



January 2019 Newsletter



Important Dates

January 16 - Parents as career coaches 6:30pm

January 22 - Grade 9 Parent Information Meeting at C.P. Allen High School 6:30pm

January 24th - School Dance 6:30-8:30

February is Registration Month

February 1st - Grade 9 Trip Payment \$135.00

February 6th-15th Coins For Books Campaign

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year everyone and we hope you enjoyed a safe and restful holiday with family and friends! Life has been busy and productive during the last four months and we finished the year on a positive note. We have reviewed school expectations with all classes to ensure everyone has a clear understanding of our school policies surrounding responsible phone use, importance of leaving the snow on the ground, no earbuds in class and dressing appropriately for the weather, etc.

With the arrival of the New Year, we will be focusing our attention on supporting students with their academics, providing extracurricular activities and introducing more technology into the classroom and school practice. We have recently acquired 3 MIMEO Boards to use and have signed ourselves up for some experts to come in to teach coding. The staff is keen to develop technology within the school, and we appreciate your ongoing support and teamwork as we continue to strive for excellence.

Also in keeping with the New Year, is my resolution, that we all need to drink more water! (A better chance of me reaching my goal if I include everyone else !!lol) Therefore, 4 water bottle fill up stations will be installed this month to replace the older water fountains! 😊

Lastly, I would like to thank you for all the positive and or constructive feedback received throughout the year. I would encourage you to please contact us with any questions or concerns you have so we can address any issues as soon as they arise. Also a huge thank you to volunteer, Jennifer Ammouri, for her gracious donation of an additional microwave for the cafeteria 😊

Stay warm, drive safely and enjoy your day!

Respectfully, Kim Acorn 😊

MSMS Dance

When: Thursday, January 24, 2019 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Cafeteria

Cost: \$6.00 or \$5.00 with a non-perishable food bank donation

Tickets will be going on sale the week before the dance (starting on Tuesday, January 15) and will be made available to purchase during lunch times from January 15 - 24.

NOTE: Only students who attend MSMS are allowed at the dance. Students from other schools will not be permitted to attend.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Celebrating Our Students

Madeline Symonds Middle School is pleased to announce that 195 students, or 28 % of our student population, have been awarded ***perfect attendance*** for the month of December. We would like to congratulate them on their accomplishment. Well done !!!!

Camryn Pellerine will be travelling this February to Red Deer, Alberta as part of the women's gymnastics team to represent Team Nova Scotia in the Canada Games.

Ski Trips

Madeline Symonds will be holding two ski trips to Martock in February - one for grades 6 & 7 and one for grades 8 & 9. The Grade 6's and 7's will be going Tuesday, February 19th and the Grade 8's and 9's will be going Thursday, February 21st.

The cost of the trip will vary for individual students depending on if they need gear and/or a lift ticket.

All students attending must pay a discounted cost of \$10 for transportation.

There are 3 options available:

1. Lesson, lift ticket, rental and transportation = \$35
2. Lift ticket, rental and transportation = \$25
3. Transportation ONLY (Student already has their own equipment and season pass for Martock) = \$10

Ski trip forms will be available starting JANUARY 15TH. Students can pick up the forms from Mr. Landry in the Tech. Ed room (2029) or in the main office. *The deadline to return the forms is January 25th.*

Space is limited for both trips, as the bus can only accommodate 42 students. **The first 42 students that return their permission form AND payment will secure a spot.**

All forms and payments must be turned in to **Mr. Landry**, so that the forms can be numbered in sequence.

Cheques must be made out to Madeline Symonds Middle School and ***must include your child's name and homeroom within the memo section of the cheque.***

Busses for both trips will leave the school at approximately 9:45 am arriving at Martock for 10:45 am. Busses will leave the hill at 5:30 pm sharp. Families are responsible to make arrangements for their child/children to be picked up at MSMS at 6:30 pm. All students must be dressed properly and have adequate food and water for the duration of the trip.

Sports

The Winter sports season has started and our basketball & wrestling teams are ready to take the floor for competition.

The Boys and Girls Basketball teams have already had a couple of cancellations, but the first league game will take place for the Girls here at MSMS on January 10th.

