

School Newsletter

WINTER 2024

MERRICK
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Head of School's Greeting

OFF TO A GREAT START
FOR ALL AT MERRICK PREP

It has been a wonderful year here at Merrick Preparatory School (MPS), with students joining us from 22 different countries and seven local Day students joining from the Merrickville area ... we are Distinctly Canadian and Uniquely Global!

It's remarkable to see students from such diverse backgrounds coming together in our small, safe, and inclusive town of Merrickville, fostering their understanding, critical thinking, and acceptance of differences regardless of their origins. Surrounded by equally curious, motivated, kind, and supportive peers, our students are positive net contributors; once strangers, now friends they gain a global perspective that will stay with them forever.

As always, it has been a busy year to date! Here are a few highlights:

Sports

- An eight-game soccer season and 12-game volleyball season in the Eastern Ontario Independent School Athletics Association
- We are in the middle of our 12-game basketball season and hope to make it to the podium this year!
- And we are anxious for the badminton season and the big track and field event in May!

Intramurals

- Our students continue to enjoy Monday, Tuesday (optional) and Thursday intramurals. This year they have ranged from board games to basketball, arts & crafts to ping pong and pool, weight training to dungeons and dragons, reading club to volleyball, ball hockey to debate club, music to walking club, math club to soccer. There is always something for everyone to enjoy and keep active and engaged with their friends after the academic day!

Academics

- With Semester One concluded and Semester Two just starting up, our students have enjoyed a wide array of courses and have earned early offers of admission to universities.
- Our students have also participated in two University of Waterloo math contests and the University of Toronto Model United Nations
- We have taken our students on several field trips to Ottawa, including seeing a play at the National Arts Centre and touring Canada's National Museums!

Residential Life, Volunteering, House Cup

- Every weekend our students enjoy an exciting activity; they have ranged from white water rafting to downhill skiing, zip-lining to a 1000 Islands boat cruise on the St. Lawrence River,

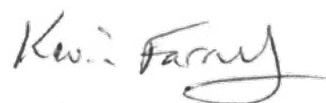
movie nights and skating at City Hall in Ottawa, to Go-Karting, laser tag, a Junior A professional hockey game to trampolining and so much more!

- Our students are active participants in the Merrickville community and to date they have volunteered 252 hours!
- Each student is in a House and each month our students participate in fun and engaging House Cup Competitions ... pumpkin carving to a scavenger hunt, bridge building to Pictionary, and a crazy game called "Pool Noodle Knock-Out" to Creative Cookie Contest. Every competition is unique, challenging and fun!

The rest of the year awaits, and I cannot wait to see what our students and staff create together.

Our upcoming events include alumni visits, a three-day off-campus academic (and fun!) field trip, and a variety of activities and academic ventures that help shape our students into resilient and empathetic students who are Courageous, Compassionate and Community-building global citizens, prepared to tackle any challenge and reach beyond their grasp.

Sincerely,



Kevin Farrell,
Head of School



In this picture: **Chelsea** (Mexico), **Jiho** (Korea), **Maddy** (Canada), **Aaron** (Germany), **Taha** (Turkey), and **Yuna** (Mozambique)

Sports & Activities

In the land of sports and fun, our school is a hive of activity! With soccer and volleyball ending, and basketball seasons in full swing, our students are shooting for the stars. The excitement doesn't stop there - badminton and the grand track and field showdown in May are next on the agenda!

But wait, there's more! From board games to weight training, our students dive into a **whirlwind of activities** every Monday, with optional fun on Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Whether it's basketball or paint night, ping pong or ball hockey, there's never a dull moment. And who could forget the epic student vs. staff hockey showdown where the students emerged victorious, earning a well-deserved dress-down day!

The Student Council is on fire! Teaming up with Mr. Farrell, they're like the dream team of school shenanigans, cooking up epic trips and events. Brace

yourself for the legendary end-of-year extravaganza they're brewing up!

Every weekend our students enjoy an exciting activity; the winter term has been trips to downhill skiing, movie nights and skating at City Hall in Ottawa, a Junior A professional hockey game to trampolining and so much more!

Our **Residential Life Supervisor, Maddy**, shared a series of photos featuring five students enjoying a **bowling outing** last week.

"It's remarkable to see students from diverse backgrounds coming together in a small, safe, and inclusive town, fostering their understanding, critical thinking, and acceptance of differences regardless of their origins. Surrounded by equally curious, motivated, kind, and supportive peers, these students are making a positive impact on the world, one student at a time. This

group of once strangers now friends have gained a global perspective that will stay with them forever. Hats off to them, the staff that shape their experience and their parents for giving them the opportunity. A story that deserves to be shared with the world."

