

# City School Newsletter

Fall 2011

“The most student-friendly school we’ve seen!”

- a TDSB superintendent at our District Review last year

City School is alive and well with an enthusiastic and passionate group of teens fueling both the academic programs and welcoming atmosphere of the school. It’s great to hear new students say they are happy to be here, happy to be in school for a change. We’re planning another exciting year of innovative study, enriching field trips, community building and just plain fun, and we’re off to a great start.

We’ve been getting to know each other quite well in the past few weeks. So far we’ve had a pizza lunch and school photo, a trip to Centre Island for a BBQ, an afternoon at Factory Theatre, and last week visits by candidates in the Trinity-Spadina riding, giving our students up-close time with people they might vote for on October 6. Last Thursday, Barb organized a Philosophers’ Cafe. This week, Dan and the Student Council are planning a Spirit Week celebration, and there’s talk of a talent show a few weeks later, maybe in conjunction with T.A.S.T.E (Teachers and Students Teaching Each Other) later in October. Barb’s helping our EcoSchools group figure out how to maintain our platinum level status, Whitney’s working with “wikis” to engage students online, Peter’s got a social justice campaign coming up with one of his English classes, and we’re all planning to see the Chagall exhibit at the AGO on November 3. And there will be a lot more after that, culminating in Winterfeast, our holiday celebration in December.

We welcome Lori Bernier who has joined our staff to fill in for Marc Lichtenberg who’s on leave for a year. Lori takes over Guidance and will be teaching Art as well. She has a varied background, both in the Alternative Schools and others. Though we lost “half a teacher”, we still have a creative and lively crew to keep the school going. Di’s teaching the hard sciences and her popular Life Strategies course; Dan’s holding down the maths and is teaching Environmental Studies for the first time. Barb is teaching English, Drama and Philosophy, and perhaps the controversial Genocide course in the Spring. Whitney is continuing to expand our Gym program and generally bringing all of us up to speed in the digital realm. Peter continues as Curriculum Leader and movie-loving English teacher.

We would love to hear your suggestions for improving City and to have you come in and see what we’re doing here. If you have some expertise students might find interesting, let us know and we’ll invite you to talk to our students. We’re also looking for a few parents to be part of a school council. If any of this appeals to you, let Peter know ([peter@cityschooltoronto.com](mailto:peter@cityschooltoronto.com)). Here’s to a productive and joyful year all round!

## **Parent/Teacher Interviews**

**Wednesday, November 16, from 3 to 6 p.m.**

Make sure you book your appointments with individual teachers by phoning Marie at (416) 393-1470. If you can't make it, you can call in to arrange for staff to phone or e-mail you.

Mid-term reports will be handed out to students on Monday, November 14.

Full disclosure of marks happens on Tuesday, November 22.

Courses must be dropped by Tuesday, November 22 to not appear on transcripts.

## **Recycling**

Bring the following items to the Office for recycling:

- > toner cartridges – printer, fax machine
- > batteries
- > eyeglasses, sunglasses
- > videotapes, computer disks
- > old/unusable wireless devices – pagers, phones, blackberries

# Semester One Courses

## **11/12 Dramatic Arts (ADA3M/4M) – Barb**

This course is focused around the creation of a theatre troupe – examining all roles involved in the production of theatre (writer, actor, director, producer, technician, etc.). The troupe will be charged with putting on a production by the end of the semester, from inception to presentation. The course will also offer regular seminars on various acting techniques.

## **11/12 English (ENG3U/4U) – Barb**

Modern coming of age novels, city inspired creative writing, native studies, multicultural literature, modern and classic drama, a study of a popular film genre and the launching of a grassroots campaign to promote ecofriendly policies in our neighbourhood provide a framework for learning how to communicate better for all purposes.

## **11/12 Environmental Science/Environmental Studies (SVN3M/CGR4M) – Dan**

This course employs the three primary sciences, i.e. Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, in an interdisciplinary analysis of the ecological, technological, ethical, and societal issues relating to Environmental Science. A multi-faceted assessment of the environmental impact of physical agents and chemical pollutants within the compartments of soil, water, and air will be emphasized. We will be taking an “eco-solutions” approach to this course.

## **11/12 Personal Fitness/Human Movement (PAF3O/4O) – Whitney**

The Personal Fitness/Human Movement course is designed to focus on personal fitness and human movement as it impacts our health, well-being, and lifestyle choices. Exploring how and why we move in certain ways, as well as personal fitness routines and activities, will enable students to examine their current levels of fitness and activity levels. Why and how we should live healthy, well-rounded lives is the focal point of the course, including the choices we make for living a well-rounded, healthy life which involves mental, physical, emotional, cultural, social and/or spiritual well-being.

