

# Madeline Symonds School Newsletter

Newsletter#1



## Principal's Message

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you had a wonderful summer, ending with your child looking forward to their return to school. Mr. Ferguson and I are looking forward to supporting our students throughout the year. I extend a special welcome to the students and parents who are new to our school community. I am sure that you will enjoy the excellent academic programs and the many extracurricular opportunities which are available.

This year we have five grade six classes, seven grade seven classes, eight grade eight classes and seven grade nine classes.

Our staff has been very busy over the past week getting organized and are looking forward to getting the year underway.

The more your child becomes involved with school, the better experiences they will have, therefore, I encourage all students to take advantage of our extracurricular programs.

Let's work together to make this a terrific year for all of us.

*Lynn Kazamel-Boudreau*

## Important Dates

September 15 <sup>th</sup> ~	Stand up Against Bullying
September 21 <sup>st</sup> ~	Curriculum Night 6 to 8 PM
September 28 <sup>th</sup> ~	School Photos
September 29 <sup>th</sup> ~	Terry Fox Run
Sept 28 <sup>th</sup> to Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup> ~	NS Assessment (RWM6)
September 30 <sup>th</sup> ~	PD Day - No Classes

## ONLINE NEWS

TO ACCESS ALL MADELINE SYMONDS MIDDLE SCHOOL (MSMS) NEWSLETTERS, PLEASE VISIT OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE AT [HTTP://MSM.HRSB.CA/](http://msm.hrsb.ca/). THE SITE IS MAINTAINED DAILY BY OUR WEBMASTER. MSMS is now on Twitter! To keep students, staff and parents updated on various upcoming events happening at MSMS, we will be sending out information via Twitter. To sign up, visit the school's web site ([www.msms.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.msms.ednet.ns.ca)) for more details.

### Nut Aware/Scent

Madeline Symonds Middle School has students and staff who have severe allergic reactions to peanut butter, peanuts, nuts and other food products. It is of vital importance that your child(ren) do not bring peanut butter, peanuts, or peanut/nut products to school. We appreciate your support in this matter as it enables us to have a safe environment for all our students and staff.

As well, there are environmental issues with respect to the use of scents. We have students, staff and parents who are very sensitive to scents. Therefore, we would ask that students, staff and visitors not wear perfume or scented products while at the school.

### Student Fees

Student Fees are paid by all students and are \$25, however there is a maximum of \$40 per family with more than one child in the school. These fees contribute to the cost of activities and events that are non-curriculum and non-program based. They help us to provide our students with their student photo IDs, combination locks, locker upkeep, agenda books for our grade 6's, mail -outs (notices) from the office, and also assist in supplementing student athletic and other special events for your students.

MSMS has a very large and impressive band program. Students participating in the band program are asked to pay a band fee to help supplement the program. The band fee of \$30.00 is payable to Madeline Symonds Middle School, your child can pass this in directly to their homeroom teacher. (The Band fee largely pays for the rental of busses, uniforms, etc.)

### Celebrating our Students

One of our grade 8 students, Olivia Oliver, who last year broke the Guinness World Record for the fastest spinner on ice skates, has decided to donate her Guinness World Record-Breaking Figure Skates and her official Guinness World Record Certificate to a child with spina bifida and other life-limiting conditions.

Just over a year ago 9 year-old Weronika was in the National Stadium in Warsaw to watch Olivia break the world record and her mom recently wrote to say that Weronika's wish is to personally meet Olivia.

So Olivia is going to autograph her skates and certificate and take them to Weronika in Poland, on a surprise "wish-trip" visit in August that was arranged with her mom, before Weronika goes into hospital again for another difficult operation on her spine.

*"Weronika has had many painful surgeries. I can't help cure her but I want her to know that she must keep fighting and never give up and that I'm with her all the way", said Olivia.*

After meeting with Weronika, Olivia will be joining a small group of other volunteers to visit the homes of 10 more sick kids to bring some happiness into their lives.

Information about Olivia can be found on her web site: [www.oliviaoliver.org](http://www.oliviaoliver.org) and Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/OliviaRybickaOliver](https://www.facebook.com/OliviaRybickaOliver)

This summer Olivia trained in Barrie, Ontario for the month of July. We are proud to have Olivia as one of our students at MSMS!

