



Welcome to our Open House!

January 25, 2017

Period 1 – Classroom Tours

Faculty & Student Presentation Followed By Q & A Session

Period 3 – Classroom Tours/Conversation & Refreshments

9:00 am–9:30 am

9:30 am–10:40 am

10:40 am–12:00 Noon

Spaces Available in JK–Grade 12

416-966-4406 | admissions@lindenschool.ca | www.lindenschool.ca

Period 1: 8:30 am – 9:30 am

Early Learners (JK/SK/Grade 1) | Room 203

Each day, our Early Learners participate in learning centres to engage in self-directed play-based learning. They may select any of the following seven centres: Art, Light, Math, Communication, Drama, Nature, and Building. Some centres are open for choice and exploration while others invite more focused learning. We are currently exploring water and learning about its uses, sources, different states, buoyancy, and more. This morning, girls in the Art Centre are experimenting with mixing colours using water. We are also engaged in different activities to understand measurement better. Girls in the Building Centre are exploring the principles of design and engineering while creating structures, and those in the Math Centre are searching for objects around the classroom that are shorter than, longer than, or the same length as their feet.

Grade 3/4 | English | Room 306

We have been reading and analyzing *The Breadwinner*, a book written by Canadian author Deborah Ellis. This book deals with the issues and hardships faced by women and young girls during the Taliban era in Afghanistan. The girls have related their own lives with that of the protagonist Parvana, who ultimately dresses as a boy and takes on the responsibility of being the “breadwinner” for her family. This lesson is centred on a very poignant chapter of the book. We will have a short discussion about the events in this chapter and pay attention to how the girls themselves would feel in a similar situation. The girls will then apply their feelings and thoughts, by creating a short comic strip outlining what happened in the chapter. This will include descriptive language expressing how they believe the various characters would feel in each situation.

Grade 5 | Math | Room 307

We know that our girls experience the most success when they are able to learn relationally. By strengthening their knowledge of core math facts through interactive and dynamic activities, students feel better equipped when they encounter more abstract problem-solving tasks. The Grade 5 class has been working on multi-digit multiplication and division for the last two weeks. Using the math game “I Have, Who Has,” students will solidify their ability to visualize common multiplication facts in a variety of ways during today’s class. They will then play a game of multiplication bingo.

Grade 6 | Social Studies | Room 303

Media literacy is an important component of our social studies course, especially since media can be a powerful tool in spreading

lies and disinformation. In today’s class, we will learn how to differentiate between real and fake news. Students will work in groups to examine three articles and determine which ones are fake or authentic. Each group will share the criteria they used to make their conclusions. At the end of the class, each student will arrange a date on which they will present a newspaper article.

Grade 7 | Computer Studies | Room 202

The Grade 7 Computer Studies Program is specifically designed to give girls the encouragement, motivation and hands-on opportunities needed for them to cultivate their interest and pursue opportunities in computer-related fields. The curriculum emphasizes the skills and qualities we want for the girls, enabling them to engage and thrive in a connected, digital world. The class is working on their Stop Motion Animation projects. Girls communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats, and digital media appropriate to their goals. The use of digital tools helps them broaden their perspectives and enrich their learning by collaborating with others.

Grade 8 | French | Room 100

We have just completed an assignment called “Une personne que j’admire,” (a person that I admire), where students used specific language conventions to communicate their ideas through poetry, writing, and oral communication. The lessons and assignments are very student-centred and offer students opportunities to develop their critical thinking skills while making connections to their own personal experiences. Throughout the course, feminist pedagogy is practiced by selecting texts and stories which explore a sense of self, inclusivity, collaboration, social justice, and awareness of power and authority. The students will be reflecting on and discussing social issues described in class materials with a focus on thinking about various forms of oppression, and women’s roles in various contexts.

