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April 2019 Newsletter



Important Dates

April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day

April 4 - Report Cards sent home

April 8th-SAC 6pm

April 11- PD am/ Parent Teacher pm (No Classes)

April 12 - Day of Silence

April 19 - Good Friday (No Classes)

April 22- Easter Monday (No Classes)

April 22 - Earth Day

April 25 - Variety Show 6:30pm

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Who knew seeing bare pavement could be so exciting! It wasn't the worst winter this year and there were very little interruptions to school with 4 storm days but we'll be happy to see the sun shine and weather warm up! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at MSMS for doing extra coverage on those many days that subs were unable to be found as well as for ensuring all students were safe during transitions.

We're starting to plan for next year and our February registration numbers, plus any new registrants this year, will determine our ability to take any new Out of Area students requests that are allowed to be submitted in April. Last August we had approximately 20 late registrants move into the area for late registration!

We have been getting some calls asking for dates for year end and we encourage you to access our website that has a running calendar of events. (See the link at the top of this newsletter) Most notably the grade 9 exams are in the gym on June 19 and 20 and will be for the 4 core subjects. More detailed information will follow. 😊

Report Cards will be sent home with the students this Thursday, April 4/19!

Parent Teacher Interviews

We hope to see parents during the scheduled times of 12:30 – 2:30pm on Thursday, April 11 and again that evening from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Please go on the website to sign up. We apologize for the wait times and have asked teachers to try and limit conversation to less than 10 minutes. If you have any questions or concerns, please bring them up with the teacher and I am available at the office if you need to see me.

Everyone is looking forward to better weather and to getting outside but we encourage you to ensure your child strikes a balance between school work and play as this is the time to “pour it on”. Our school performs well overall and we’re proud of our students’ accomplishments! At this time, we need to either ‘keep up the good work’ or ‘put our noses to the grindstone’ to ensure all students do well academically and finish strong for the 2018 – 19 school year. 😊

Professional Development is Key

- More than two decades ago the school year in Nova Scotia was increased from 190 to 195 days.
- One reason for this change was to accommodate in-servicing and Professional development for teachers without costing students valuable instructional time.
- Professional development is critical for teachers in their efforts to provide the best learning opportunities for students.
- According to recent data, teachers in Nova Scotia do more than 65 hours of PD per year (much of it during weekends, evenings, and summer months), while the school calendar allows for only 25 hours.
- Unfortunately, parents are not always aware of the benefits that professional development of teachers, and support staff, provides to students.
- Some would support that all PD activities occur during the summer months. The fact is, most new initiatives are introduced at the beginning of a school year, while others are introduced during the year for teachers to make appropriate assessments and enhance the teaching of these initiatives. It is necessary to support the teaching and learning with in-servicing at strategic moments in time.
- Educational programs, strategies, resources, philosophies, and initiatives continue to change at a rapid pace. Teachers must keep abreast of the evolution.
- Lastly, there is always staff turn over and often staffing is not complete until the end of August.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES: This is the time of year when school supplies may need to be replenished.

Please check with your child to make sure he/she has enough paper, pens, pencils, erasers and so on to make it until the end of June. Thanks so much for your help!

Respectfully Yours,

Kim Acorn 😊

Yearbook Orders

Yearbooks can be ordered by visiting ybpay.lifetouch.ca. The ID code is 11358619.

The deadline to order is April 30th. Students can also pick up order forms at school (we will be distributing them) and bring in cash.

SLAC

Last month, Student Life Activity Council (SLAC) hosted a Food Art Competition. Students were given the opportunity to give back to our community while having fun building artistic structures using the food that was collected over a two week period. It was a delight to see the creativity from our students! Food items were donated to Feed NS and we are so proud of our Jaguars. During the delivery, Feed NS were very appreciative of our campaign. Out of curiosity, we asked that the food be weighed. MSMS donated **600lbs** of food. SLAC would like to thank and show our gratitude to students and community members for your generosity.

