



The Macaulay  
Child Development  
Centre

# Macaulay Today!

## Spring 2017 Edition

Welcome back to Macaulay Today! We are excited to bring you this latest edition with stories and updates that demonstrate Macaulay's commitment to innovative and responsive programming. For example, our first story highlights how a program for school-age children extended its reach to foster strong parenting. The result was a more responsive, and more effective, way of helping children and families thrive. Once again, our Spring Campaign is underway. This time, our goal is to raise \$60,000 to support our Homework Clubs. Now more than ever, we need your continued support.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and hope to see you in June at our AGM.

— Sharon Filger, Executive Director



## Macaulay Spotlight

**Ayesha's Story: more than homework support**

"I know that because of what they have learned, if they fall they will always bounce back."

This is the story of Ayesha, a proud grandparent who never expected that she would have full responsibility for three of her grandchildren as well as a foster child. Stressful, challenging, difficult, are just some of the words used to describe the first few months when this family learned to adjust to their new situation.

The children's behavior was unpredictable as they reacted to big life changes. There was conflict as they learned to live together. Uma, the eldest child, latched on to a group of children who were often in trouble at school. Jordan rebelled against...

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**Macaulay's Homework Clubs intervene at a critical time in children's lives:**

**Many students experience a marked decrease in school engagement during the middle school years [ages 6 – 12]; their grades falter; self-esteem, interest in school, and confidence in academic abilities decline; and truancy increases.**

[37, 47-50]. *Critical Hours: Afterschool Programs and Educational Success*. May 2003. Beth M. Miller, Ph.D.

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# What's New at Macaulay?

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## Raising Kids Today is Hard – We're here to help

Macaulay is now offering parenting workshops for corporate and school-based parent groups. Whether navigating ways to raise children in the digital age or looking for tips to encourage listening and cooperation skills, our sessions are tailored to address real issues facing today's parents and are based...

[Read More](#)

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## Ready to Learn

Macaulay is ready to learn, are you? Macaulay's Early Literacy Specialists have created a new resource, Ready to Learn: Love, Language and Literacy. Since our official launch in January, close to 100 family support professionals from across Toronto have been trained in using this unique program to promote literacy development right from birth.

[Download our pdf manual](#)

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**Our Annual General Meeting will be taking place on June 14th, stay tuned for further details.**

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## So proud...

Our Board of Directors is proud to announce that Macaulay has been selected by United Way Toronto and York Region to be an anchor agency. The competition for this was stiff and we are honoured that our work and organizational capacity is being recognized in this way. Macaulay first joined the United Way in 1956 and we are very proud of this association – not only as a partner for raising funds, but as a colleague addressing barriers to equity and opportunity for all Toronto citizens.

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## Thank You

We extend our sincerest thanks to the following foundations for their generous support of our Homework Clubs in 2017:

- The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
  - The Jackman Foundation
  - The Ben and Hilda Katz Foundation
  - The J.P. Bickell Foundation
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## Science, technology, engineering, art and math

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Science, technology, engineering, art and math. These are the fundamentals of Macaulay's "STEAM" program. Over the course of 5 weeks, children attending Macaulay's early years centres benefitted from this unique program. Using simple household materials, children used their creative thinking to construct volcanoes, build automobiles and more. Macaulay staff encouraged the children along the way, asking questions to promote inquiry-based learning. This program blends important learning models in a fun and creative method that has children moving full STEAM ahead!



# Spring is here and so is our Spring Campaign!

## This Spring, Macaulay must raise \$60,000 to support our Homework Clubs.

Through Ayesha's story, we learned the vital role Macaulay's Homework Clubs play in many children's lives.

What many of us take for granted – a safe place to go after school, a full stomach, time spent with family and friends – eludes many Canadian children.

Macaulay's Homework Clubs provide a safe haven for more than 200 children annually. It's a place where children can learn, make new friends and gain important life skills that will greatly impact their long term success.

To learn more about the Homework Clubs and how you can support our Spring Campaign, [click here to learn more](#) or contact Shana Gelbart at [sgelbart@macaulaycentre.org](mailto:sgelbart@macaulaycentre.org)

**Donate Now**

**100% of your donation will go towards helping children and families in need.**

## Here are some examples of how your donation could be used:



**\$300** – Provides one parent education workshop for 10 families with children attending the Homework Club.



**\$100** – Provides 2 hours of additional counseling and support to children special needs attending the Homework Club.



**\$40** – Buys and fills a backpack with school supplies for a child in need.



**\$20** – Could provide one chess set for a Homework Club location.

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