Kevin Farrell, MPS Head of School

Merrick Prep students also had a fantastic time at the [National Arts Centre / Centre national des Artse](#) watching *Bear Grease*, which was a massive hit with our students. The talented artists delivered an outstanding **theatre production**.

According to the National Arts Centre, "Bear Grease takes the 1978 musical, Grease, on an Indigenous joyride, with fashion, humor, and music that will surely captivate you. The show offers a fresh twist on the beloved characters while maintaining authenticity and adding a cultural touch."



Celebrations

November closed out with mustaches fully grown or taped on, and we had a blast sharing our support!

December started with the **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**, and we had the pleasure of having our grade 11 student, Maria, Minister of Cultural Affairs, present to us at our lunch announcements:

"On Dec. 6 we remember the Montreal massacre at Polytechnique Montreal. The Parliament of Canada designated December 6 to reaffirm its commitment to fight the hatred, tragedy, and misogyny that still exists today in Canada and around the world. This National Day is about remembering those who experience gender-based violence."

Maria, grade 11 student

Every year, Merrick Preparatory School hosts a **traditional Christmas lunch** where students and staff serve the local community. This year's event was as special as any other, despite some guests being unable to attend due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, they sent warm messages of gratitude and support to Kevin, our Head of School, which he read during the meal.

The community event invites local businesses and members who support Merrick Prep to provide volunteer opportunities and communal needs. It's a chance to celebrate our community and show gratitude for its support. During the event, we also celebrated the **retirement of Betty Ann**, our cook since the founding year of 2012. Our students made her a handmade card to congratulate her on her retirement.

At the end of the lunch, Kevin gave a heartfelt speech, thanking everyone for their support and generosity. He expressed his pride in the students and staff for their dedication to serving the local community. The guests left with full stomachs and warm hearts, grateful for the wonderful experience.

[➤ Continue reading](#)

Other December festivities in Merrickville, Ontario, included the annual Holiday Train and other whimsical events, such as hot cocoa, a traditional Santa sleigh, and more. Student Council also hosted a door decorating contest, which was a huge hit and fun for everyone. Some of our students even experienced snow for the very first time in their lives, which was exciting for them and for us to witness!

MPS also always marks birthdays with a special cake and special occasions from all the countries represented on campus. This fosters a feeling of inclusivity and cultural appreciation within our school community.

Of course, [International Day of Education](#) is an important day here at MPS. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 January as the International Day of Education, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development. Join Merrick Prep and millions of others in support of inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all. Otherwise, countries will not succeed in achieving gender equality and breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children, youth, and adults behind.

[➤ Learn more](#)

Lunar New Year is always celebrated at MPS, and this year happens to be the year of the dragon: The dragon is a symbol of power, strength, and good fortune in many cultures. It is believed that those born in the **year of the dragon** possess these qualities and are destined for greatness. As we enter 2024, let us all embody the spirit of the dragon and fearlessly chase after our goals and aspirations.



Academics

Please join the MPS team in a big round of applause to Demilade for his outstanding accomplishment! He has been given **another early university offer**, this time from [Queen's University](#), in addition to his first offer from [Brock University](#). Demilade's hard work and dedication are truly inspiring – keep up the great work!

Drum roll.... On the **honor roll**, 60% of our students are maintaining averages of over 80%! Our alumni often share that they breeze through their first year of university. They engage in reviews, assist fellow students, and achieve grades of 80% and 90% in university courses. The dedication is such that an MPS student, who graduated and attended a prestigious German university, advanced a full academic year to second-year status.

“The teachers are sending feedback to parents on what the learners did for the week and the following week's look ahead. So, as a parent at any given time, I am aware of what my daughter is learning at school. The quality of education is excellent because even as an engineer, some of the questions that my daughter asked me, I used YouTube to figure

them out. I had the privilege of sitting on the online classes while she was still waiting for her visa, and I was impressed with the content of the work. The assignments they are given are the correct tools to prepare them for tertiary life. I see that my daughter is not afraid to ask questions to the teachers if she does not understand and she receives the support.”

Rachel, parent of current grade 10 boarding student from South Africa

The MPS Model United Nations Team rocked the stage at the [University of Toronto Model United Nations \(MUN\)](#), tackling some of the gnarliest global challenges. Our students were shining stars at the Model United Nations event, where brilliant minds gathered to brainstorm solutions for the world's most challenging issues. Hats off to our students (and our amazing staff who guide them along the way) - we've got some serious faith in the next generation!

