

DATES TO REMEMBER

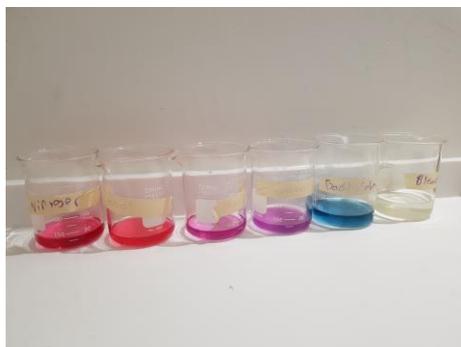
SPIRIT WEEK:

- Dec. 16th "Lazy clothing day" (pajamas, sweatpants, Christmas sweaters)
- Dec. 17th Teacher/Student day (students dress as a teacher and teachers dress as a student)
- Dec. 18th Sport/Jersey day
- Dec. 19th Twin day
- Dec. 20th Blyth Day (dress in blue and white)
Term 2 withdrawal date
- Dec. 23rd - Jan. 3rd **WINTER BREAK** - school closed

Being Brilliant in... Chemistry: Keeping it reactive

Mr. Williams' class carried out a lab on making a natural pH indicator. Did you know that red cabbage can act as a natural occurring pH indicator? There is a molecule, anthocyanin, which gives red cabbage its particular colour. This molecule can be used as a pH indicator, meaning it changes colour depending on the acidity of a solution. Next week, Mr. Williams will be continuing the reaction fest with another interesting, yet cruel reaction involving the sacrifice of a gummy bear in the name of science!

---Mr. Williams



Athletics Update

November saw the end of the U20 girls basketball season with our Wolves finishing the season on a high note as they beat NTCS 27-2 thanks to Jessie "The Sharpshooter" Moshenberg, Fran "Tower of Power" Tersigni, and excellent point guard play by Abby "Heart and Soul" Davis. While the girls didn't make the playoffs, they all played inspired ball during the season and can walk with their heads held high.

We have two sports kicking off in January as we get back from the winter break. Boys U20 basketball and U20 girls volleyball have their first games on January 8th and 9th, respectively. Both games will be on the road against the FKCS Grizzlies as the Lawrence Avenue rivalry gets renewed.

We also continue to prepare for the upcoming Indoor Soccer season, as our U20 Coed team continues to practice on Monday nights at the Blythwood Baptist Church.



What you never knew about...Jonathan Kwok!



For most of my childhood, I was raised solely by my Mom. When I was in the middle of grade two our family restaurant went under and my father began to take trips back to Hong Kong to seek work. As the years went on these trips became longer and the visits became less frequent.

I did not realize it at the time, but my parents had separated. In Chinese culture, outright divorce was a rarity as it was seen as an embarrassing and shameful situation for all involved. What would happen instead is that spouses would begin to live apart. Sometimes in the same house, sometimes not, so that, for anyone who might think "divorce", some form of plausible deniability could be maintained.

While I did not notice that they were separated, what I did notice was that my friend's home lives were very different from my own. When I visited them, I would wonder why they would always eat together. Isn't it easier just to bring food to your room? How did they always manage to get together during the holidays? Didn't their Fathers have business trips too?

Overall, I do not think he was a bad person, but I also did not see him as a Father. At least not in the way that I have heard others describe theirs. For me, there was never someone there to teach me how to throw and catch, how to tie a tie, or even how to shave, most of that I had to learn from the internet by myself.

But for the void that he left in my life, my Mom would spend her life trying to fill it, which is a debt that I cannot ever repay. As a child, I did not realize how hard she worked, or how much she sacrificed. All I did was quietly wonder why we did not go on vacations or why we did not replace our aging electronics like everyone else. The thing I did realize though was that whenever I asked for a new book, or if I could go to an expensive space camp over the summer, she never blinked an eye. Regardless of how much we scrimped and saved, the cost of education was never an issue because she had made it that way.

When we first immigrated, she started off as a bank teller, but over the course of 30 years, she eventually worked her way up at TD to become an assistant to the head of securities. Again, I cannot reiterate enough the fact that my debt to her is one that I cannot repay.

The reason why I am sharing this is not that it is a unique story, but because it is a common one. Most of us in this school come from a household where maybe everything is not alright. Maybe at Christmas, there are some chairs that are empty that we wish were not, maybe life and love are more complicated than they ought to be, and maybe all of that is true. But that does not mean that there are not people out there to love and support us when we need it. Regardless of what happens over the break, whether it is happy, or whether it is not, we'll see you back at 2660 Yonge St, and that you can count on.