

School Newsletter

FALL 2023



MERRICK
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Headmaster's Greeting

A VIBRANT COMMUNITY
AT MERRICK PREP

... And just like that, another year has started with the amazing MPS family ... **24 boarding** students from **18 different countries**, **six local day students**, and **two synchronous learning students** from two different countries ... **a family of 32 brilliant young scholars from around the world!**

Exciting start to the school year with various outings! Every school year kicks off with an air of excitement and anticipation, and this year was no exception. Our school began the year with a thrilling white-water rafting trip down the Ottawa River in our beautiful capital city of Ottawa. We followed that up with tours of Parliament and the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Rideau Canal.

Since that memorable opening weekend, we've had countless other adventures and outings. We've taken a boat cruise on the St. Lawrence River's famous 1000 Islands, tackled a high ropes course among the towering Canadian

white pine trees, enjoyed "Fright Fest" and "Pumpkins After Dark", and even attended a theatre production at the world-renowned National Arts Centre. We've also spent time hiking in the beautiful Canadian fall colours, watching movies, exploring the town and engaging in a full-day team-building activity led by an expert outside facilitator. Our students have given well over 100 volunteer hours, and it's not even the end of November yet!

In addition to these myriad fun activities, our students have been focused on their studies in preparation for mid-semester assessments, and building friendships that span the globe. One of the greatest features of Merrick Preparatory School is our students' ability to build community, fostered by our world-class teachers and Residential Life Supervisors in our historic and very cozy school building in the heart of the twice voted prettiest town in Canada – Merrickville ... a safe and beautiful place to learn, grow and explore.


Our students, from day one, take on leadership roles, and manage the day-to-day organization of the school; they roommate with a peer from another country, culture and language group, they partake two nights a week in

shared co-curricular activities and to date have participated in volleyball and soccer tournaments with other schools from Ottawa and Eastern Ontario; they have formed a Student Council directing activities while supporting each other in their learning, development and growth – both academically and socially. And of course, there is nightly focused and supported mandatory evening study, and our grade 12s are busy learning about various university options available to them and have already started the application process.

It is amazing to reflect on all our students and staff have accomplished already, and I cannot wait to see what the rest of the year brings! If you would like to learn more about what MPS can bring to you, please do not hesitate to reach out to our wonderful Admissions team at admissions@merrickprep.com or give us a call at +1.613.269.2064.

We look forward to hearing from you and having you join in the adventure of learning and discovery here at Merrick Preparatory School.

Sincerely,


Kevin Farrell, Headmaster





Campus Update

The 2023–24 academic year is off to a great start at Merrick Prep! New and returning students alike have been welcomed with open arms, and we are excited about what the year has in store. Although we miss the 2023 graduates, we can't wait for updates on their university journeys and wish all of our students the best of luck for the year ahead.

Teambuilding

Every school year, Merrick Prep sets aside one day for all teachers and students to come together and learn from one another. This year, we welcomed **Jonathan Smith**, an experienced outdoor and experiential learning facilitator. With students from 19 different countries and five teachers with diverse backgrounds, Jonathan led the group through a series of initiative tasks, cooperative games, and experiential challenges, culminating in the repair of a bicycle wheel. The challenge demonstrated that all spokes must work in harmony to make a perfectly balanced wheel, a valuable lesson for our students to remember and a great skill to have when fixing their bikes.

Adventure

White water rafting is a yearly tradition at Merrick Prep, allowing our students to build relationships with each other outside of the classroom. It's a great way to settle in and get to **know one another while experiencing the Canadian adventure.**

Sports

Our Merrick Prep Soccer and Volleyball Teams have developed into great teams and are working together seamlessly. In October, they played two soccer games against tough opponents, doing an amazing job, especially in the second half of the first game. The volleyball team played 4 double-hitter games in their first tournament, coming very close in many of them, including a clincher 26–27! Although they did not win, our students had some valuable and fun learning opportunities working as a **team, supporting each other, getting some exercise, and having fun!**

Subsequently, during the Eastern Ontario Independent School Athletics Association (EOISAA) Volleyball Tournament, our team competed with Fulford Academy on November 16th.

The match resulted in a tie as MPS won one set out of two but couldn't play the tiebreaker third round due to the first two games taking an extended amount of time with an abundance of back-and-forth volleying.

Cultural Experiences

In September, we celebrated an Omani holiday with a special recipe of Kabsa requested by our Omani students. In October, Halloween was celebrated in style with our students participating in some awesome costumes. Both events were special and enjoyed by all.

