

School Newsletter

SUMMER 2023



Headmaster's Greeting

REFLECTING ON A
BEAUTIFUL YEAR OF
LIFE AND MEANING

It is a rainy Sunday morning, July 2, as I sit at my desk in an empty school ... well, it is currently not a school, it is just a building, ... but ... it will become a school again when the staff and students return on September 5 to bring life and meaning to this beautiful building in beautiful Merrickville. And what a beautiful year of life and meaning we all just shared ... the 2022-2023 school year! Our school was filled with **27 students from 23 different nationalities** ... our **eleven graduates received 83+ university offers**, all were accepted into their first-choice university and program and they received **\$340,000 in university scholarships** to world-ranked universities.

During the course of the year our students participated in **40 different weekend activities**, **81 co-curricular events**, had the opportunity to partake in a track & field event, and soccer, basketball, volleyball and badminton tournaments against other schools; they attended the **Model United Nations (MUN)** at the University of Toronto, Southern Ontario Model United Nations (SOMA) at the University of Toronto, a **field trip** to the Baxter Lake Conservation Area and a three day field trip to the Queen's University Biological Research Station. Our students also partook in

monthly **House Cup Competitions**, **Staff versus Student** hockey, baseball and soccer games, an International Day, a Science Fair, a Farewell Party, Graduation and **volunteered over 368 hours**. And of course, our students worked extremely hard at their studies, daily in class from 8:45am - 3:45pm (Monday - Friday) and nightly during supported evening study from 7:00pm - 9:00pm (Sunday - Thursday). These are just a few of the activities and events that brought life to our school.

But these are just the numbers, a list of activities; the meaning behind these activities and events and what students derived from them is what makes MPS a school and a very special place.

Our dedicated teachers and residential life supervisors brought meaning to these experiences, along with our students who debated, studied, volunteered, played and laughed together. These varied activities and events are shaped by our **three core values: Courage, Community** and, above all, **Compassion**. These core values underpin all we do and frame each experience. The **Courage** to take risks, to try, knowing that failure may be the outcome, but forging on regardless

and taking the valuable lessons forward to the next experience. Learning how to create **Community** to hold you up when your courage fails. And above all, **Compassion** - for yourself, for others, for the earth, seeking to understand before being understood. These core values, along with our Mission, to **Reach Beyond Your Grasp**, allow our students to explore and learn, set "stretch goals", move out of their comfort zone and become the best versions of themselves. And this is evidenced in the marks they achieve, the scholarships they earn, the university acceptances they are offered, and most importantly, in their character development, the community they create and the friendships they form that span the globe.

Indeed, what a beautiful year it was!
And I cannot wait for our students, and staff, to return in September to bring life and meaning to this beautiful building and create another year of learning, memories and powerful life affirming experiences.

Sincerely,


Kevin Farrell, Headmaster





House Cup Challenge – and the winner is....

Our House Cup is awarded annually to the winners of the House Competitions. This trophy and certificates are awarded for Team and Community Spirit. House Competitions are held at the end of each month and range from physical challenges to creative endeavours to theatrical, performance, knowledge-based or intellectual challenges. After each challenge, points are awarded, and at the end of the year, the House with the most points wins the House Cup!

The 2023 Champions are Rickers House!



Earth Day 2023

Earth Day 2023 was a HUGE success at Merrick Prep!

On April 22nd, we came together to clean up litter and debris from our school campus, nearby parking lot, sidewalks, curbs, and surrounding area. **We collected over 4 garbage bags and several bins full!**

Thank you to our MPS Students and staff!



250 Digits of Pi? Wow!

We are excited to announce that **Jiho** won this year's Pi Day at Merrick Prep by reciting 250 numbers! Please join us in a warm Congratulations to Jiho! His name will now be added to the **Merrick Preparatory School Pi Day plaque**.

For those of you who don't know, Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant π 3.14. Pi Day is observed on March 14 since 3, 1, and 4 are the first three significant figures of π . It was founded in 1988 by Larry Shaw, an employee of the San Francisco, California science museum, the Exploratorium.



