



## December 2018 Newsletter



### Important Dates

December 13 - Band Concert 6:30pm

December 18 - Christmas/Holiday Concert 6:30pm

December 21 - Last day before Christmas Break

January 3 - School reopens

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe that December is here already!! We enjoyed nice weather until the end of October so we can't complain too much! Now that winter has arrived we remind all students to dress appropriately and stress that being dropped off at school in shorts and a hoodie will not be sufficient clothing to go out at lunchtime.

Please do what you can to convince your child to wear seasonal clothing and we appreciate your support! 😊

### Parent Teacher Interviews:

Thank you to all parents and guardians for attending yesterday's afternoon and evening sessions of Parent Teacher Interviews! We hope you were pleased overall with the academic success demonstrated by the students and we appreciate your support in teaming to make your child as successful as they can be. If you have any concerns please establish communication with the teacher and I am available to assist you at the office if need be. 😊

Please help us defray costs and conserve the environment by sending the report card envelopes back to the office via your child and we thank you in advance for your support with this request! Waste not, want not ... and those envelopes are expensive!!

As well, a thank you going out to our lovely student ambassadors who volunteered their time at Parent Teacher last evening: Amelia White, Claire Sampson, Anna Rapp, Abbie MacEachern, Jenna Emanuel, Katherine Teller, Caitlyn Normore, Riana Surovkin and MacKenzie Gibbons. 😊

### Housekeeping:

All parents / guardians are reminded to provide a written note, email to mo'connor@hrce.ca, or fax (902) 832-2302 to the office if giving permission for your child to be picked up by someone other than designated parent/ guardian.

Stock transportation also requires a note from a parent if wishing for a student to travel on the bus to another student's house. If the busses are full, it is not always possible but Stock will accommodate whenever they can.

Parents and guardians are asked to please contact the school with a signed written note, email or fax if allowing student to leave school without being available to sign them out.

Also, all visitors to the school are to report directly to the school office to sign in. This process is mandatory as a means of tracking our school population for safety purposes so your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

## **In The Spirit of Giving:**

At this time of the year we want to demonstrate our compassion for those in need by supporting those less fortunate. Though there are many good causes we have decided as a school team to support ADSUM HOUSE, an emergency shelter for women, children and youth who are experiencing homelessness. We are doing a toiletries drive and would ask that you support your child's request to donate feminine hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, disposable razors, soap, deodorant and oral hygiene products. All classes are participating and we'll be accepting donations up until Friday, December 14/18. Your understanding with this initiative is greatly appreciated and your kindness will be remembered long after it's done ... 😊

In closing, on behalf of the staff and students of Madeline Symonds Middle School, we wish you all a safe, festive Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukah, and Happy Holiday season with loved ones and a very Happy New Year!!!

Respectfully,

Kim Acorn, Principal 😊

## School Dance

There is a school dance on Thursday, January 24 for all grade 6, 7, 8 and 9 students from 6:30 to 8:30. There are no students allowed from other schools. The cost will be \$6.00 or \$5.00 with a non-perishable donation to the Food Bank. Tickets must be purchased before the dance and they will be sold during both lunch times starting the week before the dance. There will be advertisement posted around the school in January with the specific dates of when the tickets go on sale.

## From the Guidance Office

I would like to make you aware of two resources designed for students and families in need of support with issues around sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

1. PFLAG Canada is a national organization that offers peer-to-peer support striving to help support, educate and provide resources to anyone with questions or concerns around sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. They offer local, practical, and emotional peer-to-peer family support for individuals and their loved ones challenged by gender/sexual identity. If you would like further details, please visit <https://pflagcanada.ca/>, you will find contact information for the people who lead the PFLAG chapters in Nova Scotia.

2. The Youth Project is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to providing support and services to youth, around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. They promote and nurture an environment that is appreciative of youth from all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, abilities and socioeconomic backgrounds. For more information please go to <https://youthproject.ns.ca/>

## Assembly

On Friday December 21st, *grade nine* students will watch a presentation from Madd Canada. The **MADD Canada** School Assembly Program will influence their own decision making for years to come. The program presents students with solid information and best practices to help them understand the issue of impaired driving from alcohol and drugs.

