



October 2018 Newsletter



Happy Thanksgiving!

Important Dates

- October 8 - Thanksgiving Day (No Classes)
- October 10-15 Grade 6 Provincial Assessment
- October 11- School Dance
- October 15 - Cadet Presentation in Library
- October 17 - PD day (No Classes)
- October 18 - Picture Retakes
- October 26 - Provincial Conference Day (No Classes)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for Madeline Symonds Middle School and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

One of the procedures our school has been practicing is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills.

This year, the Board has directed us to complete all drills within a certain time frame and I will let you know in advance if there is a lockdown drill scheduled.

Please take the time to speak with your son/daughter about these procedures and reinforce their importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Recently we've been practicing the Hold and Secure drills which are often used when there is a situation in the building that requires students to remain in class while we deal with needs of other students. We're very pleased with how respectful and orderly the students are while dealing with this inconvenience. Please contact me if you have any questions about any of the drills and thank you for your attention to this matter.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the MSMS Staff to commend our students on their exceptional behavior during fire drills, bus evacuations and lockdown drills. We have received positive feedback from visitors to our school with regard to how respectful and polite our students are during these situations. (Kudos to you)

I would like to thank all the students for making the adjustment to the new morning procedure and remind them to wear warmer clothing as the temperatures drop. Students will be brought inside for inclement weather and during very cold temperatures and thank you to the teachers for supporting duty needs prior to their contractual time; it is greatly appreciated!

Lastly, I hope you can all find your way to feel thankful over this Thanksgiving weekend, focus on the positive and spend time with people that matter to you! Enjoy and Happy Thanksgiving one and all!

Kim Acorn, Principal

School Advisory Council

We are pleased to welcome the following new parents members to our School Advisory Council (SAC): Kim Caven, Angela Thornhill and Patrick McCarthy. Thank you for expressing your interest at the Curriculum Night and we welcome your input at our meetings scheduled for the following Monday evenings.

- October 22, 2018 at 6:00
- November 26, 2018 at 6:00
- January 28, 2019 at 6:00
- April 8, 2019 at 6:00
- May 27, 2019 at 6:00

We will be looking for a grade 7 student to join the council and will invite them to sign up on a sheet posted on the office window if interested...

A list of our full council, will be posted on our school website so please check it out and contact our Chairperson, Dana Mills, at the address provided if you have any topics you want to discuss or concerns you would like raised.

Celebrating Our Students

Madeline Symonds Middle School is pleased to announce that 373 students, or 52 % of our student population, have been awarded **perfect attendance** for the month of September. We would like to congratulate them on their accomplishment. Well done !!!!

Aiden Martell in 805 completed the Ride for Cancer on Saturday September 29th. He cycled 100 KM from Mahone Bay to Halifax and trained very hard for several months. Along with his dedication to the ride he was able to raise almost \$1300 for the event. Congratulations Aiden, well done!

Breakfast Program

MSMS serves a nutritional snack to all students daily. Breakfast bins are placed in homeroom classes for students to enjoy. If you would like to donate to our program we would greatly appreciate it. Donations can be in the form of financial or items for our bins. Items we are requesting are; granola bars, cheese sticks, cereal bars, multigrain crackers, boxes of multigrain cheerios, etc....

Huge thank you to The Prince George Hotel for their sponsorship of our program, they have offered to supply all the food for students for one day each month.

If you have any questions or are interested in supporting our program please contact Mrs. Karen Binder at kbinder@hrce.ca

Farm box fundraiser

Thank you for your continued support of our breakfast program farm box fundraiser. We sold over 300 boxes with an additional 500 add-ons. We have not calculated our total money raised as of yet, however we are well over \$3000 towards our breakfast program. Thank you to The Haunted Hollow and the Humble Hippy for their support of our fundraiser. 706 was the winner of the class prize as they had over 90% participation rate and sold over \$1600 in farm boxes as a class.



DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

MSMS' first dance of the year is Thursday, October 11, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:30. All students from grades 6, 7, 8 and 9 are invited! However, there are no students allowed from other schools. We will be selling the tickets during the lunch hour (11:10-12:15) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (Oct. 9, 10 & 11). The cost is \$6.00 or \$5.00 with a non perishable food item for the Food Bank. There will be a cash canteen. Hope to see you there!

From the Guidance Office

PFLAG Canada is a national charitable organization that was founded by parents who wished to help themselves and their families to understand and accept their non-heterosexual children. PFLAG helps to support families through the “coming out” process and gives them hope for a better tomorrow. If you would like more information on PFLAG Canada, please visit the below website or Facebook page.

<https://pflagcanada.ca/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGHalifax/>

Parents please refer to the Parent Section of the website for some updated information on **“How to Talk to Your Teen about Cannabis.”**

Provincial Assessment

The **Grade 6** Provincial Assessment will take place on October 10, 11, 12, and 15th. Pamphlets have been sent home with students, if you did not receive one please ask your child's teacher. The only preparation needed is a good breakfast and a good night sleep.

The **Grade 8** Student Assessment reports from last year will be available in Power School in early October. Grade 9 students will bring home a pamphlet that will help explain the report to parents/guardians along with a hard copy of the report from the provincial assessments that were conducted last May. Look for them to come home in the near future.

