

Technology and Applied Arts

Mr. Niall McFadyen-Multimedia

The 2019-2020 school year has been a year full of changes, new faces, new activities, and new challenges. In the media lab, I teach students not only from Leila North, but from Arthur Wright, Seven Oaks Middle School, O.V. Jewitt, and Elwick. There are about 500-600 different students that come through this program every year.

As the year began we had many students working on photography, filmmaking, 3D printing, stop motion animation, podcasting, and more. I was away on parental leave for the month of January, and Ms. Officer filled in for me continuing many of my projects while adding her own spin and perspective. As I returned to work in February, the second school term was wrapping up.



In addition to the regular projects, I also brought in some various tabletop games to connect to unplugged lessons on computational thinking, resource management, problem solving, thinking ahead, and media literacy. We had two high school students working in the lab with me for practicum and mentorship placements. I want to say thank you to Lee and Alex, who provided great support for many of the students while also fulfilling their high school requirements.



Mr. Vanderhooft's Graphics class!

We have been very fortunate recently to see so many happy students come in to the graphics lab each day for a couple of hours to work on designing and printing their own vinyl cut t-shirts. Here's Kale below showing a two-colour t-shirt of his own design.

We also participated recently with a group of students to build some wooden "Leila North" garden boxes including plants to give to front line workers in our community. Here I am holding one of the completed boxes. What Fun!



TAA Wood Working

This year was a very unique year, with remote learning with Covid-19. Schools were shut down until June 1, Students were able to come in after this in small groups. We were able to work with students on a pay it forward project. Students had a an opportunity to choose a frontline worker that they thought was deserving of a Leila North Planter. A group of students came in and worked hard to produce 40 Planters.



Students were invited in to the wood shop to in small groups to see friends and make a birdhouse that they could take home.

They were able to use hand tools and machines to produce this project, making around 35 bird houses. We were very proud of the accomplishments of the students working on both of these projects.



Culture Kitchen with Ms. Despins

Culture Kitchen was a course that took place in the TAA department. This class focused on recipes consisting of food staples that are shared around the world: corn, potatoes, rice and wheat. Students learnt the story behind the food as it links to cultures from various continents. Some examples are corn bread, pirogies, sushi and naan. Students were also able to participate in cultural crafts and games. Most importantly, the students left the course realizing that food is very personal to all people.





Mr. Fife and Ms. Taylor's Food and Nutrition

Why We are Returning to Nature During Hard Times

COVID – 19 has made us realize just how much we used to take our simple experiences for granted. Physical distancing has provided us with the opportunity to reconnect with nature and our green spaces. We have entered a time where food security and our hunger for physical contact is at an all time high.

Our view on nutrition and environmental sustainable education has taken on a new movement.

Why do we buy onions when we can grow them for free?

Why do we buy apples when we can have fruit trees on our school grounds?

Why do we not provide our school community with a food system which produces enough fresh produce for children to take home, and enough produce to incorporate into classroom lessons?

It is possible and we have the space for it!

The food system at our school can be the beginning of a new tradition. We can transform our school ground and school building into an edible landscape with numerous branches to grow from.

We are changing our school landscape and providing opportunities to continue our connection with nature.