The OurKids Report! Parent Interview

THE OUR KIDS REPORT - INTERVIEW with Merrick Prep parent, **DANIELA SWIENTEK**, Mother of grade 11 to grade 12 male boarding student.

Jump to video questions:

- **What does your child appreciate most about this school? (2:40)**
- **As a parent, what do you appreciate most about this school? (2:57)**
- **What has your experience with teachers and administration been like? (5:20)**
- **What are the three biggest reasons why a family should choose this school? (5:51)**

International Day

An Annual Celebration

Every year we celebrate **International Day** within our community, a focal point of the Merrick Preparatory School's Core Values and Diversity, put on by our students.

We thrive on building a community of courageous and compassionate students, one day at a time, with all nationalities and differences at the same time.

Through diversity, understanding of difference, humility, and empathy, our students develop a deep sense of compassion and community. Through shared experience, communal living and service, our students understand the value of intra-dependency and the importance of building relationships. Our students build lifelong friendships with each other, from different cultures, religions, countries, and histories, accepting one another and any differences with respect.

This year, we had an awesome turnout, making it our first in-person showcase since 2019. Our students educated guests on their culture, including food, clothing, games, and so much more! We were beyond proud of our students and so thankful to the community for coming to support MPS.

Country List:

Canada, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Panama, Syria, Lebanon, USA, Peru, Poland, Ukraine, Senegal, Mauritania, and South Africa

Learn more [Here](#)
Watch video [Here](#)





Did you hear the Fire Alarm?!

Shout out to our Local Heroes!

We had a “surprise” fire alarm! Headmaster, Kevin Farrell, had been planning this for some months with Steven Templeton: Fire Prevention Officer, and Brad Cole: Fire Chief from **Merrickville Firefighter Association**.

No one knew about this alarm ... so the students and staff had to react without any forewarning. They did a great job getting out of the building in less than 1 minute for those on the first floor and just over one minute for those on the second floor – which is OUTSTANDING! The Fire Department aims for under two minutes, and we were well within that. Brad and Steve were very impressed and pleased. [Read more...](#)



StudyTravel Award

North American School

MPS won the peer-voted **StudyTravel Secondary School Awards 2023** - North American School, recognizing MPS for their excellence as an outstanding secondary education provider, and acknowledging their contribution to the StudyTravel industry.

This year StudyTravel received the highest number of votes as agents and schools voted for their business partners between October 2022 and January 2023. Votes were cast in 13 categories covering agents, secondary schools and service providers in different regions worldwide. These awards entirely focus on the secondary school market which is a growing sector in the education industry. [Read more...](#)

Headmaster's Reflection

Celebrating Diversity – Ramadan

With the celebration of Eid al-Fitr and the conclusion of the holy month of Ramadan, I am reflecting on the courage of our students and the community they create with compassion for each other. Our students demonstrate this throughout the year, but even more so during Ramadan – which was strongly reflected in the kind and wonderful generosity of one of our student’s parents – **Kamel and Loubna Beyk**.

At the start of Ramadan Kamel and Loubna approached me and asked if they could prepare and host a meal for our students and staff – not just those fasting through Ramadan, but all students and any staff who were available. So, on **Sunday, March 26**, Kamel and Loubna arrived at 12:00 pm to prepare the day’s Iftar meal. They worked tirelessly all day preparing a beautiful meal for the whole Merrick Preparatory School community.



During the meal while chatting with Loubna and Kamel (pictured top left) I could not help but reflect on how we came to be seated beside each other in Merrickville – me from Canada, Kamel from Syria, Loubna from Lebanon – and surrounding us students from 19 different countries.

Kamel and Loubna now live in Canada, having recently immigrated, and the day’s meal is a celebration not just of Iftar, but of all they and Iftar represent. [Read more...](#)



Elbow Lake Academics different

The 2023 Merrick Prep end-of-year student trip to [Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre](#) and [Queens University Biological Station](#) was a HUGE success! Everyone enjoyed the three-day experience and took advantage of the tranquility of this beautiful place. [See video!](#)

"Getting away from MPS for a few days to 're-set' and gain a different perspective prior to the final lap and home stretch of the end of the school year is a must," says [Mr. Kevin Farrell](#).