April events include Musical Kahoot which will be hosted during lunchtime. On May 13th-16th, is Carnival week! Stay tuned for upcoming details!

GRADE SEVENS CODING WORKSHOP

During the last week of March, MSMS hosted presenters from KidsCodeJeunesse (KCJ). KCJ is a Canadian not for profit organization dedicated to empowering children and educators, with a particular focus on girls and children from disadvantaged groups, with the skills we all need to thrive in a technology driven society. By bringing digital learning experiences into the classroom and in communities, they teach Canadians how to be better thinkers and better creators in a digital world.

These sessions gave all grade seven classes the opportunity to experience coding with the Micro:bit (a single board programmable micro computer) and the online simulator app 'MakeCode'.

During the workshop, students and educators had the opportunity to create animations and interactive games, and to learn computational thinking concepts like sequences, loops, and modularization through activities both on and off the computer.

Thanks to resources supplied to us by KCJ for participating in the workshop, students and teachers at MSMS now have access to Micro:bits for curriculum enhancement through activities involving coding and physical computing.

Thank you KidsCodeJeunesse!

Celebrating Our Students

Madeline Symonds Middle School is pleased to announce that 242 students, or 34% of our student population, have been awarded **perfect attendance** for the month of March. We would like to congratulate them on their accomplishment. Well done !!!!

April is Autism Awareness month, here are a few information links.

<https://www.autismspeaks.ca/get-involved/participate/world-autism-month/>

<https://autismcanada.org/get-involved/national-autism-awareness/>

To celebrate Dance Week, we are having Sock Hops at lunch time on Wednesday, April 24 for the grades 8 and 9 and on Monday, April 29 for the grades 6 and 7

African-Nova Scotian History Challenge Awards:

On Friday, March 29th, Madeline Symonds Middle School took home awards for their ANS-History Challenge entries, for the third consecutive year! This year, we received multiple honourable mentions that were complete with a \$50.00 gift card to their respective classes, as well as an overall school award with a \$100.00 gift card, to recognize the number of amazing entries by our students and their teachers.

Featured in these photos are students from 903 and 904, of Ms. Ernest's multi-class submission, homeroom students of Ms. Munroe and Mr. O'Hearn, accepting on behalf of Ms. Lee's multi-class art submission, as well as two students from Ms. Maheney's class submission. Not featured are students of the other winning entries from Ms. Sydney and Ms. William's classes.

Congrats to all of the students and teachers who submitted entries celebrating ANS History!! Also, thank you to our African Nova-Scotian Support Worker, Mr. Borden, for providing the information for this amazing opportunity!!

#OurHistoryIsYourHistory



The 905 class have completed their bench, “giving back project” and now they are being displayed in our downstairs hallway for students to sit on. Madeline Symonds would like to thank all of these students for their hard work.



On March 29th the **MSMS Science Fair Club** competed in the Annual Halifax Sci-Tech Expo. This competition was comprised of 16 Halifax Area Schools, both private and public. MSMS sent 6 students representing 4 projects, as projects could be done by individuals or teams of 2 students. A HUGE congratulations goes out to the Science Fair Club members of MSMS! With more than 85 projects competing and twice the number of projects in the Junior category of grade 7-8 this year, competition was fierce. From our team we had the following results:

A great representation by Alex McLean from grade 9 with his project - Scamming on my Own Two Feet

The following awards were also won by students of MSMS:

Awards of Excellence - these metals are awarded to the top 25% projects in their age category. 12 projects received this prestigious award in the grade 7/8 division, including 3 from MSMS as follows:

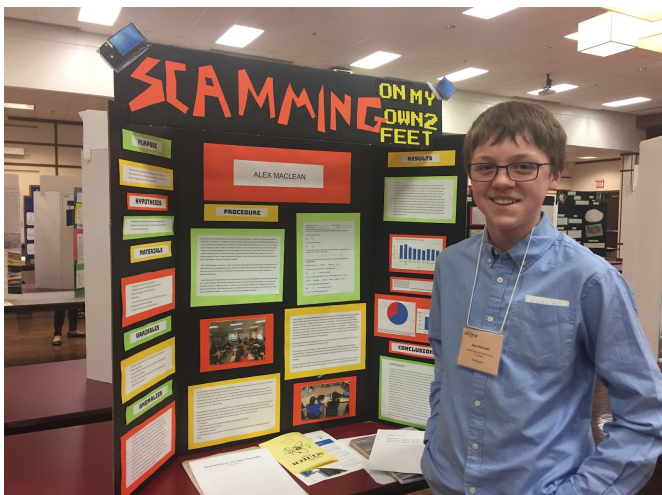
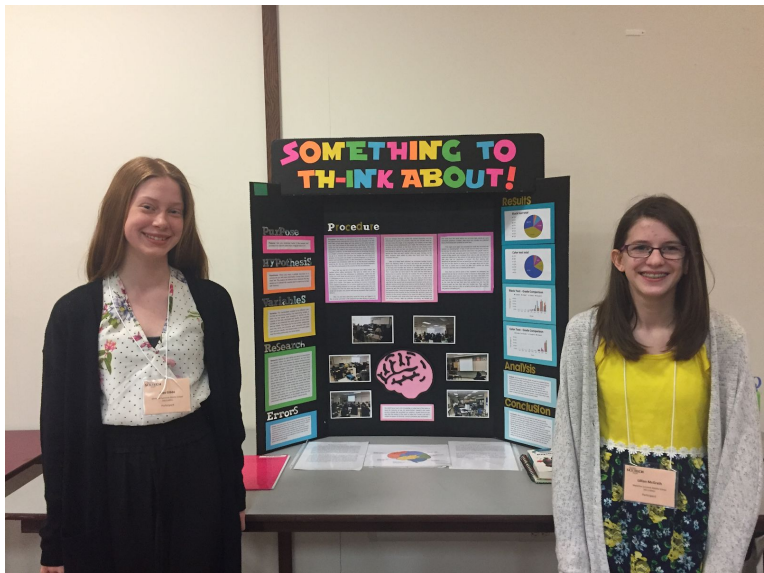
Alex Gibbs and Lillian McGrath Grade 7 - Something to Th-INK about
Sullivan Nakatsu Grade 7 - Come Sail Away
Tristan Davies and Ryan Wilson Grade 7 - Whale of a Problem

Grand Prize Winners - this is awarded to 6 students out of the entire Sci-Tech Expo competition. Students must win a Metal of Excellent to be considered for the Grand Prize and it can be presented to either 3 teamed projects (amounting to 6 students), 6 individual projects or a combination. These students are awarded an all expense paid trip to compete in the week long National Science Fair as part of Team Nova Scotia being held in Fredericton, NB this year. MSMS won 2 of the 6 spots this year with the following duo project:

Tristan Davies and Ryan Wilson Grade 7 - Whale of a Problem

Congratulations to all who participated! MSMS was well represented and we are so proud of all of you!

Michelle Luff



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.

Homeroom	March
601	Matthew McCallum
602	Layla El-Azzi
603	Kaylin Victory
604	Ja'Tez Jackson
605	Alexis Keigan
701	Spencer Mathers
702	Brooklyn King
703	Izzie Emanuel
704	Connor Andjelic
705	Harley Bently
706	Emily Levy
707	Morgan Bell
708	Ciara Van der put
801	Jaden Eisenhauer
802	Eva Smith
803	Kyra Maritz
804	Sydney Dewar
805	Kate Melanson
806	Haley Scully-Maloney
807	Tatum Murray
901	Laura Cuthbertson
902	Ryan McCarthy
903	Emily Kenny
904	Leland Prescott
905	Cameron Beaton
906	Riana Surovkin
907	Jayna MacIsaac
908	Kiley Nicholson

Community News

Last year, Long and McQuade in association with the Dartmouth Music Department ran the yearly Beginner Band Camp. We will continue to work together and run the camp again this year from August 26-30 from 9am-12pm at the Long and McQuade store in Dartmouth.