We hope to continue building on the excitement and momentum of the start of this academic year at Merrick Prep. In September, we celebrated an Omani holiday with a special recipe of Kabsa requested by our Omani students. In October, Halloween was celebrated in style with our students participating in some awesome costumes. Both events were special for our students and enjoyed by all.

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First House Cup Challenge of the Year

The House System at Merrick Prep is designed to encourage participation, build a sense of community, and create an environment of fun and playfulness among the students and teachers.

Each House is comprised of two Advisor Groups. These two groups come together to form a House and each Advisor is a House Captain. House Captains rally their House, get them excited about any upcoming House Challenges and create a sense of camaraderie and team spirit within their House. Advisors, once assigned a House, stay with that House throughout their career as a teacher here at Merrick Preparatory School.

Bringing together two different Advisor Groups helps with student integration and inclusion, mixing grades, genders, and cultures and creating an opportunity for older students to mentor younger students.

On the last Wednesday of each month, there will be a House Cup Challenge. The first-placing House will earn three (3) points, the second-placing House will earn two (2) points and the third-placing House will earn one (1) point. The head of the school oversees the House Cup Challenges keeps the score of each House's points and posts them on the "House Cup" bulletin board in the snack bar.

Houses are named after our founders:

Rickers House (ORANGE)
Don Rickers, Founding Headmaster

Barnard House (BLUE)
Louis & Francois Barnard
Founders and Owners of MPS

Clarke House (RED)
Gary Clarke
Took the original building, updated it, modernized it, and added the additions

This first house cup challenge was won by... drum roll...

CLARKE HOUSE!!!!

Admissions Update

Travels

Merrick Preparatory School's Recruitment Officer, Justin Irwin, travelled to South Korea in September to connect with our current and prospective families, as well as our partners. We are pleased to announce that Justin will be returning to South Korea in February 2024.

[ILF & Workshops Latin America, Buenos Aires 2023](#) was a big success with Merrick Preparatory School's Director of Admissions, Johanna Ziegler. Johanna, along with so many other industry professionals also attended [ICEF Berlin](#). Before ICEF she had a reception for current, former, and potential families in Istanbul, Turkey, in October.

Thank you to all our agents, partners, and prospective agents for taking the time to meet and learn more about Merrick Prep. We appreciate the feedback and time you gave. We can't wait to meet the students you bring to us!

If you're interested in meeting with Justin or Johanna, please reach out to them directly:

- johannaz@merrickprep.com
- justini@merrickprep.com

Webinars

Our first-ever webinar on making the leap to international student life was a total smash! The turnout was off the charts!

Adjusting to a new country can be challenging for international students, particularly when they are adapting to an unfamiliar city and school environment simultaneously. To help these students transition smoothly to life in Canada, we created a webinar specifically designed for families, agents, and partners. Our aim is to support their unique needs and make their academic journey as comfortable as possible.

We discussed topics like:

- Getting involved in campus life
- Physical and mental wellness
- International student support
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Peer support
- Vital role teachers and residential life staff play for international students, and so much more!

We then hosted our second webinar in October which was based on our working with families all over the world and identifying the top factors that parents value when looking for a boarding school for their child.

We discussed things like:

- Academic Foundation
- Individual attention
- Resources
- Diversity and inclusion
- Location and size
- Reputation and so much more!

Building a Strong Educational Network with CampusPlus Canada

Our global network of agents and educational consultants is constantly expanding. It's our mission to help students and their families find the right school and guide them through the process of studying abroad. Recently, we had the pleasure of welcoming Promise Sanipe, CPA, CGA, M.A. from CampusPlus Canada, as our new partner. Promise visited our school and met with us in person. We had fruitful conversations and introduced him to the staff and students. We are grateful that CampusPlus took the time to learn about Merrick Prep and get a sense of our school's atmosphere. We look forward to working together and building a strong foundation.

Open House

At Merrick Preparatory School, the focus is on providing students with a personalized and enriching educational experience. With a maximum enrollment of just over 80 students, the school is able to provide 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 the school also allows for a more flexible and dynamic curriculum. Students are able to 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 business to the arts to public service.

In short, while Merrick Preparatory School may be small in size, it is big in impact. 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 one of our virtual open houses or in-person open houses? Email us and we can invite you to our next one.