**CLASS
OF
2023**

PLEASE JOIN US IN A WARM
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES!

YOU DID IT AND WE COULDN'T BE PROUDER

- ▶ **82% of our students are Ontario Scholars**
- ▶ **All grads made it into their first choice University with scholarships**
- ▶ **A total of \$340,000 in scholarships for our 11 grads**

To name a couple scholarships:

- ▶ **\$100,000 for Life Sciences to the University of Toronto**
- ▶ **\$83,000 for Mechanical Engineering to The University of British Columbia**
- ▶ **\$60,000 for Mechanical Engineering to Queens University**
- ▶ **\$48,000 for Engineering Science to the University of Toronto**

We can't wait to have Alumni visits and wish
our graduates all the best on their new adventures.



2023 Graduates



OMAR BEYK

Syria
Carleton University
Ottawa, Canada



BENITA EDU MILAM

Equatorial Guinea
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Canada



FARRAH ESSAM

Egypt/USA
University of Toronto
Toronto, Canada



OMOLOLAOLUWA JIMO

Nigeria
Carleton University
Ottawa, Canada



JAMON-MFONABASI KING

Nigeria
Toronto Metropolitan University
Toronto, Canada



SAFA LECAILLON

France/Morocco
University of Toronto
Toronto, Canada



ANNA MEDEHUE GARCIA

Equatorial Guinea/Spain
Ontario Tech University
Oshawa, Canada



IMRAN MODIBBO

Nigeria
Ontario Tech University
Oshawa, Canada



AWA NIANG

Senegal
Concordia University
Montreal, Canada



KOSISOCHUKWU OMEZI

Nigeria
Ontario Tech University
Oshawa, Canada



LETICIA SOLANO MOLINA

Peru
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Canada



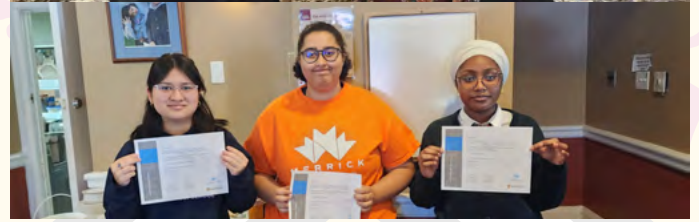


Alumni Visits!

Every year we are lucky to get visits from our Alumni on campus, and this year was no different! It's always so exciting to see them, learn what they have been up to and where they are with their post secondary studies.

Our Admission Team also connects with Alumni when they travel the globe for school related events, so make sure you connect with them as well on wechat or WhatsApp. We always appreciate when our Alumni make time to catch up with us about their life and achievements. Pictured is **Yi (Leo) Sun**, MPS graduate 2019, **Su (Ceil) Zu**, MPS graduate 2019, and **Yukai (John) Tu**, MPS graduate 2020.

If you're an Alumni and want to catch up in person or virtually, let us know! admissions@merrickprep.com and stay connected with us on our [Alumni Facebook page here](#).



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Waterloo Math Contest 2023

The [University of Waterloo](#) math contest was a **big hit** at Merrick Prep!

The Canadian Senior and Intermediate Mathematics Contests are designed to give students the opportunity to have fun and develop their mathematical problem-solving ability, and we can assure you that it's loads of fun and well worth the work. Our students love it every year!



Merrick Preparatory School's
International Day 2023:

**Celebrating the
Beauty in
Diversity**

Written by
Grade 12 Student
Omololaoluwa Mary Jimo



Merrick Preparatory School is a strong advocate of courage, community, and compassion.

The school often has many volunteer opportunities, co-curricular and social events which promote its three core values. As the academic year is approaching an end, MPS is about to host its annual 'International Day.'

The International Day is another exciting event which aims to specifically promote 'community' in and around Merrickville.

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the school has not been able to host this event since 2019. This year promises to be bigger and better than ever before.