The wrestling team has been practicing and preparing for their first meet on January 19th at King's-Edgehill School.

Good luck to all teams, work hard and Go Jaguars!

The **girls basketball team** participated in a pre-season tournament at Sackville High School in December. The girls played very well and came away with a 2-2 record. Great way to start the season. Good luck in league play!

Coins For Books Campaign

The 2019 Tattletales Coins for Books Campaign will run from **February 6th to February 15th**. All funds raised will be used to purchase new books for our school library. The Tattletales Fundraiser is especially rewarding because every dollar we raise can earn us up to an additional 50% return. This means that our fundraiser dollars can stretch a very long way! Information about this will be communicated to the students through Ms. Bolivar and the homeroom teachers. Thank you for your continued support of our school library.

Music Updates from Ms. Fawthrop

Congratulations to the Grade 7 to 9 Band students for a great first concert of the year. It was lovely to see parents, families and our audience out at our December concert. The new year has begun with many new ideas. Students in all three grades are working on classical improvisation, music games, as well as writing music. A composition project has begun in all 7 to 9 Band classes. Please be sure to ask to hear your musician's composition. We have already had a couple of great performances. Special mention goes out to Matthew McNeil and Joshua Zawidzki for being the first to perform their entertaining tune!

Grade 9 Chamber Ensembles: The grade 9 Band welcomes Halifax Regional Centre for Education Arts' Band specialist Joseph Cormier on Friday, January 11th for a 2 hour session on small group music making. The grade 9s will be using their after school rehearsal times on Thursdays to work in their chamber groups. You can look forward to these performances at our spring concert.

Please note: After school rehearsals continue to be from 2-3pm with Jazz (Monday), Grade 7 Band (Tuesday), Grade 8 (Wednesday) and Grade 9 (Thursday). Thank you for your continued support in picking students up for 3pm.

The grade 6 band is moving along so very well and I believe you should be hearing some tunes each and every day. This week we are focusing on playing in a round and fairly soon we will be playing the full band pieces as our community heard from our 7 to 9 band in December. We certainly missed showing off our new music skills in the grade 6 band. I hope you're hearing some great improvements and enjoying the music at home!

From the Guidance Office:

Our grade 9 students will soon be registering for grade 10. Please ensure your child is able to login to PowerSchool, they will need to input their course selections on PowerSchool once the process comes to an end. If they don't have their login information, please ask them to speak to their homeroom teacher.

Here are a few important dates that all grade 9 parents and students need to be aware of:

Grade 10 Course Selection - Important Dates

January 15th – The IB Co-ordinator from C.P. Allen will be at MSMS to do a presentation on the IB program. This is for all grade 9 students.

January 22nd - Grade 9 Parent Information Meeting at C.P. Allen High School. This will take place at 6:30, in the cafeteria. All grade 9 parents and students are encouraged to attend!

January 29th – The C. P. Allen Guidance Counsellors will be at MSMS to present information on course selection. Please ensure all grade 9 students are in attendance to hear the important information that will be shared.

January 30th to February 5th – MSMS Guidance Counsellor will do a follow up presentation with grade 9 classes to ensure all course selection questions and concerns are addressed.

February 6th to February 19th – Students can request a meeting with Mrs. Hutchison (MSMS Guidance Counsellor) to discuss course selection, if needed.

February 20th- IB Information session with grade 9 and 10 IB parents. This will take place at C.P. Allen High School, starting at 6:30.

February 22nd – Lunch and learn at MSMS with O2 Coordinator from C.P. Allen. This is only for students applying for the O2 program.

February 22nd – Deadline for Grade 10 course selection. Hard copy of course selection needs to be completed and given to grade 9 homeroom teachers.

March 1st – C.P. Allen Guidance Counsellors visit MSMS to support students with course selection input on PowerSchool.

April 3rd – O2 interviews

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.