## MSMS Student of the Month

This program is to recognize students who display leadership in demonstrating respect for self, others, learning and environment. As well as no office referrals, has outstanding attendance and all work is up-to-date.

<b>Homeroom</b>	<b>November</b>
<b>601</b>	Max Thornhill
<b>602</b>	Liam Caven
<b>603</b>	Kayleigh Grant
<b>604</b>	Chloe Brown
<b>605</b>	Alex Warnica
<b>701</b>	Ryan Gorman
<b>702</b>	Austin Romain
<b>703</b>	Ainslie Fougere
<b>704</b>	Alexa Chambers
<b>705</b>	Devon Hall
<b>706</b>	Miah Kotzer
<b>707</b>	Lucas Zawidzki
<b>708</b>	Sophia Stubeda
<b>801</b>	Ellie McClean
<b>802</b>	Rowan Houlihan
<b>803</b>	Olivia Digdon
<b>804</b>	Ella MacPhee
<b>805</b>	Kaitlyn Canning
<b>806</b>	Ryan Dupere
<b>807</b>	Sophie Blades
<b>901</b>	Elyssa Spilman
<b>902</b>	Shelly Gorelik
<b>903</b>	Patrick Cooke
<b>904</b>	Raphaelle Dupre
<b>905</b>	Abbey Ashton
<b>906</b>	Aeriana Helle
<b>907</b>	Payton Webb
<b>908</b>	Maggie James

## Beaver Computational Math Challenge

A big congratulations to all students who took part in a Math Challenge during the week of November 5 to 16. Approximately 120 students from grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 had the pleasure of being involved in a math contest called "Beaver Computational Challenge" provided by University of Waterloo. This contest involved problem solving questions focusing on logical thinking.

Our top grade 6 students were Owen Rogers from 604, Nate Cochrane from 605 and Makenna Ruelokke from 602.

Our top grade 7 students were Kellen Fuller from 703, Sherry Chen from 706 and Kate Bussey from 706.

Our top grade 8 students were Colin Roberts from 803, Camden Sayle from 805 and Matthew Daye from 805.

Our top grade 9 students were Olivia Hilchie from 905, Abbey Ashton from 905 and Abbie MacEachern from 905.

Top students per grade were Owen Rogers, Kellen Fuller, Colin Roberts and Olivia Hilchie. Olivia received a perfect score!

If you are interested in seeing what types of questions students were asked, please visit the following site [www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/contests.html](http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/contests.html)

If you go to the link for Beaver Computing Challenge, you can check out previous contests.

Stay tuned for more Math challenge opportunities at MSMS!

## Sports

The **boys volleyball** team had a good season , but unfortunately lost to Brookside in the semi-finals. The team played well and should be proud of their performances. Good work Boys!

A reminder to parents and students, all sports team information can be found on the "Athletics" webpage. On the MSMS homepage, under "Our School" and "For Students" you will find the "Athletics" link.

## Art Room Wish List

If any parents have the following items they would like to donate to the art room it would be greatly appreciated.

- Yarn
- Cream cheese / yogurt containers (big)