Grade 9 | Science | Room 301

At Linden, our students’ understanding of scientific concepts comes through experiences that include actual resources, real-world applications, and their own experience. We encourage girls to ask questions and to explore answers. The girls in Grade 9 have been introduced to basic principles of chemistry with the goal of preparing them for challenging high school chemistry courses. Today, we are investigating properties of elements and compounds. The girls will discuss how an understanding of these properties are essential for making good decisions about the products they use in everyday life. They will analyze the importance of finding a good balance between the advantages and disadvantages that are associated with the use, production, and disposal of chemical substances.

Grade 10/11 | English | Room 304

High school English at Linden emphasizes critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. This term, we are studying **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**. Through this wonderful book, we will examine what makes it a strong piece of nonfiction writing, and how we can use such works as “mentor texts” for our own writing. Taking a cross-curricular approach, we will also discuss the ethics of scientific research and the role of women and racialized groups in the history of science. Students share ideas and learn the foundations of academic writing, including grammar, punctuation, and good style.

Grade 12 | Calculus | Room 208

The number of advanced math and science courses taken by students in high school directly influences their decision-making when it comes to taking a quantitative undergraduate course. Girls often avoid these advanced high school courses, effectively closing the door on many career opportunities. The underrepresentation of women in math-related careers has serious economic implications for any country. Young women often are not given enough information about career possibilities which require competence in advanced math. At Linden, our students are encouraged to explore those options; to learn advanced math and use it for professional success. Today the Grade 12 students are working on derivatives which are at the core of calculus and modern math. They will approach this topic from both a math and physics perspective.

Period 3: 10:40 am – 11:40 am

Early Learners (JK/SK/Grade 1)

French/Music | Room 203

The Early Learners’ classroom is inspired by Reggio Emilia. This means that we support the child by providing a stimulating environment, a complexity of materials, and the autonomy to learn. At Linden, we expose our youngest learners to the same specialty subjects they will encounter as junior, middle, and senior school students. They have the opportunity to explore art, music, French, and physical education with teachers who are specialists in these fields and skilled in supporting the developmental needs (physical, emotional and relational) of our young scholars. In today’s French and music class, we will explore beat and rhythm while we learn French poems about the weather and the seasons. Together we will use our French vocabulary from Term 1 to compose our own French poems using our knowledge of rhythms to help guide us.

Grade 3 /4 | Computer Studies | Room 202

It is important that children begin to understand online literacy in an authentic manner that is indicative of today’s social media environment. It is with this in mind that you will see our class writing their opinions and thoughts on their personal blog. The girls have had a series of lessons instructing them on the need for privacy, self-censorship and Internet safety. The girls have also been instructed on the concept of digital etiquette when writing posts and commenting on other posts. The topic for today’s post is: “My hero is...” But their blogs are more than just a writing platform. The girls have also been learning about the different content forms of multimedia. This has included icon-based programming and podcasting. Very soon they will be creating animations, after first visiting an internationally successful local animation studio, which is owned and run by women.

Grade 5 | French | Room 307

We are currently studying countries, continents, and oceans. Some of the questions we are asking and answering are: “Où habites-tu? Où est le Canada? Où sont d’autres pays francophones?” The objective of this course is to help students use French as a means of communication and to expose them to different facets of French culture. With the goal of fostering enthusiasm for the French language, students have many opportunities to express themselves, to be understood and to understand basic written and oral information. Various teaching strategies are used that respond to and enhance girl-centred learning, such as collaborative learning, discussion, critical thinking, reflective thought, and personal exploration.

Grade 6 | English | Room 303

Today, the girls will be reflecting on our recent field trip to watch **Hidden Figures**, and engaging with the importance of representation in storytelling. We will begin with a free-writing exercise, where the girls will have some time to write short personal narratives independently. We will view a short video produced by **Feminist Frequency** creator Anita Sarkeesian, which explores the life and accomplishments of Murasaki Shikibu, a Japanese woman credited with writing the first novel in the early 1000’s. We will apply our critical-thinking skills to explore the following discussion prompts through dialogue-based learning:

- What meaning can we derive from recognizing that the first credited novelist was a Japanese woman, and yet most highly respected literature is created by white men?
- What is the importance of women writing stories featuring their own voices?
- How does our viewing of **Hidden Figures** connect to our investigation of women’s stories being underrepresented?