Homerroom	December
601	Kiernan White
602	Molly DeBay
603	Anna MacLellan
604	Anna Zervobeakos
605	Camden MacIsaac
701	Callum Aucoin
702	Grace Moulton
703	Alysha Benoit
704	Alyia Wilson
705	Samantha Rice
706	Kate Bussey
707	Gracie Reid
708	Jonathan Shepshelevich
801	Evan Urquhart
802	Anna Kenny
803	Evan Urquhart
804	Ainsley Doucet
805	William Reichheld
806	Samantha Hovey
807	Jack Boutillier
901	Junqueira Veinotte
902	Simon Allen
903	Malaika Williams
904	Erika Kelly
905	Olivia Hilchie
906	Angelina Howell
907	Alexander Boha
908	Loghan MacLeod

Parents as Career Coaches

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development offers Parents as Career Coaches, a program offered at no cost to parents and guardians of junior and senior high school students across Nova Scotia. This program equips parents to better support their children in making informed and successful education and career choices. MSMS will be holding a one session program to help parents begin to explore their child's interest, skills & personal qualities, which will help them eventually make career decisions.

Why should I attend a PACC session?

While school staff and others play a role in a child's career journey, studies have shown that parents have the most impact. Other studies have shown that the ideal time to begin exploring careers is with children in junior high. PACC will provide you with:

- information that will help you understand and deal with the many twists and turns that can occur.
- course selection information.
- details on critical skills and personal qualities required to be both competitive and successful, in the work force.
- resources, which will provide information on specific jobs, labour market demands, education/training requirements, salaries and much more.
- a parent guide designed to help you work with your children throughout their career journey.
- a student workbook, which provides your daughter or son with information and activities to:
 - Identify interests and skills
 - Research occupations

Who should attend?

Parents (grand-parents, foster parents, aunts, uncles etc.) of students in grade 9.

What have other parents said about the program?

This very popular program has received consistently strong ratings, from parents, over the 6 years. 98% of parents who rated this program as either "Excellent" or "Good".

Here are a few comments, from parents, who have attended PACC Middle/Junior High:

"I cannot thank you enough for this course. It was excellent and I feel like I got a lot out of it. It was very inspiring."

"Excellent content, clear, easy to follow"

"Enjoyed the program. I am now more aware of different careers so I can help my children find the right one for them"

"I didn't know what to expect, but I found the program informative & helpful – a very positive approach to the "big unknown" of career choices. Very much enjoyed this session."

The Middle/Junior High program takes one evening to complete.

School: Madeline Symonds Middle School

Date: Wed. Jan 16 (Snow Date, if required, Jan 17)

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm

Location: Madeline Symonds Middle School

You can register for an upcoming session at

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/cbl/parents-career-coaches/sessions> If you do not have internet access or do not wish to register on the website, please contact the school office to add your name to the session list.

CODING COMING TO MSMS

Coding is integral to the successful development of students' critical-thinking, problem-solving and creativity skills. With this understanding, at MSMS, we continue to support students as they explore new technologies and new ways of creating solutions to problems that interest them. In the coming months we will be adding to our school's range of technology as we receive a number of Micro:Bit programmable microcontrollers for student use. Beyond the engaging simulations students may have already experienced, these devices will allow students to use the block coding framework, seen in Hour of Code puzzles and games, to program and control real electronics, including a wide range of input and output peripherals. We are excited to continue building our capacity to give students' access to tools they may use to eventually create solutions to problems we have yet to encounter.

If any parents are interested in supporting this effort or have experience in this field they would like to share, we invite you to join us. Please contact me at pohearn@hrce.ca if you would like to support us in this initiative.

Grade 9 Trip

At this point, the cost per student will be \$489.00 (based on the number of students who returned permission slips stating they will be going on the trip). The deposit (\$100.00) should have been paid by now and all permission slips returned. The remaining payments will be as follows (please make cheques payable to Madeline Symonds Middle School).

- February 1, 2019 - \$135.00
- March 1, 2019 - \$130.00
- April 1, 2019 - \$124.00

Winter Mugs Workshop At the HRCE Fine Arts Lab Monday Nights from 6-8pm Jan 7th-Jan 28th



Who: Open to all HRCE junior and senior high students.
Email dvankoughnett@hrce.ca to sign up.

What: Students will be introduced to hand building techniques and learn to create functional ceramic mugs. There will also be an opportunity to try throwing on a pottery wheel. Students get to keep and use all work they create!

Where: Rocky Lake Junior High (meet at the front door of the school at 5:55 on the first night).

When: Every Monday Night in January from 6-8pm