

May

- ❑ As you're finishing off grade 11 and soon becoming a high school senior, it's time to start surrounding yourself with all things post-secondary to gain insights & knowledge. Subscribe to [Ribbit Review by LEAP](#) (if you haven't already 😊) to receive up-to-date relevant opportunities, resources, special offers,... **directly to your inbox bi-weekly to best prepare you for your post-secondary career.**
- ❑ It's the final stretch! **Grade 12 course selection** is right around the corner (if not already completed). Take some time to think of what you've enjoyed, what you excelled at, what you *hope* to excel at and what **prerequisites your future post-secondary program requires**. Reach out to your school counselor for assistance if needed!
- ❑ Haven't thought about your summer plan yet? Well, start thinking now! This summer is your chance to add some [gain some work experience](#), **start a personal project you're passionate about or/and learn new skills** (and have something SUPER impressive to write on your applications 😊)! BONUS - A summer job can help you **earn extra money for upcoming post-secondary costs!**

Grade 11 is coming to a close! Be proud of yourself and get ready for the journey ahead ✨

June

- ❑ Starting to think about post-secondary but don't know where to start or feeling stuck & nervous? LEAP got your back - join us for [#TuesdayTalks 2021](#) starting at the end of June. It's our **summer webinar series** where we invite post-secondary upper-years to join us for discussions on their **transition from high school and first-year experiences** on multiple topics from debunking misconceptions to school-specific, etc. While allowing you to **connect with current students** too!
- ❑ [Wanting a summer job?](#) it's time to put your [resume](#) and [cover letter](#) to good use! Start by identifying **where** you would like to work, the **skills** you have that would help you succeed in specific positions, and think about what may help your **future career aspirations!** Some places to begin may be [job boards](#), [linkedin](#), [your local businesses](#), or you can even ask around, etc!

One year left - amazing job on finishing grade 11! Take time to relax this summer, there's a busy year coming soon!! ☀️

July

- ❑ RELAX and enjoy the summer, but not too much! Take some of your free time to **think about potential post-secondary programs and career fields** you might be interested in - take notes on what is needed to get accepted to those programs! Just some **things to consider**: grades, classes, extracurriculars, finances, etc.
- ❑ After taking a look at tuition costs, residence and so many other expenses, you're likely wondering how you'll be able to pay for it all. Look no further than **GrantMe's upcoming presentation** on *July 6th* - More details to be released on our [social media](#) soon! Join us to find out about the best **money-saving hacks to help you be financially savvy during post-secondary** - even tips and tricks you can start now!
- ❑ Gained some valuable insights about post-secondary and your dream school(s) from #TuesdayTalks but still **not sure which career field you want to pursue or want to further explore a field you're passionate about?** Stay tuned for more details on Pathfinder 🚀 - an exploratory program launching this summer by LEAP covering 4 career fields (business, healthcare, engineering and arts & media). We will be making announcements soon on our sponsors, prizes and what you can expect from the program so make sure you [follow us on social media](#) to stay updated!

Enjoy the sunshine! Get some research done but take some time to chill out! ☀️

August

- ❑ Grade 12 is almost here and so are scholarship deadlines! **As early as September, several businesses and organizations begin accepting applications for valuable scholarship money!** 💰 Visit [ScholarTree](#), [Student Awards](#) and [Scholarships Canada](#) to find tons of awards in an easy-to-search database. Create a list of scholarships you're eligible for and add to your calendar so you can stay on top of your applications throughout the year!
- ❑ Been too long since you thought about school? 🖋️ Explore free online courses to ease you back into "school mode" and learn about new topics. [Coursera](#) and [edX](#) are great platforms to explore!
- ❑ **Get a head start** on university applications and compile a list of everything you've done (clubs, awards, volunteering). When you'll be facing tons of applications, this info will come in handy! Check out our Student Life Takeovers on our [Instagram](#) to get some more tips on this!
- ❑ Time to get your head back in the game! Start thinking about ways to **stay organized** and on top of your game for your senior year - this can be creating weekly schedules, daily to-do lists, daily goals, etc. (**organization** is a key skill to succeed in university!!) Want to be more **productive** in your studies next year? [Check out this blog post to learn more!](#)

