

Madeline Symonds Middle School



Phone: (902) 832-2300

Fax: (902) 832-2302

Twitter: @madelinesymonds

<https://msm.hrce.ca/>

E-Mail: msms@hrce.ca

November 2019

Important Dates

November 11 - Remembrance Day (No Classes)

November 13 - Picture retake day

November 22 - Assessment and Evaluation Day (No Classes)

November 27 - Parent teacher 6pm-8pm

November 28 - PD am (No Classes)

Parent Teacher 12:30-2:30 pm (No Classes)

November 25- 29 - Book Fair in the Library

December 5 - Band Concert 6pm-8pm

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.

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Time has certainly flown, partly due to the nice weather and also because there is always something good happening at MSMS! Our staff is involved and committed to school life and the enrichment that comes with interacting with the students outside of the classroom and I’m very pleased with all the opportunities being provided this year! 😊

CHECKING STUDENT WORK:

Teacher websites are available for viewing on our school website (<http://www.msm.ednet.ns.ca>). Homework is updated regularly on these sites so please check and do not hesitate to contact the teachers if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. Though you all have the parent PowerSchool Access information necessary to check on your child’s progress, we have been reviewing student progress to date to determine who needs reminders about passing in their work to the teachers. If your child is in danger of not passing the term you would have been contacted and we ask that you please encourage your child to attend the ongoing extra help sessions that are offered at lunch time and to pass in any outstanding work. Wednesday, November 20th will be the last day to accept OUTSTANDING work to be counted towards 1st term marks.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS:

The Province schedules our school calendar including parent Teacher Interviews and MSMS is scheduled on the evening of Wednesday, November 27th from 6:00 – 8:00PM and on the afternoon of Thursday, November 28th from 12:30 – 2:30PM. *There is no school for students on Thursday as the teachers will be at professional Development sessions in the morning. 😊

MSMS uses a sign up system on the school website to schedule parent teacher interviews and it will open on Thursday, November 21st at 9:00AM.

Parent Portal of PowerSchool (PS) that allows you to check your child's academic performance and attendance online is presently disabled by the HRCE to allow for teachers to prepare for report cards and will reopen on Thursday December 5/19. If you do not have the necessary information to access PowerSchool, please contact Michelle or Sarah, our administrative assistants, and they will assist you.

REPORT CARDS:

The earliest date that Administration can ask teachers for marks is Monday, November 25 and as it takes at least 4 days for administration to read 750 report cards, make corrections and then print and ready for distribution, report cards will not be going home before Parent Teacher Interviews.

We realize this is not ideal as many want to discuss the report card mark but it is beyond our control and teachers can still speak to how your child is doing and make suggestions for improved performance.

Report cards will be going home on Wednesday, December 4/19.

We want all of our students to be successful in their schooling and find there is a noticeable motivational difference after Parent Teacher is concluded; so thank you for your support

OTHER:

Thank you to Costco for coming out to MSMS and providing us with flu shots for the staff and to our local pharmacy for reaching out to us with the same offer. We appreciate you looking out for our well being and our team thanks you for your support!

Thank you to our Police Liaison Officer, Constable Vekeman, for speaking to all students on Cyberbullying and to the students for their attention to this presentation. Once we receive the overview we'll post it to the website under the parent section for your perusal.

Happy Friday Everyone and I hope you all enjoy the long weekend and pay homage on Monday, November 11/19 to those who helped Canada be the great country it is today...“Lest We Forget”

Respectfully, Kim Acorn 😊

Celebrating Our Students

Madeline Symonds Middle School is pleased to announce that 256 students, or 34% of our student population, have been awarded ***perfect attendance*** for the month of October. We would like to congratulate them on their accomplishment. Well done !!!!

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

Thank you to Ms. MacNeil, Ms. Fawthrop and the other teachers for organizing a student lead ceremony yesterday that was very touching. We were pleased to have Ben Jessome and Matt Whitman attend as distinguished guests and a special thank you to actively serving Lt Col Jim Gash and retired serviceman Roger LaForce and Terry Bigelow for speaking at our ceremony. I would like to thank Terry for consenting to let me share the lovely letter he sent to Ms MacNeil, and think this sums up the MSMS school community very well.

I just wanted to thank you once again for inviting me to your Remembrance Day Observance.

I was asked many times if I missed driving the bus, my answer was "not in the slightest but I really miss my students". That will continue to be my answer.

The students were all so attentive during the ceremony and such a pleasure to address.

I was truly impressed with the students that spoke, read the bio's and made presentations. In particular, I'd like to congratulate Lara in her role as host, she did a great job.

I'd like to pass on a special well done to the Cadets who were turned out so well. It can be very challenging for anyone to stay standing still for such a long time.

I'd also like to make note of the wonderful, flawless singing of Amazing Grace, performed by a sweet young lady, Lennon. She put a tear in my eye!

The students that performed the round table setting truly did an excellent job and I think it was a real eye opener for those who do not live in a Military family, and I suspect sparked a respect of what our families go through.

The special needs students conducting the wreath laying ceremony was really felt by many in attendance.

The band, as in the past, was absolutely amazing! The Last Post has to be one of the most difficult for anyone to perform, it is so deeply heartfelt, and honourable, to be chosen to perform. All the students that played must be congratulated for a performance well done.

Sheila and I would like to thank you once again for having us join you for your assembly.

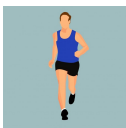
Please share this with the staff and students of your fine school.

Terry and Sheila Bigelow.

