

# Madeline Symonds Middle School



Phone: (902) 832-2300

Fax: (902) 832-2302

Twitter: @madelinesymonds

<https://msm.hrce.ca/>

E-Mail: [msms@hrce.ca](mailto:msms@hrce.ca)

September 2019

## **Important Dates**

September 25 - Curriculum night 6:30pm

September 26 - Terry Fox Walk

September 27 - PD Day (no classes)

September 30 - Orange shirt day

Tuesday & Wednesday, Oct. 15 & 16 – Picture Day (Paul Adams Photographer)

Wednesday Oct. 17 – School Dance 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Parent chaperones are needed. Please contact the

school if you can help for a few hours during the dance. ([Vmeers@hrce.ca](mailto:Vmeers@hrce.ca))

If there are any days your child is not attending school or will be late please call the office at 832-2300 to let us know so that we know your child is absent with permission and that the absent days are recorded as “excused” on the PowerSchool attendance records.

## **PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE**

Welcome back for another great year at MSMS and we hope your summer was as good as the weather! We have been busy with an ever growing enrollment of 755 this year and add a hurricane and a full moon and we’ve hit the ground running! Thankfully, we have a great staff and students so we’re off to a good start. 😊

I hope all weathered the storm okay and I certainly have a renewed appreciation for hot water and power.

Our fundamental purpose is learning and our number one goal is to improve student achievement in a learning environment that fosters respect for self and others. Therefore, we focused last Friday of our Welcome Week Review on topics such as Responsible Digital Citizenship/Chromebook Use and Internet Safety, Anti Bullying /Safety, Academics/Study Skills, PowerSchool, Reviewing our Code of Conduct / Positive School Environment/ Involvement, School Procedures / Building Movement, Grade 6 Tour and Get to Know Me/ Ice Breakers.

As per usual, we were impressed with how well the students listened and responded with their respectful participation and have seen positive changes already in our building movement!

All teachers reviewed safety drills (fire, lock down, hold and secure) with their classes and please see below for a schedule that will indicate when drills are to be completed throughout the year.

Drills and Dates:

Fire/Evacuation Drills – 6times annually

1. Sept 13
2. Between Oct 14-18
3. Between Oct 28-Nov 1
4. Between Apr 6-9
5. Between May 4-8
6. Between June 8-12

Lockdown Exercises – 2 times annually

1. Between Sept 23-26
2. Between Feb 12-16

Hold and Secure Exercise – 1 annually

Between Sept 30- Oct 4

Relocation Exercise

Communication is key to our success and we have an open door policy here at MSMS and invite you to contact the teachers and administration if you have any questions or concerns. Please take the time to visit our website and familiarize yourself with it as there is a lot of relevant information there for you.

Please contact the teacher at the email provided, and cc administration if you experience difficulty accessing these websites as they provide links to your child's homework expectations.

We are all lifelong learners and invite input as to how we can make our website more useful to all, so please email [DDoucett@hrce.ca](mailto:DDoucett@hrce.ca) with any content suggestions you may have.

All parents should have received the introductory letter via the Alert email system. If you have not received it, please refer to the school website under Parents to get the information.

You will be receiving telephone messages from the school advising you of upcoming events or important information being sent home and we will continue this throughout the year so please ensure you contact us with any changes to phone or email information.

Monthly newsletters will be posted to the website on the first Friday of the month (except for September) and we encourage you to contact the teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Students have been given a media release form as well as a Responsible Technology Form that was to be returned completed and signed by today. Please check with your child and send them back to us (Homeroom Teacher) ASAP as we'll have more coming next week ie. medical update form, early school closure and a copy of your PowerSchool information. Please return all these to the homeroom teacher and we'd ask you to please highlight any changes made. IF no changes are needed, please indicate by writing "No Changes". Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated!

If your child is late due to an appointment or special circumstance please call the school at 902-832-2300, ext. 1. Your support is greatly appreciated. Bells will ring at 8:00 am to go to homeroom and classes begin at 8:10.

I'd like to stress the importance once again of communication between home and school and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns or relevant information that may impact on students/ staff at MSMS. We can't help you if we don't know there is a difficulty and are here to problem solve and will do our best to assist in any way we can. I'd like to thank those that have brought some concerns to my attention for their understanding that I can't always fix everything but will do what I can to make the best out of a less than ideal reality.

Ms. K. Acorn, Principal 😊

## **Cafeteria Information**

For your convenience, Chartwells has a link for pre-ordering lunches. There are many students to serve and preordering ensures the cafeteria staff will have enough food for all. Once more take advantage of this ordering system we can have an order line designated for those who do preorder and that will also speed up the lunch lines. <https://www.schoollunchorder.ca/> This link can be found under the 'Our School' section of our website (for students).

## **Curriculum Night**

On Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> we will host our Curriculum Night beginning at 6:30 pm with a brief presentation from administration in the gymnasium. Parents will then proceed to individual classrooms to meet the teachers and gain an insight to the courses being taught.

