Madeline Symonds Middle School

Phone: (902) 832-2300 https://msm.hrce.ca/

Fax: (902) 832-2302 E-Mail: msms@hrce.ca

Twitter: @madelinesymonds October 2019

***Important Dates***

Oct. 8-11 - Grade 6 Assessments

Oct. 14 - Thanksgiving Day (No Classes)

Tuesday & Wednesday, Oct. 15 & 16 – Picture Day, starting with the 6’s and finishing with 9’s (Paul Adams Photographer)

Thursday Oct. 17 – School Dance 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Oct. 25 - Provincial Conference Day (No Classes)

Nov. 6 - Take our Kids to work day (Grade 9’s)

Nov. 7 - Remembrance Day Ceremony

**If there are any days your child is not attending school or will be late please call the office at 832-2300 to let us know so that we know your child is absent with permission and that the absent days are recorded as “excused” on the PowerSchool attendance records.**

*Did you know this is the 20th Anniversary for MSMS? Do you have any information on extraordinary achievements our alumni have obtained? Please send information to Ms. Bolivar at* [*wbolivar@hrce.ca*](mailto:wbolivar@hrce.ca)

**PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE**

**Well,time flies when you’re having fun and September blew by in a hurry! :)**

We’re off to a great start and there is a positive vibe throughout the building. Our 2 new cafeteria tables finally arrived and we were able to find two more to accommodate seating at lunch time so all of our students are in the cafeteria or on benches in the hallway outside the cafeteria.

**Curriculum Night** was well attended and teachers report good conversations, smiles and positive feedback! As well, thank you to our breakfast Club Team Ellie Allen, Madison Binder, Alexia Dupre, Emma Holland, Brooklyn King, Rachael Jessome for acting as school ambassadors and helping direct parents to classes.

We are pleased that parents have been calling for their **PowerSchool login information** so please contact one of our lovely administrative assistants, Michelle or Sarah at [michelle.ocoonor@hrce.ca](mailto:michelle.ocoonor@hrce.ca) or [morriss@hrce.ca](mailto:smorris@hrce.ca) . PowerSchool is the part of the iNSchool system which manages student information - such as demographics, attendance, behaviour, achievement and schedules. Staff update Powerschool at least every two weeks so please contact the teacher if you have any questions about their Powerschool.

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 and staff.

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 the principal or VP unlocks the door. Classes then go into a Hold and Secure so we have time to get to all classrooms and advise the Lock down is over. The admin then advises over the PA that the Hold and Secure is over and 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 and will remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. (The scheduled drill time frame was posted in last month’s newsletter) When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills and the feedback from the last one was excellent. SO good job staff and students!!

I would like to apologize in advance to the parents who inevitably come to pick up their child for an appointment while we are in the process of one of these drills and thank you for your understanding as we don’t do this to mess you up - it’s just appears to be Murphy’s Law. LOL

I was hoping to have some more 4 Squares games painted outside and wonder if we have anyone in the area who does line painting…? If so, please contact me. :) Also a big thank you to Mr Howie who’s looking into getting us a replacement flag for ours that was ravaged in Hurricane Dorian - much appreciated!

Lastly, I hope you can all find your way to feel thankful over this Thanksgiving weekend, focus on the positive and hopefully 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 have all of our present members returning to our School Advisory Council (SAC). Thank you to those who reached out and expressed interest to join us - we appreciate the interest and support! A list of our full council, will be posted on our school website after our initial meeting on Tuesday, October 8/19. 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 429 students, or 57 % 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 !!!!

**Cafeteria Information**

We want to thank you for ordering online at CAFZONE! It is a new single transaction for your children attending the same school. Please check out this improved online experience at [www.cafzone.ca](http://www.cafzone.ca). There is a space dedicated to questions and answers and we encourage you to familiarize with this site.

We apologize for the recent difficulties we have been experiencing with our debit machine. We are working with the Bank of America to get this situation rectified as soon as possible.

Lastly, we want to thank you for your patience and to commend you for raising children with such good manners.

**Sports**

The cross country running team started off the season with a very good meet at the Mariner Championships raced at Shubie Park on Oct 1st. Kysac MacDonald placed 2nd in Jr. Boys, Ellie Allen 5th in Jr. Girls and Cohen Hearn placed 6th in Intermediate Boys. Great effort by all runners. Our next meet will be the Regional Championships on Oct. 17th at Point Pleasant Park. Great work Team!

\*\*Students and parents are asked to view the "Athletics" webpage on our MSMS website for any school sport information.

**Grade 9 Year End Community Celebration**

The 2019 grade 9 students had an end of year celebration organized by parents with the support of the school. This event was a success and we would like for the 2020 grade 9 students to have this experience as well! We are looking for a parent to take the lead in helping to organize this celebration to take place in June 2020. Please contact Julie at julie\_pants@yahoo.ca or 902-817-7048 for more information.

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.