## **11/12 Popular Culture (IDC3O/4O) – Whitney**

This course explores artistic, economic, technological, social, historical and ethical perspectives within the context of popular music and the society within which it exists. Using a wide range of approaches, students will actively share their own productions and inquiries through material, print, media and digital presentations. They will develop skills by completing and submitting enriched, differentiated tasks which may include but are not limited to, the production of musical recordings and the creation of secondary works, such as videos, websites, podcasts and merchandise. Projects may also take on the form of reports and more formal writings involving journalism, interviewing and ‘how to’ manuals.

## **11/12 Visual Arts (AVI3M/4M) – Tosh**

This course is a vehicle for working on personal identity and expression as well as refining practical skills and techniques. Mediums may include various types of Painting, drawing and 2D/3D Design depending on the interests of the class. Theory and Criticism are integral parts of this course and will be expected in oral and written forms. Portfolio development for potential application to post-secondary Art Programmes will be addressed. The history of art is infused throughout everything we do as a context for the work we create now. A major paper and oral presentation of the student’s own works are part of the final assessment in the course. A Sketchbook is a necessary tool for this course.

## **12 Advanced Functions (MHF4U) – Dan**

This course extends students’ experience with functions. Students will investigate the properties of polynomial, rational, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions; develop techniques for combining functions; broaden their understanding of rates of change; and develop facility in applying these concepts and skills. They will also refine their use of the mathematical processes necessary for success in senior mathematics.

## **12 Biology (SBI4U) – Di**

Senior Biology students will look at population dynamics, evolution, and sustainability as well as metabolism, molecular genetics, and the “balance” within and between organisms. The course is enriched with many up-to-date articles to help students gain useful understanding of where humans fit in the scheme of living things...and to gain insights into how they can influence the coming impacts of biotechnology.

## **12 Calculus and Vectors (MCV4U) – Dan**

This course builds on students’ previous experience with functions and their developing understanding of rates of change. Students will solve problems involving geometric and algebraic representations of vectors and representations of lines and planes in 3-dimensional space; broaden their understanding of rates of change to include the derivatives of polynomial, sinusoidal, exponential, rational and radical functions; and apply these concepts and skills to the modeling of real-world relationships.

## **12 Chemistry (SCH4U) – Di**

An advanced chemistry course and a prerequisite for university science. Units include chemical bonding, chemical reactions, reaction kinetics, chemical equilibrium, solubility, and nuclear and electrochemistry. Projects deal with the application of chemistry to “reality”.

**12 English/Literary Studies - (ENG4U/ETS4U-01- Nature, Within and Without) – Peter**

This course focuses on human nature and the relationship of humans to the rest of nature. The first part looks at teen experience as a guide to understanding what makes people act the way they do. Various teen movies and a study of the novel White Oleander provide guidance. The second half looks at the place of humans in nature, spiritually, politically and aesthetically. Essays, poetry and short stories will shine a light.

**12 English/Literary Studies – (ENG4U/ETS4U-02- English and Politics) – Peter**

This course examines the politics of everyday life locally, nationally and globally. We will research, debate, present and write about various contemporary issues using newspapers, magazines and online resources. The second half of the course will look at political literature, with a focus on the novel Nineteen Eighty-Four and the various issues and concerns it explores.

**12 Environmental Studies (CGR4M-01) – Whitney**

This course emphasizes experiential learning and students taking informed action on current green issues. Several field studies are set up, including trips to: Toronto Islands, High Park and Crawford Lake. We'll be tree planting, visiting the Toronto Wind Turbine and the Green Roof at Mountain Equipment coop. Guest speakers will help us explore the topics of alternative energy, climate change and the role of environmental organizations in our fair city. If you have an area of related expertise you would like to share with the class, please give us a call.

**12 Life Strategies (IDC4U) - Di**

Life Strategies, designed by Di and approved by the TDSB, helps young adults “master their own destiny”. We look at priorities and decision making, time and money management, career paths and business design, self-care (nutrition, fitness, etc.) and risk management, communication and relationships in various contexts. A highly practical course and hopefully fun.

**12 Philosophy (HZT4U) – Barb**

This course aims to introduce students to many of the major philosophers and philosophical themes of both the east and the west. Among the philosophers to be studied are Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hume, Berkeley, Shankaracharya, Buddha, and Patanjali. Some of the topics are theories of knowledge, reality, ethics and the Good Life. Material is taught through readings (including original writings), discussions, videos, though exercises, class trips, etc. A major focus in this course is the development of critical thinking.

Please share this with other parents who may not have received this newsletter or have them call or email Marie (416-393-1470, [marie.melo@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:marie.melo@tdsb.on.ca)) to be added to the email list.