- ❑ Soak up the last bit of summer and start the new term by setting some **GOALS** for your senior year - the grades you hope to achieve, ways to get involved with your school and community, etc. Make your last year count!
- ❑ As you keep learning more about post-secondary, do you **have questions you can't figure out** or want to **learn more about current students' experiences**? The Fall cohort of our Mentorship Program recruits mentees in August to kick start in September! 🍁 (P/S: don't worry if you don't think you can join this cohort, our program runs all-year round - learn more about the program [here!](#))

One last run is around the corner, my friend - be ready to work but also remember to embrace your last 10 months of high school and spend time with your friends! ❤️

September

- ❑ Welcome back to school - Check in regularly with your **school's guidance office for financial resources and other scholarship opportunities for students!** Often counsellors will be able to help you find unique opportunities sent directly to schools!
- ❑ As you begin the year, set a goal for what admission average you're aiming for by June. Many schools offer **automatic scholarship prizes** for those who have high enough grades!
- ❑ Let the postsecondary hunt begin - Start writing down dates for **open houses** and **events** that post-secondary institutions may be hosting such as fairs, Q&A's or campus tours. (Ex: [OUF](#))
- ❑ As you can soon start applying to post-secondary, create an **application master sheet** for yourself where you can outline application progress, deadlines, to-dos, etc. To help you **keep track of all your post-secondary applications!**

Your first semester grades will be super important, start the year off strong! You got this !!



October

- ❑ Two of the **biggest scholarships in Canada** have deadlines coming up this month! Speak to your school's guidance counselor for assistance about how to become a [LORAN Scholar](#) or win the [University of Toronto National Scholarship!](#)
- ❑ Get started researching the cost of post-secondary! Some of the **biggest factors to consider when looking into programs** are tuition, residence and other costs. You also likely need to set aside money for application fees due very soon! 💎 Check out [TeamTailwind's blog post](#) from our Typing Tadpole on financing post-secondary to help you get started!

- ❑ **Campus tours begin!** Remember to keep an open mind! Schools are more than just their brand. What are you looking to get out of post-secondary? Co-op experience? Research opportunities? A friendly environment and a welcoming campus?
- ❑ **Reach out to our post-secondary mentors** to get ahead on your networking game & get all your post-secondary questions answered!! Book a FREE 20 minute chat with any current students through our [Coffee Chat](#) platform ☕!

As things get hectic remember to take care of yourself! Drink water, eat healthy and get enough sleep 😴

November

- ❑ Two more **huge scholarship deadlines are happening soon!** Check out the [Queen's Chancellor Scholarship](#) and [TD Community Leadership Scholarship](#) for more ways to earn money for post-secondary! (Hint: Both scholarships require a recommendation/nomination from your school - reach out as soon as possible so your references have time to complete the process!)
- ❑ If any post-secondary applications require **reference letters**, ask for them **NOW** to give your references lots of time to write you a great reference letter! (Consider your closest teachers, coaches, counsellors, etc.!)
- ❑ Start to **write your supplementary applications** - don't wait until the last minute and procrastinate! Ask your teachers & school counselor to help you edit your applications too for feedback!
- ❑ How are scholarship applications going by the way? [Student Life Network](#) is another resource you should check out (also offers many student giveaways!!) and [GrantMe](#) can help you with education consultation for things like your scholarship applications through their platform.

Feeling overwhelmed? Application deadlines and midterms are near but don't worry - this is a normal feeling. Keep working hard but take breaks when you can!! ❤️

December

- ❑ **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!** ❄️ Double-check all the required courses for your top-choice programs are either complete or scheduled for next semester! 📚 (Also make sure you have all the graduation course requirements!)
- ❑ Cozy up, sit around the fire and **review your notes from all your post-secondary research!** Get your friends and family's input, but most importantly, pick out which schools & program(s) fit you the most & rank them! Haven't found one? Don't worry, there are still more to come!

Winter break is here and you definitely deserve some rest! Take some time to relax with family and friends, but try to spend some time getting ahead on school to ease your workload! 🧊

January

- ❑ **New year, new you!** Reflect on your previous goals and evaluate whether you have met them. Modify past goals or set some new goals for the new year!
- ❑ **DUE SOON: Post Secondary Applications** - be sure to keep track of the deadlines for schools you're applying to! Reach out to teachers, guidance counsellors, or graduates within your network to see what kind of input or experience they might have! Send them your essays and supplementaries for proofreading too!
- ❑ Can you believe it?? There are two more **amazing scholarship deadlines happening soon!** Check out the [Western National Scholarship Program](#) and [Schulich Leader Scholarships](#) for even more opportunities to win money 🤑! (Hint: Both scholarships require a nomination from your school - reach out as soon as possible so your references have time to complete the process!)
- ❑ **Enjoying this checklist and LEAP initiatives so far?** Looking to gain some work experience to add to your resume before starting post-secondary? Check out [our Careers page](#) to see if there are any open positions to help us expand our impact - if none available, make sure you're subscribed to our newsletter & social media to get notified once new positions get posted!

