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## March 2019 Newsletter



### Important Dates

March 5 - Guidance Counsellors from CPA to visit grade 9 classes

March 7 - Live Different Presentations

March 7 - School Dance 6:30-8:30

March 8 - Assessment Day (No Classes)

March Break-18-22 (No Classes)

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Cold enough for you? **Don't despair – the February Blues are officially over and spring is coming!** Please take the time to read through the newsletter as there is a lot of good information in here we want to share with you. 😊

Registration month has concluded and we are expecting our school population to stay roughly the same for next year. Plans are in the works for events from now until the end of the year as time flies once you get to March.

We will be posting on our running timeline on the website for your convenience and I wanted to advise you that **grade 9 exams will be written on the 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> of June**. Of course more info will be sent out as the time nears but thought you'd want to know the dates when considering travel options as there will be no other alternative dates provided.

**Report cards will be going home on Thursday, April 4 and Parent Teacher will be on the afternoon and the evening of Thursday, April 11/19 with times TBA.**

**The set last day for teachers to accept overdue assignments will be Thursday, March 7 as our Assessment and Marking day is on Friday, March 8/19** so please check PowerSchool to see what assignments your child has outstanding and encourage them to get them in ASAP!

Teachers have the discretion to accept assignments up to March 15<sup>th</sup> for those who may need more time or have made arrangements with student or home to extend the deadline. Teachers are expected to have had communication with parents of any student that is in jeopardy of failing prior to this point and we appreciate the ongoing teamwork and support!

### **Intimate Images and Cyber-protection:**

The rapid growth of smartphones, social media and the anonymity of the online world has created increasing opportunity for cyberbullying and the unwanted sharing of intimate images. The impacts of these behaviours can be devastating for victims. Supports are available. For more information please visit [novascotia.ca/cyberscan](http://novascotia.ca/cyberscan) and I believe you will receive an email notice on this from the Province. If you believe your child is a victim of cyberbullying, or that an intimate image of them was shared without their consent, call CyberScan at 902-424-6990 or toll free at 855-702-8324.

### **Momo Challenge**

Concerns have been brought to our attention about the online Momo challenge and the possible safety risk it could pose for students. If you haven't heard of this, it is allegedly a pop-up message appearing on platforms such as WhatsApp and YouTube, through which children receive a picture of a bird-like grinning figure and messages compelling them to engage in dangerous activities or self-harm, and not to tell their parents about it. It has been online for a few months now, but it seems to be increasing in frequency. You can learn more from the attached media clip:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/police-in-u-k-issue-warning-about-momo-challenge-urging-kids-to-self-harm-1.4313148>

It is important to remember that urban legends and internet hoaxes spring to life periodically and can cause concern, especially among young children. You may remember that talk of clowns caused disruption in the fall of 2016. Any situation, even a hoax, that frightens children is one we need to take seriously. This has been brought to our attention this week by some students and we've had the guidance counsellor speak to the younger grades already and will be speaking to all our classes about this but just wanted you to be aware and informed.

If you ever receive any information about this type of thing please let us know right away and we thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Last but not least, on behalf of all of us here at MSMS, I'd like to extend congratulations to Riana Surovkin in 906 who became a Canadian Citizen yesterday!  
Happy Friday, Everyone and enjoy your weekend!

Kim Acorn 😊

### **African Heritage Month**

February was African Heritage Month. The 2019 provincial theme, Our History and Our Culture, recognized the unique history of African Nova Scotians and how the rich history is interwoven throughout the fabric of Nova Scotia. Here at Madeline Symonds Middle School, we proudly shared biographies each morning of people of African descent who broke systemic barriers and paved the way for present and future generations to come behind them. African proverbs were also shared to convey wisdom, teach life lessons, and discover new ideas. We were fortunate to have the Maritime Centre for African Dance visit Madeline Symonds to host an interactive workshop for all staff and students that featured modern and traditional African dance, as well as African drumming.

See the Celebrating Our Students section for the results of the African Nova Scotia Quiz Challenge.

### **School Dance**

March 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30p.m. Tickets go on sale from March 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> during both lunches. Tickets are \$6.00 each or \$5.00 with a non-perishable food item which will be donated to the local Food Bank. This dance is open to all MSMS students from grades 6, 7, 8 and 9. However, there are no students allowed to attend from other schools. Hope to see you there!

### **Thank You!**

The Physical Education department at MSMS would like to extend a sincere thank you to Liz Highfield at Goodlife Tantallon for the generous donation of several sets of Body Pump equipment. We look forward to putting this equipment to good use.