## Nova Scotia Homework Hub (NSHH)

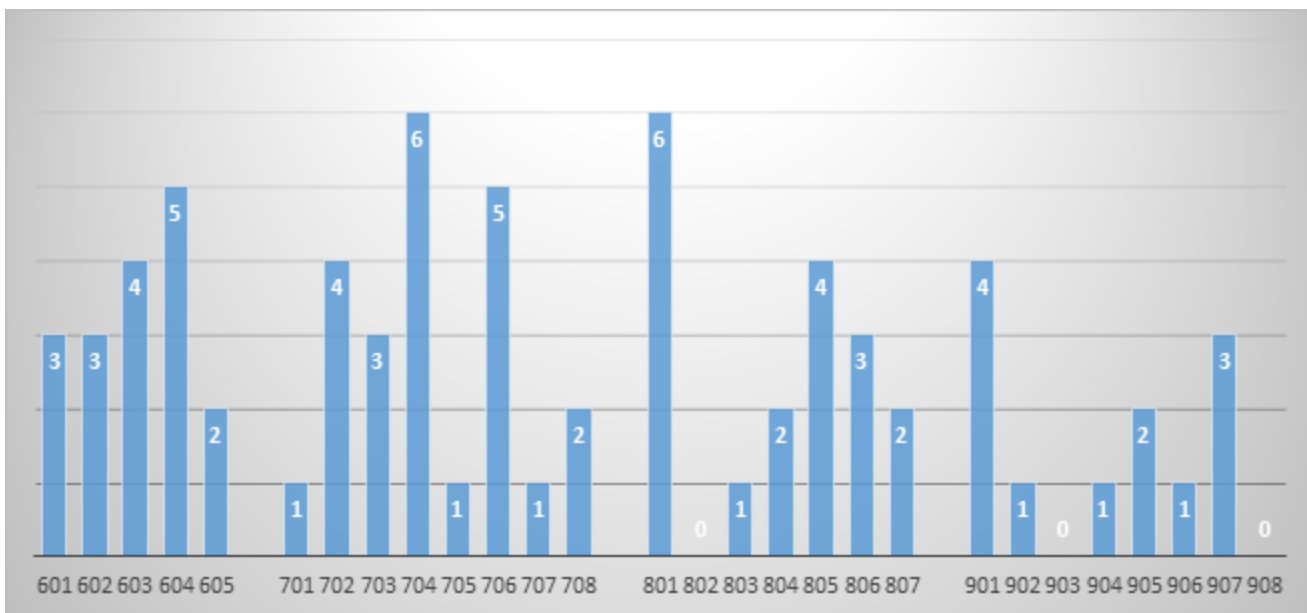
The Homework Hub provides mathematics support for all students enrolled in math courses in grades 9-11. Live tutoring is now available through the Homework Hub Sunday through Thursday evenings from 5:30-9:30 pm. Students can access the Homework Hub through their gnspe account.

## Celebrating Our Students

Earlier in the Fall, **Evan Peddle** of 701 participated at the ITF World Cup in Australia for **Taekwondo**. He competed in Patterns and Sparring against competitors from Brazil, Japan, US, Argentina, **Uzbekistan** to name a few. This was an incredible experience for Evan - competing against the World's finest. Congratulations to Evan for placing 3rd in Patterns and 8th in Sparring. An outstanding performance in Australia!

Just last month, Evan competed in the Nationals in Calgary earning Double Gold in both Patterns and Sparring. Congratulations!! MSMS would like to extend our best wishes to Evan for continued success in Taekwondo. The future is bright for Evan Peddle.

Madeline Symonds Middle School is pleased to announce that 156 students, or 22 % of our student population, have been awarded **perfect attendance** for the month of November.



We are also pleased to announce that 70 students have been awarded **perfect attendance for term one**. We would like to congratulate those with perfect attendance on their accomplishment. Well done !!!!

# Student Life Activity Council News!

October was an exciting month! Students participated in Halloween activities and earned points towards their class total. Students came dressed in costumes and the majority earned 5 out of 5 points towards their class total. *Halloween Song Trivia* was also a big hit! The last week of November, we had *Minute to Win it* competitions during lunch and last Friday, we had *Sports Day* as our theme day. Students were cheering on their classmate as they worked towards earning more points. Our cafeteria proved to be a happy, competitive noisy place. We are pleased that students have been actively engaged in our school community.

December is another hectic month! Here is a glance at the events and activities offered to students:

## CANDY GRAMS!



WHEN: Monday, December 10th to Friday, December 14th during lunch in the cafeteria  
COST: 1 FOR \$1 OR 6 FOR \$5

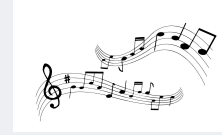
- *Candy Canes will be delivered on Thursday, December 20th*

## SNOWBALL BASKETBALL COMPETITION during lunch!



Competition day for Grades 7 & 9: Wednesday, December 19th  
Competition day for Grades 6 & 8: Thursday, December 20th

## NAME THAT TUNE! And PJ/Ugly Dance Party DAY!



WHEN: Friday, December 21st

THEME DAY: UGLY SWEATER and/or PAJAMA Day! Please note this is optional :O)

**PJ/Ugly Sweater Day DANCE PARTY in the afternoon!**