**CITY SCHOOL TIMETABLE SEMESTER 1 2011-2012**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>PER.1</b> 9:00-10:30	Drama 11/12 – Barb – 21 Eng/Lit Stud 12-02-Peter-35 Env Stud.12-01-Whitney-38	Env Sci/Stu 11/12-02-Dan-37 Eng/Lit Stud 12-01-Peter-35 Biology 12-Di-39	Pop Culture 11/12-Whitney-38 Calculus 12-Dan-37 Philosophy 12-Barb-36	Visual Arts 11/12-Lori-31 Pers Fit 11/12-Whitney-38 Chemistry 12-Di-39	English 11/12-03-Barb-36 Adv Functions 12-Dan-37 ID-Life Strategies 12-Di-39
<b>PER.2</b> 10:30-11:30	Env Sci/Stu 11/12-02-Dan-37 Eng/Lit Stud 12-01-Peter-35 Biology 12-Di-39	Pop Culture 11/12-Whitney-38 Calculus 12-Dan-37 Philosophy 12-Barb-36	English 11/12-03-Barb-36 Adv Functions 12-Dan-37 ID-Life Strategies 12-Di-39	Pop Culture 11/12-Whitney-38 Calculus 12-Dan-37 Philosophy 12-Barb-36	Env Sci/Stu 11/12-02-Dan-37 Eng/Lit Stud 12-01-Peter-35 Biology 12-Di-39
<b>PER.3</b> 11:30-12:30	Visual Arts 11/12-Lori-31 Pers Fit 11/12-Whitney-38 Chemistry 12-Di-39	Drama 11/12 – Barb – 21 Eng/Lit Stud 12-02-Peter-35 Env Stud.12-01-Whitney-38	Visual Arts 11/12-Lori-31 Pers Fit 11/12-Whitney-38 Chemistry 12-Di-39	Drama 11/12 – Barb – 21 Eng/Lit Stud 12-02-Peter-35 Env Stud.12-01-Whitney-38	Pop Culture 11/12-Whitney-38 Calculus 12-Dan-37 Philosophy 12-Barb-36
12:30-1:15	<b>L U N C H</b>	<b>L U N C H</b>	<b>L U N C H</b>	<b>L U N C H</b>	<b>L U N C H</b>
<b>PER.4</b> 1:15-2:15	Pop Culture 11/12-Whitney-38 Calculus 12-Dan-37 Philosophy 12-Barb-36	<b>1:15 – 2:30</b> English 11/12-03-Barb-36 Adv Functions 12-Dan-37 ID-Life Strategies 12-Di-39	Drama 11/12 – Barb – 21 Eng/Lit Stud 12-02-Peter-35 Env Stud.12-01-Whitney-38	Env Sci/Stu 11/12-02-Dan-37 Eng/Lit Stud 12-01-Peter-35 Biology 12-Di-39	Visual Arts 11/12-Lori-31 Pers Fit 11/12-Whitney-38 Chemistry 12-Di-39
<b>PER.5</b> 2:15-3:15	English 11/12-03-Barb-36 Adv Functions 12-Dan-37 ID-Life Strategies 12-Di-39	<b>Staff Meeting</b> 2:30-3:30	Drama 11/12 – Barb – 21 Eng/Lit Stud 12-02-Peter-35 Env Stud.12-01-Whitney-38	Env Sci/Stu 11/12-02-Dan-37 Eng/Lit Stud 12-01-Peter-35 Biology 12-Di-39	Visual Arts 11/12-Lori-31 Pers Fit 11/12-Whitney-38 Chemistry 12-Di-39
<b>PER.6</b> 3:15-4:00	English 11/12-03-Barb-36 Adv Functions 12-Dan-37 ID-Life Strategies 12-Di-39				