## Celebrating Our Students

Congratulations to the MSMS African Nova Scotia Quiz Challenge Team that finished in 1st Place with 115 points in the qualifying round of the **NS African Heritage Youth Quiz** at the Halifax North Library. They have advanced to the semi-finals on March 7th. Team members are: **Curtis Smith, Treyvonne Gabriel, Jayreece Whiley, Malaika Williams, Reagan Ewing, Diondre Sparks and Mr. Borden (coach)**.

On the weekend of March 29-31 **Samantha Benoit** (grade 9) will be traveling to Brantford Ontario with the Blind Sports Nova Scotia Provincial Junior Goalball Team to play in the Eastern Canadian / Ontario provincial goalball tournament. Goalball is a paralympic sport that is designed for athletics with vision impairments. The objective of the game is for the teams who are all blind folded to throw the ball using a bowling motion into their opponents net. The ball has bells inside it to help the players determine the direction of the ball.

Madeline Symonds Middle School is pleased to announce that 87 students, or 12 % of our student population, have been awarded ***perfect attendance*** for the month of February. We would like to congratulate them on their accomplishment. Well done !!!!

## Coins For Books Campaign

The coin campaign was successful, raising \$1000 for new books for the MSMS library. The winning classes were 603 (for the 4th consecutive year) and 901, but the big winner is the library! Over the last 4 years we have raised \$4,641.68 for new books in our library. Every year Tattletales Bookstore also contributes to this fundraiser and on average has given schools an additional \$0.50 for every dollar raised. This helps our fundraised dollars go even further. Thank you to everyone for their support.

## Grade 9 Trip

The Gift Card fundraiser has come to an end with Wayne Freeman winning the \$550 in grocery gift cards. This was a great fundraiser for those that participated. We have a few more ideas for fundraising but are wondering if there are still families that would like to participate. If you are still looking to fundraise for the grade 9 trip please email Mrs. Bolivar to let her know, [wbolivar@hrce.ca](mailto:wbolivar@hrce.ca) Possible ideas are a Veseys Bulbs campaign, or a spaghetti supper.

Statements were sent home in February and show payments and fundraising to date as well as the remaining balance.

## Variety Show

Staff and students are busy rehearsing for MSMS's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Variety Show! Come see all the wonderful talent we have for a night of entertainment. There will be 3 shows in total; the show that is open to the public will be Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm, \$5 at the door. Proceeds will go towards a benevolent cause and to support the grade 9 trip general fund.

## From the Guidance Office

### **Summer Camp at Maskwa!**

- Spend the summer outdoors with friends, going paddling, swimming, hiking and more! Stay active and fit, while learning lots about the sport of canoe / kayak, and having a summer you'll never forget!
- Weekly Adventure Day Camps for ages 8-12
- 8-Week Summer Paddling Programs for ages 8-16
- Questions? Contact us: [info@maskwa.ca](mailto:info@maskwa.ca) or 902-443-0178
- Registration opens March 1, 2019!
- Visit [www.maskwa.ca](http://www.maskwa.ca) for details!

### **IWK Community Health Teams Spring 2019 FREE Programs:**

- Parenting your Teenager: Walking the Middle Path – 1-Day Workshop
- Mental Health First Aid: Adults Interacting with Youth
- My Child is Anxious. Should I Worry? 2 week program
- Parent Wellness Series

If you are interested in learning more or registering for these programs, please call 902-460-4560 or go to [www.CommunityHealthTeams.ca](http://www.CommunityHealthTeams.ca)

## Science Fair

Mme. Luff would like to extend a huge congratulations to the members of the Science Fair Club. A huge thank you goes out to **Finley Nakatsu**, our 2 time National Champ, who served as mentor to our group this year. The club members will be competing in the Halifax Sci-Tech Expo on March 29th. The participants and projects are as follows: **Lillian McGrath and Alex Gibbs**: "Something to th-INK about". This project studied the possibility of improving the ability to retain information using memory triggers such as color coding key words in a sample writing piece to be memorized; **Ryan Wilson and Tristan Davies**: "A whale of a problem". This project involved the creation of an innovative tag to attach to the north atlantic right whale to detect blood caused by the whales being caught in vertical lobster traps and other devices that may cause harm. The goal of this device would be to send a signal to the Coast Guard that help is needed to the animal in distress, as well as provide the location.; **Sullivan Nakatsu**: "Come Sail Away". This project tested finding the best Velocity Made Good for a Laser sailboat. What this entailed is finding the optimum angle of attack vs speed ratio for the sail to realize peak performance in Vmg; **Alex MacLean**: "Scamming on my own two feet". This project involved studying how informed young people are regarding the dangers of sharing information on the World Wide Web. A shout out goes to **Josh Zawidski** for assisting Alex through the testing portion of his project. Through a survey, this project tested the readiness of students to give personal information to a stranger, or realize the danger and resist sharing information. If you are able, please come out and view their projects at St. Mary's University from 2-4pm on March 29th in the Loyola Conference Room on the St. Mary's University Campus. Hope to see you there!