“The Merrick prep trip to participate in Toronto University's Model UN was a very insightful experience. It not only allowed us to enrich ourselves with new knowledge we might not have previously had, it also pushed us to meet other people around Canada

and create new connections in places that we might not have even thought of. Every committee had a vastly different experience, so I can't speak for everyone when I say I enjoyed my participation in the committee and the opportunity I had to flex my knowledge of world history and politics on fellow high schoolers. Overall, it was a good experience that I recommend to anyone looking into it.”

Rell, current grade 10–11 boarding student from Panama

The [University of Waterloo Math contest](#) time! Five MPS students in grades 9 and 10 wrote the **Canadian Intermediate Mathematics Contest**. Jiho Choi won the award which is a medal for the top Merrick Prep student and a certificate of Distinction for being in the top 22% of the 6522 students around the world who participated in the contest.

Merrick Prep also had eleven students in grades 11 and 12 write the **Canadian Senior Mathematics Contest**. Hanyun (Sherry) Shan won the award which is a medal for the top Merrick Prep student and a certificate of Distinction for being in the top 13% of the 9342 students around the world who participated in the contest. Amazing results and we couldn't be prouder!



Career Day

The Grade 10 Careers class showed us that not all careers need to stick to the 9–5 grind! Students explored their dream career options, and hosted an MPS Career Fair, sharing insights with other students and staff into the aspects of these jobs that make them so appealing!

Special thanks to experts who lent their time to answer questions from students to give them a first-person perspective about what these careers entail! From paediatricians to marine biologists, and real estate moguls, MPS has got a lot of passionate, hardworking professionals in the making!



Volunteering

Our awesome students are like busy bees buzzing around Merrickville, clocking in a whopping **252 hours of volunteer work!**

Always a fantastic evening with the student volunteers from Merrick Prep. Witness the students' hard work at the end of the day, captured in a group photo of a weary but dedicated team.

The introduction of the servers was a delightful moment that shone a spotlight on the school. Upon their announcement, the children erupted into a loud and proud cheer!

To show appreciation, the students were treated to cookies and were commended for their excellent work.

"Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of another 'In from the Cold' event." **Denese**



Play Time

Hitting the stage, our students in grades 11 and 12 worked in small groups to choose a script and develop their vision for the scenes within that script. The scripts they chose: *Little Women*, *12 Angry Men*, and *Welcome to Canada*.

On top of performing in their scenes, they also took turns leading rehearsals and took on designer roles. Their final performance was an excellent reflection of the hard work and growth this class demonstrated throughout the semester. The staff and students adored the plays and look forward to the next!



House Cup

Each student is in a House and each month our students participate in fun and engaging **House Cup Competitions.**

December was a timed puzzle and January was a creative cookie contest where students had to each decorate cookies and then one cookie from each House member had to be brought forward into a whole House design presentation.

The students were then to present their cookies and share their stories. Judged on creativity and uniqueness of design, aesthetic appeal and story of the cookies which represented their Houses. It was both interesting and hilarious to see some of their presentations by way of a song, or a rhyme. Every competition is unique, challenging and fun! Nothing better than listening to the students cheer each other on and master those team-building skills!



Admissions Update

At Merrick Preparatory School, the focus is on providing students with a personalized and enriching educational experience. With a maximum enrollment of 80 students, our school provides individual attention to each student, helping them to identify and achieve their goals. The faculty and staff are committed to creating a supportive and inclusive community where each student feels valued and empowered to reach their full potential.

The small size of our school also allows for a more flexible and dynamic curriculum. Students can take on leadership roles and participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including sports, music, drama, and community service. The school's location in the picturesque village of Merrickville provides ample opportunities for outdoor activities, field trips, and cultural experiences.

Merrick Preparatory School has a strong track record of preparing students for success in post-secondary education and beyond. Graduates of the school have gone on to attend some of the most prestigious universities in Canada and around the world, and have

achieved success in a variety of fields, from engineering and business to the arts to public service.

For students seeking a personalized and enriching educational experience that will set them up for success in all areas of their lives, there is no better choice than Merrick Preparatory School.

Interested in attending a personal virtual or in-person open house? Simply email us and we schedule at your convenience. We will be discussing things like:

- School facilities and location
- Academic programming
- Co-curricular
- Weekend activities
- Why Merrick?
- University Preparation
- Application process and so much more...

How do you choose the right boarding school for your child? We work with families all over the world and have identified the factors that parents, like you, value when [choosing the right boarding school](#).

➤ [Parent testimonial \(video\)](#)

➤ [Contact us - let's chat](#)



Recruitment Travels & Events

Justin Irwin, recruitment Officer of MPS continues to travel the world in search of both admission and mission-appropriate students for Merrick Prep. He attended ICEF Dubai and the Japan-Korea ICEF Roadshow which was a great success and has turned up some engaging follow-ups. Justin also hosted a family dinner with interested families in Korea. You can catch him next at the [St Alphe Secondary Focus](#), London event!