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, October 5, 10:15-11:30 a.m.	TTC Photos, \$5.25
Thursday, October 6, 11:30 a.m.	Concordia University visit
Monday, October 10	Thanksgiving – no school
Monday, October 17, 1:15 p.m.	U. of Western Ontario visit
Thursday, October 20, 10:30 a.m.	Ryerson U. visit
Tuesday, October 25, 1:15 p.m.	U. of Toronto visit
	Ontario College Information Fair
Thursday, October 21, 7 p.m. – Northern S.S.	Quebec University Fair
	Summer/Separate/Private School marks from 2011 submitted to Lori, with a report card, for university application
Wednesday, October 26, 2:30 p.m.	Info Session for Semester 2 registration – early dismissal
Friday, October 28	Grad Photos – book session with Marie
Monday, November 14	Mid-term reports issued to students
Wednesday, November 16, 3-6 p.m.	Parent-Teacher Interviews (early dismissal)
Thursday, November 17, 1:15 p.m.	Dalhousie U. visit
Friday, November 18	P.A. Day – no school
Monday, November 21, 10:30 a.m.	York U. visit
Tuesday, November 22	Full disclosure date for Semester 1 (deadline for courses not to appear on transcript)
Monday, November 28, 6 p.m.	Info Session for Semester 2 registration
Wednesday, November 30, 11:30 a.m.	U. of Guelph visit
Friday, December 9	P.A. Day – no school
Thursday, December 15, 2:30 p.m.	Info Session for Semester 2 registration – early dismissal
TBA	Winterfeast
Monday, December 26 to Friday, January 6 inclusive	Winter Break – no school
Wednesday, January 11	OUAC application deadline
Thursday, January 26-Wednesday, February 1 inclusive (tentative)	Semester 1 final examinations (tentative)
	OCAS Equal Consideration Date
Thursday, February 2	P.A. Day – no school
Friday, February 3	First day of Semester 2
Wednesday, February 8	Semester 1 Final Reports available
Friday, February 17	P.A. Day – no school
Monday, February 20	Family Day – no school
Thursday, February 23	School/Grad Photos
Monday, March 12 to Friday, March 16 inclusive	March Break – no school
Thursday, March 29	OSSLT - Literacy Test
Friday, April 6	Good Friday – no school
Monday, April 9	Easter Monday – no school
Tuesday, April 17	Mid-term reports issued to students
Wednesday, April 18, 3-6 p.m.	Parent-Teacher Interviews (early dismissal)
Tuesday, April 24	Full disclosure date for Semester 2 (deadline for courses not to appear on transcript)
To Be Announced	Springfeast
Monday, May 21	Victoria Day – no school
Wednesday, June 20 to Tuesday, June 26 inclusive (tentative)	Semester 2 final examinations (tentative)
Wednesday, June 27, 11 a.m.	Graduation (details to follow)
Thursday, June 28	P.A. Day – Semester 2 Final Reports available
Friday, June 29	P.A. Day

## Semester Two (Spring 2012) Information Sessions

Wednesday, October 26 at 2:30 p.m.

Monday, November 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 15 at 2:30 p.m.

Students must attend an Information Session before being considered for an interview.

Check our website: [www.cityschooltoronto.com](http://www.cityschooltoronto.com) for more information.

## GUIDANCE NOTES

- Excellent site for university search is myblueprint.ca. PASSWORD: cityschool
- The book INFO (the Guide to Ontario Universities) is now available on line at [www.electronicinfo.ca](http://www.electronicinfo.ca)
- Students need to hand in, by November 2, report cards for night school and summer school marks from private or separate schools so their transcripts will be up to date for the online university and college application process.
- Students will not graduate if they have not completed their 40 hours of community service. (Hand in documentation ASAP to Lori.)
- Students need to read the whiteboard outside the Main Office daily. Keep looking at the post-secondary bulletin board for new information.

Some useful websites for those graduating this year.

<a href="http://www.ouac.on.ca">www.ouac.on.ca</a>	Ontario Universities Application Centre
<a href="http://www.ontariocolleges.ca">www.ontariocolleges.ca</a>	Ontario College Application Centre
<a href="http://www.studentawards.com">www.studentawards.com</a>	For scholarships
<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>	SAT registration and info
<a href="http://www.scholarshipscanada.com">www.scholarshipscanada.com</a>	For scholarships

<b>Contact Information</b>		
To report an absence	393-1470, safe arrival	
Gabi Kurzydowski, Principal	393-0940	
Beth Hennings, Vice-Principal	393-0941	
Gerry McCann, Vice-Principal	393-0944	
Peter Morgan, Curriculum Leader	393-1470 x30002	<a href="mailto:Peter.morgan@tdsb.on.ca">Peter.morgan@tdsb.on.ca</a>
Whitney Baker, Teacher	393-1470 x31004	<a href="mailto:Whitney.baker@tdsb.on.ca">Whitney.baker@tdsb.on.ca</a>
Lori Bernier, Teacher/Guidance	393-1470 x30040	<a href="mailto:Lori.bernier@tdsb.on.ca">Lori.bernier@tdsb.on.ca</a>
Di Gibson, Teacher	393-1470 x31001	<a href="mailto:Dianne.gibson2@tdsb.on.ca">Dianne.gibson2@tdsb.on.ca</a>
Dan Pitt, Teacher	393-1470 x31003	<a href="mailto:Daniel.pitt@tdsb.on.ca">Daniel.pitt@tdsb.on.ca</a>
Barb Sniderman, Teacher	393-1470 x31002	<a href="mailto:Barb.sniderman@tdsb.on.ca">Barb.sniderman@tdsb.on.ca</a>
Marie Melo, Office Administrator	393-1470	<a href="mailto:Marie.melo@tdsb.on.ca">Marie.melo@tdsb.on.ca</a>