Yearbook Committee

Hello all! We're just getting underway with planning the yearbook, including price, and delivery dates. Please stay tuned to the MSMS December Newsletter for confirmation on these items. We promise this years' yearbook will be bigger and better than ever! 😊

Sports



The cross country running team had another successful season with a fine group of hard working runners. Our team competed at three meets this year; the Mariners, Regional and Provincial Championships.

Both our Junior Boys and Intermediate Boys teams qualified for the Provincial Championships in Trenton along with Ellie Allen in the Junior Girls division.

Meet Highlights:

Top results

Mariner Championships- Kysac MacDonald 2nd, Ellie Allen 5th and Cohen Hearn 6th.

Regional Championships- Junior Boys 2nd, Intermediate Boys 5th, Kysac MacDonald 2nd and Ellie Allen 12th.

Provincial Championships- Kysac MacDonald 4th, Ellie Allen 31st and Alex Shears 54th

Great work team! Keep on running!

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

Homerroom	September
601	Ben MacDonald
602	Gracey Kennedy
603	Ben Aucoin
604	Olivia MacEachern
605	Jacob O'Connell
701	Makenna Ruelokke
702	Damini Awoyiga
703	Owen Keiser
704	Carter Hebb
705	Kassie Hobson
706	Evelyn Tobin
707	Maya Pandya
708	Sarah Bussey
709	Alyssa Zykova
801	Lily Corkum
802	Ellie Allen
803	Alexia Dupre
804	Kerri MacDougall
805	Mya Cornish
806	Carli Robbins
807	Rafael Majdoub
808	Madison Binder
901	Kyra Maritz
902	Harrison Gates
903	Lennon Rutledge
904	Rowan Houlihan
905	Kate Melanson
906	Sophie Blades
907	Scarlett Evans

From the Guidance Office

Parents/Guardians of grade 9 students,

Before you know it, communication will be going home about course selection for grade 10...I know, I can't believe it either! Most likely, something will be sent home around this topic in January. Please ensure you and your child are able to access PowerSchool. It is essential you have this information in order to register your child for high school and also to choose their grade 10 courses. If you do not have this information, please obtain it from your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible. When the course selection process starts, please feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

Judi Hutchison (School Counsellor)

Lesley McCurdy

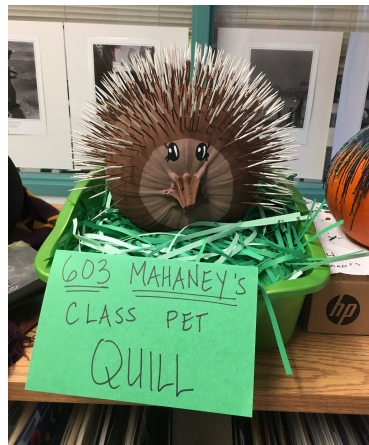
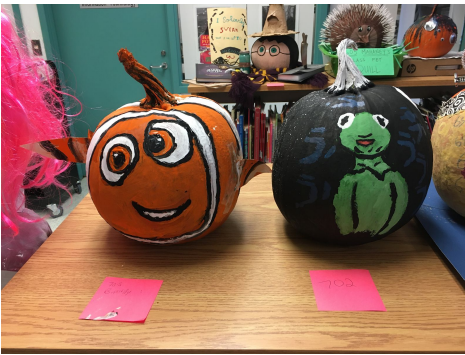
Madeline Symonds Middle School was pleased to welcome Lesley McCurdy to our learning community on October 22nd, 2019. Lesley is an actor from Ontario who has several incredible one woman shows exploring African Canadian stories. Lesley also has an upcoming CBC TV Special. We were fortunate to have Lesley share two of her performances with our students. The grade 6 and 7 students view a play titled The Spirit of Harriet Tubman. Our grade 8 and 9 students viewed her performance titled Things My Fore-Sisters Saw.



SLAC

Student Life Activity Council (SLAC) is in full swing again this year. Each month, SLAC will be organizing various activities such as theme days, trivia, lunchtime competition games, and in May, our week-long Jag Olympics. SLAC will incorporate additional events as we receive feedback from our student body. Our goal is to actively engage students in our school community while promoting positive school spirit. Since building a generous and giving community is a value we hold dear to our hearts as a school, SLAC will also be engaging in charitable work throughout the year as well.

The format chosen for SLAC involves each homeroom having opportunities to earn points, which will then be accumulated through school-wide events. Jag Olympics will be the last event, at which time we will be announcing final class placement for each grade level. Our first event took place on Halloween! Students participated in their first Halloween Song Trivia challenge, Pumpkin Decorating Competition, which were impressive and homerooms earned points for wearing a costume or Halloween colours. So far, students are showing high school spirit! Go Jaguars!



Grade 9 Trip

The dates for the grade 9 trip have been confirmed, June 9-11, 2020. Please keep checking the school website for updates and fundraising events. There are currently 2 fundraisers underway, cookie dough and grocery store gift card, all information is on the website. Thank you to the parent volunteers that have stepped up to run the fundraising.

Now that we have received all deposits the tour company will provide us with a final cost for the trip. Remember you can only fundraise up to the cost of the trip, all other money will go in the general trip funds. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mrs. Bolivar at wbolivar@hrce.ca.

Anyone interested in the insurance should contact Mrs. Bolivar by Nov. 15th.

Breakfast Program

Thank you to Ben Jessome for his continued support of our breakfast program.

BEN JESSOME
MLA, HAMMONDS PLAINS-LUCASVILLE

2120 Hammonds Plains Rd.
Unit 3
jessomeben@gmail.com
902.404.9900

benjessome.ca
/BenJessomeNS
@JessomeBen
@BenJessome