Webinar

Why High School in Ontario, Canada

Host: Kevin Farrell, Head of School

➤ [Register now](#)

You can also check out our most recent webinar hosted by our Head of School, Kevin Farrell and Bay Immigration's Nicolas Roy and Jaina Patel-Lad: [Study Permits and the Enrolment Process](#).



Starting Strong in the Second Half

The second semester started with the welcoming of three new students! Zita, Quentin, and Diane bring with them unique perspectives, talents, and vibrant personalities that will surely enrich our school environment.

Let's extend a big welcome to Zita from Germany, Quentin from Germany, and Diane from Mexico as they embark on this exciting new chapter of their academic journey with us. Let's make sure they feel right at home and part of our school family from the very start. Welcome aboard, Zita, Quentin, and Diane!



Second Semester Alumni Visits

Alumni visits are consistently cherished and valued. It is heartwarming to witness our former students thriving in their university journeys, reflecting on the development and readiness they acquired at Merrick Prep.

Their return to Merrick Prep is always a delightful occasion, filled with laughter, shared memories, and an undeniable sense of pride. Alumni visits serve as a testament to the strong bonds forged within our community and the lasting impact of a Merrick Prep education. As they share their experiences and accomplishments, we are reminded of the significance of our shared journey

and the importance of fostering relationships that extend far beyond graduation. Each visit is a beautiful reminder of the legacy that continues to thrive within our school walls, inspiring current students to reach for their dreams with confidence and determination.

- **Kevin Farrell, Head of School of MPS**
- **Anna from Spain. At MPS from 2020–2023 (gr 10–12). Attending Ontario Tech University in Business.**
- **Omololaoluwa (Lola) from Nigeria. At MPS from 2022–2023 (gr 12). Attending Carleton University in Commerce.**
- **Imran from Nigeria. At MPS from 2019–2023 (gr 9–12). Attending Ontario Tech University in Software Engineering.**
- **Benita from Equatorial Guinea. At MPS from 2020–2023 (gr 10–12). Attending the University of Ottawa in Psychology.**
- **Photo-bomb by Demilade. Current grade 12 student from Nigeria.**

See What They're Saying..

"The students in our school are the best as everyone comes from a different country, different culture and have different ways of thinking. They are creative funny, heartwarming, nice, respectful, and always try their best to help if someone needs help. It feels like we are a family and always stand for each other as if we were siblings. I love all the students but there are some who are close to me and we hang out a lot together so I think students are my community in the school and I feel relaxed and comfortable being around them. I think everyone feels included..." **Continue reading...**

Suzan, grade 11 boarding student from Syria in her third year with us

"Their experience is one of learning, adaptation, tolerance, and patience. Since coming from another culture and a different way of life, always developing in a big city, she has had to face the aforementioned and learned a lot about it. Maria is currently very happy although her first year was complicated and I thought that this second year she was not going to want to return to school, however, I was surprised since she decided to return in grade 11..." **Continue reading...**

Liz, Mother of Maria, grade 11 student from Mexico in her second year with us



3rd Party Recognition

The expression "good things come in small packages" could not be more true than when discussing Merrick Preparatory School in the village of Merrickville, Ontario. The school is indeed small—created that way by design and kept that way by intent—but it delivers outsized benefits for its students, unfailingly setting them up for success both in and out of the classroom and on their further educational and life journeys. Read the Our Kids in-depth feature review [here](#).

Drum roll, please! We are thrilled to announce that we are a finalist once again for the **StudyTravel Secondary School Award North American School category 2024!** Our team was honored to receive this award at the 2023 ceremony in London during the StudyTravel Network event last year.

This recognition is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team in providing exceptional educational experiences for high school students. It is truly a privilege to be acknowledged by such a prestigious organization for our commitment to excellence in international education. As we eagerly await the upcoming ceremony, we are grateful for the support of our students, families, and partners who make our work so rewarding. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey with us!





Important Dates

Mark Your Calendar!

Webinar: Why High School in Ontario, Canada March 28

No classes/Holiday March 29 & April 1

ST Alphe Secondary Focus, London April 18-20

ICEF North America, Niagara Falls May 1-3

MPS International Day Event May 10

No classes - Holiday May 20

Student vs. Staff Baseball Game May 22

Student vs. Staff Soccer Game May 29

Exam Week June 17 to 21

Graduation and Departure June 21

Personal Zoom Meet and Tour Available Anytime!
admissions@merrickprep.com