**Parent Teacher Interviews:**

Oct. 20, 2026 10am-12pm, 1-4pm, 6-8pm  
Mar. 30, 2027 10am-12pm, 1-4pm, 6-8pm

**School Council:**

**Sep. 22/26 Parent Info Evening**  
**5:30-6:30 pm Social**  
**6:30 pm - Curriculum**  
**7:00 –8:00 pm ESL Parents**

**Oct. 6/26 6:00 pm - Executives/Elections**

**Student Activity Council 2026-2027**

**President:** Olive Maeno-McGrath  
**Vice President:** Sally Shen  
**Clubs and Councils:** Natasha Masters  
**Arts Rep:** Luis Jiaming Wang Nunez  
**Athletic Rep:** Sophia Nguyen  
**Community Rep:** Ava Masoudian  
**ECO Rep:** Jana Abdelghany  
**SOPSS:** Devi Freeman  
**Junior Mayor:** Milan Pankratsenka  
**Social Promoter:** Fariza Ahmad  
**Student Advocate:** Jade Zhang  
**Media Masters Senior:** Jake Tran  
**Media Masters Junior:** To be selected Sep/2026  
**Multicultural Rep:** Latifeh Zahedi  
**Stage Crew Rep:** Tal Meir Mendelsohn Aviv

**Leaders Collective 2026-2027**

**Director:** Emily Ahn  
**Assistant Director:** Diana Ebrahimi  
**Administrative Coordinator:** Natasha Masters  
**Administrative Coordinator:** Xinyi Wu  
**Administrative Assistant:** Keira Chin  
**Administrative Assistant:** Sophia Qin  
**Events Coordinator:** Evelyn Tan  
**Events Assistants:** Eliab Kim/Sean Oh/Clair Chapman  
**Opportunities Coordinator:** Nicole Tannev-Rivlin  
**Opportunities Assistant:** Rachel Audette  
**Opportunities Assistant:** Anita Shahmiri Bozorgi  
**Promotions Coordinator:** Jake Tran/Abigail Mak  
**Promotions Coordinator:** Emmanuel Tokoli Garcia  
**Promotions Assistant:** Vivian Hu  
**Promotions Assistant:** Alexander Smirnov  
**Programs Coordinator:** Joseph Chan  
**Program Assistants:** Aidan Chin/Kelly Zhan  
**Special Projects Coordinator:** Diana Lotfi Seisan  
**Special Projects Coordinator:** Jade Zhan  
**Special Projects Assistant:** Truman Tan