Sports

Our MSMS sports teams have started the Fall season with both our **boys and girls soccer teams** playing 4 games each. Our girls have a 3-1 record and our boys are making a playoff push with a 2-2 record thus far. Good work teams!

The **cross country running** team is preparing for the first meet of the year. Our runners will compete in the Mariner Championships on Oct 5 at Shubie Park and then the Regional Championships on Oct 11 at Point Pleasant Park.

The **boys and girls flag football** teams are both completing tryouts and getting ready for their tournaments on Oct 15 & 16.

Good luck to all teams and athletes! Go Jags!



Remembrance Day

As part of our Remembrance Day Observance this year we would like to include digital images of any family members from our MSMS community who have served or are currently serving in the Canadian Military.

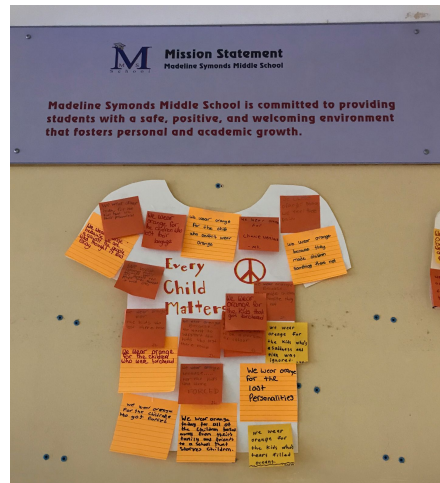
Please send these digital images with the name to be attached clearly indicated to rmacneil@hrce.ca

Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, October 30th.

Mi'kmaq Heritage Month

Madeline Symonds Middle School observed **Orange Shirt Day** on October 1st. Orange Shirt Day is a day to remember the trauma that residential schools had on First Nation communities across this country. Observing this day is an important step in reconciliation between nations. The students and staff at MSMS not only observed the day by wearing orange shirts but also by learning the story/history of the day and having posters in the school that expressed why this day is observed .

MSMS staff and students are also celebrating **Mi'kmaq History Month** by putting up posters in the school, including cultural knowledge in lessons, and having Mi'kmaq, Metis, and Inuit flags present in the display at the entrance of the school . MSMS staff and students understand that First Nation, Metis, and Inuit culture is not just in the past but alive and thriving today here in Hammonds Plains and across the country.



Nova Scotia Homework Hub (NSHH)

The Homework Hub provides mathematics support for all students enrolled in math courses in grades 9-11. Live tutoring is now available through the Homework Hub Sunday through Thursday evenings from 5:30-9:30 pm. Students can access the Homework Hub through their gnsps account.



SchoolsPlus is a collaborative approach to supporting any children, youth, and their families who need a little extra support to succeed. If you, or a student you know at Madeline Symonds Middle School, needs to increase engagement in school, needs to be connected to services (such as art and recreation programs, food security, income and employment support, etc...) or is having larger issues with mental health, justice, or community service agencies we can help!

Referrals to SchoolsPlus for service or support can be made by individual students or families, school principals/vice-principals, or community partners at any time, year round.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or want to make a referral to SchoolsPlus call or text the Community Outreach Worker, **Melissa Caines** at **902-483-5960** or email **mcaines@hrce.ca** or the Assistant Lead, **Nicole Blanchard** at **902-499-8456** or email **NBlanchard@hrce.ca**. For more information please visit the SchoolsPlus website <https://schoolsplus.ednet.ca>.

Community Events

The 250 Vimy Royal Canadian Air Cadets in Hubble, NS will be presenting to any interested grade 7 students on Oct. 15th in the library at lunch time. They are currently recruiting for their new training year. The Air Cadet program is a free organization geared for youth between the ages of 12 and 18 years old. All components of the program are provided free of cost for the cadets (uniform, travel, trips, meals during trips, etc.). The central focus is to support cadets in developing good citizenship skills, leadership skills and attain a better understanding of physical fitness and healthy living. Cadets are able to attend summer training, free of charge with a training bonus provided to them for attending, and these courses can be used towards high school credit completion.

HRM Academics is continuing to offer affordable tutoring services for Junior High and High School students – all from university tutors who are comfortable tutoring Academic, IB, AP, and French Immersion courses. Our prices are 15\$/hour/person, or 10\$/hour/person if it's in a group of two or more.

We have also expanded the mission of HRM Academics to include mentoring services. Mentoring services are currently offered in a variety of subjects – including overall note-taking and organizational skills, reviewing reports and essays (including IB Internal Assessments and Extended Essays), assisting with University applications, and much more. These services are provided to the tutee at only \$10/hour, with 100% of the proceeds going directly to the Ronald McDonald House Charity Atlantic IWK Family Room. At HRM Academics, we believe that giving back to our community is extremely important, and our tutors are excited to be able to give back to our community in this way.

To spread the word about our initiative, we have created a Facebook page that contains our history, our goals, important updates, and general information about HRM Academics.

<https://www.facebook.com/hrmacademics/>

The Haunted Hollow will be operating again this year on Friday and Saturday nights in October (weather permitting). All proceeds support Halifax Search and Rescue.