We'll be discussing things like:

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

Contact us here:

- admissions@merrickprep.com



OPEN HOUSE
Nov 29 @ 6PM

➤ Register Required

Want to apply for February 2024?
➤ **Start your application process**

Don't live in Canada?
➤ **Register for a personal zoom call to learn more**



Awards and Recognition

Secondary Focus: Chinese Outbound Market - StudyTravel Ltd Network

Published on October 1, 2023

Chinese students have long made up a large share of students at international schools, but many schools are now diversifying their markets due to a slow post-Covid recovery. Delilah Kealy-Roberts reports.

[Justin Mps Irwin](#) who is in charge of China recruitment at MPS in Canada notes that "Many families have been opting to keep their children in Asia and send them to neighbouring countries for their studies such as Singapore," meaning a potential decline for the countries that previously dominated the market (such as the UK, the USA, and Canada).

Read entire article published by StudyTravel Ltd (ST Magazine & ST Alphe Conferences) [here](#).

OurKids Feature Review

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 full **OurKids** feature.

Voting for the ST Secondary School Awards 2024 is open!

The ST Secondary School Awards are peer-voted awards celebrating outstanding secondary education providers and their study travel partners.

Secondary schools and agents, plus guardianship organisations, associations and service providers that work with them, are eligible to win.

Vote for Merrick Preparatory School



The voting period for the 2024 awards is September 30, 2023 to January 12, 2024 at ST Alphe Secondary Focus Frankfurt.

[➤ Vote for us!](#)

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

There is much to learn about Canada and Canadian history – lessons we must never forget and injustices we must never repeat.

The injustices suffered by the First Nations have been known for centuries by those who endured them, with many Canadians now learning of those horrors endured, and the discrimination that remains. It is incumbent that we all listen, learn and never repeat. We must all exercise critical thinking and use our voice

to challenge the status quo, compassionately respecting the stories held behind the eyes of others. As educators it is our duty to question, learn and inform.

We have a long road to travel and September 30 Orange Shirt Day, The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, is a start in a much larger process we must all travel together.

**- Kevin Farrell,
Headmaster**

Takatuf since 2014

[Merrick Preparatory School](#) has had the pleasure to work with the [Takatuf Oman](#) Scholars Program (TSP) welcoming students from Oman since 2014. TSP is an elite scholarship programme that helps prepare young Omanis for professional leadership roles in both the public and private sectors.

All Omani students we have had from TSP study at MPS for grades 11 and 12, and then successfully move on to top world ranking universities in Canada, USA, and UK. This year TSP blessed MPS with two grade 11 Omani students who are both wonderful students and great additions to the MPS campus.

At the beginning of this school year, [Merrick Preparatory School](#) staff and Headmaster, Kevin Farrell welcomed Heather Fleming (Head of Scholars Recruitment & Enrichment Programmes), TSP on the Merrick Preparatory School campus. We had wonderful discussions and a campus tour to meet teachers, staff, and other students. Heather made

sure both Omani students had all they needed and were setup for success; her and TSP's compassion and support was heartwarming to see. We are thankful for the time to meet in person with Heather and we look forward to continuing our work together to prepare Omanis from Takatuf for the next step in their international education journey.

“Honour and joy to have been working with Takatuf Scholars, their brilliant and wonderful students and amazing staff since 2014 ... super fun to have them come into the school and such a joy to see them head off on their educational and life's journey upon graduation and keep in touch over the years ... not to mention annual visits from Takatuf staff who have become close and personal friends. We are lucky!”

Kevin Farrell, MPS Headmaster

Don Rickers, founding headmaster of Merrick Preparatory School, “Great to see the Takatuf Scholars program continuing to thrive at MPS!”



“The experience has been amazing. Immediately, my daughter was assigned an advisor who helps her with keeping on track for school and provides updates to me on her progress. The OSSD programme (...) is internationally recognized and is truly student-focused. My daughter is learning her strengths under the guidance of people who genuinely care about her. The Resident Advisors are friendly and very helpful to the students.”

Merrick Prep is an excellent choice, I absolutely love this school.”

Tameisha P
Mother of grade 9 student



Important Dates

Mark Your Calendar!

Christmas Break

December 22 to January 7

Open House on Campus

November 29 at 6pm
Registration Required

Virtual Open House

November 30 at 9am EST and
December 13 at 5pm EST

Christmas Lunch

December 6 at 12pm (noon)

Second Semester Start

February 1, 2024

Webinar on Diversity & Inclusion

January 30, 2024