The L&M Beginner Band Camp is an opportunity for ANY HRCE student enrolled in grade 6 band, for 2019-20, or who is starting a new instrument for school band, to get a thorough introduction to their band instruments.

Our one-week beginner band program is a 5-day program designed to teach the fundamentals of playing an instrument in the Grade 6 Band Program. At the end of the week we will show off the talents with a Friday concert!

In addition to the L&M Beginner Camp we will run a Band “Fun-damentals” camp for Junior-Intermediate concert band students in the afternoon from 1pm-4pm.

L&M’s Band “Fun-damentals” Camp is a one-week afternoon experience designed to encourage band students from Grade 7-11 to fuel their musical enthusiasm and boost their playing skills. Talented musicians are invited to camp with the expectations of taking their performance skills to the next level. Students will receive varied activities such as full band rehearsals, sectional instruction, small ensembles, master classes, ear training, rhythm training, sight reading, and a Friday concert with a conductor and instrumental specialists.

Not done yet we will also be running from August 19-23 from 9am-12pm the L&M Jazz Camp for aspiring jazz musicians of all ages who wish to explore the nature of jazz and develop the skills needed to play jazz and improvise with more confidence and understanding

THE 2019 CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH SUMMER CAMP LISTINGS ARE FINALLY HERE!

Looking for ways to help your child gain independence, share experiences, build new skills, and discover new interests, all while learning French?

Check out the guide to learn about the opportunities for young French second language learners, and their families, to engage in continued learning, creativity and fun en français!

Take a look at the camp options in your region,
<https://cpf.ca/en/activities-resources/for-youth/cpf-summer-camps> and register today!

If you don't see a camp in your area please contact your local CPF Branch or Chapter for more information.



SUMMER MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM RETURNS FOR 2019!

THIS YEAR'S THEME...

BROADWAY: THEN & NOW

TWO WEEKS OF MUSICAL THEATRE TRAINING IN CORNWALLIS, NOVA SCOTIA

All Levels - Ages 7 up (Adult program also available)

Taught by Broadway and West End performers

Group rates available

End of course Theatre showcase (500 seat theatre)

Live in or day camp available*

Hotel style accommodation - En Suite available

Free Wifi - Access to swimming pool and gym - TV

21ST JULY - 3RD AUGUST 2019

Email - info@theamta.com

Visit - theamta.com/can

   @theAMTA

*Ages 11 up live in only



DON'T JUST DREAM IT ~ DO IT

How to send your kids to an HRM Recreation summer camp in 2019 This

information was prepared to help SchoolsPlus staff, families, and others. It is not an official HRM Recreation document.

WHEN TO REGISTER, AND WHY: If you can, register at 10:00 am, Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

- **Registration opens at 10am on April 10.** Some camps fill right away. If HRM Recreation camps are important to your family, do what you can to **register at 10:00**. Later that day, some camps will be full.
- HRM Recreation has a brand new online registration system. This system can handle thousands of registrations at once, without crashing. This means that **some camps may fill within minutes!**
- If you have Internet access, and you've done your prep work (see below and the next page), you can register each child for camp in about 5 minutes. It won't take much time!
- You don't have to register online. You have two other options:
 - To register by phone, call 902 490 6666. You will need camp barcodes and a credit card.*
 - To register in person, go to any HRM Rec Centre & pay with cash, cheque, debit or credit card*.
- **You have to pay* when you register. See info. below on the new system for 50% and 100% discounts!** * Credit cards accepted by HRM Recreation: Visa, Visa Debit, MasterCard, or MasterCard Debit.

WHAT CAMPS ARE AVAILABLE?

HRM Recreation summer camps are now posted online at: <https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/programs-activities/programs-registration>. On this web page, look for two things: 1. **Scroll down to find a heading called "Summer 2019 Programs."**

- Under this heading, you'll see a list of HRM communities.
- Click on a community name, and see a list of summer programs. Select camps from these lists.
- Each camp has a number, or bar code. Write down the bar codes of the camps that interest you.
- Make sure the camps you choose are for your child's age and the correct dates.
- You may want to look for camps in more than one community. You can make a list with your first and second choices, in case your first choices are full. 2. **Also see a solid blue box that reads, "Create account/login."** See below for how to create an account.