The International Day is expected to take place on **Friday, 5th of May 2023**, between the hours of 1:00pm to 3:45pm. The event will happen right on the MPS campus; however, all cultural showcases will be displayed in the Kilmarnock classroom. [Read more...](#)



Mayor Visit

Michael Cameron, Mayor of Merrickville, Ontario, ON, came to visit Merrick Prep and our Headmaster, Mr. Kevin Farrell. Michael brought a **certificate of recognition** and a warm community congratulations for the recent awards and achievements we have received.

Michael shared how excited he was to share the news with all the members of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and felt this was an opportunity to showcase the **strong investment that Merrick Preparatory School has made in itself and the community** to bring international education and attention to not only our community, but also the UnUnited Counties Of Leeds And Grenville.

Merrickville Artist Guild

The Merrickville Artists Guild once again granted the Emerging Artists Award to a Merrick Prep student.

The goal of this program is to recognize, encourage and support local youth to follow their passion for the arts in any of these three areas:

- The Visual Arts: painting and drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, craft, and design
- The Literary Arts: Creative Writing, poetry, prose
- The Performing Arts: Music, Dance, Drama

Monetary awards of \$200 will be granted each year, to assist with necessary purchases toward realizing a future artistic pursuit or project.

Congratulations to Omar who won this award in September 2022 and Rell who won in June 2023!



Message from Admissions

We are in peak season at #MerrickPrep and we continue to welcome applications for grades 9 to 12, University Qualification Year and ESL Foundation Programs for September 2023 and February 2024! Applications for 2024-25 are also now open. **Don't miss the chance to become part of the Merrick Prep community!**

While our grade 12 students have now graduated, accepting offers and scholarships from top universities in Canada and abroad, we thought we would take a moment to share some **valuable information: 8 Factors Parents Value when Choosing the Right Boarding School.**

We are proud to announce that we will continue our diversity and have students enrolled for September from over 20 different countries amongst them. The countries include

Mexico, Panama, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Taiwan, Oman, South Korea, South Africa, China, Hong Kong, Turkey, Nigeria, Syria, USA, Lebanon and we

are working on welcoming students from the following countries for the first time: **Jamaica, Afghanistan, Congo and Mozambique**, adding new flags to our dining hall walls.

Thank you to our partners - **educational consultants** - around the world who help us promote our programs and bring students from all around the world to Merrick Prep. A big thank you to event organizers of ICEF, StudyTravelNetwork, and ILF Workshop who help us connect with our international partners in one place.



We also appreciate our partners who welcomed us on their **online platforms** like K12Digest, [Schools and Agents](#), [Enroller](#), [Applywave](#), [World-schools.com](#), [MyStudyChoice](#), [OurKids](#), [Boarding School Reviews](#), [applyboard](#), [Boarding Schools Abroad](#) and many more who spread the word about an education at Merrick Preparatory School. We could not do it without you.

Last but not least, we are most thankful for our **parents and families** who entrust us with their children's education. It is beyond words to express the appreciation we have for you!

We are currently planning our travels for 2023–24 to bring more students to MPS. **Stay tuned for updates and contact us to find out when we are in your area next.**

Want to learn more about Merrick Preparatory School?
▶ [Register for a personal campus tour or shadow day](#)

Don't live in Canada?
▶ [Register for a personal zoom call to learn more](#)

Want to apply for September 2023 or February 2024?
▶ [Start your application process](#)

Whether your child is excelling or not reaching their potential, our inclusive, safe, diverse, and caring community, with individualized academic attention will result in improved academic standing with enhanced confidence and self-esteem.

With a 100% University Acceptance rate since 2012, your success starts here!

Our admissions team is always happy to help you and guide you step by step through the application process.

[Apply Here](#)
admissions@merrickprep.com



Important Dates

Mark Your Calendar!

Arrival on campus

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

First day of Classes

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Last Day of Classes - Departure Day

Friday, December 22, 2023

Winter Holidays (School Closed)

Saturday, December 23 to
Saturday, January 6