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| **Homeroom** | **September** |
| **601** | Nina O’Brien |
| **602** | Matthew McGillivray |
| **603** | Nicholas Kelly |
| **604** | Layla Hayward |
| **605** | Chase Hall |
| **701** | Jiya Jain |
| **702** | Anywin Burgess |
| **703** | Lynden Doyon |
| **704** | Kaleb Heckert |
| **705** | Devon Clamp |
| **706** | Catherine Khaperska |
| **707** | Ja’Tez Jackson |
| **708** | Ella Sanderson |
| **709** | Molly DeBay |
| **801** | Austin Romain |
| **802** | Nathan Craig |
| **803** | Callum Aucoin |
| **804** | Cole Johnson |
| **805** | Miah Kotzer |
| **806** | Kysac MacDonald |
| **807** | Kate Taylar |
| **808** | Hayden Miles |
| **901** | Colin Roberts |
| **902** | Georgia Bussey |
| **903** | Aimee May |
| **904** | Ella MacPhee |
| **905** | Grace Sullivan |
| **906** | Alexis Cluney |
| **907** | Flinn Cleary |

**Farm box fundraiser**

Thank you for your continued support of our breakfast program farm box fundraiser. We sold over 315 boxes. Boxes are to be picked up at the Humble Hippy on October 11th or 12th. You need to have your card with you for pick up. Reminder that add ons can be purchased at pick up with proceeds going towards the breakfast program. 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, McDonalds Tantallon and** **Humble Hippy** for their support of our fundraiser. Homeroom 901 was the winner of the ice cream class prize as they had the highest participation rate and Homeroom 605 won the pizza party as they sold the highest in farm boxes as a class.



**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...

If you have any questions or are interested in supporting our program please contact Mrs. Karen Binder at [kbinder@hrce.ca](mailto:kbinder@hrce.ca)

**We Day**

About 80 MSMS students came out for an information session regarding We Day Atlantic 2019. Not being able to take everyone, students were asked to create a video submission as to why they are the best fit to attend We Day. The event will take place on October 16th at Scotiabank Centre.

Stay tuned for more from this group throughout the school year as we develop and implement our fundraising initiatives!

**From the Guidance Office**

The Community Health Teams are a joint partnership between the IWK and the Nova Scotia Health Authority. They are offering the following FREE programs for parents in this community:

* My Child is Anxious. Should I worry? 2 week program
* Parenting your Teenager: Walking the Middle Path – 1-Day Workshop
* Parent Wellness Series-4 week program which covers My Child is Anxious as well as sessions on parent stress and parent sleep
* Mental Health First Aid—Adults Interacting with Youth—14 hour certification program

If you are interested in registering or have questions about the above programs, please call 902-460-4560.

If you are looking for information, resources, and treatment for people battling addiction and related conditions, please go to DrugRehab.com. This website provides patients and families with the necessary tools to overcome addiction. You will find information on spotting the signs and symptoms of substance abuse and hotlines for immediate assistance. If you feel this is relevant to your family, below are some pages that may be helpful.

<https://www.drugrehab.com/teens/>

<https://www.drugrehab.com/guides/parents/>

<https://www.drugrehab.com/teens/how-teens-get-drugs/>

<https://www.drugrehab.com/addiction/alcohol/peer-pressure/>

<https://www.drugrehab.com/addiction/alcohol/underage-drinking/>

***Take Our Kids to Work Day***, is taking place on **November 6thth, 2019**. This is an annual event where our grade 9 students step into their future for a day and get a glimpse into the working world. They spend the day in the workplace of a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host, where they experience and learn about the world of work. If you are interested in being a community host for one or more of our grade 9 students, please contact Mrs. Hutchison (School Guidance Counsellor) at [jhutchison@hrce.ca](mailto:jhutchison@hrce.ca)

**Calling all young entrepreneurs!**

Do you have a cool product you want to sell?

If so, go to <https://form.jotform.com/92593640863264> to fill out an application. You might be selected to take part in a one-day KidBiz event. Not only will you get to keep 100% of what you sell, you’ll get to have fun doing so with young entrepreneurs like yourself. The address of the event is 6779 St. Margaret's Bay Road. It will take place on Sunday October 20 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

While we would love to accommodate every young entrepreneur, space is limited. We will let you know the results in early October. If you have questions, please go to http://www.experienceshift.ca/

Best of luck!

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**Grade 6 NS Assessment**

Students enrolled in grade 6 English and French Immersion in all of NS public schools, will be participating in the Grade 6 REading, Writing and Math Assessment. MSMS students will participate in the assessment from Oct. 8-11.

**What is the purpose of this assessment?**

This assessment will gather information about individual student performance in reading, writing, and mathematics. The results will provide

* Teachers with information to inform instructional planning;
* Parents and guardians with information on their child’s performance;
* The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the school system with information to inform educational decisions.

**How can I help my child prepare for this assessment?**

No special preparation is necessary. A positive, relaxed attitude will help your child do their best. What your child has been learning in school has been preparing them for the assessment.

The following week will be used to make-up and sessions of the assessment your child misses due to being absent.

Individual results from last years Grade 8 assessments will be sent home to parents in mid October, details to follow.

**Remembrance Day**

We would like to reach out and include any veterans in our community in our Remembrance Day ceremony. If you would be interested in being part of our ceremony please contact Ms. MacNeil at rmacneil@hrce.ca

**PLAY**

**CHESS**

At the **Dartmouth Junior Chess Club**.

***Play fun games.***

Saturday afternoons from 1 - 4.00 p.m. at Alderney Gate Library in Dartmouth.

School age players at all levels are welcome.

There is no charge.

***Get help from local experts.***

For more information phone:

Library Youth Services 490 5748 or Don Bidgood 463 7667