WHAT YOU MUST DO BEFORE REGISTERING YOUR CHILD FOR CAMP:

1. Create an online account with *MyRec*. Do this BEFORE April 10!

You have to do this, even if you already have an HRM Rec account. This is because HRM Rec has a brand new online registration system, called *MyRec*. It will take 10 or 15 minutes to create accounts for everyone in your family. Go to:

<https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/programs-activities/programs-registration>. Click on the blue box with the words, **"Create account/login."**

2. Will you need financial help to pay for camp?

Your family may qualify for a 50% discount, a 100% discount, or no discount. Your HRM Rec discount depends on your income and the number of people in your family. The amounts are listed below:

Discounts (subsidies) are granted according to Revenue Canada's 2018 Low-Income Cut Off:

1 or 2 people in family: \$31,544 or less for **50%** discount; \$15,772 or less for **100%** discount. 3 people in family: \$38,780 or less for 50% discount; \$19,390 or less for 100% discount. 4 people in family: \$47,084 or less for 50% discount; \$24,042 or less for 100% discount. 5 people in family:

\$53,402 or less for 50% discount; \$26,701 or less for 100% discount. 6 people in family: \$60,228 or less for 50% discount; \$30,114 or less for 100% discount. 7 or more in family: \$67,055 or less for 50% discount; \$33,527 or less for 100% discount.

Info. on financial help continues, next page > > >

Continued from page 1: Will you need financial help to pay for camp?

- Go to <https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/programs-activities/funding-access-application>. Read all the details on this page. Download, print, and complete the 1-page form, "Funding Access Application."
- **ASAP, take your completed form and your June 2018 Canada Child Benefit assessment to your nearest Community Recreation Centre.** A full-time staff member at the Centre reviews and approves all applications. This person will keep all your information confidential. It *may* take up to 2 weeks to process your application. **Do this now so that your discount is in place when you register for camp.**
- In the *MyRec* system, you only apply for financial aid once a year. Your discount is valid for 12 months. The discount is recorded as part of your *MyRec* account. When you register for any HRM Recreation programs, you and your family members will get this discount automatically.
- If you applied for this discount within the past few months, your discount should appear on your new *MyRec* account. You don't need to apply again right now. It's good for 12 months.

DOES YOUR CHILD NEED ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT?

Most children who require one-on-one support at school require it at summer camp, too. HRM is committed to providing safe & accessible programs for everyone to enjoy. HRM Recreation urges parents to **request this support when you register.** This will help ensure your child has a safe & successful time at camp!

There are new inclusion request procedures for summer 2019:

1. Go online between April 10 and 26, and enter the location and weeks that you prefer. **Please register your child using barcode 00010260, instead of registering with the barcode of your chosen camps.** All children requiring one-on-one support must be registered under this barcode by April 26. 2. A staff member will contact you in May to choose your preferred dates for support (up to 3 weeks) and camp location, and to discuss your child's support needs. You will pay once support is confirmed.

For more information, please see HRM Recreation's Summer Inclusion Support Policy: www.halifax.ca/recreation/programs-activities/policies-guidelines

For children with higher support needs: HRM Recreation has a new Inclusive Programming Opportunity:

"We are pleased to offer a new specialized inclusion program called 'Ready for Rec.' For more information, please refer to the Sackville Sports Stadium or the Captain William Spry Centre program offerings."

QUESTIONS?

- Contact Noreen Guptill at 902 490 4410 for inclusion-related questions.
- Contact your local Community Recreation Centre for all other camp-related questions.

This info. revised March 25, 2019 by Maura Donovan, MSW, RSW

*Assistant Leader, SchoolsPlus, Halifax West & JL Ilsley Families of Schools
Halifax Regional Centre for Education 902 471 6535*

