



## RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Mackenzie HS Continues Strong Traditions of Opportunities for All**

Mackenzie High School is very proud of its student achievement in provincial testing. For the past two years, Mackenzie students have enjoyed a success rate on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) of over 95%! This exceeds the provincial average on the test by 20%.

Mackenzie High School's EQAO results in academic math are also impressive. Over 70% of students exceeded provincial expectations. The EQAO results are lower in grade nine applied mathematics so in an effort to improve student learning in this area, Mackenzie has created a year-long mathematics program in grade nine. This is paired with a year-long program in physical education to ensure a healthy and active lifestyle.

Mackenzie has a Multi-Subject Interdisciplinary Program (MSIP) where every student receives homework assistance and peer support every day. This results in shorter classes and assists students in learning good work habits.

Last year, Mackenzie High School had 30% of the graduation class accepted into a college program and 48% of the class accepted into a university program.

Mackenzie HS offers a unique educational experience to its students. Programs include Specialist High Skills Majors in Hospitality, Transportation and Physical Education. A semester-long interdisciplinary program focussing on environmental and outdoor education, entitled the Tamarack Program, is also offered to students at Mackenzie High School.

Mackenzie offers something for every student. The school has locally developed courses and the highest enrolment per capita in university preparation courses in the county. It offers technical education in construction, transportation, video editing and computing as well as a strong arts program that includes fine arts, music and drama. A strong athletic program inside and outside the curriculum is provided for its students.

Mackenzie High School takes advantage of a state of the art auditorium to present musicals and drama productions. Student talent is highlighted at monthly assemblies and numerous awards ceremonies are hosted to celebrate student successes. Over twenty athletic teams compete across Renfrew County. "Trekks", a unique outdoor education program that includes camping and canoe trips, is offered throughout the year.

The Tamarack class also assists with grade nine student orientations. The class hosts a scavenger hunt during June for all incoming grade nine students. These students and their parents/guardians are then invited to a barbeque at the end of August to receive firsthand knowledge of school routines and policies. Grade nine students are also treated to an activity day called "MAFIA" (Mackenzie's Alternate Freshman Initiation Activities) in mid-September. This year all our grade nine students were taken on an overnight trip to Camp Lauren where team building and character education activities set students up for a successful high school experience at Mackenzie.

November 24, 2008