## Celebrating our Students

The 2019 Atlantic Championships for girls 14U baseball were held this past weekend in Fredericton. Nova Scotia's Blue Team took the bronze medal. **Makenna Ruelokke** was a member of this team. **Madison Binder** also participated in the event on the Nova Scotia White Team. All the teams did great and the girls had a fantastic weekend. Despite the hurricane, they were able to get all the games in.

**Mme. Luff** has been chosen to attend the week long International Science Expo as a Delegate/Ambassador for Team Canada-MILSET 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE during the week of September 22nd! She is one of only 9 adult delegates from across Canada invited to be an Ambassador at this International event. There will be 50 students also attending from across Canada to present their Science Fair projects, including our very own alumni of MSMS, **Finley Nakatsu**, who is now in grade 10 at CPA.

## From the Guidance Office

The Community Health Teams are a joint partnership between the IWK and the Nova Scotia Health Authority. They are offering the following FREE programs for parents in this community:

- My Child is Anxious. Should I worry? 2 week program
- Parenting your Teenager: Walking the Middle Path – 1-Day Workshop
- Parent Wellness Series-4 week program which covers My Child is Anxious as well as sessions on parent stress and parent sleep
- Mental Health First Aid—Adults Interacting with Youth—14 hour certification program

If you are interested in registering or have questions about the above programs, please call 902-460-4560.

# Breakfast Program Farm Box Fundraiser

Contact Mrs K Binder : [kbinder@hrce.ca](mailto:kbinder@hrce.ca) or phone MSMS at (902)832-2300

Our school is once again taking part in a farm box fundraiser to support the breakfast program at MSMS.

You can support this program and local farmers by selling/buying boxes of fresh produce from Humble Hippy.

This fundraiser supports our breakfast program, local farmers and a local business.

Selling for \$30, each farm box will include a variety of farm-fresh, local pesticide free grown vegetables. All the veggies needed for Thanksgiving dinner.

## The box will include:

**Premium Potatoes (5lbs)**

**Turnip (2-3lbs)**

**Carrots (2lbs)**

**Onions (2lbs)**

**Buttercup Squash**

**Cranberries (12oz.)**

There are some add on options (biscuits, jams, apples, pies, etc...) available for purchase at pickup with a percentage going towards our breakfast program.

If you are not around for Thanksgiving and would like to support our fundraiser, you can purchase a box and donate to a local family in need. I am very proud to say we donated over 30 boxes to families in need last year.

All orders/money must be returned to the school by **Wednesday Sept 25th** (can be passed in during Curriculum night as well)

For our school the farm box pick-up will take place at the **Humble Hippy** (On Hammonds Plains Road- Next to the Irving) during store hours between **October 11th-12th**.

Once orders and money are returned to school each student will be given an individual card to be given to the customer as a receipt. **This card will be needed to pick up their boxes during the designated times.**

**Lighthouse Boys Choir** will be having their first rehearsal Monday, September 16, 2019 at Five Bridges Junior High in room 145 between 6:00 - 7:30 pm. If you are a boy in grades 3 - 9 and are interested in singing in this choir please come and join us for our first rehearsal.

Any questions can be directed to Katrina Pecknold, choir director, at [choir@gnspe.ca](mailto:choir@gnspe.ca).

## Sports

The girls and boys soccer teams will be having tryouts starting with our girls on Sept 11th and the boys on Sept 12th. The soccer season is scheduled to start on Sept 19. Good luck to all players and teams.

Cross country running practices will start Sept 16. All interested runners are welcome to attend.

\*\*Students and parents are asked to view the "Athletics" webpage on our MSMS website for any school sport information.

## Terry Fox School Run Day Thursday Sept 26, 2019

Thirty eight years have passed since Terry Fox began his run across our country. To celebrate this milestone, The Terry Fox Foundation has invited all Canadian schools to participate in the Terry Fox National School Run Day on **Thursday Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. A record number of schools across Canada will simultaneously participate in what might be the largest coordinated event in Canadian history while raising money for cancer research. Terry Fox only wanted people to donate what they wanted or felt could afford—we at The Foundation continue to embrace this philosophy.

There is no question that Terry Fox is a national symbol of hope, determination and generosity. We are happy to have your son/daughter/dependant share in this young man's dream and hope they will be inspired to always believe in themselves. Your children will carry on Terry's story and they will continue to inspire millions of Canadians and people around the world to participate in the Terry Fox Run in support of cancer research.

## Visual Arts

Hi there, I am MSMS's Art teacher, Ms. Chandler!

Each Art Student is expected to participate, learn and enjoy themselves in my classes!

I have divided each term and constructed the following units:

Term I- THEORY & SKILLS,

Term II- PROJECT BASED ASSIGNMENTS

Term III- EXPLORATION and EXPRESSION

Art Supplies needed are - regular 2HB pencils, coloured pencils, black regular tip sharpie

and a glue stick. I have a supply here but best if each student is responsible for their own. Typically my supply will dwindle as the year goes on and I am left with very little to choose from.

As the term progresses I will send/share (with) each student the GOOGLE CLASSROOM code so we can communicate regarding in class or homework assignments.

I'm looking forward to a great year at MSMS!