Believe in yourself if you're having doubts and worried about your applications - Trust yourself because LEAP trusts you and we're rooting for you! 🍀

February

- ❑ Stay on the lookout for more scholarships and awards offered by your school or school district. Applications will open very soon! (Remember these scholarships will have **WAY less competition** than most external awards you apply to - don't miss out!)
- ❑ You're about to become a highschool graduate very soon! Let's help you to prepare for your incoming transition more with **more insights**, advice & fun stories **from current students' experiences** through our [Typing Tadpole](#) (blog) & [Post-Secondary Tea](#) (podcast)
- ❑ Missed campus tours last year? No worries - some schools host **open houses over spring break** so do your research and reserve your spot to learn more about your interested schools as offers roll in and you will have to make a decision soon!

- ❑ Summer is nearer than you think - **start thinking about what you want to do during your summer**. If your summer plans include a job or volunteer position, now is a great time to edit your resume and research potential opportunities!

You're halfway there! First semester has been long but you made it! Keep working hard for the rest of the year you're almost there! 🎉

March

- ❑ It's that time of the year! Summer job and internship applications will be due soon! Take this opportunity to **gain some work experience** and **practice your interview skills** (especially if you're going into a co-op program 😊)! So get your **resumes** and **cover letters** ready, and start applying whenever you're ready! Earn some **extra money for your tuition fees & have another item to add to your resume**.

Use the march break to recharge! Take breaks, go for a walk and connect with your loved ones! 😊

April

- ❑ **Make up your mind and know your top choices** because the deadline to choose your school & program is near! Hopefully with your research and through talking to people, you've been able to gain a fair amount of knowledge and are happy with your decision!
- ❑ Forgot what you learned in grade 10 math? Consider taking online courses to **brush up** on past material, or if you just want a review in preparation for the coming year! Try: [Khan Academy](#) or even **fast tracking** through Summer School!
- ❑ Presentation skills are VITAL in university. You can brush up on your public speaking skills by [joining a Toastmasters chapter](#) or [watching MasterTalk videos](#) 🗨️

Hang in there! It feels tough but there's only 2 months left until graduation, believe in yourself because we believe in you 🙌

May

- ❑ You're almost there! Start **outlining the costs** you'll be faced with including tuition, textbooks, residence and more. Talk to your parents about what **financial support is available and your finance plan!**
- ❑ Once you accept an offer, be sure to check your email **often** as there will be deadlines and other informative articles being sent often! 📧
- ❑ **Ontario students:** Make sure you have all of your volunteer hours completed! (otherwise...you can't graduate!)

Don't feel discouraged if you haven't received an offer yet! Many schools wait till May, your time is coming soon! 😊

June

- ❑ **Guarantee your spot in residence!** 🏠 Many schools require you to pay a deposit to ensure you can live on residence in the fall - check your school's website and mark your calendar!
- ❑ Look into **government-based student aid!** [OSAP](#) for Ontario students, [Alberta Student Aid](#) and [StudentAidBC](#) for British Columbia students will soon begin accepting applications. Here you can receive **grants** (which you don't have to pay back yay!) or **low-interest student loans** to help pay for post-secondary! Generally, the deadline is about 6-8 weeks before you begin your studies.
- ❑ **It's almost go time!** Start thinking about what you'll need to pack if you're moving away from home in the Fall. There are some great checklists on retail and school websites. [Check out this one from Bed Bath & Beyond](#)
- ❑ Consider creating a LinkedIn profile if you haven't already to assist you in building your professional presence and get a head start on **NETWORKING!**
- ❑ Research **clubs** you want to join at your new school! This is one way you can easily build on your skills and make new friends. Different schools will have a different club culture - talk to upper year students ([coffee chats!](#)) and see what interests you!
- ❑ **It's time to enroll in courses!** Research courses you want to/need to take for your specific program. Don't be afraid to reach out to upper years for help!

You made it!!! After what feels like forever you finally made it through your grade 12 year! Wherever life takes you from here, you can be proud of your accomplishments! All of us at LEAP are so proud of you 🙌🎓