Grade 7/8 | Strings (Experienced) | Room 304

The Grade 7/8 strings class includes students with two or more years of experience playing the violin, viola or cello. Classes are one-hour long, and we meet on Wednesdays and Fridays. Students play and perform challenging and enjoyable music by contemporary composers as well as music from the Baroque and classical repertoire. Some student musicians have their own instruments while others rent from various stores in Toronto. Students learn a variety of bowing techniques and correct instrument posture. A constant emphasis on precise intonation encourages the musicians to listen to themselves and, importantly, to the relationship between their own playing and that of others in the ensemble. In today's class, we are working on two compositions: "Gargoyles" and "Nightrider."

Grade 7/8 | Visual Arts | Room 201

The study of fine arts considers various styles, techniques, and stages. The Linden Visual Arts students review these stylistic developments in order to add to the vocabulary of their own visual communication. Today, we are exploring the style of Cubism. Students have studied the ideals of Cubism in a variety of different workshops to train their minds to think like a Cubist artist. Last week, students learned how to achieve smooth and painterly styles when using acrylic paint to add gradations/value into their work. Students designed their own Cubist composition by looking at a musical instrument still life from multiple viewpoints. Today, students are working on applying a monochromatic colour palette to their paintings to showcase their knowledge of proper acrylic painting techniques.

Grade 9/10 | Physical Education: Boxing | Gym

Linden student athletes are always encouraged to monitor and improve their personal fitness on a regular basis. Today the student athletes are participating in a boxing class as part of our fitness unit. Boxing is a great way to build upper body and core strength and boost cardiovascular health. Boxing also empowers young women to feel strong and confident about themselves. After performing some cardiovascular and strength training activities to further develop and maintain their personal fitness, the students use hand pads and gloves to perform various punching patterns and learn different types of defence and footwork to enhance their technique and movement. The Linden School's Physical Education program is a direct feeder system into our unique Linden Athletics program, where ALL girls are welcome to participate on a variety of teams. There are no tryouts or cuts made, and every student is welcome to join a team. Linden Athletics has an amazing range of team and individual sports ranging from ultimate to more traditional sports like basketball, soccer, and volleyball. Currently, our participation rate for sports teams in the middle school is an incredible 90%!

Grade 11 | Math Functions | Room 305

Current research shows that gender differences in math are due to a myriad of reasons. However, among popular theories, the most significant are female student anxiety, inherent teacher bias, and the negative attitude many students have towards math. In the Grade 11 functions class, all three of these factors are considered. First, the small class size allows for the creation of a safe space for students to take risks in the classroom and helps decrease student anxiety. Second, inherent teacher bias is effectively eliminated through our girl-centred math teaching pedagogy. Finally, students' negative attitude toward math is addressed by allowing them to learn about leading female mathematicians and role models, as well as by encouraging them to experience success in the classroom and realize that girls can be exceptional in this field. Currently, the Grade 11 functions class is working on exponential function transformations with its applications in other disciplines. Particular emphasis is paid to ensuring that we incorporate the University of Toronto's required math foundations into our lessons. This ensures that Linden students are well prepared for their transition to university.

Grade 12 | Chemistry | Room 301

The Linden School is dedicated to preparing young women for the 21st-century workplace challenges and career choices that correspond to their best abilities and interests. The specific goal of teaching chemistry is to motivate young women to make choices in science, medicine, and engineering-related careers. Throughout the course, the girls work on developing their skills in reading and understanding scientific and technical literature, gathering information, and writing quality scientific/technical articles and reports, based on experimental data. Today, we are investigating key concepts related to heat such as calorimetry, specific heat capacity, and enthalpy. The girls will compare the energy changes resulting from physical change, chemical reactions and nuclear reactions quantitatively by measuring temperatures and using them to calculate energy changes.