### Performing Arts

The Lighthouse Boys Choir is having one more day of auditions on Monday, September 12, 2016. Boys in grades 3 to 8 who love to sing are encouraged to audition for this honour choir.

The choir rehearses Monday evenings at Tantallon Senior Elementary from 6 to 7:30 pm. Boys will be asked to sing O Canada for their audition. There are no set times for the auditions, simply drop in any time between 6 to 8 pm on Monday, September 12th at the Tantallon Senior Elementary music room located on the 2nd floor. For more information please contact their director, Katrina Mills Pecknold, at [choir@gnspe.ca](mailto:choir@gnspe.ca).

### Check out Dartmouth All City Music



<http://dacm.hrsb.ns.ca/>

**Are you in your school band?** If so, you can also join us! Please visit <http://dacm.hrsb.ns.ca> for more info and to register for one of our **All-City Bands!** Our Junior Concert, Intermediate Concert and Studio B Jazz Bands do not require an audition. Yes, you **MUST** be in your school band.

**Attention grades 7 to 9 orchestral string students:** Are you continuing lessons with us? If so, please visit <http://dacm.hrsb.ns.ca> to register if you haven't already done so. How about registering for one of our orchestras too?

### Picking Up your Child

If you are picking up your child from school during the day be sure to check them out at the office prior to his or her departure. Frequently, students call home on their cell phones and leave the school with their parent(s) without staff knowing. Because we become concerned when our students are not accounted for we ask that they inform their teachers if they need to leave for an appointment and let the office know as well. Thank you for reinforcing this with your child.

### Cafeteria

Information about our cafeteria is posted on our school website.

### **Visitors to MSMS**

We truly want the community to feel welcome at MSMS. Research shows that strong community involvement in schools is directly linked to how students value education. It is encouraging to see the interest that the community takes in the education of our young people.

As learning and safety is our priority for our students, we have a number of procedures in place which will be implemented if ever needed. We kindly request the following:

- All visitors/parents must report to the office to sign in and get a visitor's identification card. The card must be worn to identify you as a visitor. At the end of your visit, we ask that you sign out and return the badge.
- Parents wishing to sign students in or out of the building must identify themselves and register this information at the office.
- All school staff must wear identification cards on their person at all times.

Also for your information, video cameras have been installed throughout the school and exterior doors are alarmed throughout the day.

We hope that everyone understands the need for these precautions and we thank you an advance for your co-operation.

### **Costly Items**

We would like to caution both students and parents regarding bringing costly items to school. In the past a number of students have lost valuable items. Parents may consider it advisable for their children to leave these valuables at home. If they do bring them to school, they must be in lockers during class time. It is also important to enforce with your child the fact that they do need to lock their lockers. Some of our students have a tendency to leave their locker unlocked, and as a result, some items may become missing. We appreciate your support with this. It is also important for students to not tell others the combination to their lock.

### **Immunizations for this School Year**

Public Health Services will be offering immunizations to grade 7 students for the 2016/17 school year: These will begin November 1<sup>st</sup>. Information will follow throughout the fall.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

A container for lost items is located outside of the Main Office and parents and students should check this container for missing items.

### **SAC**

The school advisory is a council made up of staff, parents, students and community members. Our SAC meets six times per year. During these meetings valuable discussions related to student learning take place. If you are interested in learning more about the SAC please contact the school. Our first meeting of the year will be on September 27th at 7 PM. We have some open vacancies.

### **The Nourish Your Roots Healthy School Fundraiser is coming to our School!**

*Support our school and local farmers by selling boxes filled with vegetables and fruit fresh from the farm.*

This fundraiser will promote local food and healthy eating as well as raise funds to support the breakfast program at our school. Educational tools and resources will be included with every package to help with food preparation, storage, recipes and "kids in the kitchen" ideas. Food box orders are due by September 23rd and delivery will be October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3 to 6:30 PM. There will be information sent home in the coming days, if you would like to know more information about this fundraiser or to purchase a farm box please email Mrs. Binder at kbinder@hrsb.ca

### **Quote of the Month**

***What is important is to keep learning and to enjoy a challenge. - Martina Atoner***