## Aboriginal and African Nova Scotian students

On Monday March 4th a number of Aboriginal and African Nova Scotian students from Madeline Symonds Middle School will be attending an event at Dalhousie University put on by the Canadian Space Agency. Students will watch a live stream with astronaut David (Tapit) Saint-Jacques as he flies over Halifax in the International Space Station. During this live stream a few students will get to ask a science based questions of Tapit. Following the live

stream students will also get to tour either the Oceans or Engineering Departments at Dalhousie University.

### 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>Homerroom</b>	<b>February</b>
<b>601</b>	Candace Snair
<b>602</b>	Lachie Dewar
<b>603</b>	Madison McCullum
<b>604</b>	Olivia Thompson
<b>605</b>	Aiden Milne
<b>701</b>	Owen Phillips
<b>702</b>	Matthew McCarron
<b>703</b>	Laruen Boudreau
<b>704</b>	Kerri MacDougall
<b>705</b>	Reagan Ewing
<b>706</b>	Paige Jenkins
<b>707</b>	Gillian Ryan
<b>708</b>	Kayleigh Tree
<b>801</b>	Ella Thorne
<b>802</b>	Aimee May
<b>803</b>	Jessie Shute
<b>804</b>	Tyree David-Reddick
<b>805</b>	Skylar Harding
<b>806</b>	Ella Boudreau
<b>807</b>	Jorjah Kelly
<b>901</b>	Sam Benoit
<b>902</b>	Ryan Smith
<b>903</b>	Peyton Fougere
<b>904</b>	Merek Lohnes
<b>905</b>	Joshua Zawidski
<b>906</b>	Grace MacNeil
<b>907</b>	Jessica MacNeil
<b>908</b>	Camryn Pellerine

## Community Year End Celebration

Dear Grade 9 Parents and Guardians,

Tickets for the year end celebration will take place the week of March 11<sup>th</sup> at the school. Tickets will be on sale Monday, Wednesday and Friday at lunch time. Tickets are \$30 CASH only. A signed waiver is necessary for ticket purchase. These waivers will be handed out the week of March 4<sup>th</sup> at school. If your student does not come home with a waiver please print out an online waiver at <https://hatfieldfarm.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/waiver1.pdf>

We hope to see every Grade 9 student take part in this event!

### FAQ

What is the schedule of events?

7:30pm - Check in at main office and pictures. There will be a photo wall set up against a barn for students and parents to take pictures.

8:30pm - Departure to lodge on wagon.

8:45pm-11:15pm - Dance and campfire with pizza, drinks and snacks. There will be a second photo wall set up inside the lodge for students to take pictures.

11:30pm - Pickup at main office.

Will there be pictures at the Bedford Waterfront or Public Gardens?

This is not something we are organizing for the students as we have already arranged for photos at the event location. Students who would like to take pictures with friends at other locations can of course do so earlier in the day.

What is the dress code?

This event is semi formal to formal. For example, students can wear anything from simple to fancy party dresses or dress shirts with jeans to suits.

Other things to note...

- Any bags that students bring to the lodge will be checked by staff. This ensures that prohibited items such as glass, fireworks, etc. are not taken into the event.
- Parent/guardian chaperones will be 1 adult per 15 students.
- If your student has any food allergies please attach a note to the front of your waiver. In regards to pizza there is a gluten free pizza option available upon request.
- In May we will have a meeting for any parents and guardians wishing to help out. Thank you to those that have offered to help already! Questions? Please email [julie\\_pants@yahoo.ca](mailto:julie_pants@yahoo.ca)

Need help with  
Mathematics  
in Grade  
9, 10, or 11?

Visit the NS Homework HUB

Nova Scotia  
Homework HUB

APPUI aux devoirs  
Nouvelle-Écosse

Visit [gnspes.ca](http://gnspes.ca)

**Are you a student in grade 9? Looking for extra math help?**

**Check out the NS Homework Hub!**

The Nova Scotia Mathematics Homework Hub is for students in grades 9, 10, and 11 to access Mathematics support in both English and French. Tutors are available, either online or by telephone, for students in an Mathematics course in Grade 9, 10, and 11. Access to free 20 minute one-on-one online tutoring sessions are available at [gnspes.ca](http://gnspes.ca), simply login to your gnspes account and click the Homework Hub icon. Tutors can be accessed by phone by calling toll free 1-844-243-9428 (Press 9 if you do not know your telephone tutoring access PIN when calling in). NS Homework Hub also offers students access to additional learning resources that include video lessons, practice exercises, quizzes with instant feedback, a digital version of the mathematics textbooks, and a scientific and graphing calculator.

Students can access the Mathematics Tutors: Sunday- Thursday from 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.